



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
MINES AND GEOSCIENCES BUREAU
MIMAROPA Region

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01 April 2022

MEMORANDUM

FOR : The Director
Mines and Geosciences Bureau
North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City

FROM : The Regional Director
This Office

SUBJECT : Reports on the Geohazard Assessment and Investigation
of the Illegal Mountain Quarry Operations in Poblacion
VI, Coron, Palawan

We are respectfully forwarding the attached reports on the geohazard assessment and investigation of the illegal mountain quarry operations in Poblacion VI, Coron, Palawan, in compliance to the directive of the Secretary of Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

For the Director's information and further instruction.


EDWIN M. MOJARES, Ph.D.

Enc'l: As stated

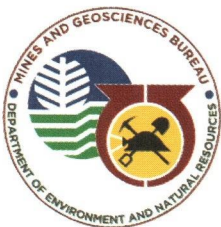
cc: **Atty. Ricky A. Arzadon**
Director III
Chief of Staff
Office of the Undersecretary for Field Operation and Environment
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Visayas Ave, Diliman, Quezon City

Ms. Lormelyn E. Claudio, CESO IV
Regional Executive Director
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
MIMAROPA Region
DENR Building, 1515, Roxas Blvd., Ermita Manila

Mr. Joe Amil M. Salino
Regional Director
Environmental Management Bureau
MIMAROPA Region
6/F, DENR Building, 1515, Roxas Blvd., Ermita Manila



**"MINING SHALL BE PRO-PEOPLE AND PRO-ENVIRONMENT
IN SUSTAINING WEALTH CREATION AND IMPROVED QUALITY OF LIFE."**



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31 March 2022

MEMORANDUM

FOR : The Regional Director
This Office *dtg*

THRU : The Chief *Recommending for the RD's notation*
Mine Management Division

FROM : The Undersigned
This Office

SUBJECT : Summary Report on the Illegal Mountain Quarry Operations in Poblacion VI, Coron, Palawan

In compliance to the directive of the Regional Director, the undersigned prepared a summary of information pertaining to the illegal mountain quarry operations in Poblacion VI, Coron, Palawan.

This summary report aims to provide a backgrounder on the actions taken by this Office in connection with the reported illegal mountain quarry operations in Poblacion VI, Coron, Palawan as well as to provide further recommendations on the matter.

Based on the reports from the Provincial/Community Environment and Natural Resources Office, this Office has issued the following Cease and Desist Orders (CDOs) (See Annex A for copies of the CDOs):

Date Issued	Location	Violator
23 September 2020	Brgy. Poblacion VI, Coron, Palawan (on the LGU compound quarry area)	BCT Construction
01 December 2021	Brgy. Poblacion VI, Coron, Palawan (on the Quarry Area of Ms. Bella Tiotangcco)	Ms. Bella Tiotangcco

Background:

This Office received two (2) complaints against the illegal mountain quarrying operations in Poblacion VI, Coron, Palawan, as follows:

No.	Complaint Received Date	Complainant	Medium of Communication
1.	08 July 2020		Palawan News Article titled "DENR Stops illegal Quarry Operations in Coron Mountain"

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2.	12 November 2021	Ms. Inya Gonzales	DENR Action Center with Reference No. ACK20211111-14 per email dated 07 November 2021 of Ms. Inya Gonzales
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See Annex B for copies of the complaints

Based on the above, the materials extracted from the said quarrying operations were allegedly intended for the reclamation project and other government infrastructures projects in Poblacion VI, Coron, Palawan.

The details of the above complaints are discussed hereunder:

1. Palawan News Article titled “DENR Stops illegal Quarry Operations in Coron Mountain” dated 08 July 2020

Location: Brgy. Poblacion VI, Coron, Palawan (on the LGU compound quarry area) See Figure 1 for the Location Map.

Complaint details:

Based on the said article, *“a large-scale quarrying operation in Coron that has been cutting a large swath of mountain as filling materials for a reclamation project and several government infrastructure projects.”*

Actions Taken by this Office:

(See Annex C for copies of the Actions Taken)

- a. On 14 July 2020, this Office issued a Memorandum to the PENRO and Concurrent PMRB Chairperson - Palawan requesting to assess the volume and classification of the extracted materials for proper imposition of taxes.
- b. On 15 September 2020, this Office received a copy of the Memorandum dated 16 July 2020 from PENRO–Palawan providing a report on the technical conference facilitated by the CENRO–Coron regarding the extraction activities in Coron, Palawan. Highlights of the report are as follows:
 1. The technical conference was attended by the representatives of the Municipal Government of Coron, Palawan Council for Sustainable Development, Barangay Council of Poblacion VI, Provincial Mining Regulatory Board (PMRB)–Coron, EMB–MIMAROPA and BCT Construction (BCT) as contractors of the reclamation project in the bay area of Coron.
 2. BCT admitted that it is still excavating the area as part of their agreement with the Local Government Unit (LGU) on its development projects.

