



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
Telfax No. (048) 434 - 8791
Email Add: penropalawan@denr.gov.ph

March 15, 2023

MEMORANDUM

FOR : The Regional Executive Director
DENR MIMAROPA Region
1515 DENR By The Bay Building, Roxas Boulevard,
Barangay 668, Ermita, Manila

THRU : The Regional Director
MGB -MIMAROPA Region


FROM : Provincial Environment and
Natural Resources Officer

SUBJECT : **SITE INVESTIGATION REPORT ON THE ALLEGED SEABED
QUARRYING OPERATIONS IN BARANGAY VI, CORON,
PALAWAN**

Forwarded is the memorandum dated 10 March 2023 of CENRO Coron transmitting the copy of report dated 14 February 2023 of the MGB MIMAROPA Embedded Personnel regarding the above subject.

For information, record and reference.

"FOR THE PENRO"


ALEXANDER E. MANCIO
Supervising ECQMS/
Executive Assistant of PENRO Palawan
In-Charge, Office of the PENRO



R4B PENRO Palawan <penropalawan@denr.gov.ph>

SITE INVESTIGATION REPORT ON THE ALLEGED SEABED QUARRYING OPERATIONS IN BARANGAY VI, CORON, PALAWAN

Alessa Estorninos <alessaest.mgb4b@gmail.com>
To: mines_4b@yahoo.com
Cc: penropalawan@denr.gov.ph

**DENR PENRO
PALAWAN RECORDS
RECEIVED**

Fri, Mar 10, 2023 at 4:38 PM

BY: [Signature]
DATE: 03-12-2023 DN 23-296

Greetings!

Respectfully forwarding a copy of the report dated 14 February 2023 of the MGB-MIMAROPA Embedded Personnel regarding the above-cited subject.

This is in connection with the six (6) individuals spotted conducting seabed quarrying along Coron Bay, just close to the mouth of the Dipulao River. Accordingly, this office has sent a letter to Mr. Jesus Vicente Fernandez, President of Fernvale Living and Leisure Development Corporation, dated 27 February 2023, requesting a meeting with CENRO-Coron to provide information on the matter.

For your reference, record, and further instruction(s).

Thank you very much!

--
Alessa "Les" Estorninos
Science Research Specialist II
Community Environment and Natural Resources Office - Coron
Mines and Geosciences Bureau - MIMAROPA
Department of Environment and Natural Resources

SITE INVESTIGATION REPORT ON THE ALLEGED SEABED QUARRYING OPERATIONS IN BARANGAY VI, CORON, PALAWAN.pdf
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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Community Environment and Natural Resources Office
Barangay 5, Calamianes Island, Coron, Palawan
Telephone No. +63 917 504 2633

E-mail: cenrocoron@denr.gov.ph Website: www.denr.gov.ph

10 March 2023

MEMORANDUM

FOR : The Regional Director
Mines and Geosciences Bureau
MIMAROPA Region

THRU : The PENR Officer
Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office
Province of Palawan

FROM : OIC, CENRO
Community Environment and Natural Resources Office
Puerto Princesa City, Palawan

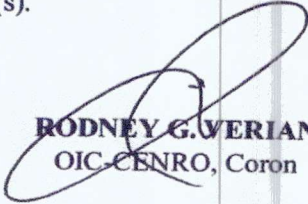
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RODNEY G. VERIAN
OIC, CENRO, Coron



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Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Community Environment and Natural Resources Office
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Telephone No. +63 917 504 2633

E-mail: cenrocoron@denr.gov.ph Website: www.denr.gov.ph

27 February 2023

Mr. Jesus Vicente Fernandez
President
Fernvale Living and Leisure Development Corporation
Coron, Palawan

Dear **Mr. Fernandez**:

Greetings!

This pertains to the site investigation conducted by CENRO-Coron personnel, last 13 February 2023, regarding the seabed quarrying operations in Coron Bay, Barangay VI, Coron.

During the investigation, the tools and conveyances were spotted along Coron Bay just close to the mouth of the Dipulao River. However, no information was gathered regarding the purpose and person ordering the extraction. Provided the subject area is at the tail-end of Fernvale Living and Leisure Subdivision, we deem it appropriate to communicate with your office regarding the seabed quarrying operations.

In view thereof, we are respectfully inviting you or your representative for a meeting in CENRO-Coron to provide information on the matter.

Kindly communicate with us through email at cenrocoron@denr.gov.ph or mobile number +639-17-504-2633, for us to arrange a date and time for the meeting.

Your utmost cooperation will be highly appreciated.

Thank you and best regard.

