

Republic of the Philippines

Department of Environment and Natural Resources

MIMAROPA Region

PROVINCIAL ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES OFFICE

Bgy. Sta. Monica, Puerto Princesa City, Palawan Telfax No. (048) 434 - 8791

Email Add: penropalawan@denr.gov.ph



August 08, 2022

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MEMORANDUM

FOR

The Regional Executive Director

DENR MIMAROPA Region

1515 L and S Bldg., Roxas Boulevard

Ermita, Manila

FROM

The Provincial Environment and

Natural Resources Officer

SUBJECT

ALLEGED ON-GOING MOUNTAIN QUARRYING AND

SILTATION IN CORON, PALAWAN

Respectfully forwarded is the memorandum of CENRO Coron, Palawan dated July 27, 2022 relative the above subject.

Per memorandum, CENRO Coron forwarded the report dated April 4, 2022 of MGB MIMAROPA Embedded Personnel. Per report, when the Cease-and-Desist Order was issued on December 2021, no further extraction in the quarry area in Sitio Lamud, Barangay Poblacion 6, Coron, Palawan. However, there were incidents of soil erosions and earth movements due to heavy rains. Further, siltation and flooding can be observed in the reclamation area in Barangays Poblacion 2, 3 and 5 due to absence of enclose wall and no proper drainage system.

For information and further instruction.

Copy Furnished CENRO Coron, Palawan File/2022-054ACG MES Doc. Ref. No. 2022-6940 ELIZARDO B. CAYATOC

DENR-PALAWAN
PENRO-RECORDS
RELEASED

By
Date: 1 AUG 2022



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
MIMAROPA IV – B

COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES OFFICE

Brgy. 5, Calamianes Island, Coron, Palawan

Telephone No. +63 917 504 2633

E-mail:cenrocoron@denr.gov.ph Website: www.denr.gov

July 27, 2022

MEMORANDUM

FOR :

The Provincial Environment &

Natural resources Officer

Sta. Monica, Puerto Princesa City

Paiawan

FROM :

The Community Environment &

Natural Resources Officer

SUBJECT

ALLEGED ON-GOING MOUNTAIN QUARRYING AND

SILTATION IN CORON, PALAWAN

In compliance to the memorandum dated July 18, 2022 of PENRO Felizardo B. Cayatoc regarding the alleged mountain quarry in Coron, Palawan, respectfully forwarded is the attached joint report dated April 4, 2022 of the MGB Embedded and CENRO personnel regarding their investigation conducted on the alleged on-going mountain quarry in Coron, Palawan.

Please be informed that based from the report, since the Cease and Desist Order was issued on December 2021 there is no longer extraction in the quarry area in Sitio Lamud, Barangay Poblacion 6, Coron, Palawan. However, soil erosion and earth movement occurs due to heavy rain in the past days (See attached report dated July 11, 2022).

With regards to the reclamation in Brgys. Poblacion 2, 3 and 5, siltation and flooding occurred due to heavy rain and no proper drainage system in the area . (see attached reports).

For information and record.

For & in the Absence of the CENRO:

Asst. CENRO (DMO IV)

(In-Charge, Office of the CENRO)

04 April 2022

MEMORANDUM

FOR : The Community Environment and

Natural Resources Officer

Coron, Palawan

FROM: THE UNDERSIGNED

SUBJECT: INVESTIGATION OF THE ONGOING CORON BAY

DEVELOPMENT PROJECT (48 HECTARES RECLAMATION PROJECT) OF THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT OF

PALAWAN AND MOUNTAIN QUARRY SOURCES

This pertains to the instruction from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Jim O. Sampulna, dated 23 March 2022 to conduct an immediate investigation into the ongoing Coron Bay Development Project (51 hectares reclamation project) situated at Brgy. Poblacion 2, Poblacion 3 and Poblacion 5, Coron, Palawan. Additionally, to inspect the mountain quarries in Coron, Palawan where several complaints from concerned citizens are received.

Background Information

The Coron Bay Development Project (CBDP) is located along the coasts of Brgy. Poblacion 2, Poblacion 3 and Poblacion 5. The project is initiated by the Provincial Government of Palawan, under the administration of Hon. Jose Ch. Alvarez, to boost its tourism. The government aimed to make a world-class tourism estate where all amenities are clustered (Figure 1).



Figure 1. Location of the Coron Bay Development Project. Images adapted from Google Images.

Based on the locals of Coron, the main source of the earth-filings for the reclamation is the mountains found in Brgy. Poblacion 6 – Bella C. Tiotangco Mountain Quarry and the mountain 500 m away northwest of Bella C. Tiotangco (Figure 2) The following contractors on these quarry sites are BCT Trading & Construction Inc. and 428 Hi-Tech Group Inc.



Figure 2. The mountain quarries in Brgy. Poblacion 6. On the right is owned by Ms. Bella C. Tiotangco whereas the quarry on the left is by the municipality of Coron. These mountain quarries are about three (3) km away from the reclamation project. Images are excerpted from Google Images.

