



**MEMORANDUM**

**TO :** **THE BUREAU DIRECTORS**  
Lands Management Bureau  
Biodiversity Management Bureau  
Forest Management Bureau  
Environment Management Bureau  
Mines and Geosciences Bureau  
National Mapping and Resource Information Authority

**THE LUZON AND VISAYAS REGIONAL OFFICES**  
Regional Executive Directors  
Bureau Regional Directors  
Assistant Regional Directors

**FROM :** **THE OIC ASSISTANT SECRETARY**  
Field Operations Luzon and Visayas and  
Environment Management Bureau Director  
In Concurrent Capacity

**SUBJECT :** **HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 2<sup>nd</sup> QUARTER LUZON AND VISAYAS  
CLUSTER MEETING CONDUCTED ON 21 JUNE 2023 VIA HYBRID  
SET UP**

**DATE :** **JUL 11 2023**

We are please to provide you the Highlights of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Cluster Luzon and Visayas Cluster Meeting held via Zoom and Face to Face on 21 June 2023. The activity aim to address the issues and concerns raised by Field Offices in Luzon and Visayas. Based on the presented issues and concerns and discussion on the agreements, this Office is requesting the concerned Bureaus to please submit their responses on the issues for our submission to the Undersecretary for Field Operations Luzon, Visayas and Environment. All responses will be consolidated on or before 30 July 2023. If you have clarifications on the prepared highlights, kindly email us at [asecfosl.denr@yahoo.com](mailto:asecfosl.denr@yahoo.com)

The meeting started by a roll call and facilitated by OIC Assistant Secretary Gilbert C. Gonzales followed by a message from Undersectary Juna Miguel T. Cuna. The instructions to the Regional Executive Directors (REDs) as well as the highlights of the meeting are as follows:

**Undersecretary Juan Miguel T. Cuna**

- USec Cuna reminded the REDs to submit a two-day site visit plan/iteneraries for the Secretary's consideration. Considering the bulk of the project goes to the implementation of the NGP, it was suggested to highlight successful NGP sites which are accessible in each region.
- To showcase ecotourism sites as DENR plays integral part in the ecostourism of the country in ensuring environmental protection.
- Ecotourism is one of the priorities in the 5 GEMs however Cebu is not included. Nevertheless, there are areas and programs in each regions that can be highlighted.
- The REDs are also reminded to have sense of urgency in submitting factual reports for the Secretary.
- To resolved/tackeled all concerns of the congressmen and local officials in preparation of the upcoming budget hearings.

**OIC Assistant Secretary Gilbert C. Gonzales**

- Presented the submitted responses given by the Bureaus with regards to the issues raised during the 1<sup>st</sup> Cluster meeting dated 28 March 2023. Unfortunately, the MGB has not submitted their responses.



ISSUES/CONCERNS	DISCUSSION/AGREEMENTS	CONCERNED OFFICE(s)
<b>REGION I – ILOCOS REGION</b>		
Region I is supporting to the PBBM Administration's Housing Program dubbed as "Pambansang Pabahay Para sa Pilipino Program" which aims to ensure that affordable housing units will be available to homeless Filipinos	<p>Request for updates on the issuance of Presidential Proclamation forwarded to the LMB through Memorandum dated October 14, 2021</p> <p>The FMB reminded everyone on the Malacañang Administrative Order 57 that prohibits in allocating Timberlands or Forestland for resettlement purposes even through a proclamation.</p>	LMB, DENR C.O.
Proliferation of illegal settlers and occupants within the Unclassified Public Land along the coastal areas (baywalk) of Binmaley-Lingayen, Pangasinan	<p>Request for updates on the policy direction regarding the disposition of lots within the Unclassified Public Land through the issuance of temporary instrument/tenure (provisional/revocable) or any appropriate permit.</p> <p>To generate income in the form of users/occupational fees.</p> <p>The LMB provides a MEMO addressed to the RED dated 13 April 2023 clarifying the concern as inclusion in the proclamation 1258.</p>	NAMRIA, LMB and FMB
<b>REGION II – CAGAYAN VALLEY</b>		
Assessment of NGP Graduated Sites (2011-2016) with an area of 9,987 has	Development of comprehensive guidelines to provide specific criteria and indicators for evaluating the NGP graduated sites to ensure consistency and standardization	FMB
Additional 1,000 php for the maintenance and protection of NGP Sites	The absence of guidelines will affect the timeliness of implementation Hence, R2 would like to request to fast track the issuance of the guidelines. Otherwise issue a memorandum that will be used to justify the delay the implementation	FMB
Policy guidance on Agroforestry Land Management Agreement (ALMA) issued within the Lower Magat Forest Reserve (LMFR) area covered with co-management agreement with the PLGU of Nueva Vizcaya expired on February 25, 2023	<p>Decide on the pending application for the renewal of the expired Co-management Agreement between the DENR and PLGU Nueva Vizcaya</p> <p>Issue clear guidelines pertaining to the management of such cases</p> <p>Issues appropriate tenurial instruments such as socialized Industrial Forest Management Agreement</p>	FMB
Construction of 4 storage Facility in Regions (1 in Cagayan and 3 in Isabela)	Development of comprehensive guidelines to provide specific criteria and indicators to ensure consistency and standardization of Storage Facility	FMB
Development of Regional Control Map	For NAMRIA to issue policy as the data to be used In the One control map	NAMRIA
<b>REGION III – CENTRAL LUZON</b>		
<b>Pasig Potrero Quarry Suspension</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Structural integrity of SCTEX and Mancatian Bridges are compromised</li> </ul>	Request for the lifting of nine local quarry permits to alleviate the shortage of supply of sand gravel for infrastructure projects	EMB, CO



