# ENVIRONMENTAL LEGAL ASSISTANCE CENTER INC. EASTERN VISAYAS

2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Aquino Building, Cor. Bonifacio St. and Mendiola St. Brgy. Naga-naga, Palo, Leyte 6501

elaceastemvisayas@gmail.com

May 23, 2025

Item No.: 16

Date: 1 0 2025 JUN

#### **ENGR. ALEX D. JIMENEZ**

Regional Director Environmental Management Bureau - Region 8

**Subject:** Inquiry on Actions Taken by EMB Regional Office No. VII, according to DENR-PENRO Leyte's Recommendations on Reported Extractive Operations in Palo, Leyte

Dear Director Jimenez.

**Greetings from ELAC!** 

We write to you today concerning the report made by the **DENR Provincial Environment** and **Natural Resources Office (PENRO)**—**Leyte,** dated April 21, 2025, about investigations made with the following concerns:

- 1. Reported excavation and hauling operations in Guinhangdan Hill, Brgy. San Jose, Palo, Leyte (Verlin Konstruct Inc. for Crown Estates-Palo Project), as discussed in the report dated March 24, 2025;
- Reported site development-related extraction activities in Brgy. Barayong, Palo, Leyte (Matalas Shooters Inc.), mentioned in the report dated April 14, 2025; and
- 3. Reported quarry operations in Brgy. Zone 5, San Jose, Palo, Leyte (involving Ms. Virgie Deligero and Mighty A's Construction), validated as unauthorized and violating Section 103 of R.A No. 7942 as per the earlier PENRO investigation.

These reports raise serious concerns about potential violations of environmental laws and local ordinances by various entities engaged in excavation, hauling, and quarry operations within environmentally and culturally sensitive areas.

Based on PENRO's findings, the reports included recommendations for your office to assess the necessity of having Environmental Compliance Certificates (ECC) for the ongoing site development and excavation activities, and to conduct further investigation into potential violations of environmental laws.

Given these findings, we would like to seek an update on any actions undertaken by your office in response to PENRO's findings and recommendations. Specifically, may we respectfully request information on the following:

1. Has the EMB Regional Office No. VIII assessed potential violations of environmental laws and has determined whether Environmental Compliance Certificates (ECC) are required for the site development and disposal of excavated materials.

# ENVIRONMENTAL LEGAL ASSISTANCE CENTER INC. EASTERN VISAYAS

2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Aquino Building, Cor. Bonifacio St. and Mendiola St. Brgy. Naga-naga, Palo, Leyte 6501 elaceasternvisayas@gmail.com

- 2. Has the EMB Regional Office No. VIII conducted further investigations and took appropriate actions regarding the observed activities, and if so, what were the results of such investigations, and what actions were taken?
- 3. If no investigations have yet been conducted, may we know when your office plans to undertake them?
- 4. Lastly, has your office coordinated with the concerned barangays and municipal officials to determine the legitimacy of the extraction activities, including the authority by which the excavations were conducted?

We trust in your continued commitment to uphold lawful and sustainable development within the province and thank you in advance for your prompt response and attention to this matter.

For your reference, attached are the letters and investigation reports from DENR PENRO Leyte.

Should you require further details or wish to discuss this matter further, please do not hesitate to contact us at **elaceasternvisayas@gmail.com**. Thank you for your time and cooperation.

Sincerely,

ATTY. RAPAEL GREGGORRE T. PAJARES

Deputy Executive Director

Environmental Legal Ass/stance Center - EV

Copy Furnished:

OFFICE OF THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNOR

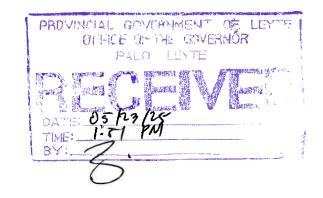
Province of Leyte

Leyte Provincial Government Complex, Palo, Leyte

SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN

Province of Leyte

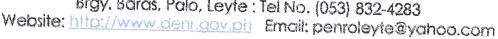
Leyte Provincial Government Complex, Palo, Leyte







Brgy. Baras, Palo, Leyte : Tel No. (053) 832-4283





21 April 2025

## HON. CARLOS JERICHO L. PETILLA

Governor Province of Leyte New Leyte Provincial Capitol Complex Palo, Leyte

ATTN: JOSE RAYMOND A. ACOL

Over-all Supervising Team Leader Provincial SAG Task Force

Dear Governor Petilla:

Environmental Greetings!

Respectfully endorsed herewith is the Investigation Report prepared by the composite team composed of personnel from the Mines and Geosciences Bureau Regional Office No. VIII (MGB RO VIII), the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO) - Leyte, and the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) - Palo, relative to the alleged illegal extraction activities in Guinhangdan Hill, Barangay San Jose, Palo, Leyte.

Said investigation was conducted on March 24, 2025, in response to the request of Board Member Atty. Ronnan Christian M. Reposar coursed through the OIC. PENR Officer.