The main source of the earth filings for the reclamation is the mountains found in Sitio Lamud, Brgy. Poblacion 6 (Bella C. Tiotangco Mountain Quarry) and mountains excavated by BCT Construction and 428 Hi-Tech Group Inc. for the construction of the Municipal Stadium, terminals and other buildings owned by the Municipality of Coron (Figure 1). An investigation conducted last 23 November 2021 in response to 8888 complaints resulted in the issuance of CDOs to stop the quarry operations as violations were observed by the EMB, MGB and CENRO Coron investigation team

Purpose and Scope

The fieldwork aims to validate if the following quarry operations adhere to the orders issued. Furthermore, to validate the current situation of the following subject areas for any violations that can result in the filing of cases and imposition of penalties applicable.

Findings and Observations

For Bella Tiotangco and Alfred Batul quarry site

- 1. The subject area is geographically located at 12° 01' 21.29" N, 120° 11' 38.61" E. It is within Sitio Lamud, under the jurisdiction of Brgy. Poblacion 6 (Figure 2). This area is approximately three (3) km away from CENRO-Coron and can be reached within ten (10) minutes of land travel.
- On 24 March 2022, the MGB embedded personnel accompanied by CENRO forest rangers paid a courtesy to the barangay to discuss the purpose of the investigation. A brief interview was also conducted to verify if the operator complied with the CDO.

- According to them, there has been no extraction since December 2021. After the courtesy call, the team together with the *Chief Tanod of Brgy*. 6, went to the site.
- 3. Upon arrival, no BCT personnel is present in the area. The MGB embedded personnel first went to the BCT main office to get permission to investigate their quarry site. The company agreed and was accompanied by their liaison officer, Mr. Jess Duaso.
- 4. At the gate, the ECC billboard of Ms. Bella Tiotangco and Mr. Alfred Batul was posted. The quarry permit issued to Bella Tiotangco was also posted (see Photo Documentation 1).
- 5. During the discussion of MGB embedded with Mr. Duaso, he confirmed that the BCT followed the CDO issued by MGB last December 2021. This was also confirmed on the ground, as no recent tracks were observed, and some plants are already growing on certain parts of the quarry wall.
- As per ECC issued to Bella Tiotangco, they are allowed to extract a total of 40,000 m³ per annum in their 4.99 hectares permit area.
- 7. Based on google satellite imagery, from 2019 to 2021, active excavation was observed in the Bella Tiotangco Mountain Quarry simultaneous with the quarry in the LGU compound.
- 8. Last 01 December 2021, the DENR MGB issued a Cease-and-Desist Order against BCT Trading and Construction Inc. in violation of Section 103 of RA 7942 "Philippine Mining Act of 1995" for their extraction outside its permit area. It is worth noting that this CDO is only for outside their permit. The EMB MIMAROPA also issued last 14 December 2021 a Notice of Violation against BCT for not conforming to its ECC Conditions No. 2 and 2.2.
- 9. Based on recent MGB plotting and calculation, it revealed that the BCT has extracted outside their permit area where a total of 1.1547 hectares have exceeded. (Figure 3).
- 10. Lastly, the site poses danger to nearby residents. The quarry wall was cut too steep (15 m high) and no benches were established. Since the stability of the mountain was disturbed due to excavation, events such as mass wasting or landslide may soon occur.



Figure 3. Plotted quarry area and actual quarry area. Image excerpted from MGB-MIMAROPA.

For the excavation on the proposed stadium and other government facilities in Sitio Lamud

- 1. This area is located ~500 m west of Bella Tiotangco's area, near the national highway. Similar to the previous site, it lies approximately three kilometers away from CENRO-Coron (Figure 2).
- 2. Government facilities such as a municipal stadium were proposed to be built on this site. The site is hilly and the LGU doesn't have the capability to excavate and flatten the area to make it suitable for construction. To push this project, the LGU entered into an agreement with 428 Hi-Tech Group Inc. In the agreement, the company will excavate the area in exchange that the earth materials will be dumped into the ongoing reclamation project.
- 3. On 18 May 2020, the EMB Embedded Engr. Mark Rogel had conducted an investigation into the ongoing excavation at Sitio Dipulao, Brgy. Poblacion 6. Based on the report, the area was within Unclassified Public Forest Lands. Furthermore, the proponent has no ECC and doesn't have any clearances from other concerned agencies. In this regard, the EMB MIMAROPA immediately issued a Notice of Violation last 23 June 2020 and ordered to suspend all activities until ECC and other clearances are secured.
- 4 Based on the investigation of the former MGB and EMB embedded personnel last 15 November 2021 the subject area still has no ECC and other permits but has been operating. Based on the statement of the PMRB head, Ms. Casareno, the proponent stopped its operation when an order to stop the reclamation project was released. This was confirmed during the investigation as no recent movement was observed.
- 5. Based on ground observation, the quarry wall was cut too steep. The presence of cracks was also noted in which a rock fall may possibly occur. This poses a hazard to the stadium being constructed as it is built near the wall (see Photo Documentation 2).

