



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
FOREST MANAGEMENT BUREAU

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MEMORANDUM

TO : The Regional Executive Director
DENR-Region MIMAROPA

FROM : The OIC Assistant Secretary for Field Operations-Western Mindanao,
and in concurrent capacity

SUBJECT : **DELISTING OF ILLEGAL LOGGING HOTSPOT AREA
WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF CENRO BROOKE'S POINT,
PALAWAN**

DATE : **NOV 17 2023**



This has reference to your memorandum dated September 22, 2023 regarding the delisting of illegal logging hotspot areas within the jurisdiction of CENRO Brooke's Point, Palawan.

Please be informed that based on the memorandum issued by this Office dated May 09, 2023 on the consolidated DENR regional reports on the apprehended, seized, and/or confiscation undocumented forest products including conveyances, tools, and implements for Calendar Year 2022, CENRO Brooke's Point is considered *neutralized* and has been delisted in the list of illegal logging hotspots areas.

Furthermore, this Office interposes no objection to your request for the provision of the necessary logistics in sustaining to neutralize the illegal logging activities in your jurisdiction, provided that the Central Office has available budget for the purpose.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND REFERENCE, PLEASE.


ARLEIGH J. ADORABLE, CESO III

cc : **The Undersecretary**
for Field Operations-Luzon, Visayas and Environment



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
MIMAROPA REGION

MEMORANDUM

SEP 22 2023

FOR : ATTY. JUAN MIGUEL T. CUNA, *CESO I*
Undersecretary for Field Operations-Luzon, Visayas, and
Environment

ATTENTION : ARLEIGH J. ADORABLE, *CESO III*
Assistant Secretary for Field Operations – Western Mindanao and
Director, Forest Management Bureau, in concurrent capacity

FROM : THE OIC, REGIONAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

SUBJECT : **DELISTING OF ILLEGAL LOGGING HOTSPOT AREA
WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF CENRO BROOKE'S
POINT, PALAWAN [P-2023-116198, P-2023-113576]**

Respectfully submitted are the Memoranda dated June 26, 2023 and August 7, 2023 of PENRO Palawan submitting the reports of CENRO Brooke's Point and its enclosures on their request for the Municipality of Bataraza to be excluded from the list of illegal logging hotspot area.

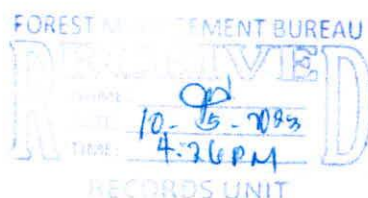
Please be informed that on January 31, 2023, this Office submitted the documents to substantiate the said request, which focused on the series of activities conducted by the concerned CENRO in coordination with different Local Government Units and other stakeholders, particularly the issuance of Municipal Resolution No. 74, Series of 2022, by the Municipality of Bataraza.

To date, CENRO Brooke's Point and the LGUs are focused on neutralizing illegal logging activities in Bataraza. However, various concerns were identified, notably the lack of hauling vehicles and the failure of the barangay officials to enforce protection and conservation of the environment as devolved functions pursuant to the Local Government Code and Executive Order No. 138, s. 2021.

In this regard, may we respectfully inquire for an update on the status of the request of CENRO Brooke's Point and the Municipality of Bataraza. May we also seek for the provision of much needed logistics to sustain the fight against illegal logging and other unlawful environmental activities.

For information, record, and consideration, please.

"For and in the absence of the OIC, Regional Executive Director"



Cc:
THE PENR OFFICER
Palawan

THE CENR OFFICER
Brooke's Point


MAXIMO C. LANDRITO
OIC, Assistant Regional Director for Technical Services



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MEMORANDUM

FOR : **ATTY. JUAN MIGUEL T. CUNA, CESO**
Undersecretary for Field Operations –Luzon, Visayas, and
Environment

THRU : **ASEC GILBERT GONZALES, CESO III**
Assistant Secretary for Field Operations Luzon and Visayas

FROM : **THE REGIONAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

SUBJECT : **SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS FOR DELISTING OF
ILLEGAL LOGGING HOTSPOT WITHIN THE
JURISDICTION OF CENRO BROOKE'S POINT, PALAWAN**

DATE : **JAN 31 2023**

In compliance to your memorandum of instruction dated October 18, 2022 on the highlights of the 3rd Luzon virtual cluster meeting conducted on September 30, 2022, respectfully submitted are the supporting documents for the delisting of illegal logging hotspot within the jurisdiction of CENRO Brooke's Point, Palawan, as follows:

1. Municipality of Bataraza Resolution No. 74, series of 2022 – A resolution requesting the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR MIMAROPA) for the delisting of Municipality of Bataraza from the list of identified illegal logging hotspot areas in MIMMAROPA Region; (ANNEX A)
2. Memorandum dated September 27, 2022 from PENRO Palawan addressed to the RED MIMAROPA re: Accomplishment on the action plan to minimize illegal logging in the identified hotspot area within the jurisdiction of CENRO Brookes Point; (ANNEX B)
3. Bataraza MFPC Resolution No. 2022-001-A resolution requesting for the Sangguniang Bayan to issue a resolution for the delisting of the Municipality of Bataraza from the list of identified illegal logging hotspot areas in DENR MIMAROPA Region; (ANNEX C)
4. Bataraza MFPC resolution No. 2022-002- A resolution adopting and endorsing the plan activities/forward actions of the Municipal Local Government Unit of Bataraza to neutralize illegal logging and illegal charcoal making activities in the Municipality to further support the request for is delisting from the list of identified illegal logging hotspot areas in DENR MIMAROPA Region; (ANNEX D)
5. Memorandum dated April 26, 2022 from CENRO Brooke's Point thru PENRO Palawan addressed to the RED MIMAROPA re: Consolidated apprehension report of CENRO Brooke's Point, Palawan for the 1st quarter of CY 2022, summarized as follows: (ANNEX E)
 - Patrol Based I Abo Abo Monitoring Station-No apprehension of undocumented forest products has been recorded in the Municipality of Sofronio Española, Palawan.

- Patrol Based II Lada Monitoring Station-No recorded incident of apprehension in the jurisdiction of the Municipality of Brooke's Point.
- Patrol Base III Rio Tuba Monitoring Station-Just a small volume of apprehended forest products within the jurisdiction of Bataraza, Palawan.
- Balabac Sub-Office- Limited apprehension of undocumented forest products in the Municipality of Balabac, Palawan.

6. Memorandum dated April 28, 2022 from PENRO Palawan addressed to the RED MIMAROPA re: Accomplishment on the action plan to minimize illegal logging in the identified hotspot area within the jurisdiction of CENRO Brooke's Point; (ANNEX F & G)
 - 63% decreased of incidence of apprehension in CY 2021 as compared to CY 2020,
 - Increased 42% of apprehended undocumented lumber in CY 2021 but decreased of 92% and 97% of apprehended timber and charcoal, respectively,
 - Decreased volume of apprehended mangrove charcoal due to intensive IEC,
 - Lowest record for the past few years of total incidence of apprehension,
 - Formulation and organize the Multi-sectoral Forest Protection Committee (MFPC) of the Municipality of Bataraza thru Executive Order No. 17 "An order creating the Multi-sectoral Forest Protection Committee (MFPC) in the Municipality of Bataraza,
 - Deputation of twenty-three (23) MENRO and Coral Bay Nickel Corporation (CBNC) personnel as DENROs through Regional Special Order Numbers 355 and 356, and
 - Collaborative conduct of IEC with CBNC and implementation of proposed livelihood programs/opportunities (target for CY 2023) in identified and adjacent hotspot barangays with mangrove areas.
7. Consolidated inventory report of furniture shops including lumber dealers within the AOJ of CENRO Brooke's Point, Palawan; (ANNEX H & I)
8. Map showing the location of furniture shop within the Municipality of Brooke's Point, Palawan (ANNEX J), and;
9. Memorandum dated April 05, 2021 from USEC for Field Operations and Environment addressed to all regional Executive Directors re: Summary of regional reports on apprehensions, seizures and/or confiscation of undocumented forest products including conveyances, tools and implements for Calendar Year 2020. (ANNEX K)

For consideration and approval.


LORMELYN E. CLAUDIO, CESO IV



MEMORANDUM

FOR : The Undersecretary for Field Operations and Environment
(Luzon & Visayas)

The Undersecretary for Field Operations (Mindanao)

FROM : The OIC Assistant Secretary for Field Operations - Western Mindanao
and Director, in Concurrent Capacity

SUBJECT : **CONSOLIDATED DENR REGIONAL REPORTS ON THE
APPREHENDED, SEIZED, AND/OR CONFISCATION OF
UNDOCUMENTED FOREST PRODUCTS INCLUDING
CONVEYANCES, TOOLS, AND IMPLEMENTS FOR CALENDAR
YEAR 2022**