The investigation confirmed the presence of ongoing extraction activities by Verlin Konstruct Inc. within the Crown Estates - Palo Project, despite restricted access to the site. An ECC has been issued for the project, but proper monitoring and regulatory compliance are recommended.

In view of the foregoing, the report recommends further investigation by the Environmental Management Bureau Regional Office No. VIII (EMB) and continued monitoring by concerned Local Government Units (LGUs) to ensure adherence to existing environmental and regulatory requirements.



We respectfully furnish your good office a copy of the Investigation Report for your reference and appropriate action.

Thank you for your continued leadership and commitment to environmental governance in the Province of Leyte.

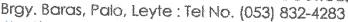
Sincerely yours,

OIC-RENR Officer / Chief, TSD



# Republic of the Philippines Department of Environment and Nature

# Department of Environment and Natural Resources PROVINCIAL ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES OFFICE



Website: http://www.denr.gov.ph Email: penroleyte@yahoo.com



21 April 2025

### HON. CARLOS JERICHO L. PETILLA

Governor
Province of Leyte
New Leyte Provincial Capitol Complex
Pala, Leyte

ATTN: JOSE RAYMOND A. ACOL

Over-all Supervising Team Leader
Provincial SAG Task Force

DATE 23 APR 2025

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**Environmental Greetings!** 

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We respectfully furnish your good office a copy of the Investigation Report for your reference and appropriate action.

Thank you for your continued leadership and commitment to environmental governance in the Province of Leyte.

Sincerely yours,

ENGR. WINSTON N SOLITE

OIC-RENR Officer / Chief, TSE



Brgy. Baras, Palo, Leyte: Tel No. (053) 832-4283

Website: http://www.denr.gov.ph Email: penroleyte@yahoo.com



#### MEMORANDUM

FOR

THE PENR OFFICER

This Office

THRU

THE CHIEF, TSD

This Office

FROM

THE UNDERSIGNED

SUBJECT

INVESTIGATION REPORT ON THE REQUEST FOR INSPECTION OF

DENR PENRO LEYTL

RECEIVED

DATE:

REF. NO.

ATTY. RONNAN CHRISTIAN M. REPOSAR ON THE ALLEGED

ILLEGAL EXTRACTION IN BRGY, SAN JOSE, PALO, LEYTE.

DATE

April 14, 2025

#### I. INTRODUCTION

On March 24, 2025, Board Member Atty. Ronnan Christian M. Reposar, through the OIC, Provincial Environment and Natural Resources (PENR) Officer, requested an investigation into the alleged excavation activity in Guinhangdan Hill adjacent to the housing project of Crown Estate Palo in Barangay San Jose, Palo, Leyte.

In response, a joint field investigation team was assembled, comprising personnel from the Mines and Geosciences Bureau Regional Office No. VIII (MGB RO VIII), the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO) – Leyte, and the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) – Palo. The team's primary objectives were to conduct an on-site assessment, verify the legitimacy of the reported activity, and formulate recommendations based on the collected data and relevant findings.

1.	Larry A. Mandras	FR/GSSU
2.	Belmer L. Lumba	FT1/MES Staff
3.	Engr. Kaye Rachelle E. Gaboy	SRS II, MGB RO No. VIII Embedded Personnel
4.	Joel B. Cartalla	FPO/MES Staff
5.	Jefferson G. Hisada	FPO/MES Staff
6.	Jorge T. Pontilla	FPO/MES Staff
7.	Vince Labaclado	FPO/MES Staff
8.	Jaspher John F. Mendoza	FPO/MES Staff
9.	For. Michael A. Masing	LMI/ CENRO - Palo

10. Leomar E. Uyvico	FR/ CENRO - Palo	
11. Adrouel D. Balais	FR/ CENRO - Palo	
12. Jypsy R. Garnale	FR/CENRO - Palo	
13. Felix S. Balintong Jr.	UW/ CENRO - Palo	

#### II. METHODOLOGY

The investigation was undertaken by the composite team on March 24, 2025, and conducted the following procedure:

- Coordination with the Local Government Unit (LGU) of Brgy. San Jose, Palo, Leyte.
- 2. Coordination with the Project Manager Engr. Amer Verlin.
- 3. Field/Ground Inspection which involved observations, actual/site validations, and photo documentation of the subject area.

#### III. ISSUE/S

1. Whether the alleged extraction is present in the subject area.

#### IV. FINDINGS AND OBSERVATIONS

- The undersigned conducted a courtesy visit to Hon. Leovigildo C. Amolo, Barangay Chairman of Barangay San Jose, Palo, Leyte, during which the following matters were discussed:
  - a. Hon. Amolo confirmed that the subject area is owned by Crown Estates. The ongoing extraction activities in the area are being undertaken by Verlin Konstruct Inc., represented by Mr. Verlin Tape.
  - b. He further stated that the site has been designated for subdivision development. Additionally, the barangay has issued a certification endorsing the issuance of a building permit for the project.
- 2. The investigation team, accompanied by Hon. Amolo, proceeded to the designated site for inspection and conducted an interview with Engr. Amer Verlin during which the following points were noted:
  - a. Engr. Verlin did not permit the team to enter the premises.
  - b. He denied any extraction activities, claiming that such reports were based on hearsay. He further stated that the property is secured by a bardcade.
  - c. Engr. Verlin requested that the team submit a formal written request for investigation, subject to approval by their main office, before access to the site could be granted.