Comments and Recommendations

For Bella Tiotangco and Alfred Batul quarry site

1. Based on the result of the investigation, it shows that Bella Tiotangco violated Section 103 of RA 7942 which provides that

Theft of Minerals – Any person extracting minerals and disposing the same without mining agreement, lease, permit, license, or steals minerals or ores or the products thereof from mines or mills or processing plants shall, upon conviction, be imprisoned from six (6) months to six (6) years or pay a fine from ten thousand pesos (Php 10, 000.00) to twenty thousand pesos (Php 20,000.00), or both, at the discretion of the appropriate court.

 The earth materials extracted outside the permit area are considered as illegally sourced mineral/mineral products. Based on Section 116 Chapter XII of DAO 2010-21,

Illegally sourced minerals/mineral products are those which are mined, extracted, removed and/or disposed of without the authority or permit under existing mining laws, rules and regulations.

- 3. It is also recommended that the company conduct a relocation survey to address their issue regarding the exact location of their permit area. Moreover, immediate rehabilitation should be done to stabilize the slope.
- 4. Ms Bella Tiotangco should also be reminded that extraction outside her permit area is deemed illegal. In addition, should the proponent want to continue the mountain quarry, a new quarry permit should be acquired as their permit will expire in 2023.
- 5. As the provincial mining regulatory board, PMRB-Coron should monitor such activities to ensure that every company complies with the law.
- 6. Endorse this to PMRB-Palawan for the proper evaluation of the violations in the terms and conditions of the Quarry Permit.
- 7. Recommended to pay maximum penalties for extracting materials outside of its permit area and to trees affected by the project.

For the excavation of the proposed stadium and other government facilities in Sitio Lamud

- As the subject area operates without permits it clearly violates Section 103 of RA 7942 and is regarded as an illegally sourced mineral as per Section 116 Chapter XII of DAO 2010-21.
- 2. It is recommended to the LGU and contractor to immediately rehabilitate the subject area as rockfall may soon occur.

- 3. To reiterate the CDO issued by the MGB and EMB against the permittee.
- 4. The LGU is also reminded to secure all necessary requirements and permits before conducting a quarry operation.
- 5. As the provincial mining regulatory board, PMRB should monitor such activities to ensure that every company complies with the law.
- Recommended to pay maximum penalties for extracting materials without an approved permit from PMRB, MGB, EMB, and operating within an unclassified public forest without an approved tenurial instrument or Notice to Vacate if possible.

For your reference, record, and further instruction(s).

