



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
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RECEIVED
13 JUN 2022
INCOMING ☐ OUTGOING ☐
DATE NO.

June 2, 2022

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 : INSPECTION/INVESTIGATION REPORT RE: DEFORESTATION
OVER 4NM EAST OF BARANGAY RIO TUBA, BATARAZA,
PALAWAN SPOTTED BY THE PHILIPPINE AIR FORCE PILOTS

Respectfully forwarded is the memorandum of CENRO Brooke's Point, Palawan dated May 16, 2022 relative the above subject.

Per memorandum, CENRO Brooke's Point conducted inspection on April 26, 2022 on the said area in response to the letter from Louis L Leander, LTC, PAF, Director for Intelligence and April re: deforestation over 4NM East of Barangay Rio Tuba, Bataraza, Palawan particularly with grid coordinates of 08°34'03" North Latitude and 117°22'26" East Longitude spotted by the Philippine Air Force Pilots during aerial photo mission conducted on April 17, 2022.

The investigating team confirmed the above-mentioned spotted deforestation and falls within the MPSA 114-98-IV Amended - I (Amended MPSA) of Rio Tuba Nickel Mining Corporation (RTNMC) located at Upper Guintalunan, Barangay Taratak, Bataraza, Palawan with a total area of 4,538.43 hectares. The access road and previous traces of sand & gravel extractions were observed in the area. No heavy equipment or other construction related vehicles seen in the site. No traces of cutting of trees in the area. Instead, the abundant and vigorous different kinds of trees are found within the vicinity.

Based on records, the area had been subjected to mining exploration and development drilling activities from 1981-1996 and reforestation and rehabilitation activities since 1984 and 1998. Thus, the spotted deforestation had been the result of the mining exploration activities of RTNMC. Along this line, the company is required to conduct enhancement activities in the area or applied Assisted Natural Regeneration (ANR) practices.

For information and further instruction.

Copy Furnished
CENRO Brooke's Point, Palawan
File/2022-006ACG MES Doc. Ref. Nos. 2022-4214 and 2022-4217

FELIZARDO B. CAYATOC

DENR-PALAWAN
PENRO-RECORDS
RELEASED
By _____
Date JUN 03 2022 12-1385



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
MIMAROPA Region
COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES OFFICE
Brooke's Point, Palawan

May 16, 2022

MEMORANDUM


FOR : The Regional Executive Director
DENR MIMAROPA Region
1515 L&S Building
Roxas Blvd., Ermita, Manila

THRU : The Provincial Environment and
Natural Resources Officer
Sta. Monica, Puerto Princesa City

FROM : The Community Environment and
Natural Resources Officer

SUBJECT : **INSPECTION/INVESTIGATION REPORT RE: ALLEGED
DEFORESTATION AT GEOGRAPHICAL COORDINATES OF
N08°34'03", E117°22'26" OR 4 NAUTICAL MILES OFF RIO TUBA,
BATARAZA, PALAWAN**

**DENR PENRO
PALAWAN RECORDS
RECEIVED**

BY: 
DATE: 05/19/2022 CN 22/1217

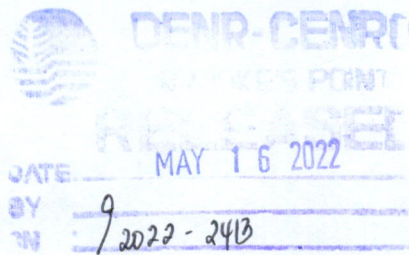
Respectfully forwarded herewith is a copy of report relative to the inspection/investigation conducted by personnel of this Office in reference/response to the Maritime Information Report dated April 22, 2022 from the Director of National Coast Watch Center (NCW Center) CG Radm Roy A. Echeverria requesting for verification and appropriate actions concerning the above-cited traces of alleged deforestation observed over Barangay Rio Tuba, Bataraza, Palawan.

Per verification, the geographical coordinates provided in the report falls within MPSA 114-98-IV Amended – I (amended MPSA) of Rio Tuba Nickel Mining Corporation (RTNMC) situated at Barangay Taratak, Bataraza, Palawan with a total area of 4,538.4346 hectares.