3. An Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) information banner was posted within the vicinity.

ECC No.: ECC-OL-RO8-2024-0154

Issued to: CROWN ESTATES - PALO PROJECT of VERLIN KONSTRUKT INC.

Date of Issuance: September 16, 2024

- 4. Since the team are not allowed to enter the area. The team proceeded to the bridge near the subject area to take pictures of the said extraction, during which the following observations were made:
  - a. Ongoing extraction activities were observed at the site.
  - b. The presence of two (2) excavators were actively engaged in extraction activities.
- 5. During the investigation, the team had the opportunity to conduct an interview with a local resident, identified as Ms. Mery Miesco. Ms. Miesco provided valuable testimony, confirming that the land currently undergoing extraction operations is owned by the Crown Estates, specifically under the jurisdiction of Palo. She further indicated that the extraction activities have been ongoing for a duration of two months.

### V. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In view of the foregoing, the following are the recommendations, to wit:

- For the Environmental Management Bureau Regional Office No. VIII (EMB) to conduct further investigation and take appropriate action regarding the observed activities.
- 2. For the Local Government Units (LGUs) of the Province of Leyte, the Municipality of Palo, and Barangay San Jose should implement regular monitoring of the subject area to ensure compliance with environmental and regulatory requirements.
- For this Office to furnish a copy of the Investigation report to the Mines and Geosciences Bureau Regional Office No. VIII for record-keeping purposes.

Prepared by:

TARRY A MANDRAS

BELMER L. LUMBA FT1/MES Staff KAYE RACHELLE E. GABOY Embedded Personnel, MGB RO-VIII

JEFFERSON G. H. SAD.
FPO/MES Staff

VINCE LABACLADO
FPO/MES Staff

FOR MICHAEL A. MASING

ADROUEL D. BALAIS FR/CENRO - Palo

SEL CENRO - POLO

Noted by:

PAULINO M. MASAN JR. Chief. PENRO - Leyte MES JOEL B. CARTALLA
FPO/MES Staff

JORGE T. PONTILLA FPO/MES Staff

JASPHER JOHN F. MENDOZA FPO/MES Stoff

FR/CENRO - Palo

FELIX S. BALINTONG - V UW/CENRO - Palo

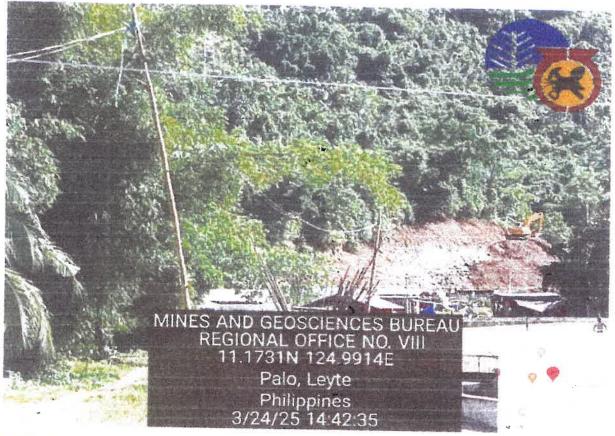
## PHOTO DOCUMENTATION



Photo 1. Courtesy call to Hon. Leovigildo C. Amolo



Photo 2. Interview with Engr. Amer Verlin





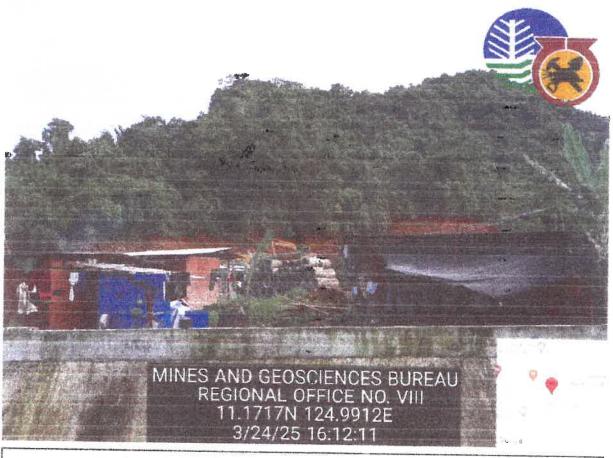


Photo 3-5. 3-5. Ongoing extraction in the subject area

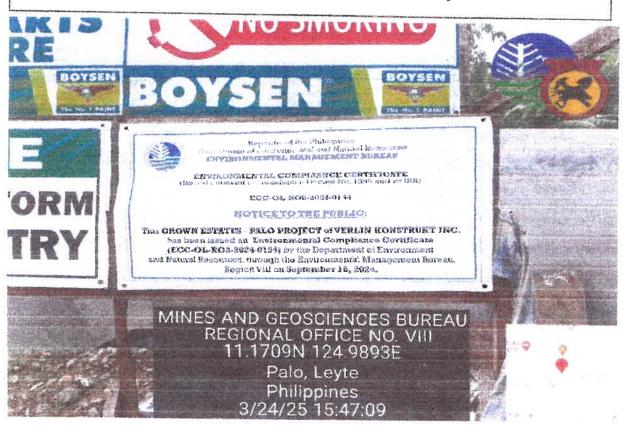


Photo 6. ECC posted outside the gate of Crown Estates - Palo Project



# Republic of the Philippines

## Department of Environment and Natural Resources PROVINCIAL ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES OFFICE

Brgy. Baras, Palo, Leyte: Tel No. (053) 832-4283

Website: http://www.denr.gov.ph Email: penroleyte@yahoo.com



DENR PENRO LEYTE

21 April 2025

HON. CARLOS JERICHO L. PETILLA

Governor Province of Leyte New Leyte Provincial Capitol Complex Palo, Levte

ATTN: JOSE RAYMOND A. ACOL

Over-all Supervising Team Leader Provincial SAG Task Force

Dear Governor Petilla:

This refers to the recent investigation conducted by this Office, in collaboration with MGB RO VIII and CENRO-Palo, relative to the request of Board Member Atty. Ronnan Christian M. Reposar regarding the alleged illegal quarry operation in Brgy. Zone 5, San Jose, Palo, Leyte.

The investigation validated that extraction and hauling activities are ongoing in the subject area without a valid permit, thereby violating Section 103 of R.A. No. 7942.

In view of the foregoing, this Office recommends for your Office, through the Sand and Gravel Task Force, to continue regular monitoring of the area.

Attached is a copy of the Investigation Report for your information and appropriate action.

Thank you for your continued support in the enforcement of environmental laws within the province.

Sincerely yours,



Brgy. Baras, Palo, Leyte : Tel No. (053) 832-4283

Website: http://www.denr.gov.ph Email: penroleyte@yahoo.com



DENK PERRO LEYTE

DATE:

TIME:

21 April 2025

HON. CARLOS JERICHO L. PETILLA

Governor
Province of Leyte
New Leyte Provincial Capitol Complex
Palo, Leyte

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Thank you for your continued support in the enforcement of environmental laws within the province.

Sincerely yours,

OIC PENR Officer / Chief, TSD



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Website: http://www.denr.gov.ph Email: penroleyte@yahoo.com



#### MEMORANDUM

FOR

THE PENR OFFICER

This Office

THRU

THE CHIEF, TSD

This Office

FROM

THE UNDERSIGNED

SUBJECT

INVESTIGATION REPORT ON THE REQUEST FOR INSPECTION OF

OWNR DENRO LEYTE

ATTY. RONNAN CHRISTIAN M. REPOSAR ON THE ALLEGED ILLEGAL EXTRACTION IN BRGY. ZONE 5, SAN JOSE, PALO,

LEYTE.

DATE

April 14, 2025

#### I. INTRODUCTION

On March 24, 2025, Board Member Atty. Ronnan Christian M. Reposar, through the OIC, Provincial Environment and Natural Resources (PENR) Officer, requested an investigation into the alleged illegal quarry operation in Barangay San Jose, Palo, Leyte.

In response, a joint field investigation team was assembled, comprising personnel from the Mines and Geosciences Bureau Regional Office No. VIII (MGB RO VIII), the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO) – Leyte, and the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) – Palo. The team's primary objectives were to conduct an on-site assessment, verify the legitimacy of the reported activity, and formulate recommendations based on the collected data and relevant findings.

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6. Jorge T. Pontilla	FPO/MES Staff
7. Vince Labaclado	FPO/MES Staff
8. Jaspher John F. Mendoza	FPO/MES Staff
9. For, Michael A. Masing	LMI/ CENRO-Palo
10. Leomar E. Uyvico	FR/ CENRO-Palo

11. Adrouel D. Balais	FR/ CENRO-Palo	
12. Jypsy R. Garnale	FR/CENRO-Palo	
13. Felix S. Balintong Jr.	UW/ CENRO-Palo	

#### II. METHODOLOGY

The investigation was undertaken by the composite team on March 24, 2025, and conducted the following procedure:

- Coordination with the Local Government Unit (LGU) of Brgy. San Jose, Palo, Leyte;
- 2. Interview with the staff of ABJ Design and Build
- 3. Field/Ground Inspection which involved observations, actual/site validations, and photo documentation of the subject area.

