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Subject MEMO DTD 10/17/2023 RE: 3RD QUARTER HIGHLIGHTS OF LUZON AND VISAYAS CLUSTER MEETING
CONDUCTED ON 28 SEPTEMBER 2023 VIA HYBRID SET UP.

Addressee(s): Office of the Assistant Secretary for Field Operations - Luzon and Visayas (OASECFOLV)

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MEMORANDUM

TO : **THE BUREAU DIRECTORS**
Land Management Bureau
Biodiversity Management Bureau
Forest Management Bureau
Environmental Management Bureau
Mines and Geosciences Bureau
Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau

THE REGIONAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS
ASSISTANT REGIONAL DIRECTORS
MGB REGIONAL DIRECTORS
EMB REGIONAL DIRECTORS
DENR Luzon and Visayas Regions

THE ADMINISTRATOR
National Mapping and Resource Information Authority

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

SUBJECT : **3rd QUARTER HIGHLIGHTS OF LUZON AND VISAYAS
CLUSTER MEETING CONDUCTED ON 28 SEPTEMBER 2023
VIA HYBRID SET UP**

DATE : **OCT 17 2023**

We are pleased to provide you the Highlights of the 3rd Quarter Luzon and Visayas Cluster Meeting held via Zoom and Face to Face on 28 September 2023. The activity aims to address the issues and concerns of Field Offices in Luzon and Visayas. **For your reference we have consolidated the presented issues and concerns and discussion on the agreements raised per Regions. Hence, this Office is requesting the concerned Bureaus to please submit their responses and updates on the issues for our submission to the Undersecretary for Field Operations Luzon, Visayas and Environment. All responses are likewise be consolidated on or before 30 October 2023.** If you have clarifications on the prepared highlights, kindly email us at asecfosl.denr@yahoo.com

The meeting started by a roll call and facilitated by OIC Assistant Secretary Gilbert C. Gonzales:

OIC Assistant Secretary Gilbert C. Gonzales

- Presented the submitted responses given by the Bureaus with regards to the issues raised during the 2nd Cluster meeting dated 21 June 2023. (*attached are copies of Bureau responses via this link: <https://bit.ly/3tsZ1jl>*)
- The Reclamation Application Process via chart was also presented for guidance of FOs
- Reminded to expedite the inventory of the existing industry for the EPR Registration
- Reiterated the instruction of the President that there will be no reclamation projects to be processed. All ECC issuance submitted have been deferred.
- Reminded all regions to check all Air Quality Monitoring stations and submit status report and recommendation regarding functionality of all AQMS in your AR submit it ASAP.

REGIONAL ISSUES/CONCERNS	DISCUSSION/AGREEMENTS	CONCERNED OFFICE(s)
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REGION I – ILOCOS REGION		
Proliferation of untenured occupants along the unclassified public land at Binmaley-Lingayen Baywalk, Pangasinan.	<p>LMB Responded: Memorandum signed by the LMB Director for the OIC, Asec. for Field Operations - Luzon and Visayas dated April 13, 2023 was sent in response to the said concern.</p> <p>The LMB recommended the following: a. The MGB shall conduct a Geohazard Assessment over the subject area to determine the susceptibility or vulnerability of the same to geohazards; b. The informal settlers be relocated, in coordination with the Pangasinan LGU, given that the suitability and stability of the subject area is not yet determined.</p> <p>Asec. Adorable added that NAMRIA should conduct an evaluation on the subject lands for legal classification.</p> <p>Asec Gonzales suggested to follow the process of NEDA and RDC for proper endorsement on Ecotourism Project. Also, the Region must conduct thorough technical evaluation of the project.</p>	NAMRIA LMB FMB
Proposed construction of seawall by the DPWH along the beach areas of Lingayen and Binmaley, Pangasinan which is not in accordance with the issued ECC in 2015. The issued ECC is exclusive for the construction of roads and is not intended for the construction of seawall.	<p>The MGB representatives had attended the joint committee hearing of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of the Province of Pangasinan on September 14, 2023 facilitated by Hon. Governor Ramon V. Guico III.</p> <p>The Board Members of Pangasinan has recommended to temporarily stop the on-going construction of the Seawall in the area.</p>	MGB EMB
Boundary Dispute Between Region 1 (San Nicolas, Pangasinan) and Region II (Sta. Fe, Nueva Vizcaya).	<p>A Verification Survey was already conducted by the team composed of Region 1 and 2, NAMRIA and LMB.</p> <p>A meeting is scheduled on October 3 and these issues of Region 1 and Region 2 should be considered by the team.</p>	LMB

