



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
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MEMORANDUM

TO : **THE REGIONAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**
DENR-Region IV-B MIMAROPA
1515 Roxas Blvd., Ermita, Manila

FROM : **THE UNDERSECRETARY**
Field Operations – Luzon, Visayas and Environment

SUBJECT : **URGENT REQUEST FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT
AND NATURAL RESOURCES (DENR) ASSISTANCE IN THE
PROSECUTION OF CRIMINAL CASE NO. 2764, ENTITLED
“PEOPLE OF THE PHILIPPINES VS. RICARDO CANALES, ET AL.”**

DATE : **OCT 26 2023**

This pertains to the attached letter dated 05 October 2023 of Ms. Jo-ann Beronilla Achurra of 1167 Ronette St. Parkview Homes, Sun Valley regarding the above-mentioned subject.

The last hearing schedule for the presentation for the prosecution's evidence will be on 09 November 2023 at 9:00 o' clock in the morning at the Municipal Circuit Trial Court (MCTC) of Taytay-San Vicente, Taytay, Palawan.

Relative thereto, the following DENR personnel are being requested to provide necessary assistance on the subject case.

1. Mr. Ronnie B. Gandeza
2. Engr. Jonathan F. Gellez
3. Mr. Dady H. Ortega
4. Mr. Agerico C. Baltar, Sr.

For consideration.


ATTY. JUAN MIGUEL T. CUNA, CESO I

cc: **Jo-ann Beronilla Achurra**
1167 Ronette St. Parkview Homes, Sun Valley

Office of the Secretary
DENR

05 October 2023



HON. MARIA ANTONIA YULO LOYZAGA

Secretary

Department of Environment and Natural Resources

Visayas Avenue, Diliman

Quezon City

THRU:

ATTY. JUAN MIGUEL T. CUNA, CESO I

Undersecretary

Field Operations - Luzon, Visayas and Environment

Department of Environment and Natural Resources

Visayas Avenue, Diliman

Quezon City

ATTENTION:

DIR. RICKY A. ARZADON, CESE

Chief of Staff

Office of the Undersecretary for Field Operations -

Luzon, Visayas and Environment

Department of Environment and Natural Resources

Visayas Avenue, Diliman

Quezon City

**SUBJECT: URGENT REQUEST FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES'
(DENR) ASSISTANCE IN THE PROSECUTION OF
CRIMINAL CASE NO. 2764, ENTITLED "PEOPLE
OF THE PHILIPPINES VS. RICARDO CANALES,
ET AL."**

Dear **Ma'am/Sir:**

A pleasant day to all!

This is in connection with my previous Letters regarding the above-stated subject.

Please be informed that the last hearing schedule for the presentation for the prosecution's evidence will be on **09 November 2023 at 9:00 o' clock in the morning** before the Municipal Circuit Trial Court (MCTC) of Taytay-San Vicente, Taytay, Palawan.

The testimonies of the following DENR personnel are set to be presented during the said hearing:

- 1.) **Mr. Ronie B. Gandeza**
Chief, Technical Services Division
DENR-Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office
(PENRO), Palawan
- 2.) **Engr. Jonathan F. Gellez**
Chief, Survey and Mapping Unit
DENR-PENRO, Palawan
- 3.) **Mr. Dady H. Ortega**
Forest Officer
DENR-Community Environment and Natural Resources Office
(CENRO), Roxas, Palawan
- 4.) **Mr. Agerico C. Baltar, Sr.**
Forest Officer
DENR-CENRO, Roxas, Palawan

However, I must also inform you that the Honorable Court was considerably inconvenienced in securing the attendance of DENR personnel as witnesses for the prosecution during the last two (2) hearings. In fact, the Honorable Court even contemplated on issuing **bench warrants** to compel the attendance of DENR personnel for the next hearing schedule and offered it to the prosecution should we desire it. Nevertheless, we humbly declined the Honorable Court's offer to issue bench warrants because we are trusting that the DENR would extend its kind assistance in the furtherance thereof.

It must be emphasized that the testimonies of the above-named DENR personnel are significant to the prosecution of the present criminal case.

To prevent further inconvenience to the Honorable Court, and to avoid imminent legal processes that it might issue should witnesses from the DENR continue to fail to appear, we most humbly request your assistance in directing the above-named DENR personnel to attend the next hearing schedule.

It is to this end that I most respectfully request for your good Office's assistance in directing the above-named DENR personnel to appear before the Honorable Court and testify therein on **09 November 2023 at 9:00 o' clock in the morning**.

I must point out the urgency of the matter, as well as the urgency of the need for the DENR's assistance in the prosecution of the present criminal case before the Honorable Court.

I must point out also that the prosecution of environment and natural resources cases, including the present criminal case, is a specialized legal practice well-within the DENR's field of expertise, rather than that of the Office of the Provincial Prosecutor (OPP) of Palawan.

Thus, I am respectfully reiterating my prayer to your good Office that I, your humble forest land steward, would be assisted by the DENR in whatever way possible, in achieving the purposes for which the Certificate of Stewardship Contract (CSC) over the subject lot was issued, **especially in the prosecution of the above-entitled case before the MCTC of Taytay-San Vicente, Taytay, Palawan.**

I humbly implore your good Office to assist me in availing all the possible remedies available to the government under the law relative to the above concerns, with the hopes of enabling me, the DENR, and our government to protect the Philippine forests from any and all acts of unlawful entry and occupation thereof.

Your usual prompt action and favorable response on the matter shall be highly appreciated.

Thank you very much!

Very truly yours,


JO-ANN BERONILLA ACHURRA