#### III. ISSUE/S

1. Whether the alleged extraction is present in the subject area.

#### IV. FINDINGS AND OBSERVATIONS

- The undersigned conducted a courtesy visit to Hon. Leovigildo C. Amolo, Barangay Chairman of Barangay San Jose, Palo, Leyte, during which the following matters were discussed:
  - a. Hon. Amolo confirmed that the extraction activities were undertaken by Ms. Virgle Deligero, a resident of Barangay Guindapunan, Palo, Leyte.
  - b. He also stated that a barangay resolution interposing no objection was issued to Mighty A's Construction and Hardware Supply, represented by Mr. Alquin Pazon, on June 3, 2024.
  - c. He further explained that Ms. Deligero intended to apply for a quarry permit. However, he was unaware of the current status of the application.
- 2. The investigation team, accompanied by Hon. Amolo, proceeded to the designated site for an inspection, during which the following observations were made:
  - a. The extraction is located beside the barangay road.
  - b. Ongoing extraction and material hauling activities were observed at the site.
  - c. The presence of five (5) excavators was noted. Of these, two (2) were actively engaged in extraction activities, two (2) were

attempting to recover a stranded excavator, and one (1) was inoperative due to being stuck in the mud. Additionally, two (2) dump trucks were observed transporting extracted materials.

d. Personnel from ABJ Design and Build clarified that they were only assisting in the retrieval of the stranded excavator and were not involved in the extraction activities.

#### V. ANALYSIS

Based on the findings gathered during the investigation, it was determined that the operation was conducted without a valid permit which constitutes a violation of Section 103 of R.A. No. 7942 that clearly states that:

"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. In the case of associations, partnerships, or corporations, the president and each of the directors thereof shall be responsible for the acts committed by such association, corporation, or partnership."

#### VI. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In view of the foregoing, the following are the recommendations, to wit:

- 1. For MGB RO No. VIII to conduct the following:
  - a. To issue a Cease-and-Desist Order and Show Cause Order to Ms. Virgie Deligero, Might A's Construction and Hardware Supply, represented by Mr. Alquin Pazon and ABJ Design and Build for engaging in illegal quarrying activities without a valid permit.
  - b. To deputize, upon request of the concerned agency, municipal and barangay officials of Palo, Leyte as well as members of the Philippine National Police as Mining Enforcement Officers to police all mining activities within the Municipality of Palo.
- 2. For the LGUs of Province of Leyte, Municipality of Palo, and Brgy. San Jose to conduct regular monitoring on the subject area.
- For this Office to furnish a copy of the Investigation report to the Mines and Geosciences Bureau Regional Office No. VIII and Provincial Sand and Gravel Task Force for their record.

Prepared by: KAYE RACHELLE E. GABOY Embedded Personnel, MGB RO-VIII JEFFERSON G(B) FPO/MES Staff VINCE LABACIADO FPO/MES Staff LMI/ Chie Law Enforcement Unit ADROUEL D. BALAIS FR/CENRO - Palo FRYCENRO - Palo Noted by:

PAULINO M. MASAN JR. Chief, PENRO Leyte MES BELMER L. LUMBA
FTI/MES Staff

JOEV B. CARTALLA
FPO/MES Staff

JORGE T. PONTILLA
FPO/MES Staff

JASPHER JOHN F. MENDOZA
FPOMES Staff

LEOMAR E. LIYVICO FR/ZENRO - Palo

FELIX S. BAINTONG UW/CENRO - Palo

#### PHOTO DOCUMENTATION



Photo 1. Courtesy call to Hon. Leovigildo C. Amolo

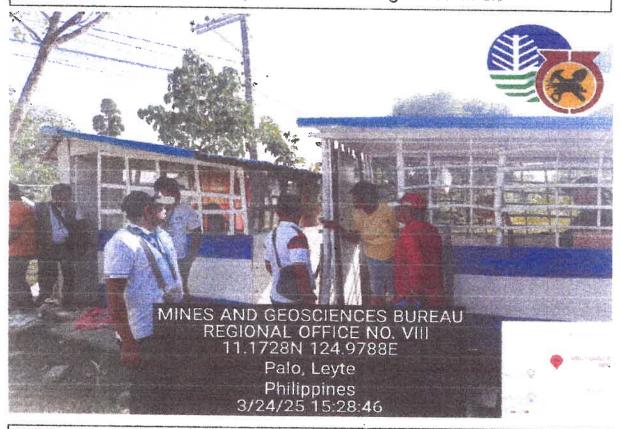
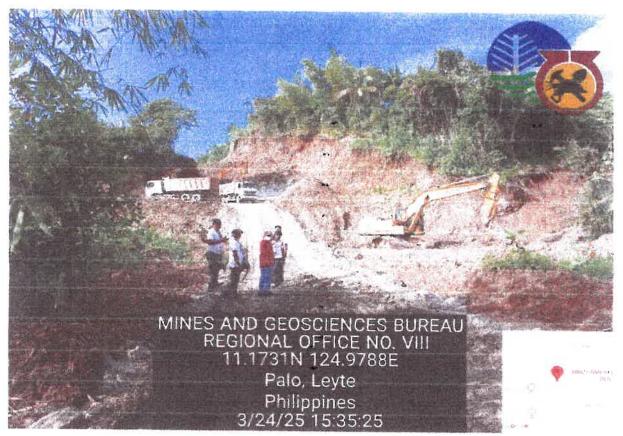
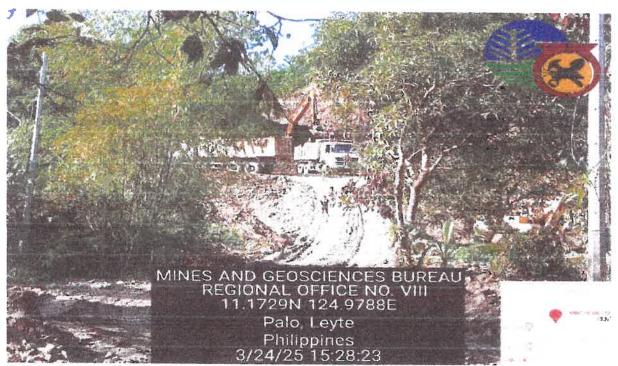