REGIONAL ISSUES/CONCERNS	DISCUSSION/AGREEMENTS	CONCERNED OFFICE(s)
REGION II – CAGAYAN VALLEY		
Absence of guidelines on areas issued with Certificate of Ancestral Domain Titles (CADT) within Timberland/ Forestland Areas	Implementing Guidelines on Areas covered with CADT within timberland areas	FMB
Issuance of SAPA (Tenure Instruments within Protected Areas covering two or more regions)	No policy for Gratuitous SAPA and absence of implementing guidelines as to the collection of SAPA. For example, the AOR is within R2 but the PAMB and IPAF account are managed by R1.	BMB
Conversion of CBFMA to PACBRMA in Protected Areas covering two regions	No explicit guidelines on the processing of the conversion of tenure instruments if within protected areas which are not legislated and if within two regions.	BMB
Proposed Construction of Road which will traverse the Strict Protection Zones of NSMNP which are prohibited under RA 9125 and RA 11038	Policy conflict between RA 9125 and RA 11038 (ENIPAS Act) against RA 917 (Phil. Highway Act of 1953) and EO113, Series of 1955 (Establishing the Classification of Roads) Request for legal opinion to BMB and Legal Service - CO to come up with policy guidance on the issue.	CO BMB
Lots are indicated as patented in the allocation book but have no record to support the same. There are no records as to their registration in the Registry of Deeds.	LMB already initiated to proposed a policy on this. The draft policy was presented during the Land Sector's Conference in Bohol last September 14, 2023. Status: For re-submission to the DENR Central Office.	LMB
REGION III – CENTRAL LUZON		
Structural integrity of SCTEX and Mancatian Bridges are compromised according to the DPWH DPWH – 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	EMB Responded: Upon receipt of the Clearances for the partial lifting of the CDO from USEC Cuna, the CDO was lifted for the seventeen (17) quarry operators whose areas are cleared and certified by K.A.L.A.M. and DPWH Regional Office III to be totally outside the 1-km radius “No Quarry Zones” from Mancatian Bridge. <i>The CDO for the nine (9) quarry operators was lifted on June 08,</i>	EMB

REGIONAL ISSUES/CONCERNS	DISCUSSION/AGREEMENTS	CONCERNED OFFICE(s)
these companies are amenable if they conform with environmental laws, rules and regulations.	<i>2023 and the eight (8) quarry permittees on September 18, 2023.</i>	
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.	Lifting of the CDO was denied for the five (5) quarry operators; 1. E.C. Porac Agg. Trading 2. Topmines Quarry Resources 3. Leonardo A. Clarete 4. Jerry G. Tolentino 5. Norman S. Bengco. They are directed to apply for amendmends of their respective ECCs to exclude the areas covered by the No Quarry Zones	
Relocation Survey of Lahar Affected Areas in Bacolor Pampanga	LMB responded thru a Memorandum dated 22 September 2023 and was submitted to DENR Central Office endorsing the FY 2024 WFP for the proposed relocation survey	LMB
Request for data available in Central Office regarding oblige enterprises for the EPR programs which already submitted for verification with the identified list of the RO.	Asec Gonzales said that EMB will provide the official document for this matter.	EMB
REGION IV-A (CALABARZON)		
Fabricated and installed Office Type Smart Van under TFBBS-KRA6 has no existing funds for rehabilitation and maintenance (Rizal)	Request the allocation of budget for continual rehabilitation and maintenance.	FMB, PENRO Rizal,
Presence of Informal Settler Families (ISFs) within the portion of Protected Area (So. Mamba, Brgy. Pinagsanhan IB, Maragondon, Cavite)	Request the assistance and supports of the Office of Secretary to exercise the power of eminent domain	OSEC
The New Centennial Water Source- Kaliwa Dam Project (NCWS-KDP) traverses in three (3) Protected Areas, the Kaliwa River Forest Reserve (KRFR), the Upper Marikina River Basin Protected Landscape (UMRBPL) and the Presidential	Continuous provision of support and assistance	RO, CO