<p>according to the DPWH and BCDA.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DPWH conducted retrofitting of bridges and establishment of groundsill. The DPWH recommended for the lifting of CDO of nine (9) quarry companies within Mancatian Bridge area. In addition, as per BCDA, the lifting of these companies are amenable if they conform with environmental laws, rules and regulations.</li> <li>Decrease in volume of construction aggregates needed for the Build Back More (BBM) infrastructure projects leading to the increase of sand and gravel cost due to scarcity of source and increase in demand</li> </ul>	Lifting of Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) Cease and Desist Orders (CDOs) by EMB3	
Biak-Na-Bato Mineral Reservation to Establishment as a Protected Area	<p>Retention of Biak-na-Bato Mineral Reservation classification</p> <p>As clarified, the BMB asked for the PASA of the area. RED3 clarified that this is an issue concerning of the cancelled MPSA of which the holder filed the appeal to the office of the president, with regards to ground action there is a pending activity with regards to the conduct of PASA.</p> <p>The FMB reminded the body regarding the Letter of Instruction issued in 1979 LOI 971 that <i>states critical watershed supporting dams and irrigation systems are closed to mining activities and exploitations.</i></p>	BMB
<b>REGION IV-A (CALABARZON)</b>		
Influx of illegal settlers/untenured migrants within PA, resulting in the increased of the number of occupants and increase of infrastructure built	Request for the enforcement support/ uniformed personnel during the issuance of SCO, CDO, and filing cases on PAs and Timberland. (Like NBO/Phil Army/PNP)	BMB, ELEPS
Land claim of Puerto Azul in some portions of the Protected Area and cessation of the Constrction of PAMO Building in Cavite	<p>Legal assistance to resolve the issue is requested.</p> <p>Request assistance and supports from the Office of the Secretary to exercise the power of eminent domain</p>	BMB, Office of the Secretary
<b>REGION IV-B (MIMAROPA)</b>		
Hon. Cong. Jose Alvarez referred the concern of one of his constituents re concerns and clarifications on bidding as one of the requirements in FLAgT application	Pending the issuance of the amended guidelines, FMB to issue a technical bulletin to adopt the foreshore lease bidding procedures or any similar/existing bidding procedures issued for tenurial instruments	FMB
Requirement for bidding process for FLAgT Applications	FMB – the concerned division is currently drafting policies regarding the matter	