Casaudra Lynda Jalac

Science Research Specialist II

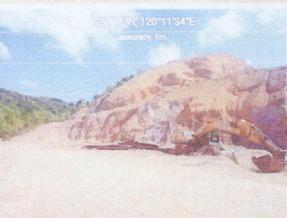
MGB MMAROPA - Embedded Personnel

Photo Documentation 1

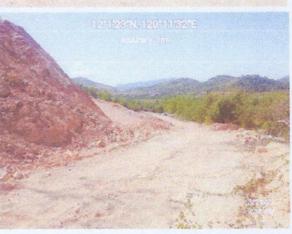










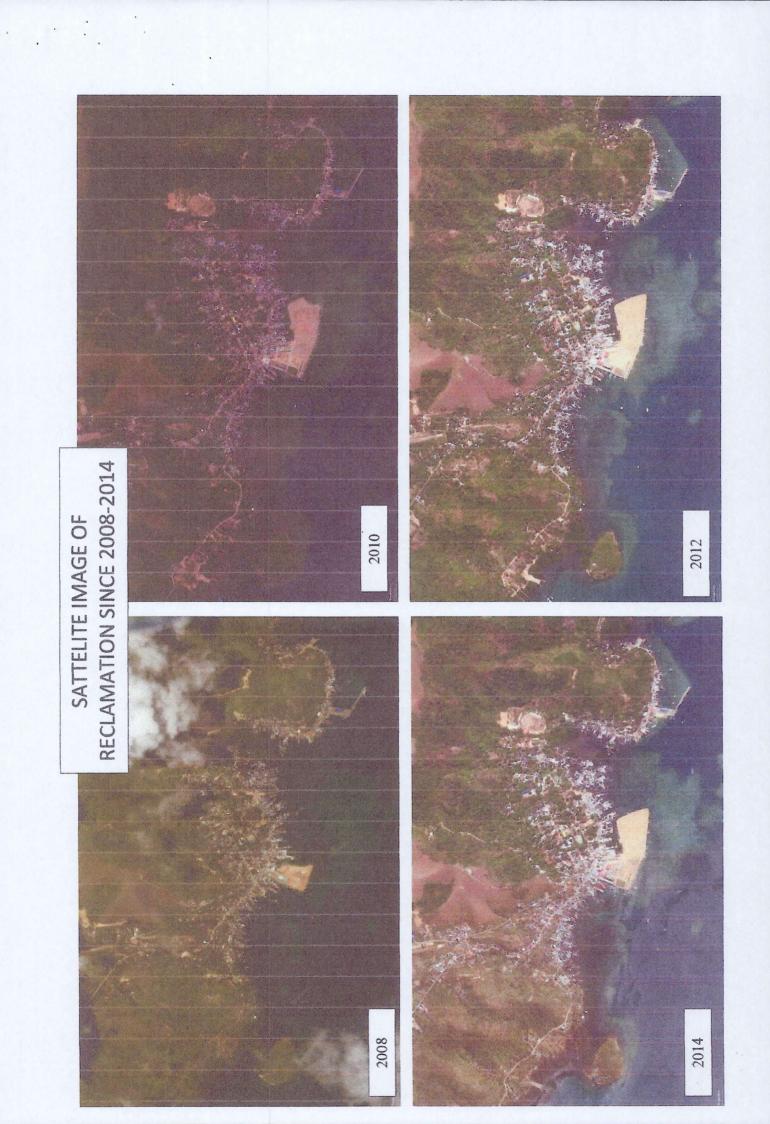


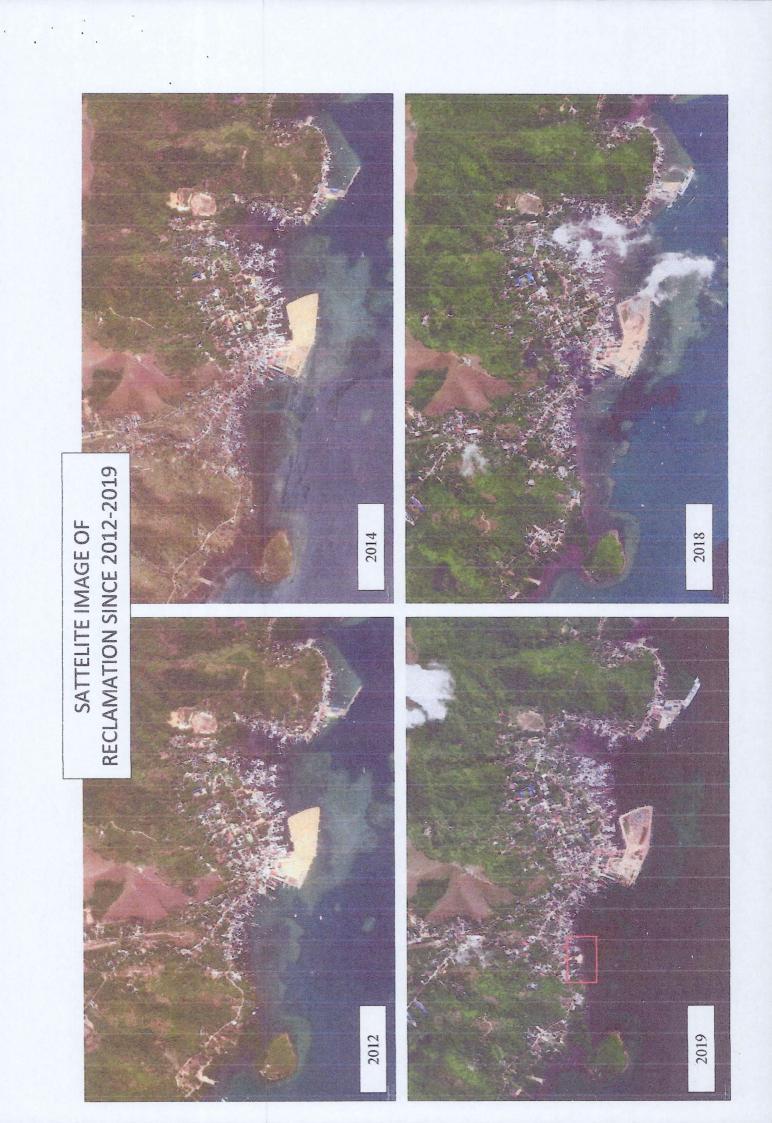
Photographs of the quarry site of Bella Tiotangco in Brgy. Poblacion 6. A signpost of the ECC and quarry permit can be found in the entrance.

Photo Documentation 2



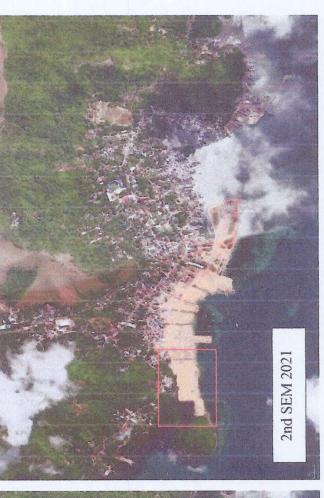
Site photographs for the excavation site for the construction of government facilities in Sitio Lamud, Poblacion 6.