Photo 2. Interview with the staff of ABJ Design and Build





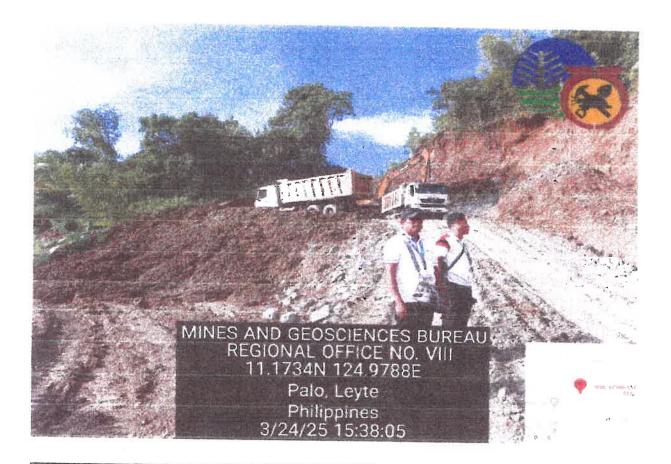


Photo 3-5. Ongoing extraction and hauling in the subject area by Mighty A's Construction and Hardware Supply.



Photo 6. Recovery of the stranded excavator by ABJ Design and Build.

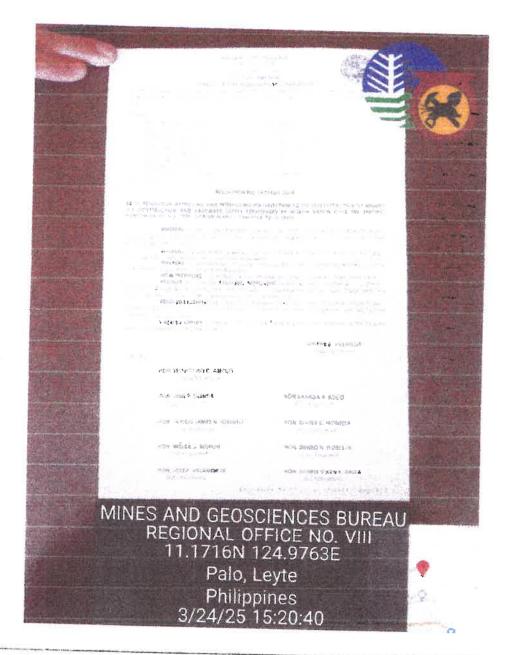


Photo 7. Barangay Resolution granted to Mighty A's



Brgy. Baras, Palo, Leyte: Tel No. (053) 832-4283

Website: http://www.denr.gov.ph Email: penroleyte@yahoo.com



CENT PENROLEYTE
RELEASED

DATE:

21 April 2025

HON, CARLOS JERICHO L. PETILLA

Governor
Province of Leyte
New Leyte Provincial Capitol Complex
Palo, Leyte

ATTN: JOSE RAYMOND A. ACOL

Over-all Supervising Team Leader Provincial SAG Task Force

Dear Governor Petilla:

**Environmental Greetings!** 

Respectfully forwarding herewith is the Investigation Report dated April 14, 2025, regarding the request of Board Member Atty. Ronnan Christian M. Reposar on the alleged illegal extraction activities in Brgy. Barayong, Palo, Leyte.

Said report contains findings and recommendations of the joint investigation conducted by representatives from PENRO-Leyte, CENRO-Palo, and MGB RO VIII.

We respectfully request your good office to review the findings and assist in the appropriate action relative to the monitoring and legitimacy of documents issued to Mr. Rey Emmanuel M. Condalor of Matalas Shooters Inc.

