



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
MIMAROPA Region
Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office
Province of Palawan

May 10, 2023

MEMORANDUM

FOR : The Regional Executive Director
DENR MIMAROPA Region
1515 L & S Bldg., Roxas Blvd.,
Barangay 668, Ermita, Manila

FROM : The Provincial Environment and
Natural Resources Officer
Sta. Monica, Puerto Princesa City

SUBJECT : **SPOT REPORT RE: APPREHENSION OF LUMBER AT SITIO
BAYATAO, BARANGAY TAGABINET, PUERTO PRINCESA
CITY, PALAWAN**

Respectfully forwarded is the memorandum dated May 10, 2023, of OIC-CENRO Pedro A. Velasco together with the spot report dated May 9, 2023, of MES personnel relative to the apprehension of 363 pcs. of Ipil and Amugis lumbers with an equivalent volume of 5,400 Bd.ft. of various sizes and dimensions in Sitio Bayatao, Barangay Tagabenit, Puerto Princesa City.

The spot report of the CENRO investigation team shows that the illegally cut/sliced lumbers were apprehended dated May 7, 2023, by the Tribal Leaders of Cabayugan and Tagabinet and Barangay – Local Government Unit (LGU) of Tagabinet led by Punong Barangay Juvylyl Bonda, without a permit and in violation of Section 77, Presidential Decree 705, known as the Forestry Code of the Philippines. Accordingly, the apprehending team caught the perpetrators led by a certain Mr. Edgar Barbo in the cutting area with chainsaws.

Further, the hauling of the said apprehended lumbers is ongoing, jointly initiated by this office and CENRO Puerto Princesa City with the assistance of CADC members of Brgys. Tagabinet and Cabayugan. This office also created a fact-finding team to conduct an in-depth investigation on the matter in coordination with the City–Local Government Unit and the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development (PCSD) staff. Rest assured that we will submit the corresponding report on the matter as soon as possible.

For information and further instruction.


FELIZARDO B. CAYATOC



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

MEMORANDUM

FOR : The PENRO
DENR-Palawan
Sta. Monica, Puerto Princesa City

FROM : The CENRO

SUBJECT : **SPOT REPORT RE: APPREHENSION OF LUMBER AT SITIO BAYATAO, BARANGAY TAGABENIT, PUERTO PRINCESA CITY, PALAWAN.**

DATE : May 10, 2023

**DENR PENRL
PALAWAN RECORDS
RECEIVED**

BY: [Signature]
DATE: 15-10-2023 CN 23427

Forwarded in the spot report of MES personnel regarding the apprehension made by the LGU Tagabinet and Tribal Leaders of Cabayugan and Tagabinet on May 07, 2023, in Bgy. Tagabinet, Puerto Princesa City. Based on the report initial inventory disclosed that there were an estimated of 309 pcs of Ipil lumbers with estimated volume of 4,810 Bd.ft. and 54 pcs Amugis lumber with an equivalent volume of 590 bd.ft. were apprehended.

The hauling of lumber is currently on-going and negotiation with the Barangay and Tribal leaders are facilitated for possible assistance for the hauling of the said lumbers.

For information and further instruction.

[Signature]
PEDRO A. VELASCO

**DENR MIMAROPA REGION
CENRO PUERTO PRINCESA
RELEASED**

NO: 1660
DATE: 15-10-23
BY: [Signature]



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES OFFICE
PUERTO PRINCESA CITY
South National Highway, Bgy. Sta. Monica Puerto Princesa City
Email Address: cenropuertoprincesa@denr.gov.ph
Tel. Fax No.: (048) 717-0702

May 09, 2023

MEMORANDUM

FOR : The OIC-CENR Officer
DENR-CENRO Puerto Princesa City

THRU : Chief, Monitoring and Enforcement Section

FROM : Inspection/investigation team

SUBJECT : **SPOT REPORT RE: APPREHENSION OF LUMBER AT SITIO BAYATAO, BARANGAY TAGABINET, PUERTO PRINCESA CITY, PALAWAN.**