SATTELITE IMAGE OF RECLAMATION SINCE 1ST SEM

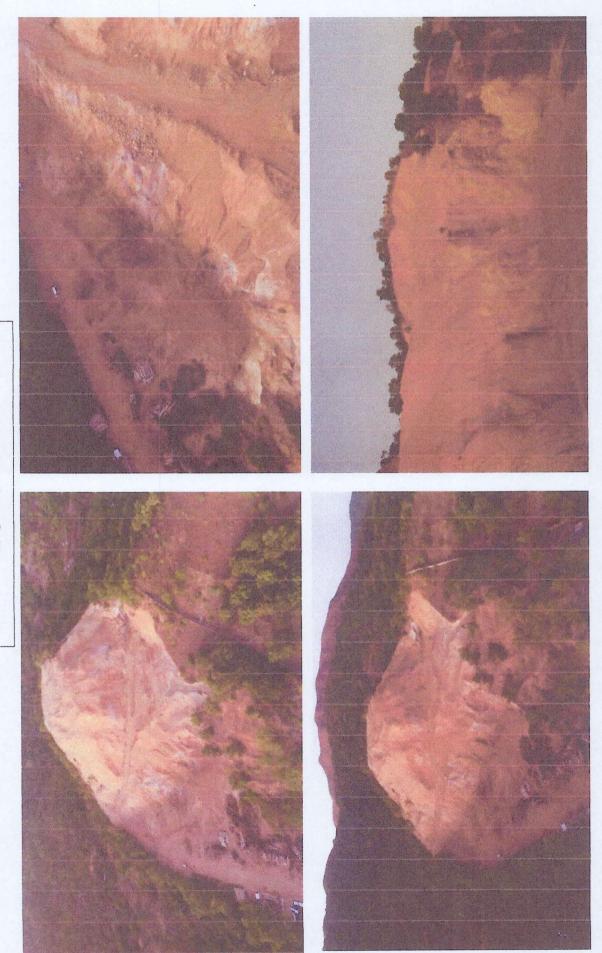




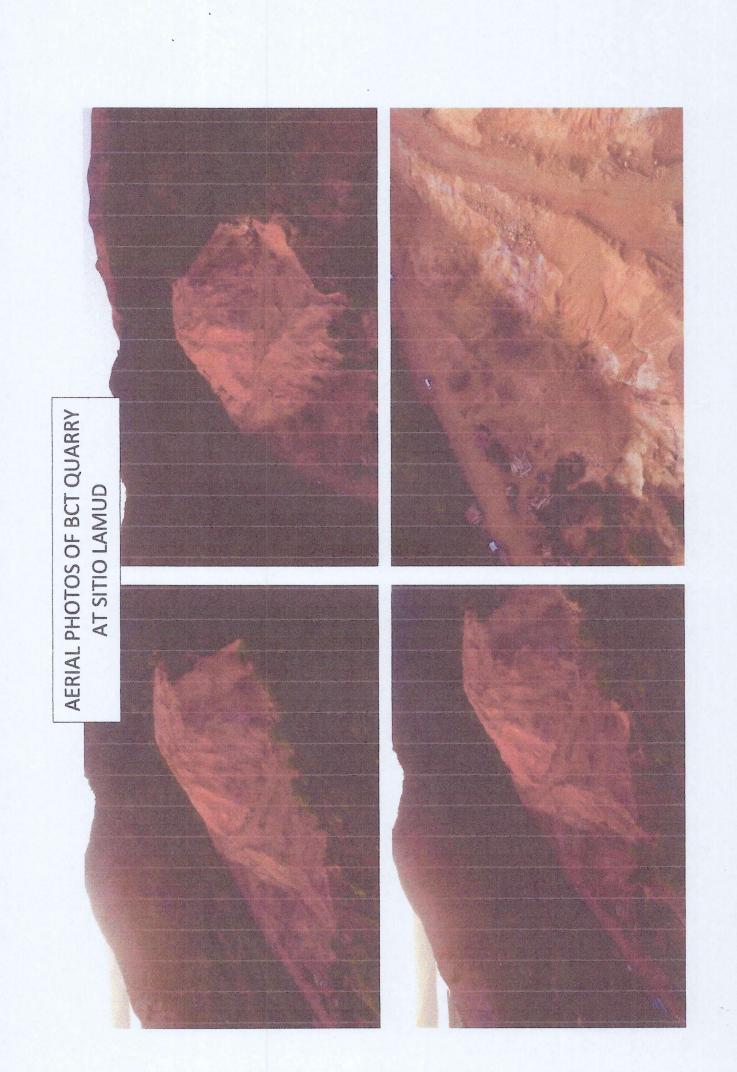
square box) the area, even there's was a standing order and instruction from the CENRO dated 28 January 2021 to stop for doing any activities until such As per google generated maps of 2021, it was observed that during this year, the proponent, and the contractor continued to reclaim (please see the red Area Clearance is secured.

