



Republic of the Philippines  
**Department of Environment and Natural Resources**  
MIMAROPA Region  
COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES OFFICE

February 9, 2023

**MR. EDGAR S. PAYAS**

Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources  
Province of Occidental Mindoro

Dear Mr. Payas,

Greetings!

This pertains to the letter complaint of Mr. Louis Niko B. Goco, Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Santo Tomas and Concerned Youth Citizen regarding the alleged use of dynamite, explosives and fine hole nets of the fisher folks particularly in the Municipalities of Mamburao and Lubang in Occidental Mindoro.

The illegal ways of fishing particularly dynamite and other explosives have definitely destroy the marine ecosystem to include corals, fingerlings, seagrasses and other marine resources. As an Environmental Stewards, we are tasked to protect, conserve, develop and manage our environment and natural resources for the present and future generations.

In this connection, may we respectfully request assistance from your good Office to act hand in hand with the DENR in order to eliminate illegal ways of fishing within the vicinities of municipal waters of Occidental Mindoro.

Attached herewith is a copy of the letter of Mr. Louis Niko B. Goco dated December 5, 2022 addressed to the Honorable DENR Secretary for your reference.

Should there be any further query/ies, kindly contact us thru email indicated below or call Forester Ariston SJ. Ramos on his cellphone number 09154250809.

Thank you very much for your environmental concern, more power and God bless.

Very truly yours,

  
**FOR. ANASTACIO A. SANTOS, MPA**  
CENR Officer

Copy furnished:

Regional Executive Director  
DENR-MIMAROPA Region

PENR Officer  
DENR-PENRO Mamburao



UNIVERSITY OF SANTO TOMAS

Faculty of Pharmacy  
Department of Medical Technology

Science, Technology and Society  
Crisencio M. Paner, LPT, MSc



December 5, 2022

Hon. DENR Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo Loyzaga,  
Secretary, Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
Republic of Philippines

Salutations!

It has come to my senses that my homeland, the Island of Mindoro, is facing a dangerous threat of the devastation of our marine ecosystem. It has come to my attention as part of "Kabataan of Oriental Mindoro," a youth-oriented movement with a common goal of sustaining a good relationship between humans, animals, and nature. And one of our advocacy is to prevent the reoccurrence and to reuse dynamite for fishing, for it will destroy the natural habitats of our marine ecosystem. And if it is not stopped, it will definitely devour our future slowly and painfully.

It's been a decade past that previous secretaries of DENR have consulted this issue of our marine ecosystem. The growth of competition for catching fish leads some of our fisher folks to use illegal ways such as dynamite and explosive fishing and the use of fined-hole nets. They have no respect for the marine wildlife and no respect for the residents who live in this area. Aside from throwing their dynamite mercilessly, they also leave their litter everywhere. Fishing line has been caught around my feet on several occasions, tin lids and cans left lying on the grass, and sandwich bags, cans, and bottles are strewn all over the place as well as the in the sea and the shoreline. Remains of dead fish and other marine life scatter on its shorelines. They camp out and fish all hours of the day and night using dynamite and small holes nets. Even if it is a protected area and no fishing is allowed, like all laws in this country, no one cares if these people break the law. Community officers walk past them and sometimes even sit watching them, the police have no interest whatsoever, and the Wildlife Trust is unwilling to do anything. People are fishing and taking the fish away. Will no one take responsibility for their actions?

For me fine is not enough, the government must take action. The late DENR Secretary, Gina Lopez, has already retackled these problems to them. But after her sudden death, illegal doers emerge again from their slumber. And as a concerned youth and citizen of Oriental Mindoro, I am requesting your good office to pay a visit to our island, specifically to Pola, Naujan, Roxas, Bulalacao, Mamburao, and Lubang. These mentioned places were reported to be conducting such illegal activities against the environment and marine life.

My suggestion is to hunt them down and detain them in a sanctuary where they will be taught and enlightened their mind to the effect of their illegal activities on the environment and, most of all, on the future. A heart-to-heart talk might work for them and make them realize the dangerous impact of this not only on their health and life but also on the world.

I am hoping for your immediate response to this dilemma of my fellow Mindoreños, I am hoping for your favorable response in this regard. I am hoping for your immediate response to this dilemma of my fellow Mindoreños, I am hoping for your favorable response in this regard.

Respectfully Yours,

  
LOUIS NIÑO B. GOCO  
Concerned Youth Citizen