



January 31, 2023

MEMORANDUM

FOR : The Regional Executive Director
DENR MIMAROPA Region
1515 DENR By the Bay Buiding, Roxas Boulevard,
Barangay 668, Ermita, Manila

THRU : The Provincial Environment and
Natural Resources Officer
Sta. Monica, Puerto Princesa City

FROM : The Community Environment and
Natural Resources Officer

SUBJECT : **REPORT RE: ALLEGED ILLEGAL CUTTING OF MANGROVES
IN BARANGAY RIOTUBA, BATARAZA, PALAWAN LODGED IN
THE 8888 CITIZENS' COMPLAINT HOTLINE WITH TICKET
REFERENCE NUMBER G20230122-895-1**

Respectfully forwarded/endorsed herewith is a copy of the Memorandum Report regarding the investigation and validation conducted by this Office concerning the above-cited complaint of Mr. Glecerio U. Caballero reported to the Office of the President thru the 8888 Citizens' Complaint Hotline.

Relative thereto, hereunder is the summary of findings and observations during the investigation and validation conducted on January 30, 2023 with the assistance of Kagawad Doreen Saiyo of BLGU Rio Tuba, Bataraza, Palawan:

- a. Per information gathered by the investigating team about the alleged perpetrators, Mr. Reynaldo Valdez currently resides at Barangay Bono-Bono, Bataraza, Palawan. Likewise, Mr. Valdez was previously employed as a Forest Protection Officer of this Office whose Contract of Service ended last July 2022. Hence, Mr. Valdez is no longer connected to this Office effective July 2022. On the other hand, although Mr. Emelito Ramos is said to be a resident of Sitio Gadsan, Barangay Rio Tuba, Bataraza, Palawan, this Office was unable to locate him as the latter's house in Sitio Gadsan has already been abandoned;
- b. This Office was unable to determine the exact location of the area which had been subjected to illegal clearing/cutting of mangroves purposely for charcoal making including the constructed charcoal kiln (pugon) as Mr. Caballero himself cannot pinpoint the exact location/area wherein the subject illegal activity took place.
- c. Per aerial photodocumentation conducted through the use of a drone, it was observed that the mangroves in the area are still intact with no patches or visible traces of illegal clearing/cutting activity. Accordingly, Mr. Caballero admitted that his complaint had been based on the information relayed to him by a certain informant. Hence, with the findings of the team including the information mentioned by Kagawad Doreen Saiyo that there is a dispute/deep personal conflict between the complainant - Mr. Glecerio U. Caballero and Mr. Emelito Ramos, it is justifiable to say that Mr. Caballero's allegations are baseless.

In view of the foregoing, this Office will continuously coordinate with the Barangay LGU with regards to the conduct of patrolling, surveillance, monitoring and other Forest Protection activities particularly within the mangrove area.

For your information, record and further instruction.

*For and in the absence of
The CENRO:*



FRANKLIN M. AQUINO
DMO IV/PASu, UIWS
In-Charge, Office of the CENRO

Copy furnished:

*Office of the President
8888 Citizens' Complaint Hotline*



DENR-CENRO
BROOKE'S POINT

RELEASED

DATE: FEB 01 2023

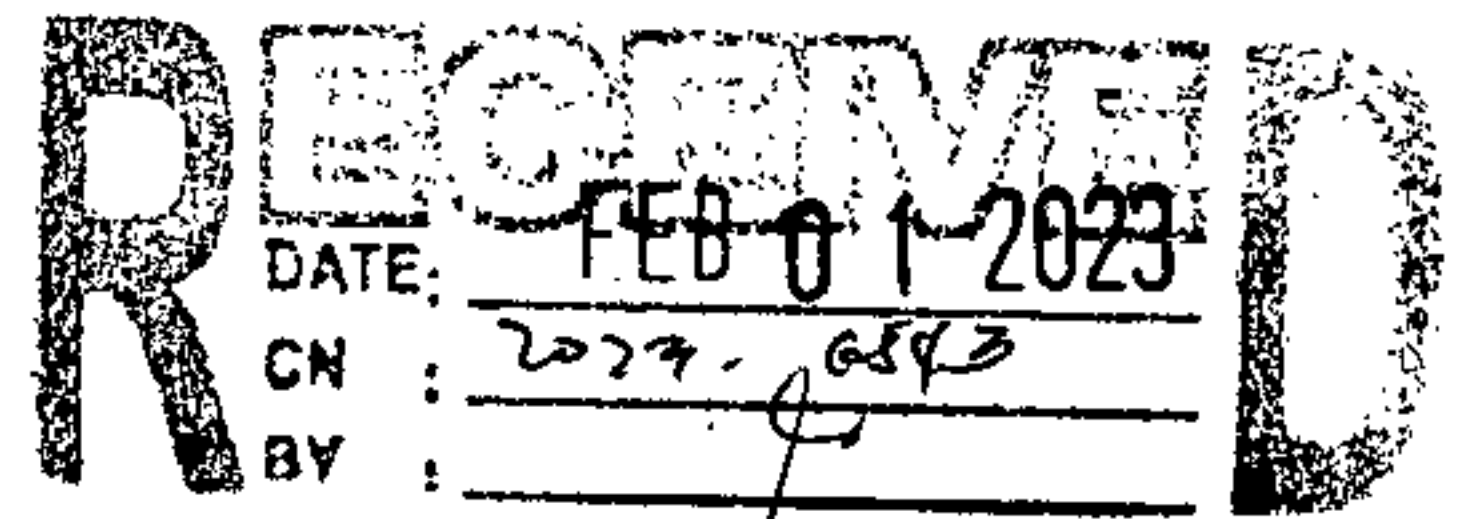
BY : 

CN : 2023-0479



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
MIMAROPA Region
COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES OFFICE
Brooke's Point, Palawan

OFFICE OF THE CENRO
BROOKE'S POINT, PALAWAN



MEMORANDUM

FOR : The Community Environment and
Natural Resources Officer

THRU : The Chief, Monitoring and Enforcement Section

FROM : The Quick Response Team

SUBJECT: **REPORT REGARDING THE ALLEGED ILLEGAL CUTTING
OF MANGROVES IN BARANGAY RIOTUBA, BATARAZA,
PALAWAN**

This pertains to the complaint of Mr. Glecerio U. Caballero, a resident of Sitio Gadsan, Barangay Rio Tuba, Bataraza, Palawan reported to the Office of the President thru the 8888 Citizens' Complaint Hotline with corresponding Ticket Reference Number: (G20230122-895-1) dated January 25, 2023 which was then forwarded to and received by this office at around 2:26 in the afternoon of January 27, 2023 regarding the above-cited alleged illegal cutting of mangroves in Barangay Rio Tuba, Bataraza, Palawan.

Hereunder are the information and details during the investigation and validation conducted:

1. Date : January 30, 2023
Time : 1:15 PM
Location : Sitio/Purok Gadsan, Barangay Rio Tuba, Bataraza, Palawan
2. Investigation and Validation Team:
 - a. The Quick-Response Team-DENR-CENRO Brooke's Point
 - b. Kagawad Doreen Saiyo - representative of BLGU RioTuba, Bataraza, Palawan
3. Issue:
 - ❖ Concern re: alleged cutting of Mangroves (Bakawan) at Barangay Rio Tuba, Bataraza, Palawan utilized for charcoal making purposes perpetrated by Mr. Emelito Ramos - former personnel of the Philippine Army and his accomplice Mr. Reynaldo Valdez of DENR CENRO Brooke's Point

M. Rodriguez St. Poblacion District I, Brooke's Point Palawan 5305
Mobile Phone: Globe: 0917-502-8961
Email: cenrobrookespoint@denr.gov.ph

4. Course of investigation:

- ❖ Prior to the conduct of on-site investigation/validation, the Quick Response Team coordinated with the Barangay Official of Barangay RioTuba, Bataraza, Palawan for a courtesy call and to ask for assistance/witness during the investigation/validation.
- ❖ Mr. Glecerio U. Caballero, the complainant was also present during the investigation.