Sincerely yours,

RODNEY G. VERIAN
OIC-CENRO, Coron

cc: The PENRO
Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Sta. Monica, Puerto Princesa City, Palawan

The Mayor – Coron
Office of the Mayor
Coron, Palawan

The Punong Barangay – Barangay VI
Office of the Punong Baragay
Brgy. VI, Coron, Palawan

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
Coron, Palawan

RECEIVED

Time :
Date :
Signed: *[Signature]* 3/1/2023
AMOR LEAM, OCPEMIA
LGU-Coron
0907-1967149





Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Community Environment and Natural Resources Office
Barangay 5, Calamianes Island, Coron, Palawan
Telephone No. +63 917 504 2633

E-mail: cenrocoron@denr.gov.ph Website: www.denr.gov.ph

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Sincerely yours,

RODNEY C. VERIAN
OIC-CENRO, Coron

cc: The PENRO
Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Sta. Monica, Puerto Princesa City, Palawan

The Mayor – Coron
Office of the Mayor
Coron, Palawan

The Punong Barangay – Barangay VI
Office of the Punong Baragay
Brgy. VI, Coron, Palawan

RECEIVED
FEBRUARY 27, 2023
JOE ALAYO





Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Community Environment and Natural Resources Office
Barangay 5, Calamianes Island, Coron, Palawan
Telephone No. +63 917 504 2633

E-mail: cenrocoron@denr.gov.ph Website: www.denr.gov.ph

27 February 2023

Mr. Jesus Vicente Fernandez
President
Fernvale Living and Leisure Development Corporation
Coron, Palawan

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Sincerely yours,

RODNEY G. VERIAN
OIC-CENRO, Coron

cc: The PENRO
Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Sta. Monica, Puerto Princesa City, Palawan

The Mayor – Coron
Office of the Mayor
Coron, Palawan

The Punong Barangay – Barangay VI
Office of the Punong Baragay
Brgy. VI, Coron, Palawan

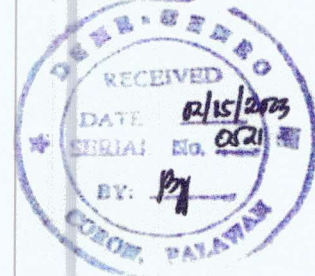


Received by: *[Signature]*
Ranny Abant / March 1, 2023



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES OFFICE
MIMAROPA Region
Coron, Palawan

14 February 2023



MEMORANDUM

FOR : The Community Environment and
Natural Resources Officer
Coron, Palawan

FROM : The Undersigned

SUBJECT : SITE INVESTIGATION REPORT ON THE ALLEGED SEABED
QUARRYING OPERATIONS IN BARANGAY VI, CORON,
PALAWAN

Under Travel Order No. 2023-001, the undersigned conducted a site investigation last 13 February 2023 in response to the report received from a CENRO-Coron personnel regarding the alleged seabed quarrying operations in Barangay VI, Coron, Palawan.

Background Information

Last 07 February 2023, six (6) individuals were seen conducting seabed quarrying along Coron Bay, just close to the mouth of the Dipulao River. They were diving to extract aggregates in the seabed using a shovel and putting them into sacks. These sacks will be placed in a raft or *balsa* for transportation back to the land (*see Photo Documentation*).

Upon initial interview with a certain Mr. Rogelio "Boy" Balat, the collected aggregates will be for personal use for their houses. Mr. Balat was hesitant to provide other details upon inquiry and did not fully disclose when they started extracting aggregates from the seabed.

Purpose and Scope

The undersigned conducted the fieldwork to investigate the seabed quarrying operations further and verify its purpose. The investigation includes an ocular inspection of the site, photo documentation, a verbal interview with the said individuals or owner of the private property, and apprehension if necessary.

Findings and Observations

1. The subject area is along Coron Bay, Brgy. VI, Coron. It is geographically situated at $12^{\circ} 0'36''N$, $120^{\circ} 10'35''E$. It is approximately 2.48 kilometers from CENRO, which is reachable by a 10-minute motorcycle ride followed by a 30-minute non-motorized boat ride (Figure 1).



Figure 1. Location map of the investigated seabed quarry site in Brgy. VI, Coron, Palawan. The red line is the route taken by the undersigned going to the subject area which is approximately 1.66 km from the entry point.

2. Before the investigation, the undersigned went to the Barangay Hall of Barangay VI to seek assistance from Hon. Maria V. Cinco. However, no barangay personnel was available to accompany the undersigned in the subject area. After further discussion with Kap. Cinco on the matter, she informed the undersigned that the extracted aggregates are not for the use of Fernvale Resort, but the individuals involved are "Delos Angeles" and "Ventorillo". Further, she stated that a yellow truck transfers the extracted aggregates. Kap. Cinco provided no further information as to the destination and recipient of the materials.
3. At the subject area, no person was *In Flagrante Delicto* or caught in the act of extracting aggregates from the seabed. However, the conveyances used for the extraction, such as two (2) rafts and some empty sacks, were seen (*see Photo Documentation*).
4. Also observed in the area are a concrete mixer, steel bars, and concrete forms (*see Photo Documentation*).
5. Upon docking, some individuals have avoided and hid from the undersigned. Despite countless communication requests, the individuals hid in a white concrete house and did not approach the undersigned. Thus, the undersigned could not gather any information or interview the purpose of the extraction of aggregates (*see Photo Documentation and Figure 2*).
6. After further investigation, the undersigned observed three (3) docking areas, two of which had a "No Trespassing. Community Property" sign (*Figure 2*).