Thank you for your continued support to our environmental governance efforts.

Sincerely yours,

ENGR. WINSTON N. SOLITE
OIC-RENR Officer / Chief, TSD



Brgy. Baras, Palo, Leyte: Tel No. (053) 832-4283

Website: http://www.denr.gov.ph Email: penroleyte@yahoo.com



JENS DEHRU FEALE

RETURN

AFF. No.

#### MEMORANDUM

FOR

THE PENR OFFICER

This Office

THRU

THE CHIEF, TSD

This Office

FROM

THE UNDERSIGNED

SUBJECT

INVESTIGATION REPORT ON THE REQUEST FOR INSPECTION OF

ATTY. RONNAN CHRISTIAN M. REPOSAR ON THE ALLEGED ILLEGAL EXTRACTION IN BRGY. BARAYONG, PALO, LEYTE.

DATE

: April 14, 2025

### I. INTRODUCTION

On March 24, 2025, Board Member Atty. Ronnan Christian M. Reposar, through the OIC–PENR Officer, requested an investigation concerning alleged unauthorized excavation activities within a firing range near Kauswagan National High School, Brgy. Barayong, Palo, Leyte.

In response, a joint field investigation team was assembled, comprising personnel from the Mines and Geosciences Bureau Regional Office No. VIII (MGB RO VIII), the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO) – Leyte, and the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) – Palo. The team's primary objectives were to conduct an on-site assessment, verify the legitimacy of the reported activity, and formulate recommendations based on the collected data and relevant findings.

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8.	Jaspher John F. Mendoza	FPO/MES Staff
9.	For. Michael A. Masing	LMI/ CENRO-Palo
10	. Leomar E. Uyvico	FR/ CENRO-Palo
11	. Adrouel D. Balais	FR/ CENRO-Palo
12	. Jypsy R. Garnale	FR/CENRO-Palo

#### II. METHODOLOGY

The field investigation was conducted on March 24, 2025, and included:

- 1. Coordination with the LGU of Brgy. Barayong, Palo, Leyte;
- 2. Coordination and interview with Mr. Rey Emmanuel Condalor, President of Matalas Shooters Inc.;
- 3. Ocular inspection, site verification, and photo documentation.

#### III. ISSUE/S

Whether or not illegal extraction activities are being conducted within the subject area in Brgy. Barayong, Palo, Leyte.

## IV. FINDINGS AND OBSERVATIONS

- 1. During the courtesy call to Hon. Lorezyl A. Dolina, Barangay Kagawad, the following were noted:
  - a. Ongoing extraction was confirmed but reportedly ceased on February 27, 2025.
  - b. Hon, Dolina cited that a private gratuitous permit had been issued by the Province, but acknowledged that the permit had already expired.
  - c. A separate monitoring team from the Province also visited the area prior to the investigation.
- 2. Upon site inspection, the team observed:
  - a. One (1) excavator was present at the site;
  - b. The excavation was adjacent to the barangay road, with spillage of soil materials onto the roadway.
- Mr. Rey Emmanuel M. Condalor, President of Matalas Shooters Inc. confirmed:
  - a. The extraction was conducted as part of site development for their firing range;

- A letter of authorization was issued by the Governor's Office dated December 26, 2024, valid for 60 days or until depletion of materials;
- c. A second letter, dated March 25, 2025, was submitted to PENRO-Leyte with a new 30-day validity period.

#### V. CONCLUSION

The site development-related extraction was conducted based on the authorization issued by the Office of the Governor of Leyte. However, the said letter also requires compliance with applicable existing laws and regulations.

### VI. RECOMMENDATIONS

In view of the foregoing, the following are the recommendations, to wit:

- 1. For the EMB Regional Office No. VIII to assess potential violations of environmental laws and determine whether an Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) is required for the site development and disposal of excavated materials.
- 2. For the Provincial Government of Leyte and Municipality of Palo to:
- a. To monitor its authorized earth-moving or excavation activities.
- b. Ensure all authorizations or permits are covered by relevant ECC and other applicable laws, regulations, and clearances.
- 3. For the Barangay LGU of Barayong to conduct regular monitoring of the site and report any future extraction activities without official documentation.
- 4. For this Office to furnish copies of this investigation report to the Mines and Geosciences Bureau RO VIII and the Provincial Sand and Gravel Task Force for further verification and enforcement.
- 5. For this Office to furnish copies of this investigation report to the Provincial Local Government of Leyte through the Office of the Governor and the Provincial Sand and Gravel Task Force to check the legitimacy of the issued documents to Mr. Rey Emmanuel Condalor.
- 6. Should further extraction be necessary, the concerned party must be advised to secure proper permits and comply with regulatory requirements, including ECC acquisition if applicable.