5. Findings and Observation(s):

- ❖ During an interview, Mr. Caballero pinpointed Mr. Reynaldo Valdez and Mr. Emelito Ramos as the involve in the illegal clearing/cutting of mangroves intended for charcoal making purposes in the subject area. Likewise Mr. Valdez and Mr. Ramos allegedly conducted illegal cutting of mangroves and charcoal making two (2) more or less one week. Ago.
- ❖ Meanwhile, per information gathered by the team, Mr. Reynaldo Valdez currently resides at Barangay Bono-Bono, Bataraza, Palawan and was previously employed as a Forest Protection Officer of DENR CENRO Brooke's Point whose Contract of Service ended last July 2022. On the other hand, Mr. Emelito Ramos is said to be a resident of Sitio Gadsan, Barangay Rio Tuba, Bataraza, Palawan. However, despite the efforts of the team, they were unable to locate the present residence of Mr. Ramos as even their house in Sitio Gadsan has already been abandoned.
- ❖ According to Kagawad Doreen Saiyo, Mr. Glecerio U. Caballero and Mr. Emelito Ramos have an on-process/on-going dispute/deep personal conflict.
- ❖ During the verification and validation process, the team spotted four (4) units of abandoned hut/house made of light materials which based on the observation/estimate of the team are most likely had been abandoned for more than two (2) years.
- ❖ Per verification and validation of the team with the complainant – Mr. Caballero, it is difficult to determine the exact location of the area which had been subjected to illegal cutting of mangroves including the constructed charcoal making (kiln) considering that even Mr. Caballero himself cannot pinpoint the exact location wherein the subject illegal activity took place.
- ❖ The team had decided to utilize/use drone during aerial photo documentation in an attempt to locate/find the traces of the subject alleged illegal cutting of mangroves to serve as basis/proof of the allegation and complaint of Mr. Caballero against Mr. Valdez and Mr. Ramos; however, the team failed to do so as based on the drone footages and pictures collected in the area, the mangroves on-site are still intact with no patches or visible traces of illegal clearing/cutting observed/discovered in the area.
- ❖ Consequently, Mr. Caballero then admitted that he only based/depended his complaint on the information relayed to him by an informant.
- ❖ The verification and investigation ended at around 4:20 PM of January 30, 2023.

M.Rodriguez St. Poblacion District I, Brooke's Point Palawan 5305
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6. Recommendation/s

1. Intensify LAWIN patrolling, surveillance, monitoring and other Forest Protection activities particularly within the mangrove area of Sitio/Purok Gadsan, Barangay RioTuba, Bataraza, Palawan.
2. Strengthen the Information, Education and Communication (IEC) Campaign in the area pertaining to PD 705 otherwise known as Forestry Code of the Philippines.
3. Establish reliable source/informant to obtain accurate intelligence/information to further intensify surveillance monitoring activities. and
4. Issue certification stating that Mr. Reynaldo Valdez is no longer an employee of DENR-CENRO Brooke's Point effective July 2022.

7. Attachment/s:


- a. Drone shots and Geo-tagged photos taken during the investigation and validation conducted on January 30, 2023.


For your information and further instruction.


RUSTON CACATIAN.
Forest Ranger /member


RUDY P. MIRAFLOR
Forest Ranger/Member


MARK RONALD VELASCO
Forest Ranger/Member


KENNIT FRANCIS VALDESTAMN
F-II/Asst. Team leader


REYNALDO V. PALISOC
FT-I/Team leader

M.Rodriguez St. Poblacion District I, Brooke's Point Palawan 5305
Mobile Phone: Globe: 0917-502-8961
Email: cenrobrokepoint@denr.gov.ph

This *Geo-tagged* photos certify that is the true picture taken during the actual investigation and Validation at Sitio Gadsan Barangay RioTuba, Bataraza, Palawan, conducted dated January 30, 2023.