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Proclamation No. 1636 (Unnamed National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary and Game Preserve). The watershed is composed of Alienable and Disposable land, and public forest under different tenures.		
Lack of legal basis defining the functions of PENRO Laguna as implementing PENRO and CENRO Sta. Cruz	<p>The Memorandum dated August 29, 2023 was received by DENR Central Office on September 01, 2023 requesting for the issuance of DAO redefining the administrative jurisdiction of PENRO Laguna and CENRO Sta. Cruz.</p> <p>Request the assistance of top management for the approval and issuance of DAO.</p>	RO, CO
LLDA Board Resolution No. 622 "A Resolution to Suspend and/or Defer the Issuance of Certification Relating to Laguna Lake Elevation Whether Below or Above 12.50 meters" (PENRO Laguna)	<p>Region 4A to initiate dialogue with LLDA.</p> <p>Participation of LMB should be considered for further guidance/technical assistance regarding this matter</p>	LLDA, RO, CO, LMB
REGION IV-B (MIMAROPA)		
Structural stability of the DENR By the Bay Building (L&S) where the Regional Office of DENR MIMAROPA Region is situated (occupying the 2 nd to 5 th floor) EMB MIMAROPA 6 th Floor, and MGB MIMAROPA 7 th Floor. After the June 15 earthquake	<p>Constraints and Limitations encountered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget • Mode of Procurement (RA 9184) • Multi-Year Contractual Authority (MYCA)- Allotment should be released during the first year for multi year obligation (Year 1-5 Php249,681,478.56) with yearly NCA release for the next 5 years <p>Asec Gonzales suggested that We are considering relocating the EMB4B and or assigning personnel to provincial offices to offload the building</p> <p>Kindly expedite the assessment of the building in order to proceed</p>	RO, CO

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	with suitable management options.	
Status of the Proposed Plantation of Abuyog Sweet Langka requested by Representative Jose C. Alvarez of the 2 nd District of Palawan	Submitted a proposed Work and Financial Plan amounting to Php20,608,000.00 to the Central Office on 16 August 2023	FMB, CO
Status of the request of Representative Leody F. Tarriela for the hiring of additional forest guards in Occidental Mindoro	Submitted a proposed Work and Financial Plan amounting to Php5,000,000.00 to the Central Office on 08 August 2023	FMB, CO
Conduct of RLTA for the 20 Municipalities and One City in the Province of Palawan and reconstruction of Political Boundary Maps / correction erroneous cadastral surveys per request of Congressman Alvarez	<p>Conducted Meeting with Cong. Alvarez in Palawan on September 21, 2023.</p> <p>Presented Maps showing boundary conflicts and missing political maps</p> <p>Prepared proposed work and financial plan amounting to Php 24M</p> <p>Dir Talabis stated that LMB should review the proposed WFP and convene with the RO</p>	RO, CO , LMB
Assistance in convening the Task Force Marcopper	<p>Will revisit the Taskforce Marcopper and requesting guidance of Usec David on this matter.</p> <p>Requesting to Revisit the Memo of Dir Cunado regarding geological assessment of areas applied for sand and gravel permits</p> <p>Requesting assistance with regards to Rehabilitation projects in Puerto Princessa on the Palawan Quick Silver Mines.</p>	<p>CO</p> <p>EMB</p> <p>ERDB</p>
REGION V – BICOL REGION		
DPWH Compliance on Tree Replacement	To proceed with the execution of the MOA pursuant to DMO 2012-02	FMB
Procurement of Services for the assessment of graduated NGP sites	<p>DAO 2023-09 dated August 29, 2023 was already signed by Secretary Loyzaga but no publication yet.</p> <p>ASec Adorables said that FMB will issue an advisory ASAP to address the proper process</p>	FMB

