

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

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Email: region4b@mgb.gov.ph



05 Mayo 2023

Gng. Alma J. Alas

Brgy. Aramaywan
Quezon, Palawan

G. Roger J. Carlo

Brgy. Aramaywan
Quezon, Palawan

EDATS No. OSEC-2023-002868
DENR CO-ASRMD-2023-007812

Gng. A. J. Alas, et al.:

Ito ay patungkol sa inyong mga idinulog na sulat para sa Kalihim ng Kagawaran ng Kapaligiran at Likas na Yaman at kay Senador Loren Legarda noong 15 Pebrero 2023 na ipinaabot sa aming tanggapan noong 05 Mayo 2023 para sa aming nararapat na aksyon, hingil sa reklamo ng mga lokal na residente ng Brgy. Aramaywan, Quezon, Palawan laban sa mga aktibidades ng Berong Nickel Corporation (BNC) sa kanilang lugar.

Nais po naming ipalaam na ang BNC ay nabigyan ng “*Authority to Verify Minerals (ATVM)*” ng Mines and Geosciences Bureau – Central Office noong 07 Hunyo 2022 para sa Exploration Permit Application No. EPA-356-IVB nito sa Quezon, Palawan alinsunod sa probisyon ng Executive Order No. 79.

Ang nasabing ATVM ay nagbigay awtoridad sa BNC upang magsagawa ng mga aktibidades para tiyaking mayroong yamang mineral sa nasabing lugar.

Kalakip sa sulat na ito ang nasabing ATVM para sainyong karagdagang impormasyon.

Patungkol naman sa isyu ng walang naganap na *public consultation* para sa mga residente ng nasabing Barangay, nais po naming ipalaam na kinakailangan ito para sa aplikasyon ng *Environmental Compliance Certificate* ng BNC, na isa naman sa mga rekisito bago makapagsimula ito ng “*commercial mining operation.*”

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

Makakaasa po kayong aming pahahalagahan ang inyong idinulog na isyu at patuloy na susubaybayan ang bawat aktibidades ng BNC sa nasabing lugar.

Maraming salamat po.

Lubos na gumagalang,


GLENN MARCELO C. NOBLE
Regional Director

Enc'l: As stated

cc:

The Secretary
the Office of the Secretary,
Department of Environment and Natural Resources Office
EDATS No. OSEC-2023-002868

The Undersecretary – Field Operations Luzon & Visayas and Environment
Department of Environment and Natural Resources Office
Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
DENR CO-ASRMD-2023-007812

The Regional Executive Director
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
MIMAROPA Region

The PENRO
Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office
Palawan

The CENRO
Community Environment and Natural Resources Office
Quezon, Palawan

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5/5/2023



MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE
MIMAROPA Region



June 7, 2022

Mr. Tulsi Das C. Reyes

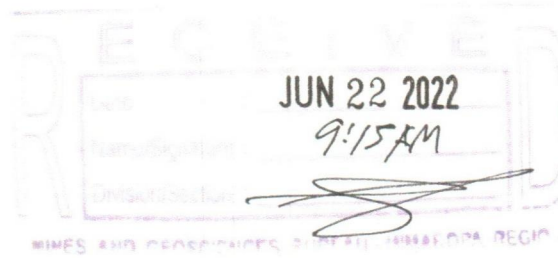
President

Berong Nickel Corporation

3/F DMCI Homes Corporate Center

1321 Apolinario St., Bangkal,

1233 Makati City



Dear Mr. T.D. C. Reyes:

This refers to the request of Berong Nickel Corporation (BNC) for an authority to verify minerals (ATVM) involving the 650.87-hectare portion of the company's application for Exploration Permit (EP) denominated as EPA-356-IVB (formerly AMA-IVB-038) situated in Quezon, Palawan, pending the approval of the said application.

The Office has determined that the pertinent Exploration Work Program (ExWP) satisfactorily outlined the proposed exploration activities and indicated the necessary information and/or technical discussion for a systematic implementation of the mineral verification.

In view thereof and pursuant to the pertinent provision of the Executive Order No. 79 series of 2012¹, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Administrative Order (DAO) No. 2012-07², and DAO No. 2016-07³, the authority to verify minerals is hereby granted to BNC subject to the following conditions:

1. BNC shall submit within 15 days from receipt hereof the Revised Environmental Work Program, taking into account the attached comments of the Mine Safety, Environment and Social Development Division of this Office.
2. Mineral verification shall be confined to the area within EPA-356-IVB.
3. The conduct of mineral verification in the subject area shall have a duration of one year.
4. The mineral verification should be conducted in accordance with the approved ExWP.
5. BNC shall spend an amount of not less than ten percent (10%) of the budget under the approved ExWP 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 of responsible mining and geosciences.

6. The implementation of the approved ExWP is subject to periodic audit/monitoring by this Office/Mines and Geosciences Bureau MIMAROPA Region.
7. Copy of the approved ExWP shall be provided to the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Palawan and the received copy shall be furnished to this Office.



9:03 AM
Letter
9/9/2022

¹ Institutionalizing and Implementing Reforms in the Philippines Mining Sector, Providing Policies and Guidelines to Ensure Environment Protection and Responsible Mining in the Utilization of Mineral Resources

² Implementing Rules and Regulations of EO No. 79



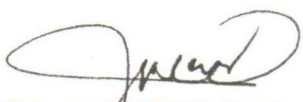
8. BNC shall submit to the Regional Director concerned, copy furnished this Office, within 30 days after the completion of the one-year term or date of completion of the mineral verification, whichever comes earlier, a final technical report on the result of the mineral verification. Such information shall include detailed financial expenditures, raw and processed geological, geochemical, geophysical and radiometric data plotted on a map at a minimum 1:50000 scale, copies of the original drilling reports, map, environmental work program implementation and detailed expenditures showing discrepancies/deviation with approved exploration and environmental plans and budget as well as other information of any kind collected during the exploration activities.

Failure to submit the said report shall be subject to payment of fines as provided under Section 271 of DAO No. 2010-21⁴.

9. The existing applicable rules and regulations on environmental protection and management, and safety and health of workers shall be strictly complied within the conduct of the mineral verification.
10. The DENR/MGB shall not be prevented or hindered from conducting within the reasonable time of the day any on-site inspections of the mineral verification activities and pertinent records.
11. The Government shall be held free and harmless from all claims and accounts of all kind, as well as demands and actions arising out of mineral verification in the subject area and shall be indemnified for any expenses or cost incurred by reason of any such claims, accounts, demands or actions.
12. The authority to verify minerals may be withdrawn upon violation of any of the above conditions or when the national interest or public welfare so require of for environmental protection or ecological reason.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,


ENGR. JUANCHO PABLO S. CALVEZ
Officer-in-Charge, Office of the Director

Encl.: As stated

c.c.: **The Regional Director**
Mines and Geosciences Bureau MIMAROPA Region
7/F DENR Bldg., 1515 Roxas Blvd.,
Ermita, Manila

⁴ Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act No. 7942 otherwise known as the Philippine Mining Act of