SATELLITE IMAGE OF BCT QUARRY FROM 2012-2019

SATELLITE IMAGE FROM 2019-2021

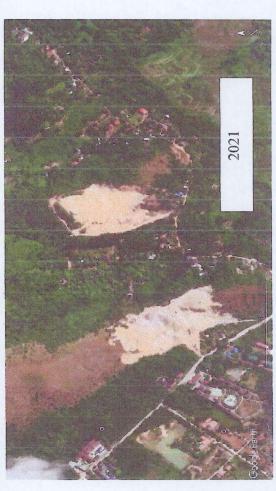


AERIAL PHOTOS OF BCT QUARRY AT SITIO LAMUD



SATELLITE IMAGE OF EXCAVATION FOR PROPOSED

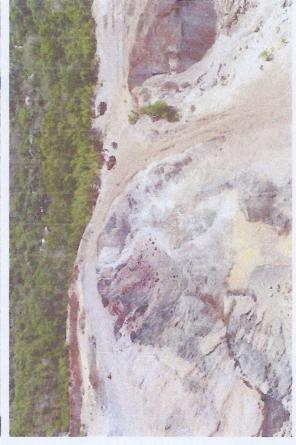




AERIAL PHOTOS OF EXCATION FOR PROPOSED STADIUM

AERIAL PHOTOS OF EXCATION FOR PROPOSED STADIUM











Republic of the Philippines Department of Environment and Natural Resources

Community Environment and Natural Resources Office Barangay 5, Calamianes Island, Coron, Palawan Telephone No. +63 917 504 2633

E-mail:cenrocoron@denr.gov.ph Website: www.denr.gov.ph

19 July 2022

MEMORANDUM

FOR

Provincial Environment and

Natural Resources Officer

Sta. Monica, Puerto Princesa City

FROM

The Community Environment and

Natural Resources Officer

Coron, Palawan

SUBJECT :

INVESTIGATION REPORT ON THE LANDSLIDE IN THE

MOUNTAIN QUARRY IN SITIO LAMUD, BRGY. POBLACION

6, CORON, PALAWAN

Respectfully endorsing is the investigation report dated 11 July 2022 pertaining to the abovementioned subject.

Last 08 July 2022, a concerned citizen posted a landslide incident on a social media platform (Annex-1). During the prior week, constant strong rains have been occurring daily in Coron. Based on the report of PAGASA from 04-08 July 2022, the Philippines were experiencing the effect of Southwest Monsoon or *Habagat*, Intertropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ), and a Low Pressure Area (LPA).

It was confirmed during the investigation that a small portion of the quarry wall was chipped off. However, the materials all fell along the old haul road and only reached a few meters from the source. A letter informing the BCT Trading and Construction of the event and urging them to expedite the rehabilitation of the site was already sent to their office and was received 18 July 2022 (Annex-2).

For your information and record.

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RODNEY G VERIAN OIC, CENRO Coron

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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources

COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES OFFICE

MIMAROPA Region

Coron, Palawan

11 July 2022

MEMORANDUM

FOR

The Community Environment and

Natural Resources Officer

Coron, Palawan

FROM

The Undersigned

SUBJECT

INVESTIGATION REPORT ON THE LANDSLIDE IN THE

MOUNTAIN QUARRY IN SITIO LAMUD, BRGY. POBLACION

6, CORON, PALAWAN

Background Information

Last 08 July 2022, a concerned citizen posted a landslide incident on a social media platform (Annex-1). During the prior week, constant strong rains have been occurring daily in Coron. Based on the report of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) from 04-08 July 2022, the Philippines were experiencing the effect of Southwest Monsoon or *Habagat*, Intertropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ), and a Low Pressure Area (LPA). The infiltration and saturation of the bare earth materials with water may have weakened the stability of the slope and is one of the main causes of mass movements.

Purpose and Scope

The fieldwork was conducted to verify the post of the concerned citizen about the landslide that has occurred. The investigation includes an ocular inspection of the site, photo documentation, and a verbal interview with the locals nearby.

Findings and Observations

- 1. The subject area is geographically at 12° 01' 21" N, 120° 11' 39" E. It is within Sitio Lamud under the jurisdiction of Brgy. Poblacion 6. The area is approximately 3 km away from CENRO which can be reached by an approximately 5-minute motorcycle ride (Figure 1).
- 2. Upon arrival in the area, piles of eroded aggregates were observed along the access road and floor/base of the mountain quarry (see Photo Documentation). The sound of flowing water along the quarry wall was also heard.



Figure 1. Location map of the mountain quarry in Sitio Lamud, Brgy. Poblacion 6, Coron. The image is from Google Earth.

- 3. Looking at the slopes of the quarry, an area with a noticeable scarp can be seen. Below it, debris of rocks up to ~half a meter across and soil was also observed. Based on the lack of gullies on the scarp and the deposits lacking signs of compaction due to recent rains, it suggests that the movement happened quite recently (see Photo Documentation).
- 4. Comparing an image taken from 24 March 2022 to the recent image, it can be concluded that a portion of the quarry face is missing in the recent image. (Figure 2).