RECEIVED
May 10, 2023
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1. **WHAT:** Apprehension of Ipil and Amugis lumbers for violation of Section 77, P.D 705.
2. **WHO:** Eduardo Nitor, Rennie Boy Alia, Arjiel Pajelago and Edgar Barbo
3. **WHEN:** May 7, 2023
4. **WHERE:** So. Bayatao, Barangay Tagabenit, Puerto Princesa City
5. **HOW:**

At around 5:30 PM of May 07, 2023, upon the instruction of Forester II Dennis Aldrin Velasco, OIC-Chief, Monitoring and Enforcement Section, FR Reymund Sapalo and FR Ryan Domondon with the FPOs responded to the report from PB Juvylyl Bonda and Tribal leaders of Cabayugan and Tagabinet regarding on the apprehension of lumbers that they made at Sitio Bayatao, Barangay Tagabinet, Puerto Princesa City involving certain individuals with two who were alleged to be an active member of PPSRNP.

FR Ryan Domondon and Raymund Sapalo together with Forest Protection Officers departed from Sta. Lourdes Monitoring Station around 5:30 in the afternoon onboard a dump truck that was supposed to be used for hauling. The team arrived in the area around 6:40 in the evening but because of bad weather conditions, heavy rain, and several road blockades, the team was not able to locate the exact location of the cutting area. After an hour of trekking the team decided to withdraw and rescheduled the following day the supposed lumber retrieval.

The said apprehension on May 07, 2023, was undertaken by the tribal leaders of Barangay Tagabinet, Cabayugan, and Barangay-LGU of Tagabinet led by Punong Barangay Juvylyl Bonda. According to PB Bonda, the said cutting/slicing of trees was not properly coordinated with Tagabinet CADC's Officers/tribal Leaders and LGU-Barangay of Tagabinet; and no permit to cut from the DENR. There were two cutting areas identified involving 4 felled trees. That they were able to catch, in one of the cutting areas, a group led by Mr. Eduardo Barbo, and with them is a chainsaw and flitches of lumbers. According to one of the tribal leaders who participated in the apprehension, the chainsaw used in the slicing of tree was taken back by the owner identified as Ms. Lolita Asiong.

While the slicing of lumbers in the other location was allegedly instigated by certain Eduardo Nitor and Rennie Boy Alia who were also alleged to be both active members of Puerto Princesa Subterranean River Natural Park, and Mr. Arjiel Pajelago a resident of Brgy. Cabayugan.



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Based on the information gathered from Mr. Nitor during a short interview conducted by FR Sapalo in the Barangay Hall of Tagabinet on May 7, 2023, around 8:00 PM, he alleged that he asked for permission from the head of PPSRNP and secured FPIC from the CADC of Cabayugan. And that the said sawn/sliced trees were already uprooted/felled due to typhoon Odette. He also claimed that they had already sawn more or less four thousand-board feet (4,000 bd. ft).

On May 8, 2023, Monitoring and Enforcement personnel led by Forester I Arjay Gregas and Neil James Verzosa team leader of Sta. Lourdes Monitoring Station conducted a follow-up investigation to assess the situation and plan the possible hauling of the apprehended lumbers. The team located the cutting areas and conducted the initial inventory, scaling, and documentation of the sliced/sawn lumbers.

Upon further inspection, we observed that there were four uprooted/felled trees sliced/sawn into flitches comprising three (3) Ipil and one (1) Amugis in two different locations. Initial scaling/inventory disclosed that there are more or less 309 pcs of Ipil lumbers with an estimated volume of 4,810 bd. ft. and 54 pcs Amugis lumber with an equivalent volume of 590 bd. ft.