During the field inspection/investigation together with Banjo V. Carorocan, Forestry Technician and a representative from RTNMC, an access road and previous traces of sand and gravel extractions is observed in the area. There was no heavy equipment or other apparatus present in the area as well. Meanwhile, abundant and vigorous different kinds of trees are found within the vicinity. Likewise, no traces of cutting of trees were discovered in the area. Mr. Carorocan mentioned that an investigation has been conducted in the subject area last August 26, 2021 in response to the report from the Philippine Air Force – Tactical Operation Wings West and Western Command Armed Forces of the Philippines – Office of the ACUCS for Intelligence, U2 concerning the same issue of traces of deforestation spotted during the Military Aircraft Flights Monitoring conducted by the Philippine Air Force.

Further, based on the company's record, the area had been subjected to mining exploration and development drilling activities from 1981-1996 and reforestation and rehabilitation activities had already been done in the same area in 1984 and 1998. In this regard, the spotted and reported traces of deforestation in the area had been the result of the mining exploration activities of RTNMC.

For information and record.



*For and in the absence of
The CENRO:*

Anselma M. Fuentes
ANSELMA M. FUENTES
Senior ECOMS/Chief, CDS
In-charge, Office of the CENRO

Doc. Ref. No. 2022-2413

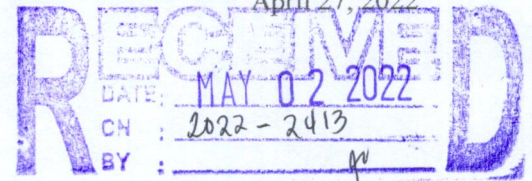
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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Region IV- MIMAROPA
COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES OFFICE
Brooke's Point, Palawan

OFFICE OF THE CENRO
BROOKE'S POINT, PALAWAN

April 27, 2022



MEMORANDUM

FOR : The Community Environment and
Natural Resources Officer

FROM : Patrol Base III – Rio Tuba Monitoring Station

SUBJECT : **INSPECTION/INVESTIGATION REPORT RE: ALLEGED DEFORESTATION
AT GEOGRAPHICAL COORDINATION OF N 08°34'03", E 117°22'26" OR 4
NAUTICAL MILES OF RIO TUBA, BATARAZA, PALAWAN.**

This pertains to the Maritime Information Report, National Coast Watch Center from the Office of the President of the Philippines dated April 20, 2022 which was received by the CENR Office on April 25, 2022 regarding the above subject.

Hereunder are the information and details of the inspection/investigation conducted.

1. Inspection/investigation

- a. Date : April 26, 2022
- b. Time : 8:33 AM
- c. Place : Upper Guintalunan, Brgy. Taratak, Bataraza, Palawan.

2. Inspecting/investigating team:

- a. The undersigned members of Patrol Base III – Rio Tuba Monitoring Station, DENR CENRO Brooke's Point.
- b. The QRT members: FTII Abraham Vicente
FR Mark Ronald S. Velasco
- c. The RTNMC personnel: Banjo V. Carorocan-Forestry Technician

3. Circumstances that led to the conduct of inspection/investigation:

- a. Doc. Ref. No.: 2022-2413-MARITIME INFORMATION REPORT-from: CG RADM ROY A. ECHEVERRIA, National Coast Watch Center.

4. Findings/observation:

- a. The subject area is located within the geographical coordinates of 8°34'03" N, 117°22'26" E with an elevation of 628 meters above sea level.

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- b. The team immediately conducted inspection to determine the **location** using the given geographical coordinate and took geo-tagged photos for **documentation**. It was observed that the area already had access road and previous traces of **sand and gravel** extractions.
- c. Further observed, that there was no heavy equipment or **other apparatus** present in the area during inspection.
- d. Furthermore, abundant and vigorous different kind of trees is found within the vicinity of the subject area and no cutting of trees found in the area.
- e. According to Banjo V. Carorocan, Forestry Technician the same area was reported by the Philippine Air Force – Tactical Operation Wings West and Western Command Arm Forces of the Philippines – Office of the ACUCS for Intelligence, U2 and investigated on August 26, 2021.