(Missing Section 12.11 DAO 2004-28)		
Hon. Cong. Umali of Oriental Mindoro raised the Proposed Stoppage of the Verde Island Passage as a Navigational Route particularly for vessel loaded with oil and other hazardous materials (raised during one of the interagency meeting of the sunken oil tanker vessel in Oriental Mindoro)	<p>Need for discussion or consultations as part of the SAPA process</p> <p>R4A raised this concern regarding the importance of the legislated status of the mentioned area.</p> <p>ASec Gonzales suggested that the region should create analysis/initial assessment based on the characteristics and provide therein comments and basis for the CO and BMB's consideration.</p>	BMB
Current State of the DENR by the Bay Building relative to the 6.2 earthquake caused by the movement of Manila trench	<p>Has submitted a memorandum to the DENR CO dated 19 June 2023 requesting</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fast tracking the bidding of the geotechnical structural assessment of the building</li> <li>Funding for the office space rental either within Metro Manila for skeleton Workforce</li> <li>Adoption of 4 day work week flexible Work Arrangements</li> </ol>	CO
Use of Jet Skis by members of the Iloilo Watercraft Association (IWA) inside ETMRPA	Legal Action against the erring members of the IWA	BMB
<b>REGION V – BICOL REGION</b>		
Issuance of Guidelines/Policy for the hiring of 3 <sup>rd</sup> Party Validator to conduct Inventory and Assessment of Graduated Sites	<p>Fast track Issuance of the aforementioned guidelines</p> <p>Issue definite guidance to Field Offices on what to do with the funds or must have back up plan should the aforementioned guidelines will not be issued by the end of July 2023 taking into consideration the procurement process and the onset of rainy/typhoon season</p>	CO, FMB
Issuance of Guidelines for the Construction of Storage Facility	<p>Fast track the issuance of the aforementioned guidelines</p> <p>Issue definite guidance to Field Offices on what to do with the funds or must have back up plan should the aforementioned guidelines will not be issued by the end of July 2023 taking into consideration the procurement process.</p>	CO, FMB
Provided updates to Mayon Volcano Activity	Presented data and updates pertaining to the Mayon Volcano	R5
<b>REGION VI – WESTERN VISAYAS</b>		
<p>Partially collapsed mine tailings pond of Maricalum Mining Corporation in Sipalay City, Negros Occidental</p> <p>MMC Stopped its operations in 2001 and its MPSA was cancelled in 2019 but the cancellation order is under appeal</p>	<p>Sipalay City requested additional Php30M for Tailings Pond 2 downstream of the Tailings Pond 1.</p> <p>Sipalay City shall submit letter of appeal to the DBM for the use of fund on the grounds of public welfare and immediate danger on the area pending clarification of ownership</p> <p>EMBCO conducted site validation relative to proposed engineering measures</p>	CO, MGB

	<p>CENRO Kabankalan shall issue a Certification of Status of Land Classification on the area</p> <p>R6 would provide comprehensive report for Central Office reference.</p> <p>There is a Motion for Reconsideration pending in relation in the previous order of Sec Cimatú that hasn't been resolved.</p>	
Mining operations in Semirara Island by SMPC	Technical Meeting with DOE and PRA was conducted on June 19, 2023 to discuss reclamation concern. PRA and DOE have requested additional time to further study and submit position paper on the matter.	MGB
<p>Dredging and Desilting of river/water channels are currently the popular interventions being requested by the LGU to mitigate flooding</p> <p>Requested assistance from the DENR are focused on Mineral Assessment, Pragmatic ECC and Survey and Recovery of Public Easements</p>	The inclusion of this activity for the 2024 Work and Financial Plan	EMB
Budget for Phase II of the Construction of the MGB RO-VI Office Building located in Brgy San Pador Molo Iloilo City	Prioritization of tier 2 Proposal for CY 2024 as further delay may possibly result to the deterioration of the uncompleted structure, which will undoubtedly redound to loss of government funds.	MGB, CO
Affirmation of DENR CO on the results of the updated Carrying Capacity of Boracay Island conducted in 2022 by Center for Environmental Law and Policy Advocacy (CELPA) Inc. as target of DENR6	Requesting for affirmation by top management of the results of the study and policy issuance on the authority to certify the carrying capacity of the island.	CO
<p>Approximately three hundred thirty five (335) alleged Tumandoks or Original Settlers which were assured not to be displaced until relocation and housing units are made available outside Boracay Island.</p> <p>The relocation of forty one (41) occupants in 25+5 meter shoreline easement into the DAR CARP program (2<sup>nd</sup> batch)</p>	Immediate approval of the Fund Support per R6 submitted Work and Financial Plan	
<p>The Deed of transfer in favor of DAR for the CARP Area (2<sup>nd</sup> batch) was not issued by previous Secretary.</p> <p>There are approximately 181 derivative titles within the Forestland of Boracay Island now subject of the documentation for the eventual filing of our actions for reversion/cancellation of the titles by the Solicitor General</p>	The region already turned over the area thru an official letter signed by the RED together with the lot plan of the area, however DAR insisted for a deed of transfer which was not signed by then Secretary.	CO