Based on our assessment, the only and fastest way of hauling the said lumbers to the nearest point area, where conveyance can penetrate or reach, is thru the employment of carabaos with a sled. Initial negotiations with PB Bonda and Tribal Leaders of Cabayugan and Tagabinet were already undertaken. They commit to help us find possible carabaos for rent with a rate of 10 pesos per board foot, the lowest possible price for hauling. We also observed that some of the flitches are too large and heavy that hauling using carabaos seems to be impossible, hence we asked for a legal opinion if slicing these lumbers into smaller pieces is possible.

Currently, the most needed logistics is the cash to fund the hauling using carabaos. It is also needed the expertise of a legal researcher to facilitate the deposition of possible witnesses or those involved in the apprehension.

Furthermore, the hauling of apprehended lumbers is ongoing with the monitoring and assistance of CENRO personnel, and CADC members of Bgy. Tagabenit and Cabayugan.

Given the foregoing, the undersigned recommends that an administrative adjudication be conducted according to DAO 97-32, and the filing of a criminal case if the evidence and circumstances warrant.


The final investigation report will be submitted when the investigation is completed.

Attachments: Tally sheet, geotagged photos, and other documents.

For information and further instruction.


RAYMUND SAPALO
FR


NEIL JAMES VERZOSA
Forest Ranger


ARJAY T. GREGAS
FI



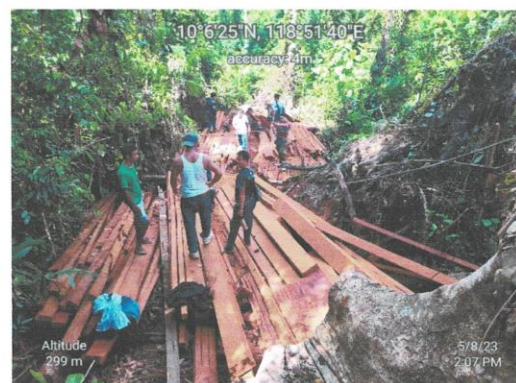
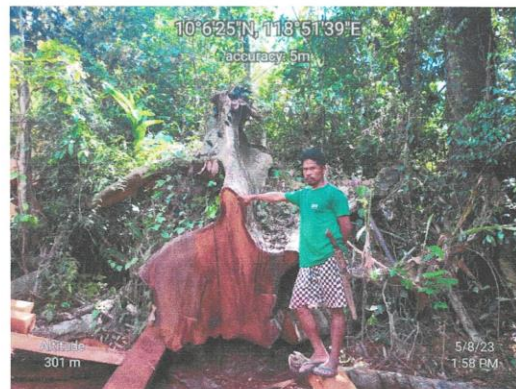
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**GEOTAGGED PHOTOS SHOWING THE APPREHENDED IPIL AND AMUGIS LUMBERS
LOCATED AT SITIO BAYATAO, BARANGAY TAGABINET, PUERTO PRINCESA CITY,
PALAWAN**



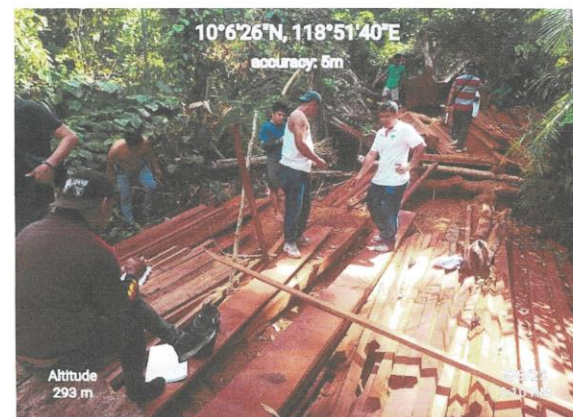
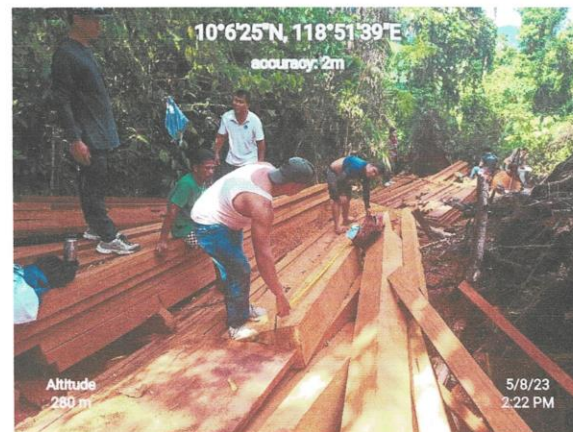