Figure 2. Comparison of the morphology of the area. The image on the left was taken in March whereas the image on the right was taken in July. Encircled is the area where evidence of mass movement was observed.

5. A subsequent interview with the locals in the area was conducted. As they recalled, light to moderate downpour was happening throughout the day and torrential rain by nightfall. At around 6:30 pm, a low rumbling sound was heard by the residents in the area akin to the passing of a large truck. This has raised fears and concerns among the nearby residents.

Comments and Recommendations

- Although the slopes are made up mostly large of stable rock mass and there are no signs
 of a large-scale mass movement, the possible risks of mass movement cannot be
 understated. The company should hasten the rehabilitation of the area to minimize the
 possible hazards posed by the quarry site.
- 2. To CENRO, inform the company regarding this matter.

For your reference, record, and further instruction(s).

Casandra Lynda Jalac

Science Research Specialist II

MGB MIMAROPA - Embedded Personnel

Vann In Cadalso

Catalo

Science Research Specialist II

MGB MIMAROPA - Embedded Personnel

Antonio Rodriguez, Jr.
Land Management Inspector
CENRO-Coron



Republic of the Philippines

Department of Environment and Natural Kesources

Community Environment and Natural Resources Office

Barangay 5, Calamianes Island, Coron, Palawan

Telephone No. +63 917 504 2633 E-mail:cenrocoron@denr.gov.ph Website: www.denr.gov.ph

MEMORANDUM

FOR The Regional Executive Director

MIMAROPA Region

1515 L&S Bldg., Roxas Blvd.,

Ermita, Manila

THRU The Provincial Environment and

Natural Resources Officer

Bgy. Sta. Monica, Puerto Princesa City

FROM The OIC-Community Environment and

Natural Resources Officer

SUBJECT REPORT ON THE CONDUCTED MONITORING AND

PATROLLING (WEEKLY) IN THE RECLAMATION AREA

(BARANGAY 2, 3 AND 4) CORON, PALAWAN

July 12, 2022 DATE

Respectfully forwarded is the attached monitoring report dated July 8, 2022 submitted by the team in compliance to CENRO Special Order No. 019 Series of 2022.

Report disclosed that no observed activities or developments. However, due to heavy rains a slight siltation was observed. This office will continue the weekly monitoring and patrolling within the reclaimed area.

For information and record.

For and in the absence of the CENRO;

OIC, Asst. CENR Officer (DMO IV)

(In-charge Office of the CENRO)



Republic of the Philippines Department of Environment and Natural Resources MIMAROPA IV – B

COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES OFFICE

Brgy. 5, Calamianes Island, Coron, Palawan Telephone No. +63 917 504 2633

E-mail:cenrocoron@denr.gov.ph Website: www.denr.gov

July 8, 2022

MEMORANDUM

FOR

The OIC-Community Environment and

Natural Resources Officer

FROM

The Undersigned

SUBJECT

REPORT ON THE CONDUCTED MONITORING AND

PATROLLING IN THE RECLAMATION AREAS

(BARANGAYS 2, 3 AND 5), CORON, PALAWAN

Respectfully submitted is the monitoring and patrolling report conducted in the reclamation area of Brgys. 2, 3 and 5, Coron, Palawan.

Please be informed that on July 8, 2022, the undersigned conducted monitoring and patrolling. No activities or developments observed except siltation due to heavy rains.

Attached are geo-tagged photos taken in the area.

For information and record.

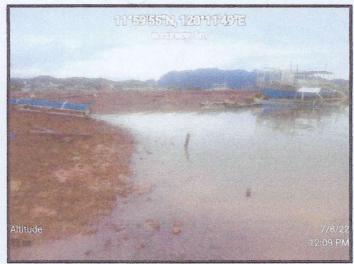
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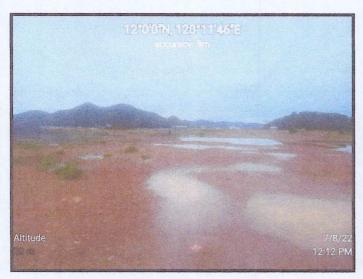
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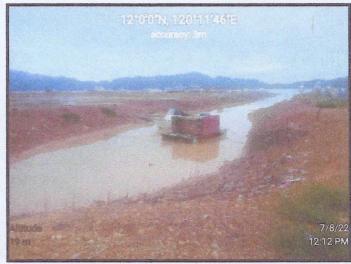
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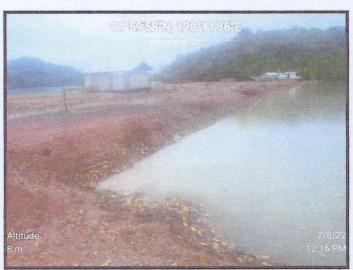