5. Assessment:


Based on the observation and findings, the given coordinates N 8°34'03", E 117°22'26" found within the area of MPSA 114-98-IV Amended - I (Amended MPSA) of the Rio Tuba Nickel Mining Corporation situated at Barangay Taratak, Bataraza, Palawan with a total area of 4,538.4346 has. (Annex A). Whereas, in 1981-1996 the exploration and development drilling was done in the area. In 1984, they conducted a reforestation activities within the area by planting of Mountain Agoho species with approximated 4,800 seedlings. In 1998, Mining rehabilitation was also done at the vicinity of the Old Based Camp which consist Block I (6.5 hectares), Block II (2 hectares), and Block II (1 hectare). That in April 2007, One (1) hectare Batino (*Alstonia macrophylla*) plantation was established at Block I.

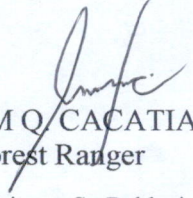
6. Recommendation:

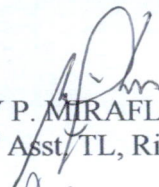
In view hereof, the undersigned respectfully recommends to inform the National Coast Watch Center that the spotted and reported deforestation is a result or subjected to Mining exploration last of 1984 and had already conducted reforestation/rehabilitation of the Mineral Production Sharing Agreement (MPSA) area of the Rio Tuba Nickel Mining Corporation.

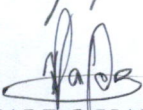
7. Attachments:

- a. Geo-tagged Pictures
- b. Map of subject area and MPSA of RTNMC


KENNIT FRANCIS V. VALDESTAMON
Forest Technician II/ TL, Rio Tuba MS


ROSTUM Q. CACATIAN
Forest Ranger


RUDY P. MIRAFLOR
Forest Ranger/ Asst/ TL, Rio Tuba MS


REYNALDO VALDEZ, SR.
Forest Protection Officer

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GEOTAGGED PHOTOS OF INSPECTION AT UPPER QUINTALUNAN, BRGY. TARATAK,
BATARAZA, PALAWAN.



Photo show the actual subject area with geographical coordinate of 8°34'03\" N, 117°22'26\" E.

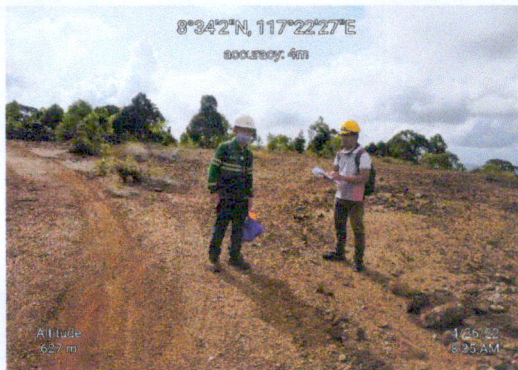


Photo show the inspection team and the vicinity of the subject area.