Figure 2. Location map of the three (3) docking areas and the private house. The image is excerpted from Google Earth.

Comments and Recommendations

1. Based on the results of the investigation, the subject area is considered closed to mining applications under Section 15 of the DAO 2010-21,

In case of seabed/marine aggregate quarrying, offshore areas less than 1,500 meters from the mean low tide level of land or island(s) and where the seabed depth is less than 30 meters measured at mean sea level.

This statement also falls under Section 8 of DAO 2000-25 or the *Implementing Rules and Regulations of Executive Order No. 153 - "Authorizing the Utilization of Offshore Areas not Covered by Approved Mining Permits and Contracts as Sources of Dredgefill Materials for Government Reclamation Projects and for Other Purposes"*.

2. Since there was no interrogation with the individuals present in the subject area or any communication with the person ordering the extraction, no apprehension took place. Therefore, no seabed quarrying permit or other pertinent documents were presented to the undersigned.
3. Provided that no permit was granted to the owner, such activity violates Section 103 of the Republic Act 7942, otherwise known as the Philippine Mining Act of 1995.

Theft of Minerals. - Any person extracting minerals and disposing the same without a mining agreement, lease, permit, license, or steals minerals or ores or the products thereof from mines or mills or processing plants shall, upon conviction, be imprisoned from six (6) months to six (6) years or pay a fine from Ten thousand pesos (P10,000.00) to Twenty thousand pesos


(P20,000.00), or both, at the discretion of the appropriate court. In addition, he shall be liable to pay damages and compensation for the minerals removed, extracted, and disposed of.

Furthermore, the extracted materials are considered illegally sourced mineral/mineral products. Based on Section 116 Chapter XII of DAO 2010-21,

Illegally-sourced minerals/mineral products are those which are mined, extracted, removed and/or disposed of without authority or permit under existing mining laws, rules and regulations.

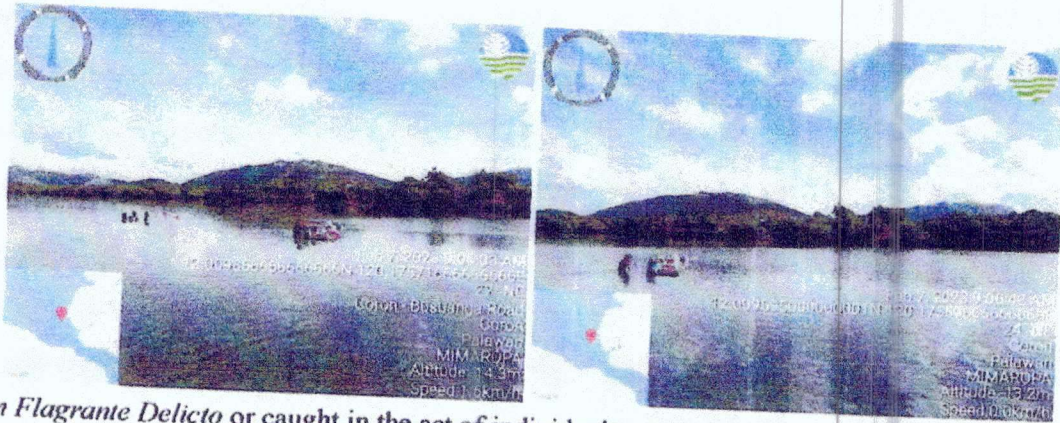
4. Since there is no information regarding the purpose of the seabed quarrying, whether it is part of any Government Reclamation Projects or for personal use, the undersigned will continuously monitor the subject area in cooperation with Barangay VI.
5. For CENRO-Coron to endorse this to PMRB-Palawan to obtain more information on the seabed quarrying operation, proper evaluation of the violations, and impose appropriate sanctions,

For your reference, record, and further instruction(s).


Alessa Anne S. Estorninos
Science Research Specialist II
MGB MIMAROPA – Embedded Personnel


Darius T. Jagmis
Forest Technician I
CENRO – Coron

Photo Documentation



In Flagrante Delicto or caught in the act of individuals extracting aggregates from the seabed last 07 February 2023.



Courtesy visit to the Barangay Hall of Barangay VI, Coron, Palawan, to request possible assistance for the investigation.



Empty sacks and two (2) rafts used for containing and transporting the extracted aggregates are present in the subject area.



A concrete mixer, steel bars, and concrete forms are present in the subject area.



The private house where the individuals hid from the undersigned.



Three (3) docking areas that are under construction. Images include each docking area's estimated dimensions.