Coordination to Brgy. RioTuba, Bataraza



Interview to Mr. Glicerio U. Caballero



Aerial Photo documentation (drone)



Abandoned house of Mr. Emelito Ramos



Abandoned Nipa hut allegedly owned by Mr. Emelito Ramos

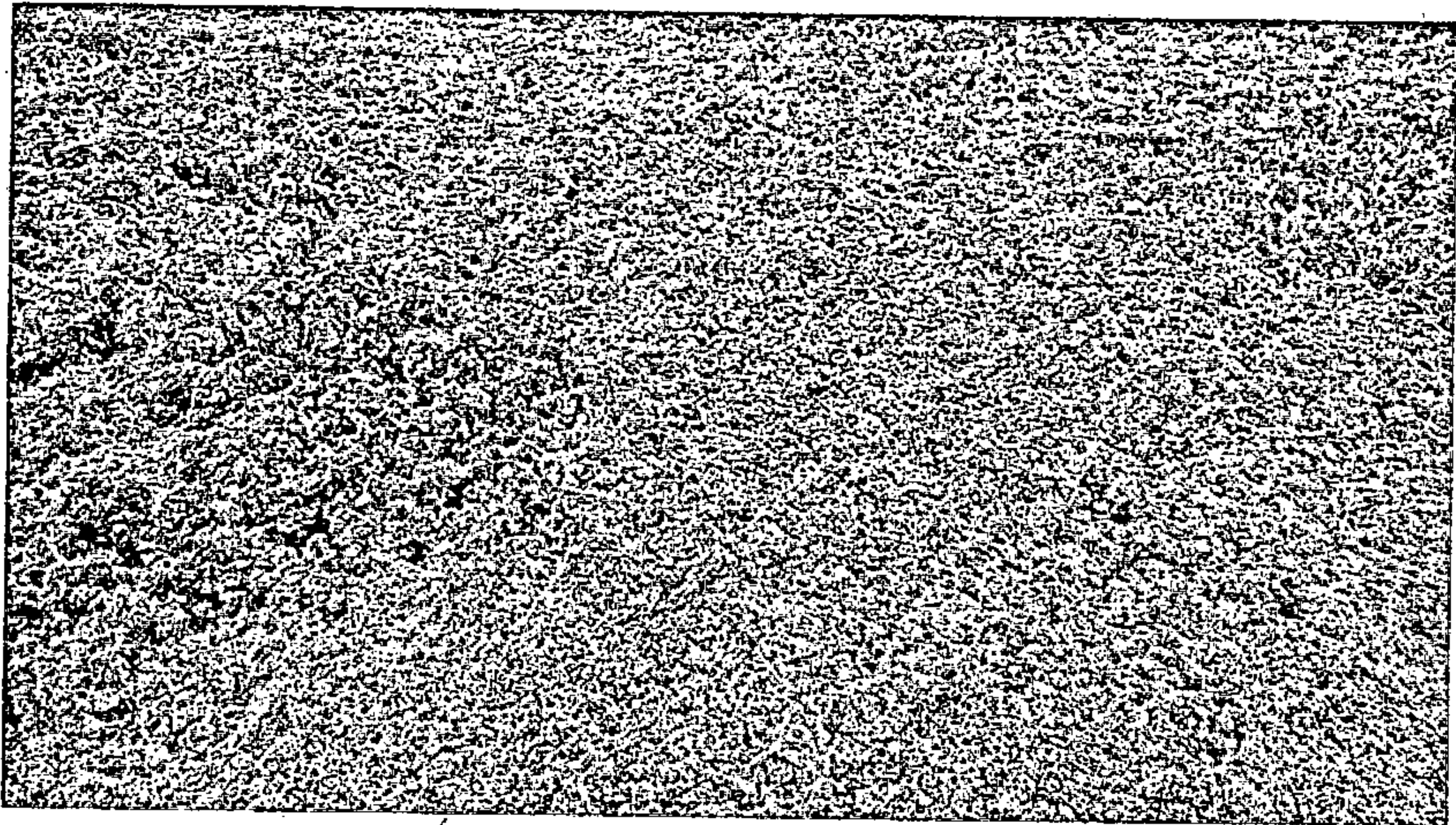
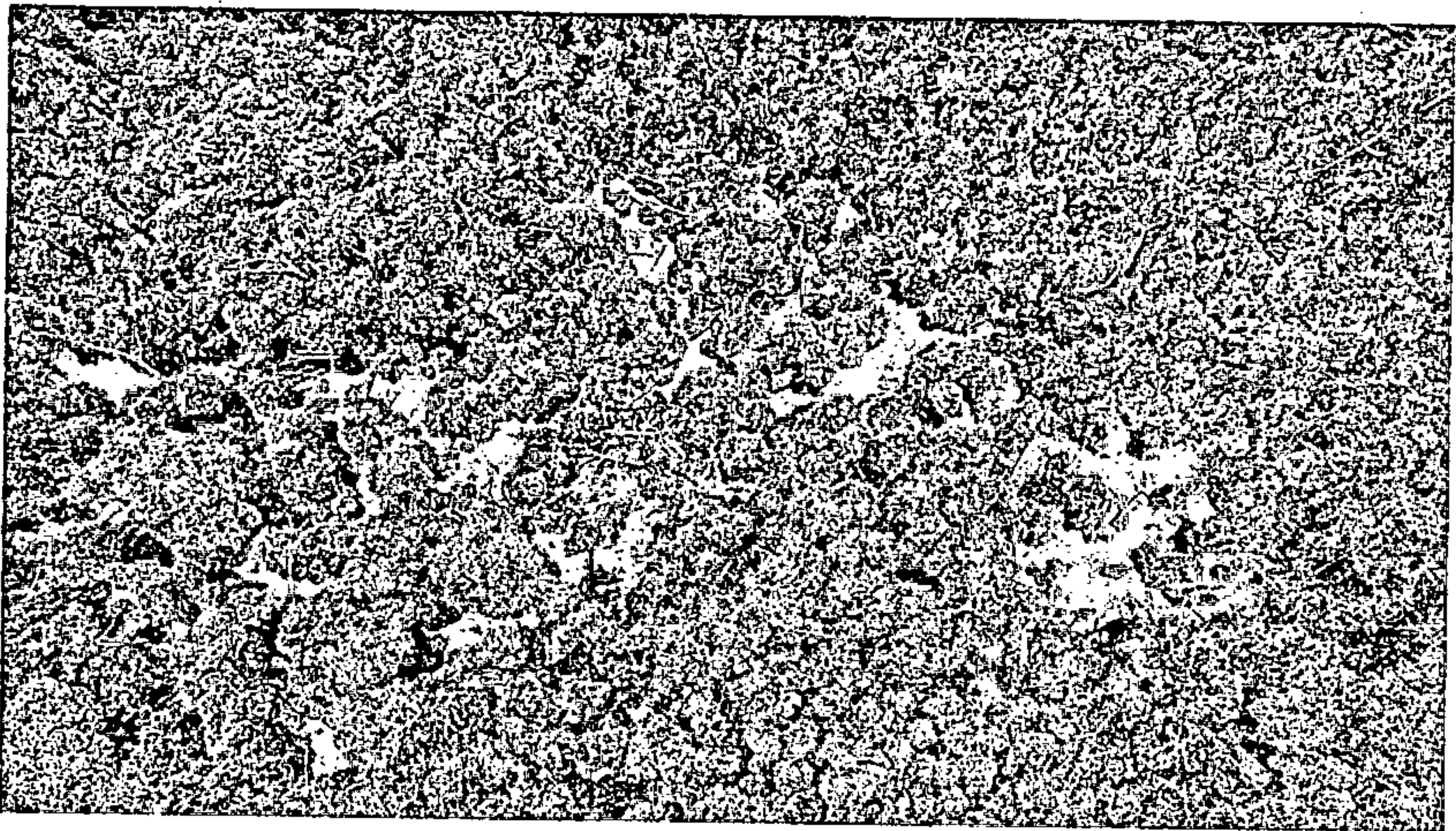


