



Republic of the Philippines
Province of Occidental Mindoro
MUNICIPALITY OF MAGSAYSAY

-oo0oo-

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

February 6, 2023

Dir. LORMELYN E. CLAUDIO, CESO IV

Regional Director

3rd flr., 1515 DENR by the Bay Bldg.
Roxas Boulevard, Brgy. 668
Ermita, Manila

Our dear Director:

Greetings from all the Magsaysayens!

This is in line with our letter dated 07 November 2022 where we have expressed our concerns about Garza Island in this Municipality, which is one of the biodiversity rich areas and ecological centers in the area.

Currently, some areas of the island, extending to its waters, are already declared a fish sanctuary and a marine protected area due to the extensive presence of coral reefs over a vast area underneath the waters. There have been some accounts of migratory birds going to these areas particularly over the sand bars and sightings of turtle hatchings in the area. We were also informed that there have been earlier proclamations before designating the island as a reservation for a lighthouse but we do not have the proper documentations on the aforesaid.

However, due to illegal conversion of the island and intrusion of the general public, its occupants and applicants for landholding in the area, worsened by the ballooning local population being one of the *sitios* of Barangay Alibog of our Municipality. Particular to this environmental threat are the various applicants of ownership of some parts, if not the entire, island. Some titles presented are accounted to have a different lot coordinate that may be found in other parts of the country while others could not even present valid payments and applications for ownership. This gotten worse by the illegal activities made by resorts owners there of illegally fencing the shorelines even encroaching the tides.

Various consultations have been made, but to no avail, our local government cannot alone do the monitoring and enforcement as we ourselves do not have the right manpower and technical expertise over these concerns.

Relative thereto, we are humbly requesting and pleading the assistance of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and all possible national agencies as partners of the DENR in strictly enforcing these environmental mandates, to wit:

1. The reversion/cancellation of ownership including all the applications for lot ownership in the area;
2. The stoppage of the illegal activities and illegal conversions in the area;
3. Technical assistance for the formulation of a sustainable management plan of the area

Any additional technical assistance to pave way for the clarity of the status of the island towards the island's sustainable and ecologically-sensitive development through proper policies and programs to be implemented will all be welcomed. Attached herein are some of the documentations of illegal incursions even along the salvage zones.

Thank you very much for the immediate actions, assistance and considerations you are extending us. We look forward for further partnerships with you!

God bless and more power to you, our dear Director!

Very respectfully,

CESAR M. TRIA, JR.
Municipal Mayor

Transparent Responsible Innovative Administration

Address: LGU Government Office, GF Municipal Building, Occidental Mindoro, Philippines 5101
Email Address: igumagsaysayoccmn@gmail.com