



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
MINES AND GEOSCIENCES BUREAU

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March 4, 2022

Mr. Ramon Manuel R. Briones
Vice President - Operations
Berong Nickel Corporation
3/F DMCI Homes Corporate Center
1321 Apolinario Street Bangkal
1233 Makati City

Dear Mr. R. M. R. Briones:

This refers to your Letters dated February 7, 2022 and February 24, 2022 submitting to this Office the amended Location Map/Sketch Plan, Exploration and Environmental Work Programs, in connection with the request of Berong Nickel Corporation (BNC) for *Authority to Verify Minerals* (ATVM) involving its application for Mineral Production Sharing Agreement denominated as AMA-IVB-147, which was later converted into an application for Exploration Permit through its Letter dated October 5, 2021, covering an area of 2,177.34 hectares located in Aporawan, Aborlan, Palawan.

In accordance with the provisions of the Executive Order No. 79 and Department Administrative Order (DAO) Nos. 2012-07¹ and 2016-07², the ATVM is hereby granted to BNC, subject to the following conditions:

1. Prior to conduct of any exploration activities, BNC is required to secure a Strategic Environmental Plan Clearance from the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development.
2. The ATVM does not give BNC any vested rights over the area and is issued without prejudice to the result of Area Status and Clearance from other government agencies/entities concerned.
3. The mineral verification shall be conducted in accordance with the attached Exploration and Environmental Work Programs and shall be confined to the said 2,177.34 hectares.
4. The onshore areas within the two hundred (200) meters from the mean low tide level along the coast shall be excluded in the areas to be explored.
5. The ATVM covers a period of one (1) year.
6. BNC shall spend an amount of **not less than PhP5,227,660.00**, for the conduct of environmental mitigating measures.

Likewise, **an equivalent amount** shall be spent for the development of the host and neighboring communities, advancement of mining technology and geosciences, and implementation of Information, Education and Communication Program for greater public awareness and understanding or responsible mining and geosciences.

¹ Implementing Rules and Regulations of Executive Order No. 79.
² DENR Manual of Authorities of Technical Matters

**"MINING SHALL BE PRO-PEOPLE AND PRO-ENVIRONMENT
IN SUSTAINING WEALTH CREATION AND IMPROVED QUALITY OF LIFE."**



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7. The mineral verification activities conducted shall be monitored periodically by this Office/Regional Office (RO) concerned. In this case, this Office/MGB RO concerned shall not be prevented or hindered from conducting, within the reasonable time of day, any on-site inspections of the mineral verification activities and the pertinent records.
8. Copies of the ATVM and Work Programs should be provided to the *Sangguniang Barangays, Bayan and Panlalawigan* concerned, and this Office furnished with the received copies thereof, within 30 days upon receipt of the ATVM.
9. BNC shall submit to this Office, the following reports:
 - 9.1 Within 15 days from the end of each calendar quarter, a quarterly accomplishment report on all activities conducted in the subject area.
 - 9.2 Within 30 days after the completion of one-year period or date of completion of the mineral verification, whichever comes earlier, a final technical report on the result of the mineral verification. Such information shall include detailed financial expenditures, raw and processed geological, geochemical, geophysical and radiometric data plotted on a map at a minimum 1:50,000 scale, copies of originals of assay results, duplicated samples, field data, copies of originals from drilling reports, maps, environmental work program implementation and detailed expenditures showing discrepancies/deviations with approved exploration and environmental plans and budgets as well as other information of any kind collected during the exploration activities.

Fines under Section 271 of DAO No. 2010-21³ shall apply in case of failure to submit the above reports.
10. The existing applicable rules and regulations on environmental protection and management, and safety and health of workers shall be strictly complied with in the conduct of mineral verification.
11. The Government shall be held free and harmless from all claims and accounts of all kinds, as well as demands and actions arising out of any accidents or injuries to persons or properties caused by the conduct of mineral verification in the subject area, and shall be indemnified for any expenses or costs incurred by reason of any such claims, accounts, demands or actions.
12. The ATVM may be suspended or cancelled at any time by the MGB Director when, in his opinion, public interest and welfare or peace and order conditions so require or demand, upon failure of BNC to comply with the obligations, without any obligation on the part of the Government.



³ Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act No. 7942, otherwise known as the Philippine Mining Act of 1995.

It is understood that non-compliance with the above obligations will affect the track record of BNC.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,


ATTY. WILFREDO G. MONCANO
Director



MINES &
GEOSCIENCES
BUREAU
Office of the Director

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