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### PHOTO DOCUMENTATION

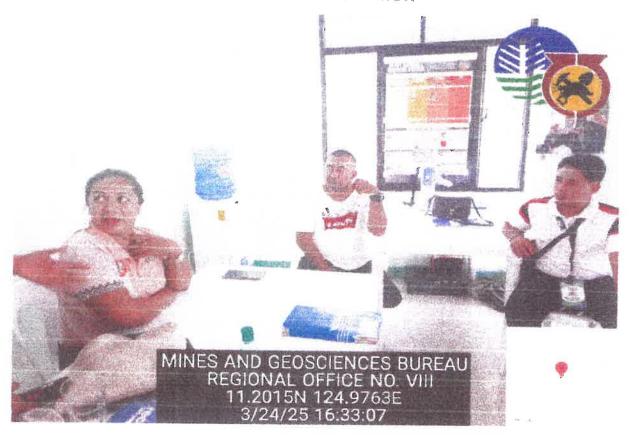


Photo 1. Courtesy call to Hon. Lorezyl A. Dolina



Photo 2. Interview with Mr. Rey Emmanuel M. Condalor



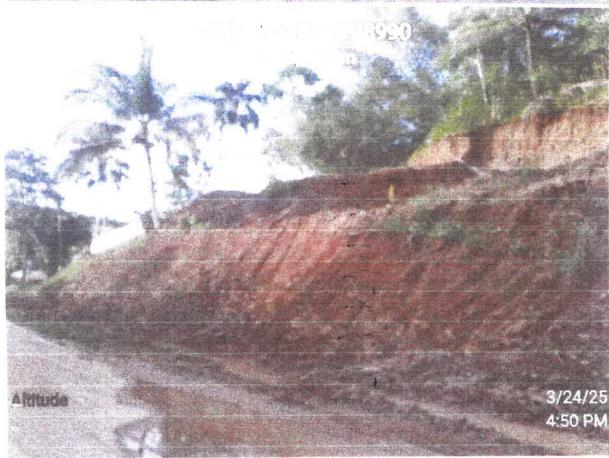




Photo 3-6. Photos of the subject area

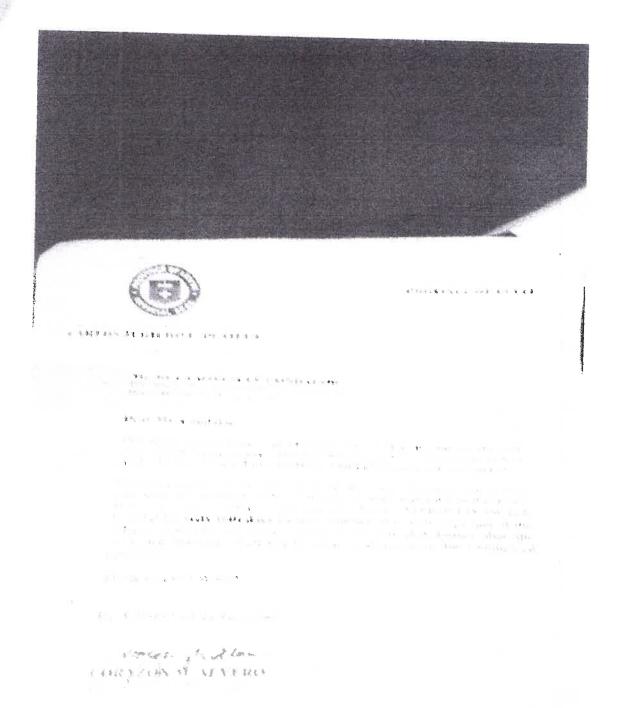


Photo 7. Photo of the letter issued by the Governor's Office dated December 26, 2024.

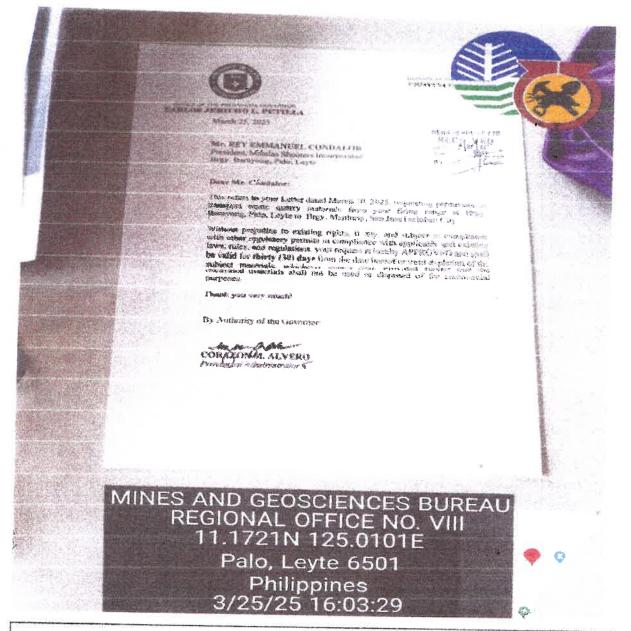


Photo 8. Photo of the letter issued by the Governor's Office dated March 25, 2025