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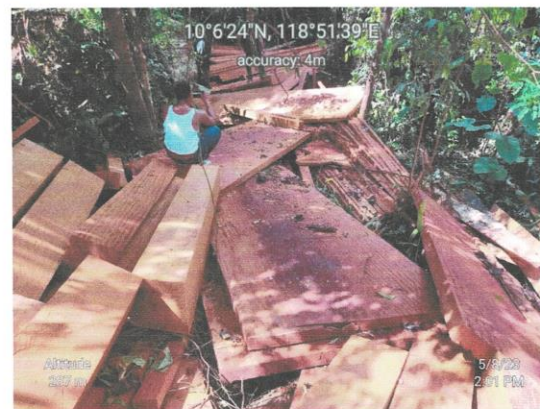
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Tally sheet of inventoried lumber in Brgy. Tagabinet, Puerto Princesa City.

No.	Kind	Species	Pieces	Dimension	Volume
1	Lumber	Ipil	9	1x10x16	119.97
2	Lumber	Ipil	7	2x2x8	18.62
3	Lumber	Ipil	6	2x5x25	124.98
4	Lumber	Ipil	12	2x3x16	96
5	Lumber	Ipil	21	2x2x12	84
6	Lumber	Ipil	7	2x8x20	186.62
7	Lumber	Ipil	7	1x8x20	93.31
8	Lumber	Ipil	6	2x8x20	159.96
9	Lumber	Ipil	5	3x8x20	200
10	Lumber	Ipil	3	2x5x20	49.98
11	Lumber	Ipil	2	1x8x20	26.66
12	Lumber	Ipil	8	1x10x12	80
13	Lumber	Ipil	5	2x5x20	83.3
14	Lumber	Ipil	4	2x8x20	106.64
15	Lumber	Ipil	4	10x10x12	400
16	Lumber	Ipil	3	3x40x11	330
17	Lumber	Ipil	7	5x5x6	87.5
18	Lumber	Ipil	41	2x2x12	164
19	Lumber	Ipil	12	10x10x6	600
20	Lumber	Ipil	4	5x11x6	110
21	Lumber	Ipil	14	2x2x10	46.62
22	Lumber	Ipil	3	3x52x10	390
23	Lumber	Ipil	1	3x41x10	102.5
24	Lumber	Ipil	3	3x54x10	405
25	Lumber	Ipil	2	10x10x10	166.66
26	Lumber	Ipil	7	5x5x12	175
27	Lumber	Ipil	5	2x3x12	30
28	Lumber	Ipil	66	2x2x9	198
29	Lumber	Ipil	35	2x3x10	175
Total			309		4810.32

Scaled and Inventoried:

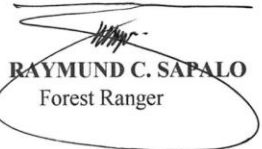

RAYMUND C. SAPALO
 Forest Ranger



MARK RAINER C. BONALES
 Forest Ranger

Tally sheet of inventoried Amugis lumber in Brgy. Tagabinet, Puerto Princesa City.

No.	Kind	Species	Pieces	Dimension	Volume
1	Lumber	Amugis	24	2x3x8	96
2	Lumber	Amugis	14	2x5x12	140
3	Lumber	Amugis	10	1x10x12	100
4	Lumber	Amugis	5	4x4x12	80
5	Lumber	Amugis	18	2x3x16	144
6	Lumber	Amugis	5	2x3x12	30
Total			76		590

Scaled and Inventoried:


RAYMUND C. SAPALO
Forest Ranger


MARK RAINER C. BONALES
Forest Ranger