Reclamation area during monitoring on July 8, 2022



Republic of the Philippines Department of Environment and Natural Resources

Community Environment and Natural Resources Office Barangay 5, Calamianes Island, Coron, Palawan Telephone No. +63 917 504 2633

E-mail:cenrocoron@denr.gov.ph Website: www.denr.gov.ph

MEMORANDUM

FOR

The Regional Executive Director

1515 L&S Bldg. Roxas Blvd.

Ermita, Manila

THRU

Provincial Environment and

Natural Resources Officer

Sta. Monica, Puerto Princesa City

FROM

The OIC-Community Environment and

Natural Resources Officer

Coron, Palawan

SUBJECT

REPORT ON THE CONDUCTED WEEKLY MONITORING

AND PATROLLING IN THE RECLAMATION AREA

(BARANGAY 2, 3 AND 4) CORON, PALAWAN

DATE

July 18, 2022

Respectfully forwarded is the attached monitoring report dated 15 July 2022 submitted by the team in compliance to CENRO Special Order No. 019 Series of 2022.

Report disclosed that no observed activities or developments. However heavy flooding was observed due to heavy rain and lack of proper drainage system in the area.

For your information and record.

OIC, CENRO - Coron



Republic or the Philippines Department of Environment and Natural Resources MIMAROPA IV – B

COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES OFFICE

Brgy. 5, Calamianes Island, Coron, Palawan Telephone No. +63 917 504 2633

E-mail:cenrocoron@denr.gov.ph Website: www.denr.gov

July 15, 2022

MEMORANDUM

FOR :

The OIC-Community Environment and

Natural Resources Officer

FROM

The Undersigned

SUBJECT

WEEKLY REPORT ON THE CONDUCTED

MONITORING AND PATROLLING IN THE RECLAMATION AREA (BARANGAYS 2, 3 AND 5),

CORON, PALAWAN

Respectfully submitted is the monitoring and patrolling report conducted in the reclamation area of Brgys. 2, 3 and 5, Coron, Palawan on July 14, 2022.

Please be informed that there is no activity/development observed during the conduct of monitoring and patrolling. However, flooding was observed due to the heavy rain on previous days and lack of proper drainage system in the area.

Attached are geo-tagged photos taken during the conduct of patrolling and monitoring.

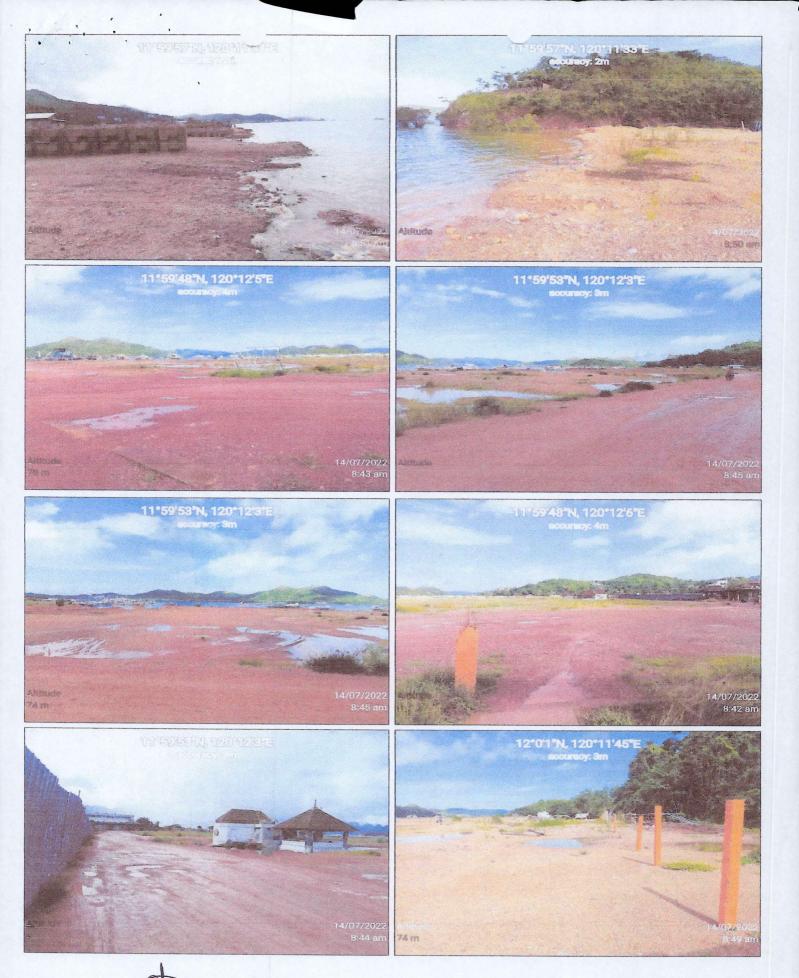
For information and record.

EMMAC. FRANCISCO

Forester II

BONIFACIO SJ. ALBAG, JR.

Forest Protection Officer



Geo-tagged photos taken in the reclamation area of Barangays 2,3 and 5, Coron, Palawan