<p>There are already two convictions as of this date but we are not ready on what to do with the illegal structures</p> <p>There are 2 resolutions (BIATF and Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Aklan) for the proposed amendments of PP1064 specific to roads and pathways. The matter is being pushed by the 2,535 local residents/claimants</p>		
<b>REGION VII – CENTRAL VISAYAS</b>		
<p>Requesting guidance as the treatment of the applications for issuance of Area Clearance for Reclamation projects:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Pending applications prior effectivity of DAO 2022-16 with endorsement/clearance from PRA</li> <li>2. Pending applications prior to the effectivity of DAO 2022-16 without clearance/endorsement from PRA</li> </ol>	<p>Implemented the said directive upon the effectivity of the aforementioned administrative order.</p> <p>For pending applications prior to the effectivity, the Regional Reclamation Team for Reclamation projects commences the field inspection/assessment for prequalification. However, one application particularly for the Cebu port Authority covering 15 hectares located in San Fernando Cebu the PRA put on hold the issuance of endorsement/clearance due to the said presidential directive because of the prevailing circumstances. This Office sought advice from the Central Office whether the reclamation Team for reclamation projects may commence field inspection/assessment notwithstanding the deferment of clearance/endorsement from PRA</p> <p>LMB would like to be provided with the written directives from Region 7 for reference.</p>	LMB
<p>Request of Hon Edgar Chatto and Hon Mayor Elvi Peter Relampagos for the utilization of the uplifted reefal flats located In the Municipalities of Loon and Maribojoc Bohol Province for development Project</p>	<p>The area is not suitable for permanent habitation and heavy infrastructure development because of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. High susceptibility to various types of hydrometeorological and geological hazards such as coastal flooding, coastal erosion, rain-induced landslide, subsidence hazard, tsunami and liquefaction;</li> <li>2. There is evidence of an advancing shoreline</li> <li>3. Prominent fractures were noted in the coastal zones of Barangay Guiwanon Maribojoc, trending North-south and North East in Barangay Basac Loon. In general, the fractures are open with varied widths and lengths</li> </ol>	MGB
<p>Complaint of Mandaue City regarding leakage of MCWD Manage STP from the lagoon discharges to Mahiga River leading to Mactan Channel</p> <p>No permit since 2019, only monitoring has been conducted</p>	<p>EMB7 issued a directive to MCWD to rehabilitate and submit a monthly progress report</p> <p>On May 16, the inspection revealed that the lagoon was rehabilitated and no observed discharges</p> <p>Already forwarded to the Legal for resolution of noncompliance of RA 9275</p>	EMB



Complaint regarding landslide/mudslide collapse in DUros Liloan Golf & Leisure Estate by Reggie Comendador of Liloan	<p>Seek assistance of EIA CO to check submission of EGGAR during EIA process since their ECC was issued by EMB CO</p> <p>To complete the Geotechnical Study by Duros Land Committed by the end of July 2023</p> <p>ASec Gonzales reiterated the urgency of complete investigation and or thorough assessment to identify potential threats for prevention. Communicate possible risk to the agencies to create contingency plans.</p>	EMB , MGB
<b>REGION VIII – EASTERN VISAYAS</b>		
Illegal Extraction in Hinabangan by a Certain Chinese man as raised by Bishop Calbayog Samar and Illegal extraction of Pyrite in the Abandoned Bagacay mines, Brgy Bagacay Hinabangan, Samar	Request to lobby/negotiate/convey with the PMO to issue clearance to DENR/MGB personnel to conduct monitoring/investigation in the area	MGB, ELEPS
LGU has not received its share of excise tax on payment of real property taxes (raised by Gov Evardone)	<p>MGB8 sent a letter dated 24 May 2023 addressed to the Hon Gov Evardone of the Province of Samar re: Request for the release of share in the Mining taxes and Royalties of the Province of Eastern Samar</p> <p>MGB will write a letter inquiry to BIR/DBM relative to the release of excise tax</p> <p>ASec Gonzales, has suggested to prepare a process flow chart for the LGUs for guidance and clarification on the process pertaining to this concern for the approval of the Central Office</p>	MGB
Massive Operation conducted by the Philippine Army to end Local Communist Armed Conflict within Calbayog Pan as Hayiban Protected Landscape	Full operationalization or setting up of the task force ELCAC operations Center. This will facilitate the action swiftly. Coordination and resolutions of issues and concerns and empowerment of communities and local constituents to participate in developing a culture of peace	FMB
Wildlife traffic Monitoring Unit-Limited Personnel to conduct wildlife traffic and monitoring in seaports. Cargoes and baggage in close container is difficult to detect	The top management may consider to be equipped with machines to be installed in port areas to detect contraband such as prohibited items in RA 9147	BMB
No approved plantilla position for SINP (Samar Island Natural Park)	Intervention of the DBM to fast track the appropriation of the budget for SINP	CO
Gaps and Cocnflits in local governance and priorities of other government projects	Harmonization of all government projects Higher-level support and resourcing to make “grassroots” solutions work	BMB
Low turn outs of foreshore applications due to high zonal value as basis of rental/users fee	Assist field offices by amending existing policy in the computation of users fee by either reducing the percentage of zonal value or replacing it with the fair market value	LMB