REGIONAL ISSUES/CONCERNS	DISCUSSION/AGREEMENTS	CONCERNED OFFICE(s)
	wether or not to undergo with the early procurement activity	
Requirement LGUs applying for FLAGt	Consider the corporate personality of the LGU to apply. Whether the Regions should require additional requirements? ASec Adorable said that the FMB will provide a Memorandum for guidance.	FMB
Reclamation within Private lands without permits from PRA	To be included on discussions for reclamation	LMB
CORDILLERA ADMINISTRATIVE REGION		
Absence of policy guidelines supporting the harvest of timber under NGP outside tenured area	At present, there are harvestable timber planted under NGP outside tenured area,yet there is no guidelines that will support the harvesting of trees	FMB
Absence of guidelines in Mantainance and Protection	Asec Adorable is suggesting to put a permanent markers on all corners of the NGP plantations, In absence of guidelines the FMB will provide a clarification/Memorandum to addressed this concern.	FMB
Absence of Policies and Procedures on the demolition of illegal structures/ shanties and uprooting of illegally planted crops within Protected Areas	Adjudication Procedures in NIPAS sites maybe necessary to address the issue	Convergence of NCIP,DENR,LGU,DILG, PNP, IPMRs and other stakeholders
Impending Relocation of CENRO Tabuk office and removal of CENRO Tabuk temporary storage facility of confiscated forest products	Request funding for the improvement of the CENRO building at Callagdao to serve as storage facility	RO
NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION		
Modification on DMO-2023-02 of certain items in the guidelines on the establishment of storage facility for apprehended, seized and confiscated forest products, tools and equipment based on the suitability of the identified site.	Had forwarded a Memorandum to Forest Management Bureau, regarding some issues and request for minor variation on the design of storage facility	FMB-FRCD

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The current Air Quality Monitoring Equipment/ Stations (AQMS) in NCR could no longer provide complete and up-to-date data on required parameters such as PM 10 and 2.5, SOx, NOx, and other gaseous parameters due to inadequate, defective and obsolete air quality monitoring equipment. Other cities have no existing AQMS.	<p>Had forwarded a Memo request to EMB-CO to facilitate the release of Air Quality Management Fund for the procurement of new analyzers/ equipment on October 11, 2022. A follow up was made by this Office to check status of our request.</p> <p>There is an ongoing partnership with prospective donors/ partners namely: URC, LRMC, SM and Solaire under Adopt- an-Ambient Air Monitoring Station Program</p>	EMB CO and EMB NCR
There are still commercial establishments/ firms discharging domestic wastewater that are not connected to the existing sewer lines/sewerage system of MWSS concessionaires, Maynilad and Manila Water, thus affecting the water quality of the receiving water bodies.	<p>Had conducted meetings with the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System and its concessionaires, Metropolitan Environmental Offices, DENR- National Capital Region on July 22, August 08, October 18, 2022 and January 20, 2023. Have discussed the road map for full coverage sewerage management in National Capital Region, including the challenges and issues encountered in the implementation of the plan and possible assistance from other offices aside the DENR.</p> <p>Still conducting continuous monitoring and enforcement of regulated industries to check their compliance to RA 9275 or the Philippine Clean Water Act.</p>	EMB CO and EMB NCR
The Local Government Units are recognized as the lead implementers of the law. However, as observed during the validation of the implementation of LGUs' 10-Year Solid Waste Management Plan, their level of compliance is still low.	<p>Conducting continuous monitoring of the implementation of LGU's 10-Year Solid Waste Management Plan</p> <p>EMB-NCR provided technical assistance to local government units through capacity building, provision of SWM equipment and attendance of Environmental Monitoring Officers to local solid waste management board meetings.</p> <p>There is an ongoing partnership with Mother Earth Foundation for possible collaboration and replication of programs/activities to help LGUs comply and implement the law.</p>	EMB CO and EMB NCR

