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Date: 1/18/2023 8:09:29 PM
Subject: Letter Request for DENR interview

Thank you!

Dear Director Khalil S. Bayam

I am writing on behalf of GMA News to request an interview with any of its officers who are knowledgeable about the topic of Mineral Production Sharing Agreements in Palawan. In particular, the MPSA issued to mining operators around the Mt Matalinghan Nature Reserve.

The story was prompted by complaints of the LGU and residents blaming the recent floodings in Brooke's Point and even prior to this on the mining operations in the area. Experts from Save Palawan Movement and others say the MPSA of two operators in Brooke's point have resulted in the denudation of forests and expansion of their operations to include the areas within the preserve, which they say is a contravention of laws protecting a declared natural preserve..

The story is part of a series of climate change stories we are doing for 24 Oras and other news programs

We are available for the interview at any time your resource person will be available. The interview will be preferably face to face in the DENR offices if possible.

We have scheduled interviews with NGOs in Palawan opposing mining in their province as well as some residents and local government officials from Brooke's point and others.

GUIDE QUESTIONS:

1. Residents and experts point to mining as a source of flooding in Brooke's point. What is the DENR's response to this?
2. The DENR (palawan_ has acknowledged the cutting of trees in the mining concession areas need to be monitored more? How do we make sure no trees are cut further?
3. The MPSA of Ipilan Mining in the area was renewed in 2018? What is the process of renewal and how do we monitor that mining operators comply with requirements?
4. DENR is also being blamed for large scale conversion of forest land to agricultural land in certain areas like Rizal. The NGOs say this is illegal since it is forest land.
5. Does EO 130 of the Duterte administration really allow mining concessions to be granted inside the Protected Areas?
6. Other questions related to enforcement like ECC fro DPWH projects etc which NGOs claim destroy the forests further (road widening projects etc)

We are looking forward to your positive response.

Yours Truly,

Chino Gaston
GMA-7 News Producer 2

1/18/2023