Emerging concern of Congressman Coco Yap 2 <sup>nd</sup> district of Souther Leyte	He will be requesting for a reconfiguration of CENRO Offices in the Province of Southern Leyte. Thereby the two municipalities Sogod and Libangon which are now under CENRO Maasin be transferred or placed under jurisdiction of CENRO San Juan	CO
<b>CORDILLERA ADMINISTRATIVE REGION</b>		
Very slow approval of Small Scale Mining contracts (SSMC) due to FPIC requirement per Section 68 of RA 7942.	It is suggested that the NCIP shall propose amendments of RA 8371 vis-à-vis the proposed amendments to RA 7942 and RA 7076 to harmonize their guidelines especially those affecting the FPIC process.	MGB
Burdensome requirements on the Renewal of Deputation of DENROs	Easing up on the requirements for renewal of DENROs deputation: 1. Police Clearance to Barangay Clearance 2. Medical Certificate to a certification from the Brgy Health Center or Brgy Health Worker	FMB
No guidelines yet for the issuance of tenurial instruments for the graduated NGP areas within untenured and CADT areas, especially on plantations ready for harvesting.	Provide clear guidelines on the issuance of tenurial instrument that do not meet requirements for CBFMA	FMB
Tax declaration as requirement for application of Agricultural Free Patent .	Possible consideration of the following as alternative proof of ownership in the absence of tax declaration: 1. Deed of donation/deed of sale; 2. Extra-judicial settlement; 3. Waiver of rights; and 4. Barangay certification	LMB
<b>NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION</b>		
Reclamation Projects 1. Conflicting policy implementation of PRA and DENR, PRA permits by phases project implementation	Harmonization of PRA and DENR Policies  Mandatory cumulative impact assessment for large scale reclamation projects  LMB concurred to have a policy guidelines on the matter to answer policy gaps and prevent issues arising from phases project implementations.	CO, EMB CO, EMB-NCR, LMB
In project completion, there should be a criteria for determining stability, completeness and elevation	DENR NCR included LMB, MGB, 4A and EMBNCR to the composite team that will evaluate the reclaimed area subject for a proclamation	EMB, LMB, MGB
Comprehensive studies in the assessment of the Carrying capacity of Manila Bay to absorb cumulative environmental impacts of reclamation projects and other related activities in the area	DENR NCR conducted assessment of Coastal Biodiversity Associated with Mangrove Forests of Las Piñas Parañaque Wetland Parks (LPPWP) and Tanza Marine Tree Park (TMTP)	CO
Monitoring of the Project activities and implementation	Strict evaluation of the MMTs MOA with EMB particularly on the composition and function.  Likewise, before the approval of the project, there should be a Pre-Feasibility Study included in the EIA in order to determine the environmental, social impacts and necessity and suitability of the proposed project	EMB, EMBNCR



**OTHER MATTER/S:**

Director Talabis of LMB reminded everyone of the proposed Land Sector Conference on 31 July – 3 August 2023, Region 7 Bohol.

**Proposed Agenda:**

1. Draft Policy on the Expired Lease Contract
2. New Land Management Approach
3. Final Land Sector Development Framework (LSDF)
4. Draft Policy on the Revocation and Re-Issuance of Patents
5. Draft DAO on the Revised Guidelines for the Issuance of Free Patents to Residential Lands Under Republic Act No. 10023

For information and appropriate action.

  
GILBERT C. GONZALES, CESO III