



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
BIODIVERSITY MANAGEMENT BUREAU
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SEP 19 2022

MEMORANDUM

FOR : The Regional Executive Director
DENR Region 4-B (MIMAROPA)
1515 L & S Bldg., Roxas Blvd., Metro Manila

ATTN : PENRO Romblon
Odiongan, Tablas Island, Romblon

Protected Area Management Office
Mt. Guiting-Guiting Natural Park
Magdiwang, Sibuyan Island, Romblon

FROM : The OIC Director

SUBJECT : **LETTER FROM MR. ADRIAN ASOY AND MS. HELLY ASOY OF SIBUYAN ISLAND, ROMBLON REQUESTING FOR FURTHER INVESTIGATION ON THE ROAD CONSTRUCTION IN SIBUYAN ISLAND, ROMBLON**



This pertains to the letters of Mr. Adrian Asoy and Ms. Helly Asoy of Sibuyan Island in Romblon both dated 19 July 2022, requesting further investigation on the road construction in Sitio Talaba, Brgy. Taclobo and Brgy. España, San Fernando, Sibuyan Island Romblon.

It was noted that the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) had already conducted an initial investigation in relation to the earlier letter of Ms. Helly Asoy dated 17 June 2022. It was reported that the concerned area is within a private property and that no mining activity was observed in the vicinity.

However, in separate letters, Mr. Asoy and Ms. Asoy raised the following concerns as basis for the request for further investigation:

1. The report does not contain the reasons why the road and bunkhouses exists;
2. There is a question on whether or not a permit was granted for the cutting of trees in the private lands; and
3. Altai Mining was recently granted an Exploration permit, and the existence of these structures and the proposed pier and access road, among others, gives the suspicion that the mining company will operate at a larger capacity than it is initially granted.

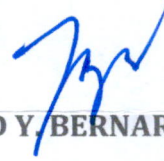
We also noted in the 17 June 2022 letter of Ms. Asoy that the road construction affected the Mt. Guiting-Guiting Natural Park and its buffer zone, as well as the easement in shoreline and mangrove areas. Please be guided that mineral exploration or extraction within protected area is among the prohibited acts per Section 20(p) of the NIPAS Act, as amended by ENIPAS Act or RA 11038 of 2018. Mt. Guiting-Guiting Natural Park (MGGNP) being a legislated protected area should not be subjected to any exploration and mining activity.



UNITED NATIONS DECADE ON
**ECOSYSTEM
RESTORATION**
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Relative thereto, we kindly reiterate our request in BMB Memorandum of 8 July 2022 for your Office, through the concerned Protected Areas Superintendent, to conduct a thorough investigation and assessment on the ground and take appropriate administrative and legal actions immediately, as may be necessary. Kindly inform Mr. Asoy and Ms. Asoy of the actions taken by your Office on the matter. We would also appreciate receiving a status report thereon.

For consideration and appropriate action.



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cc: MGB MIMAROPA