DATE : MAY 09 2023

This is a report on the monitoring of illegal logging hotspots municipalities nationwide for CY 2022. The report focused on how the different DENR Regional Offices had undertaken their forest protection works and law enforcement efforts to minimize illegal cutting of trees and more specifically to neutralized illegal logging hotspots, they implemented their respective Five-Year Regional Intensified Forest Protection Program from CY 2020 to 2024. The indicators of illegal logging hotspots used were derived from the Memoranda dated 23 March 2015 and 29 August 2013 from the Director of the Forest Management Bureau. *(Please see attached copies for your reference)*

FINDINGS OF THE CONSOLIDATED REPORTS

This is the consolidated regional reports on the Apprehended, Seized, and/or Confiscation Undocumented Forest Products, including Conveyances, Tools, and Implements cover the period of Calendar Year 2022 (excluding ARMM). For CY 2022, a total of **2,675** incidents of apprehensions, seizures, and/or confiscation of undocumented forest products, including Conveyances, Tools, and Implements which is lower by 15% from **3,133** incidents for CY 2021. The total volume of undocumented forest products (logs and lumber) with indicated market value is **2,097,556.76 bd.ft.** which lower by 16% from the CY 2021 of **2,483,259 bd.ft.** All these 2,675 incidents of apprehensions, seizures have undergone Administrative Adjudication Proceedings (AAP) wherein 356 Confiscation Orders were issued (*Appendix A*)

For the same period, the total estimated market value of these undocumented forest products is Php 105,265,279.64 which is slightly higher by 2% than in CY 2021 of Php 103,263,696 as reported by the Regional Offices. Then, a total of 299 criminal cases were reported in CY 2022 while there were 448 criminal cases last CY 2021. The same period also reflected the apprehension, seizure and/or confiscation of 662 implements and 681 conveyances. (*Appendix A*)

The top 5 DENR Regions with most number of incidents of apprehensions, seizures and/or confiscations of undocumented forest products were Regions V, XIII, VIII, IV-B, and IV-A, with

443, 397, 269, 206, and 189 incidents, respectively. On the other hand, the top 5 Regions with the highest total estimated market value of undocumented forest products were Regions XIII, V, CAR, II and VIII respectively. Finally, some 318,131 bd. ft. were donated by DENR Regions VI, VIII, X, XI and XIII. Hence, strengthened or enhanced efforts to intensify forest protection activities have been implemented nationwide. (*Appendix A*).

For CY 2022, the number of *illegal logging hotspots municipalities* has decreased to *sixteen (16)* municipalities from *eighteen (18)* in CY 2021. Five (5) municipalities from CY 2021 were neutralized while three (3) municipalities recurred for CY 2022, based on the criteria of illegal logging hotspots. Neutralized were *Peñablanca* in Cagayan; *Casiguran*, *Dilasag*, and *Dingalan* all in Aurora, and *Brooke's Point* in Palawan. *Peñablanca* has no reported incidence of apprehension, seizure and/or confiscation of undocumented forest products including conveyances, tools and implements. While *Casiguran*, *Dilasag*, and *Dingalan and Brooke's Point* recorded non-commercial quantities of undocumented forest products including conveyances, tools and implements. (*Appendix B*)

However, three (3) municipalities were considered recurrent illegal logging hotspots namely; *Laak* and *Nabunturan* both of Compostela Valley, and *Talacogon* of Agusan del Sur, recorded commercial quantities of undocumented forest products including conveyances, tools and implements. (*Appendix B*). The regional distribution of illegal logging hotspots municipalities are as follows: *Region II has 2* (*Jones & Bag-gao*); *Region IV-B has 1* (*Taytay*); *Region XI has 5* (*Boston; Baganga; Cateel; Laak, & Nabunturan*) and *Region XIII has 8* (*Loreto; San Luis; Talacogon; La Paz; Esperanza; Trento; Lingig & Lianga*). (*Appendix B*)

For CY 2022, some fifty-two percent (52%) of these undocumented forest products are composed of fifty-three (53) different indigenous and native timber species e.g. dipterocarps, etc., while seventeen percent (17%) were exotic species consisting of nine (9) species, and thirty percent (30%) were miscellaneous, lesser-use & mixed unidentified species consisting of eleven (11) different species. (*Appendix C*). This is strong indication that these substantial percentage of indigenous and native timber species, may have originated or came from the natural and residual forests in public lands or accumulated illegally cut standing trees from private titled lands.

