



DENR Mimaropa Region <mimaroparegion@denr.gov.ph>

Fw: CONSTRUCTION OF CAUSEWAY IN CALATRAVA ROMBLON

1 message

Regional Office <denr8888mimaropa@yahoo.com>

Wed, Feb 22, 2023 at 8:59 AM

To: DENR Mimaropa Region <mimaroparegion@denr.gov.ph>, ARDTS MIMAROPA <ardts.mimaropa@gmail.com>, R4B PENRO Romblon <penroromblon@denr.gov.ph>

For your information and comment.

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----- Forwarded Message -----

From: bilshan servañez <bilshanfs@yahoo.com>**To:** Regional Office <denr8888mimaropa@yahoo.com>**Sent:** Tuesday, February 21, 2023 at 06:59:13 PM GMT+8**Subject:** Re: CONSTRUCTION OF CAUSEWAY IN CALATRAVA ROMBLON

February 21, 2023

MR. ARNOLDO A. BLAZA, JR.

OIC, PENR Officer

DENR Romblon

Odiongan, Romblon

Dear PENRO Blaza,

Greetings!

Thank you for the immediate response on my complaint. I could have rested my case but let me just point some issues I would still raise further:

1. You mentioned that the said beachfront does not possess critical habitat like seagrass/mangrove ecosystem, and not even declared as marine protected area. When we were kids we caught "amamawik" and "tagitis" in those shores. The "amamawik," I believe, is becoming extinct; does this not make the beachfront a critical habitat.
2. You mentioned that construction of causeway serves as one of the mitigating measures against storm surges and hence the project will protect houses and other structures from strong waves. I believe the project did not consult the storm surge map of the Philippines. As per storm surge map of Yolanda strength in the study of Mahar Lagmay, Romblon has a storm surge height of 1.01m-2m. If the storm surge happens during high tide, the works will be a useless defense. The recent monsoon episode toppled one of the waiting sheds in the far Eastern side of the beach, does this mean we have to extend the "causeway" to the entirety of the beach. Inspection of the toppled structure revealed that the foundation was not strong. We are wasting taxpayer money with poor construction, though that is not within your purview. What I am pointing is that the causeway will not even help in mitigating effects of storm surges.
3. Regarding the consultation part, we were complaining on the lack of **prior** consultation. The works began in July 25, 2022 as mentioned but consultation only happened in August 22, 2022. Had we been invited in the consultation prior to the construction, we could have objected and pointed to a better location. We still maintain our suggested location on the western side of the existing causeway, preferably just beside it to serve as buffer and reinforcement against strong waves.

4. Why the "7 brave and gallant men" in the Sangguniang Bayan of Calatrava retracted their initial opposition to the location and issued a resolution favoring its continuation in the present location is still beyond me. They will have a lot to answer for that one though.
5. As to the CNC that you mentioned with "reclamation" issue referred to the Philippine Reclamation Authority but securing the AREA CLEARANCE is within your jurisdiction, I would want to ask if those concerned did get the said clearance. This question, however, was quashed when I read your letter to Ms. Mary Ann Montesa, a Save Our Shores advocate, stating that there was clear violation in the construction of the causeway and that an NOV was issued February 10, 2023. Moreover, you stated that Regional Director Joe Amil M. Salino already directed the DPWH-DEO to SUSPEND any further developments relative to the construction and operation of the causeway project including the reclamation activities upon receipt of the said Order. We are happy with this letter but, apparently, the Order has not been received as there is still ongoing construction onsite. We do hope the Order will be served and followed and total cessation of works will follow.

We are saving our environment and the natural beauty of our place and we do hope the DENR is our staunch supporter on this.

Personally, I would like to commend the DENR personnel who visited Camp No'Ah, our family resort. Please rest assured that we are keeping the natural beauty of Agpudlos Beach for future generations to enjoy. We would welcome compliance to any DENR regulation that covers us.

Again, my profound thanks for your reply.

Very truly yours,

BILSHAN F. SERVAÑEZ
Taxpayer

On Feb 20, 2023, at 4:56 PM, Regional Office <denr8888mimaropa@yahoo.com> wrote:

<20230220_MEMORANDUM.pdf>