

October 28, 2022

**MR. PEDRO VELASCO**

**Community Environment and Natural Resources Officer (CENRO)  
Puerto Princesa City, Palawan**



**SUBJECT: Response Letter to your Letter dated September 29, 2022, received and acknowledge by the undersigned on October 5, 2022.**

Dear Sir,

**Greetings!!!**

This is in response to your letter dated September 29, 2022, of which it was received by the undersigned on October 5, 2022.

Paragraph 2 (1 & 3) of your letter response states and I quote for clarity to wit:

**“ On your question regarding the result of the Memorandum of then Regional Executive Director Henry Adornado dated October 8, 2019 please be informed of the following:**

**1). CENRO Special Order No. 2019-59 was issued by this Office creating a team to conduct inspection, assessment and validation of the area you are applying for SIFMA.**

**3). Their findings and recommendations were considered and formed part of our decision to deny your IFMA application plus the fact that the area you applied for IFMA falls within the Core Zone. Per Republic Act No. 7611 and City Ordinance No. 560, Core Zone are strict protection zone. Any forest co-managements agreements such as IFMA, SIFMA, FLAg, FLAgT or CBFM Agreement are not allowed.”**

May I therefore request a copy of the above CENRO Special Order No. 2019-59 for transparency.

Further request the results of their findings and recommendations that you made formed part of your decision to deny my IFMA application, again for transparency.

With regards to Paragraph 5 of your letter response and I quote for clarity to wit:

**“ Further, Section 9 (1) of Republic Act No. 7611 and City Ordinance No. 560 explicitly prohibits the issuance of any tenurial instrument of forest agreements in areas zonified as Core Zone areas.”**

Hereunder, is Section 9 of the Republic Act No. 7611.

**“Sec. 9. Terrestrial Component: Management Scheme and Zonation. – The terrestrial component may be further subdivided into smaller management components for a more efficient supervision. These management components, in turn, shall each be further subdivided into the following zones:**

(1) Area of maximum protection or core zone – This zone shall be fully and strictly protected and maintained free of human disruption. Included here are all types of natural forest which include first growth forest, residual forest and edges of intact forest, areas above one thousand (1,000) meters elevation, peaks of mountains or other areas with very steep gradients, and endangered habitats and habitats of endangered and rare species. Exceptions, however, may be granted to traditional uses of tribal communities of these areas for minimal and soft impact gathering of forest species for ceremonial and medicinal purposes.

(2) Buffer zone – This area permits regulated use and may be further subdivided into three (3) sub-zones:

(a) Restricted use area. – Generally surrounds the core zone and provides a protective barrier. Limited and no consumptive activities may be allowed in this area;

(b) Controlled use area. – Encircles and provides the outer barrier to the core and restricted use areas. Controlled forest extraction, like the collecting of minor forest products, and strictly controlled logging and mining may be allowed; and

(c) Traditional use area. – Edges of intact forests where traditional land use is already stabilized or is being stabilized. Management and control shall be carried out with the other supporting programs of the SEP.

(3) Multiple/manipulative use area. – This is the area where the landscape has been modified for different forms of land use such as intensive timber extraction, grazing and pastures, agriculture and infrastructure development. Control and management shall be strictly integrated with the other supporting programs of the SEP and other similar programs of the Government.”

Please note that the above Section 9 of Republic Act 7611 is subdivided into three (3) smaller management components for a more efficient supervision zones namely:

- (1) Area of maximum protection or core zone
- (2) Buffer zone
- (3) Multiple/manipulative use area

The area that I applied for IFMA does not fall on **Section 9 (1) of Republic Act No. 7611** in fact, it falls on **Section 9 (3) of the said Republic Act No. 7611**. A Multiple/manipulative use area, wherein other similar program of the Government like IFMA, etc, can be applied by way of planting trees and bamboos in the area, a very noble and sustainable undertakings of the undersigned and create job opportunities to people residence of Bgy. Baheli.

Although the area that I applied for IFMA has been a part of the declared Core Zone by the City government however, it does not conform on the actual situations on the ground for the following reasons;

This area cannot be fully and strictly protected and maintained free of human disruption because it is situated along a **concreted road** going to Oyster Bay Naval Base and the whole area is adjacent to the sea surrounding Ulogan Bay.

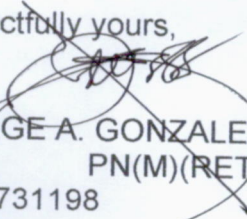
The area that I applied for IFMA is far below 1,000 meters above sea level. In fact, the highest portion is only 341 meters above sea level and it is covered mostly by bush a bamboo like vine known as “Balikaw”, killing the endemic trees in the area. (see attached pictures)

In this regards, may I therefore request a representation be made by your Office to the Regional Executive Director (RED) of the DENR, Manila, to **delineate / segregate** the area that I applied for IFMA from the declared core zone of the City government of Puerto Princesa City.

Hoping for your kind considerations on my request.

Thank you and God bless!

Respectfully yours,

  
GEORGE A. GONZALES  
COL. PN(M)(RET.)  
09171731198

Copy furnish:

1. The Regional Executive Director  
DENR, Region 4B, MIMAROPA,  
Roxas Blvd., Ermita, Manila.
2. The PENRO, Sta. Monica, PPCity
3. File