In 2011, when Executive Order No. 23 was issued, there were one hundred ninety-seven (197) *illegal logging hotspots municipalities* nationwide. For CY 2022, there were one hundred nineteen (119) *municipalities* that can be described as recurring *illegal logging hotspots* in terms of *Incidents* of apprehension, seizure, and/or confiscation of undocumented forest products registering a total of seven hundred forty-six (746) *Incidents*. Fifty-two (52) *municipalities* have incurred *double-digit Incidents* while sixty-seven (67) *municipalities have single-digits record* of apprehension, seizure, and/or confiscation of undocumented forest products. The hundred ninety-seven (197) *illegal logging hotspots municipalities* in CY 2011 have been drastically reduced by nine-two percent (92%) to only *sixteen (16)* in CY 2022. (*Appendix D*). This also reflected a reduction of eleven percent (11%) of *eighteen (18)* illegal logging hotspot municipalities in CY 2021 compared to only *sixteen (16)* in CY 2022. (*Appendix E*)

These are the basic or primary indicators or references used to determine the illegal logging hotspots municipalities.

1. **High incidence of illegal logging** - increased by at least 50% or higher than the incidence the previous year regardless of the volume or value of the forest products involved. (*Memo. 29 Aug. 2013 by FMB Director Calderon*)
2. **Volume and value of the forest products** - increased by at least 50% or higher than the previous year. (*Memo. 29 Aug. 2013 by FMB Director Calderon*)

3. **Commercial quantity of forest products** - minimum of 1,000 bd.ft. for lumber or 2.35 cu.m. of logs from the natural and residual forests, including government reforestation projects. (*Memo. of 23 Mar. 2015 by FMB Director Calderon*)
4. **Commercial quantity of forest products** - minimum of 2,000 bd.ft. for lumber and/or 9.0 cu.m. of logs from private plantations and planted trees from private lands. (*Memo. of 23 Mar. 2015 by FMB Director Calderon*)

OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. There were five (5) illegal logging hotspots municipalities neutralized for CY 2022, namely; **Peñablanca** in Cagayan; **Casiguran**, **Dilasag**, and **Dingalan** all of Aurora, and **Brooke's Point** in Palawan, which is good news for those regions for being very effective in their law enforcement works and efforts. However, three (3) municipalities were considered recurrent illegal logging hotspots namely; **Laak** and **Nabunturan** both of Compostela Valley, and **Talacogon** of Agusan del Sur, for recording sizeable commercial quantities of undocumented forest products a combination of indigenous and exotic species, though all three (3) municipalities reported no apprehension, seizure, and/or confiscation of undocumented forest products last CY 2021. They need to be more vigilant in enforcing ENR laws and regulations.
2. If fifty-two percent (52%) of these undocumented forest products composed of fifty- three (53) indigenous and native timber species e.g. dipterocarps, etc, this is quite disturbing since it confirmed that their sources or origin is presumed to have come from the natural and residual forests, since only seventeen percent (17%) were of exotic species consisting of nine (9) exotic or introduced species, and thirty percent (30%) of miscellaneous, lesser-use & mixed unidentified species consisting of eleven (11) different species.
3. The existence of DENR Forest Products Monitoring Stations (FPMS) in strategic locations and covered by DENR Special Orders, may be effective in deterring illegal transport of undocumented forest products whereby CY 2022 is 392,098 bd.ft. less than in CY 2021 in terms of volume apprehended, seized and /or confiscated.
4. All DENR Field Offices specifically the CENROs and implementing PENROs must adopt and use the Electronic Filing and Monitoring System (e-FMS) in immediately reporting electronically all apprehension, seizure, and/or confiscation of undocumented forest products including conveyances, tools, and implements, pursuant to the memorandum instruction by the Undersecretary for Field Operations, Enforcement and Muslim Affairs dated 03 August 2020 and the Assistant Secretary for Enforcement dated 29 June 2021.
5. Continued use of the Lawin Forest and Biodiversity Protection System in all forest lands is a very strong deterrent for would-be illegal cutting or transport of timber and associated products and equally intensifying their forest protection efforts from the regional level down to the CENROs.
6. Sixteen (16) illegal logging hotspots municipalities for CY 2022 need to be neutralized in the next one or two years echoing the very same instruction of the previous DENR Secretary, requiring all DENR field offices for vigilance and concerted efforts.

7. All DENR Field Offices must endeavor to file criminal complaints for all those apprehensions, seizures and/or confiscation of undocumented forest products when there is/are claimant/s as required by existing DENR regulations.

Should the Undersecretary concur, attached are the draft Memorandum addressed to all Regional Executive Directors, for your consideration.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION, REFERENCE, AND CONSIDERATION, PLEASE.


ARLEIGH J. ADORABLE, CESO III