



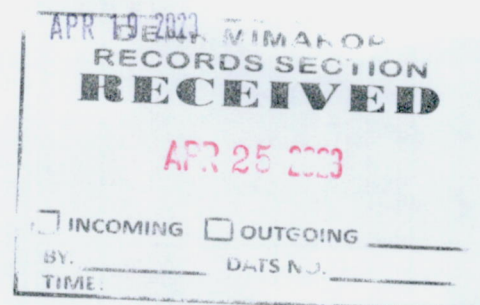
Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
BIODIVERSITY MANAGEMENT BUREAU
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MEMORANDUM

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

FROM : The Director
In concurrent capacity as Assistant Secretary for Policy, Planning and Foreign-Assisted and Special Projects

SUBJECT : **COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE PROTECTED AREA SUITABILITY ASSESSMENT (PASA) REPORT FOR PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION 219**



This is in reference to the Memorandum dated 23 December 2022 of PENRO Palawan submitting the Final Report on Protected Area Suitability Assessment (PASA) for Presidential Proclamation 219 including supporting documents namely, PASA Forms 1, 2, and 3, Minutes of Consultation Meetings, maps and photo documentation.

We reviewed the above-mentioned PASA Report based on *BMB Technical Bulletin No. 2016-04* entitled "*Clarifying the Procedural Guidelines in the Conduct of PASA*" as guide and reference.

It was noted that the PASA was conducted in 2012-2019 in 23 Municipalities and the City of Puerto Princesa covering the whole Province of Palawan. We also note that sixteen (16) municipalities and the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Province of Palawan have submitted their Resolutions of support for the disestablishment of PP 219. However, may we also request for the submission of the remaining Resolution of municipalities and City of Puerto Princesa.

In the PASA Report, PP 219 gathered a rating of 98% which is way above the passing rate of 80% for an area to qualify for establishment under the NIPAS. However, despite of its high rating, the PASA Team as attested by the PENRO of Palawan recommended for the disestablishment of the said protected area. Recommendation for the disestablishment are due to the following reasons:

1. Overlapping of the individually proclaimed protected areas with active and operational Protected Area Management Board (PAMB) and Protected Area Management Office (PAMO) of 7 protected areas (El Nido-Managed Resource Protected Area, Malampaya Sound Protected Landscape and Seascape, Rasa Island Wildlife Sanctuary, Mt. Mantalingahan Protected Landscape, Ursula Island Game Refuge and Bird Sanctuary, Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park and Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park. Also, presence of initial component of the System, the Palawan Flora and Fauna Watershed Forest Reserve (Parcel 1 and 2) while the Calauit Island Game Preserve and Wildlife Sanctuary under the management of Provincial Government of Palawan.

2. Aside from the proclaimed protected areas under the NIPAS, there are locally managed critical habitats (Cleopatra's Needle Critical Habitat, Dumaran Critical Habitat) and locally managed Marine Protected Areas (MPAs);
3. Areas outside proclaimed protected areas are managed by Local Government Units (LGUs) through their respective Forest Land-use Plan and Comprehensive Land and Water-use Plan (CLUP);
4. If retained, it is not realistic to manage considering the geographical feature of Palawan;
5. Palawan is seeking for continuous progress and development, yet Presidential Proclamation 219 is not consistent with the current land use of the Province;
6. Presidential Proclamation 219 is one of the hindrance in approving the request of some municipalities for reclassification and classification on unclassified Public Forest (UPF) within their area of jurisdiction;
7. Existence of Mining Industries in the Province.

Relative to the recommendation of the PASA Team for the disestablishment of PP 219, we advise the Region to proceed with the remaining activities on the disestablishment process of protected areas pursuant to Section 7 of the NIPAS Act as amended by ENIPAS Act of 2018. The Regional Office is also advised to submit to BMB the requirements such as Minutes of the Meeting of the Regional NIPAS Review Committee (RNRC), draft presidential proclamation, Complete Staff Work and concurrence of other government agencies supporting for the amendment and or disestablishment of PP 219 for further processing and endorsement to the Office of the Secretary.

For information and further appropriate action.


MARCIAL C. AMARO, JR.



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