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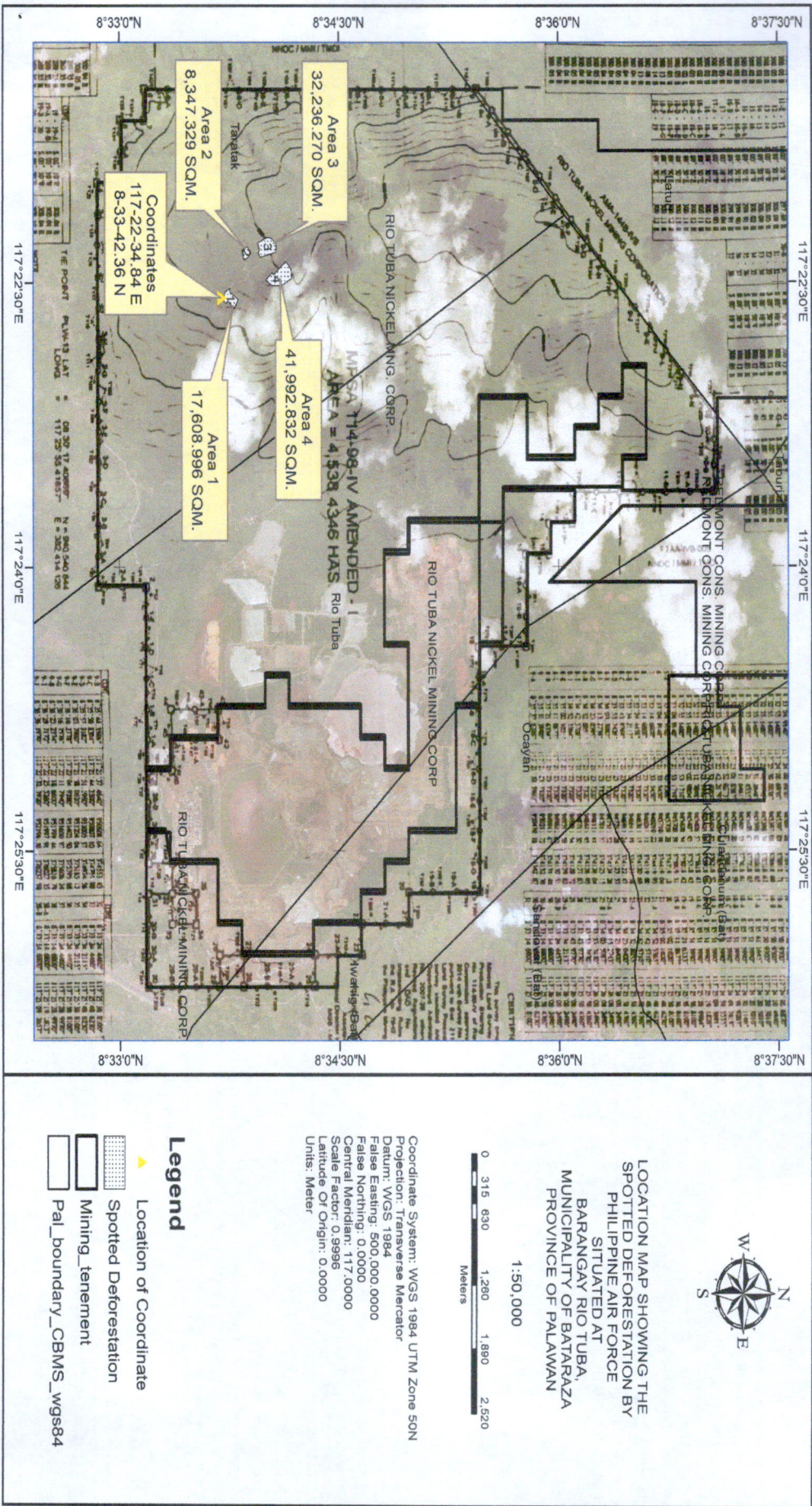
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ANNEX B

Location Map



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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
MIMAROPA Region
COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES OFFICE
Brooke's Point, Palawan

PENRO

May 16, 2022

MEMORANDUM

FOR : The Provincial Environment and
Natural Resources Officer
Sta. Monica, Puerto Princesa City

FROM : The Community Environment and
Natural Resources Officer

SUBJECT : **INSPECTION/INVESTIGATION REPORT RE: DEFORESTATION
OVER 4NM EAST OF BARANGAY RIO TUBA, BATARAZA,
PALAWAN SPOTTED BY THE PHILIPPINE AIR FORCE PILOTS**

**DENR PENRO
PALAWAN RECORDS
RECEIVED**

BY: 8
DATE: 05-19-2022 CN 22-4214

Respectfully forwarded herewith is a copy of report relative to the aforementioned inspection/investigation conducted by personnel of this Office in reference/response to the letter from Mr. Louis L. Leander, LTC, PAF Director for Intelligence concerning the deforestation over 4NM east of Barangay Rio Tuba, Bataraza, Palawan with grid coordinates N 08°34'03", E 117°22'26" spotted by the Philippine Air Force pilots during aerial photo mission conducted on April 17, 2022.