REGIONAL ISSUES/CONCERNS	DISCUSSION/AGREEMENTS	CONCERNED OFFICE(s)
DENR Asset Management Projects (the case of Banago Port of then Negros Navigation)		
REGION VII – CENTRAL VISAYAS		
Request of Hon. Edgar N. Chatto and Hon. Mayor Elvi Peter L. Relampagos for the utilization of the uplifted reefal flats located in the Municipalities of Loon and Maribojoc Bohol Province for development project	<p>The area is not suitable for permanent habitation and heavy infrastructure development because of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ High susceptibility rating to various types of hydrometeorological and geological hazards such as coastal flooding, coastal erosion, rain-induced landslide, subsidence hazard, tsunami and liquefaction; • There is evidence of an advancing shoreline i.e. , the shoreline has shifted landwards; • Prominent fractures were noted in the coastal zones of Barangay Guiwanon, Maribojoc, trending north-south and North 20°-30° East in Barangay Basac, Loon. In general, the fractures are open with varied widths and lengths. • In the Memorandum of Director Uykieng dated March 27, 2018 for the OIC, Asec for Legal and Legislative Affairs, it was mentioned that the expert's opinions of DOST-PHIVOLCS, DOST-PAGASA, Biodiversity Management Bureau, Department of Tourism, Department of Public Works and Highways , DILG and the Academe/Scientific Community should also be sought. • A post-earthquake disaster assessment conducted by MGB Central Office in 2013 revealed that the “upthrust” is within the delineated danger zone in terms of its high susceptibility ratings to various types of hydro- 	MGB

REGIONAL ISSUES/CONCERNS	DISCUSSION/AGREEMENTS	CONCERNED OFFICE(s)
	meteorological and geological hazards.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unfinished building since 2019 COA AOM for since no funds were allocated to finish the building 	Proposal has been submitted to the Central Office	EMB
Establishment, utilization/harvesting and transport of Salago bark	To address the concerns on the utilization and transport of Salago in region 7, due to an absence of clear policies, there will be a scheduled meeting with PHILFIDA on October 4, 2023 at DENR Region 7 and eventually to schedule a meeting with the law enforcements relative to the transport of Salago bark	FMB
REGION VIII – EASTERN VISAYAS		
Lack of manpower in the Protected Area Management Offices (PAMO)	Requesting to follow up the status of positions from DBM	CO
No policy on the execution of MOA for non-profit projects in lieu of SAPA (Raised issue during PAMB Meeting on the proposal to rehabilitate docking facility and schools)	Already prepared a communication to BMB dated September 11, 2023 requesting for an updates on the draft policy/guidelines related to the execution of memorandum of agreement for proposed non-profit projects within protected areas instead of issuance of Special Use Agreement in Protected Areas (SAPA)	BMB
Request to streamline/simplify the documentary requirements and timelines in processing of Special Use Agreement in Protected Area (SAPA) application.	<p>Conducted deliberation and discussion during PAMB Meetings and Learning Events regarding the High Fees/Charges and documentary requirements. Recommendation by PENRO</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> To lessen the Fees/charges (Zonal Values) a lesser percentage for computation Request of proponents/applicants for some areas within PAs to be utilized for research/studies and/or Non-profit activities that they be exempted for SAPA and they recommend 	BMB

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	forging of a Co- Management/MOA.	
Insufficient Unit Cost for Patent Processing and Issuance: The unit cost for patent processing and issuance is experiencing inadequacy due to rising expenses associated with fuel prices and fare hikes incurred by DPLIs/LMIs during the gathering of PLAs, posting of notices, and inspection of applied lots.	LMB is proposing that costing of patent processing for 2025, be increased from 1500 to 2000 and the survey from 2500 to 4,000	LMB

For information and appropriate action.


GILBERT C. GONZALES, CESO III