



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

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20 October 2023

MR. JORGE C. PATERNO

Coron, Palawan
jorgepaterno58@gmail.com

Dear Mr. J. C. Paterno:

This refers to your 18 October 2023 electronic mail addressed to the Office of the Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), on your inquiry if the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) – Coron is allowed to stop the issuance of Sand and Gravel (SAG)/Quarry Permits along Labangan River purportedly within the Busuanga Pasture Reserve (BPR) in Busuanga and Coron, Palawan.

The above inquiry was forwarded by the DENR Action Center on 19 October 2023 to this Office for appropriate action.

Please be informed that Presidential Proclamation No. 1387, Series of 1975¹ withdrew from any form of disposition, exploration or exploitation, and reserved as a pasture reserve a parcel land of the public domain in Busuanga, Palawan. Presidential Proclamation No. 2057, Series of 2010² authorized the development of BPR, but was later repealed by Presidential Proclamation No. 663, Series of 2013³ and transferred the administration of the same to the DENR – Forest Management Bureau.

Considering the foregoing, the BPR is deemed as an area closed to mining pursuant to Section 19, Chapter III of Republic Act (RA) No. 7942⁴.

Further, the issuance of the SAG/Quarry Permits and the monitoring of the same are within the mandate of the Provincial Government of Palawan pursuant to Chapter VIII of the same RA.

With regards to the allegations that CENRO Coron instructed the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development to not issue a Zoning Clearance for the renewal of said permits, this Office has forwarded your

¹ Reserving and Establishing as a Pasture Reserve a Certain Parcel of Land of the Public Domain situated in the Island of Busuanga, Province of Palawan

² Authorizing the Philippine Forest Corporation to Administer the Development of the Area Covered by the Busuanga Pasture Reserve delineated by Presidential Proclamation No. 1387 dated 13th February 1975, situated in the Island of Busuanga, Province of Palawan

³ Repealing Proclamation No. 2057 and Transferring the Administration of the Busuanga Pasture Reserve to the Forest Management Bureau (FMB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)

⁴ The Philippine Mining Act of 1995

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



inquiry to the concerned office through an even dated Memorandum for their comments.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,


FELIZARDO A. GACAD, JR.
Regional Director

cf: **The Director**
DENR Action Center/Hotline 8888
Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City

The Director
Mines and Geosciences Bureau
North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City

The CENRO
Coron, Palawan

The Director
DENR – Forest Management Bureau
Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City

The Regional Executive Director
DENR MIMAROPA Region