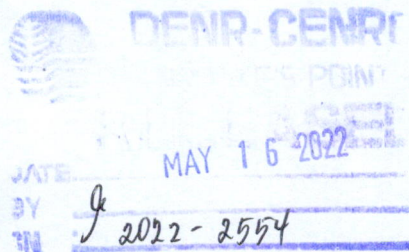
It is informed that this Office had already conducted an inspection/investigation on April 26, 2022 in the same area in reference/response to the Maritime Information Report dated April 22, 2022 from the Director of National Coast Watch Center (NCW Center) CG Radm Roy A. Echeverria requesting for verification and appropriate actions concerning the similar issue on traces of alleged deforestation observed over Barangay Rio Tuba, Bataraza, Palawan whereas per verification, the geographical coordinates provided in the report falls within MPSA 114-98-IV Amended – I (amended MPSA) of Rio Tuba Nickel Mining Corporation (RTNMC) situated at Barangay Taratak, Bataraza, Palawan with a total area of 4,538.4346 hectares.

Moreover, during the inspection/investigation, an access road and previous traces of sand and gravel extractions is observed in the area. There was no heavy equipment or other apparatus present in the area as well. Meanwhile, abundant and vigorous different kinds of trees are found within the vicinity. There were also no traces of cutting of trees discovered in the area.

Further, based on the company's record, the area had been subjected to mining exploration and development drilling activities from 1981-1996 and reforestation and rehabilitation activities had already been done in the same area in 1984 and 1998. Consequently, it has been established that the spotted and reported traces of deforestation in the area had been the result of the mining exploration activities of RTNMC. Nonetheless, a follow-up investigation

was conducted on May 4, 2022 for further inspection of the affected area on the other portion with observed traces of previous extractions of aggregates and the rehabilitation conducted in the area wherein it was observed that more planted Agoho tree species and other forest tree species were stunted in some portion although others are vigorous and healthy. In this regard, the company is recommended to conduct enhancement activities in the area to increase the number/survival of planted trees since as observed, some portion of the area previously subjected to extraction of aggregates were still open.

For his information and record.

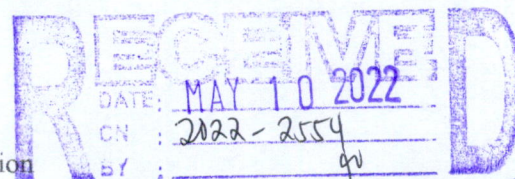


*For and in the absence of
The CENRO:*

Anselma M. Fuentes
ANSELMA M. FUENTES
Senior ECOMS/Chief, CDS
In-Charge, Office of the CENRO



OFFICE OF THE CENRO
BROOKE'S POINT, PALAWAN



MEMORANDUM

FOR : The Community Environment and
Natural Resources Officer

FROM : Patrol Base III – Rio Tuba Monitoring Station

SUBJECT : **INSPECTION/INVESTIGATION REPORT RE: THE PHILIPPINE AIR FORCE
PILOT SPOTTED DEFORESTATION OVER EAST OF RIO TUBA, BATARAZA,
PALAWAN ON APRIL 17, 2022.**

This pertains to the letter of Mr. Louis L. Leander which was received by the CENR Office on March 02, 2022 regarding the above subject.

Please be informed that the same deforestation was reported by the Maritime Information Report, National Coast Watch Center from the Office of the President of the Philippines dated April 20, 2022 which was received by the CENR Office on April 25, 2022 regarding the above subject. Somehow, the inspecting team conducted further inspection of the subject area on May 4, 2022.

Hereunder are the information and details of the inspection/investigation conducted.

1. Inspection/investigation

- a. Date : April 26, 2022 and May 4, 2022
- b. Time :
- c. Place : Upper Guintalunan, Brgy. Taratak, Bataraza, Palawan.

2. Inspecting/investigating team:

- a. The undersigned members of Patrol Base III – Rio Tuba Monitoring Station, DENR CENRO Brooke's Point.
- b. The QRT members: FTII Abraham Vicente
FR Mark Ronald S. Velasco
- c. The RTNMC personnel: Banjo V. Carorocan-Forestry Technician

3. Circumstances that led to the conduct of inspection/investigation:

- a. Doc. Ref. No.: 2022-2554- Letter from: Mr. Louis L. Leander re: The Philippine Air Force pilot spotted deforestation over east of Rio-Tuba, Bataraza, Palawan on April 17, 2022.