Geo-tagged photo prepared by :


REYNALDO V. PALISOC
FT-I/TL-Quick Response

M.Rodriguez St. Poblacion District I, Brooke's Point Palawan 5305
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AERIAL PHOTO DOCUMENTATION USING THE AIRCRAFT DEVICE
(DRONE)

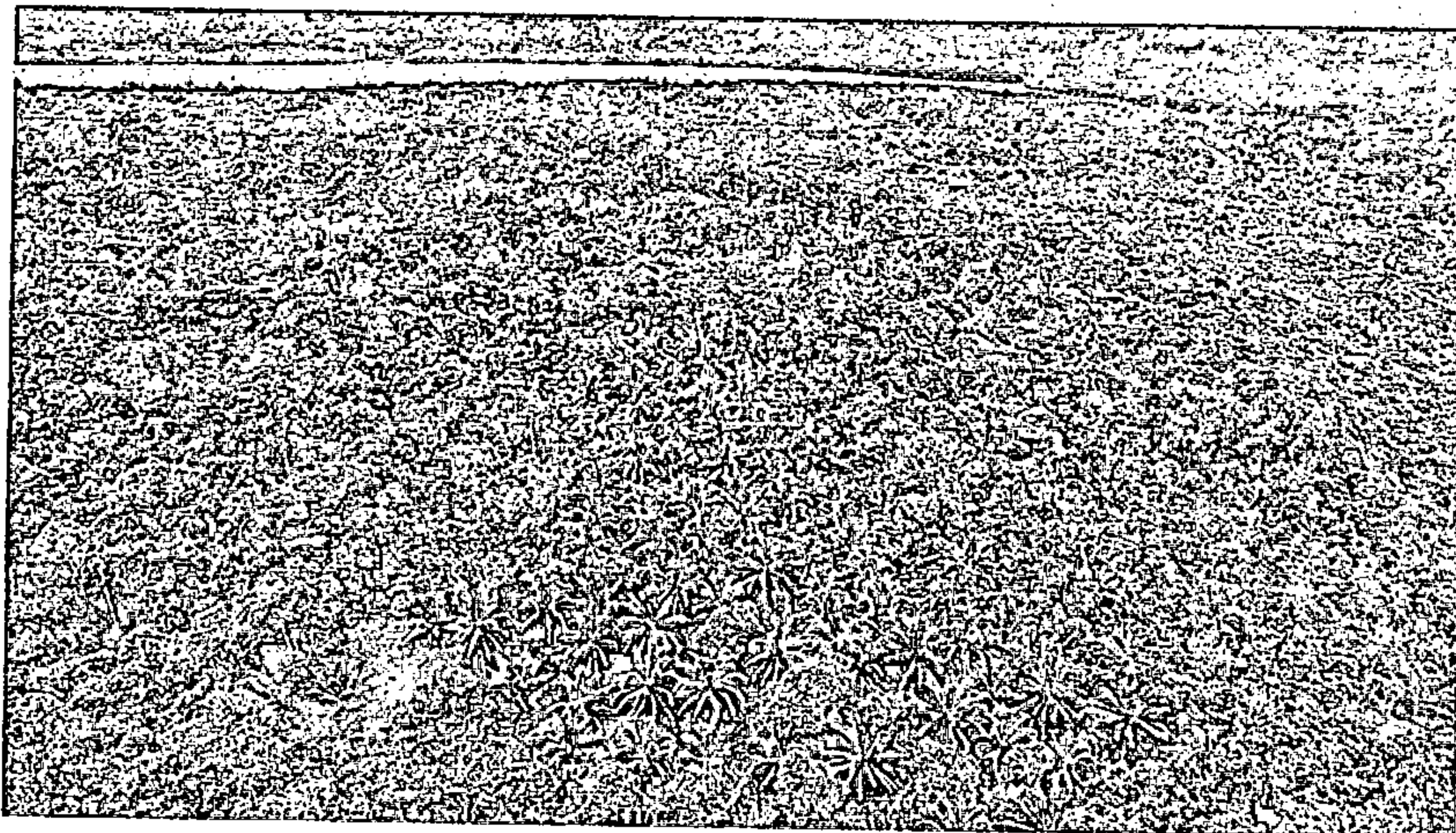


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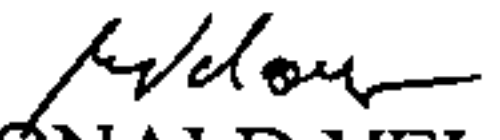
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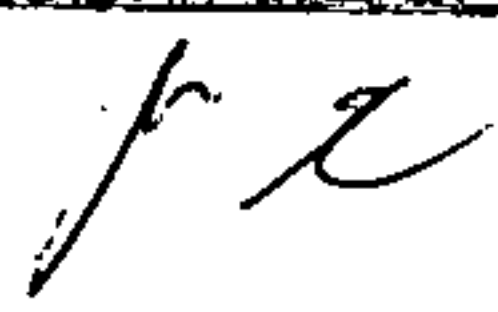


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Prepared by :


MARK RONALD VELASCO
Forest Ranger

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