3. PMRB-Coron affirmed that BCT has an approved quarry permit but is operating in a different location, i.e., the LGU Compound quarry area.
4. The attendees agreed to the following recommendations:
 - The PMRB-Coron shall furnish the CENRO-Coron with copy/ies of the quarry permits/s of contractor/s involved in the Coron Waterfront Development Project.
 - The contractors of the reclamation project shall operate only within the approved quarry permit area.
 - The contractor shall stop its operation once it stabilizes the slopes and critical areas given a period of one week.
 - The CENRO shall place a signage at the excavation area indicating that the activity will be put on hold until the LGU secure the pertinent permits and clearances.
- c. On the same Memorandum, PENRO-Palawan informed that CENRO-Coron has already surveyed the area with the corresponding map and technical description and forwarded the same to this Office for the computation of extracted materials as basis for the imposition of penalties.
- d. On 28 July 2020, this Office forwarded to the PENRO and Concurrent PMRB Chairperson-Palawan the estimated extracted materials on the illegal mountain quarry operation in Coron, Palawan.

Based on the pre and post contours of the subject area, as well as verification point obtained in the field by CENRO-Coron, this Office computed the estimated extraction volume at 579,571 cubic meters or equivalent to 1,622,800 tons using the 2.8 specific gravity of the silicified sandstone materials.
- e. On 23 September 2020, this Office issued a CDO to BCT for extracting mountain quarry material outside its permit area.

2. DENR Action Center with Reference No. ACK20211111-14 per email dated 07 November 2021 of Ms. Inya Gonzales

Location: Brgy. Poblacion VI, Coron, Palawan (on the Quarry Permit Area of Ms. Bella Tiotangco) See Figure 1 for the Location Map.

Complaint details:

A Petition Letter against the continuous quarrying operation in Coron, Palawan.

Actions Taken:

(See Annex D for copies of the Actions Taken)

- a. On 12 November 2021 this Office issued a Memorandum to PENRO and Concurrent Acting PMRB Chairperson–Palawan requesting to conduct a site investigation.
- b. On the same date, this Office forwarded to EMB–MIMAROPA the concern to clarify the ECC issued.
- c. This Office received the investigation report dated 23 November 2021 from CENRO–Coron with the information that BCT, purported operator of Ms. Bella Tiotangco's Quarry Permit Area, has been conducting quarry operation outside the permit area.
- d. On 01 December 2021, this Office issued a CDO to Ms. Bella Tiotangco for conducting quarrying operation outside Quarry Permit No. QP (PLW) No. 02-01.
- e. On 28 March 2022, this Office conducted a geohazard assessment on the quarry site of Ms. Tiotangco as well as the quarry area of Mr. Alfredo D. Batul, and the disturbed ground covered by the LGU compound quarry site.

Other Findings:

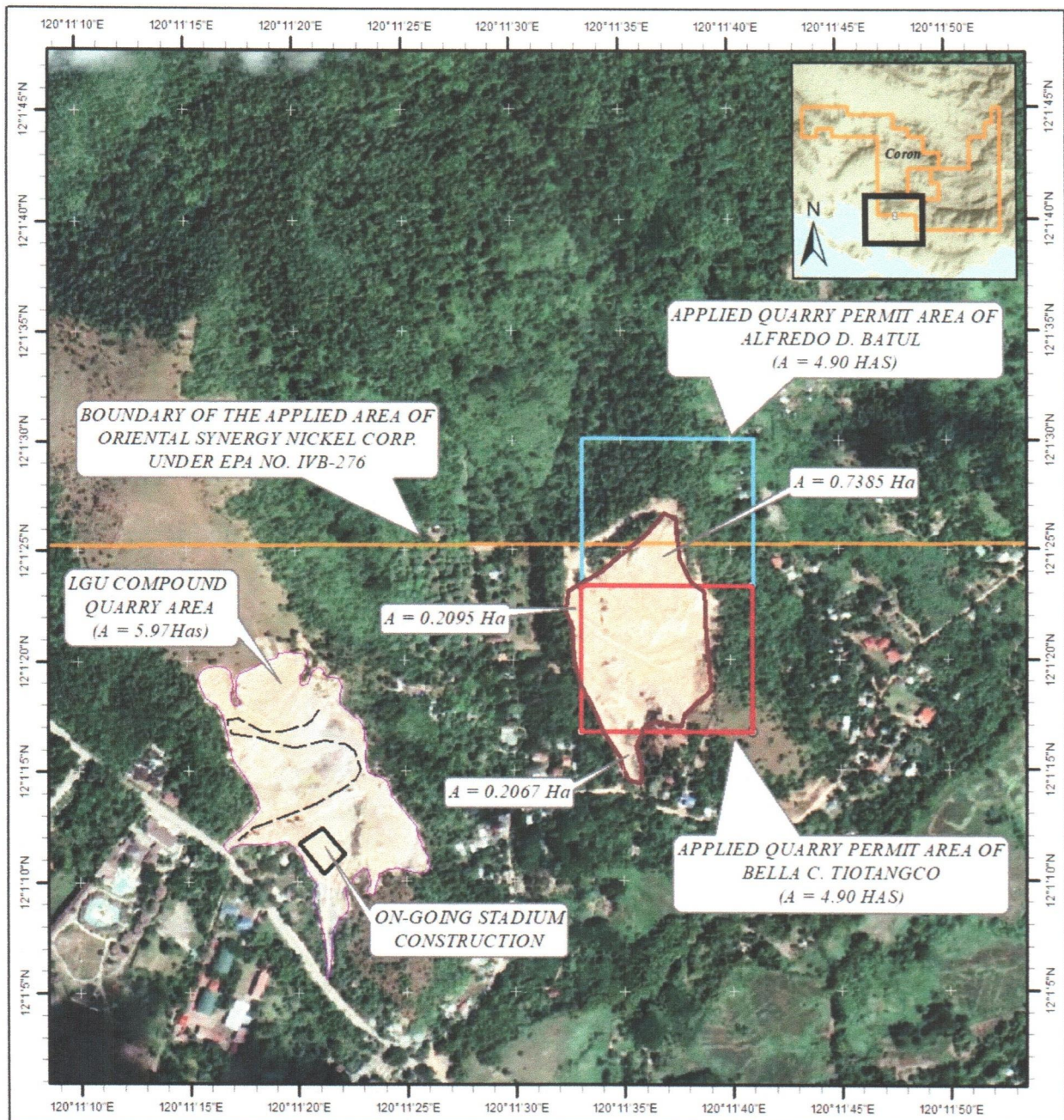
- a. During the conduct of the geohazard assessment on the quarry site of Ms. Tiotangco, it was observed that there are two (2) Notice to the Public signages of information relating to the Environmental Compliance Certificates (ECC) of Bella C. Tiotangco and Alfredo D. Batul granted on October 14, 2009, and November 23, 2009, respectively (See Annex E for Notice to the Public Signages).

The area covered by the ECC of Mr. Batul's quarry operation is adjacent to the northern portion of Ms. Tiotangco's permit area (See Figure 1 for the Location Map).

The total excavated area outside the quarry permit area of Ms. Bella C. Tiotangco is approximately 1.1547has and about 0.7385ha of it falls within the project area indicated in the ECC of Alfredo D. Batul. (See Annex F)

- b. Based on the Area Status evaluation issued on 04 December 2009 on the Quarry Permit Application No. QPA-(PLW)-06 of Mr. Alfredo D. Batul, the applied area is in conflict with the Exploration Permit Application (EPA) of Oriental Synergy Nickel Corp. under EPA No. IVB-276 (See Annex G).
- c. Based on the existing permits issued in the province of Palawan as of September 25, 2020, there are only two (2) Quarry Permits issued by the LGU–Palawan under the names of Ms. Michelle Tiotangco and Ms. Bella Tiotangco (See Annex H).

Figure 1. Location Map



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LOCATION MAP

Applied Boundaries for Quarry Permit of Ms. Bella C. Tiotangco and Mr. Alfredo D. Batul and the Exploration Permit Application of Oriental Synergy Nickel Corp. situated in Municipality of Coron, Province of Palawan.



0 75 150 300 450
Meters
DATUM: WGS'84 SCALE: 1:8,000

Legend

- Quarry Trail
- Actual Disturbed Area (A = 4.45 Has)
- Applied Quarry Permit Area of Bella C. Tiotangco
- Applied Quarry Permit Area of Alfredo D. Batul
- Applied Area of Oriental Synergy Nickel Corp. under EPA No. IVB-276
- LGU Compound Quarry Area
- On-going Stadium Construction

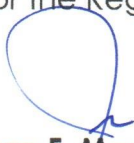
PREPARED BY: MGB MIMAROPA Region
DATE PREPARED: MARCH 30, 2022

Recommendations

In view of the foregoing, the undersigned recommends the following action:

- a. Filing of criminal case against BCT by either the Provincial Government–Palawan or DENR–MIMAROPA as these increasing involvements in illegal quarrying operations have been observed for the past two (2) years.
- b. Require all LGU to apply for a Government Gratuitous Permit for government infrastructure projects pursuant to Section 49 of Republic Act No. 7942.
- c. Monitoring by the P/CENRO concerned on the compliance to CDOs issued within its jurisdiction pursuant to the Memorandum dated 24 May 2021 issued by this Office (See Annex I).
- d. Conduct of assessment/computation of the extracted quarry materials by the LGU Palawan and quarry operators within and outside the permit area to determine the volume of materials extracted in relation to the ECC and the Quarry Permit issued.

For the Regional Director's information and further instruction.



Ivan F. Macandog
Engineer III



Kenneth A. Solidum
Engineer III