4. Findings/observation:

- a. The subject area is located within the geographical coordinates of 8°34'03" N, 117°22'26" E with an elevation of 628 meters above sea level.
- b. The team immediately conducted inspection to determine the location using the given geographical coordinate and took geo-tagged photos for documentation. It was observed that the area already had access road and previous traces of sand and gravel extractions.
- c. Further observed, that there was no heavy equipment or other apparatus present in the area during inspection.
- d. Furthermore, different kind of trees is found within the vicinity of the subject area and no cutting of trees found in the area.
- e. According to Banjo V. Carorocan, Forestry Technician, the given coordinates N 8°34'03", E 117°22'26" is found within the area of MPSA 114-98-IV Amended - I (Amended MPSA) of the Rio Tuba Nickel Mining Corporation situated at Barangay Taratak, Bataraza, Palawan with a total area of 4,538.4346 has. (Annex A). Whereas, in 1981-1996 the exploration and development drilling was done in the area. In 1984, they conducted a reforestation activities within the area by planting of Mountain Agoho species with approximated 4,800 seedlings. In 1998, Mining rehabilitation was also done at the vicinity of the Old Based Camp which consist Block I (6.5 hectares), Block II (2 hectares), and Block II (1 hectare). That in April 2007, One (1) hectare Batino (*Alstonia macrophylla*) plantation was established at Block I.
- f. On May 4, 2022, the inspecting team conducted further inspection of the affected area on other portion which observed the traces of previous extractions of aggregates and the rehabilitation conducted in the area. More planted Agoho tree species and other tree species were observed stunted in some portion while others are vigorous and healthy.

5. Assessment:

Based on the observation and findings, the given coordinates N 8°34'03", E 117°22'26" found within the area of MPSA 114-98-IV Amended - I (Amended MPSA) of the Rio Tuba Nickel Mining Corporation situated at Barangay Taratak, Bataraza, Palawan. The subject area was rehabilitated as shown the presences of planted Agoho tree and other forest tree species within the affected forest area.

6. Recommendation:


In view hereof, the undersigned respectfully recommends to inform LTC-PAF, Louis L. Leander-Director for Intelligence that the spotted and reported deforestation is a result or subjected to Mining exploration in 1984 and had already conducted reforestation/rehabilitation of the Mineral Production Sharing Agreement (MPSA) area of the Rio Tuba Nickel Mining Corporation. The Rio Tuba Nickel Mining Corporation should also inform that the rehabilitated area should be further enhance to increase the

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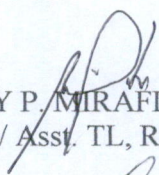
number of planted trees survived as observed some portion of the area previously undergone extraction of aggregates were still open forest.

7. Attachments:

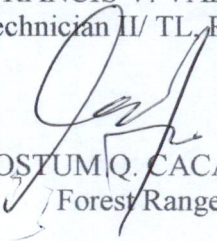
- a. Geo-tagged Pictures
- b. Map of subject area and MPSA of RTNMC



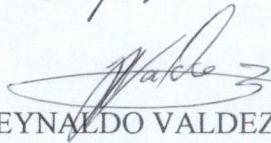
KENNET FRANCIS V. VALDESTAMON
Forest Technician II/ TL, Rio Tuba MS



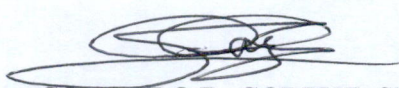
RUDY P. MIRAFLOR
Forest Ranger/ Asst. TL, Rio Tuba MS



ROSTUM Q. CACATIAN
Forest Ranger



REYNALDO VALDEZ, SR.
Forest Protection Officer



CONRADO D. CORPUZ, SR.
Forest Ranger

GEOTAGGED PHOTOS OF INSPECTION ON APRIL 26, 2022 AT UPPER GUINTALUNAN, BRGY. TARATAK, BATARAZA, PALAWAN.



Photo show the actual subject area with geographical coordinate of 8°34'03" N, 117°22'26" E.



Photo show the inspection team and the vicinity of the subject area.

M.Rodriguez St. Poblacion District I, Brooke's Point Palawan 5305

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INSPECTION CONDUCTED ON MAY 4, 2022 AT THE VICINITY OF THE SUBJECT AREA WITH GC OF
N 8°34'05", E 117°22'35".



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