



April 1, 2026

Ref.No. MGB-MMD-2026- 421

HON. LEONARDO M. JAVIER, JR.
Vice Governor/Presiding Officer
Office of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan
Province of Leyte
Provincial Capitol Building
Palo, Leyte

Mines and Geosciences Bureau
Candahug, Palo, Leyte

RELEASED

Date: 08 APR 2026

THRU: HC

By: [Signature]

PROVINCE OF LEYTE
LEGAL OFFICE

RECEIVED

By: [Signature]
Date: 4. 8. 26 Time: 4:24

Dear Hon. Javier:

This refers to Resolution No. 2026-700-A of the Office of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Leyte re: **A Resolution requesting the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB), the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the Local Government Unit of MacArthur to suspend any activities in relation to the black sand mining in MacArthur, Leyte pending compliance review**, in which the August Body resolved among others, to wit:

1. To REQUEST the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to conduct a compliance audit and environmental review of the said mining operations; and
2. To FORMALLY REQUEST the MGB, DENR, and LGU of MacArthur, to order the temporary suspension of any and all activities in relation to the mining operations pending the outcome of the compliance audit and environmental investigation, should substantial violations or risks to public safety and environmental integrity be established.

Relative thereto, please be informed that Strong Built (Mining) Development Corporation (SBMDC) is currently on a **Care and Maintenance Status** in view of its temporary suspension. While the suspension of the Office of the Mayor of MacArthur, Leyte has been lifted, SBMDC **remains suspended** pending the approval of the 3 Year Development/Utilization Work Program (3YD/UWP). Moreover, this Office together with the personnel from MGB Central Office will conduct the compliance audit and environmental review of the Mineral Production Sharing Agreement of Strong Built (Mining) Development Corporation denominated as MPSA No. 254-2007-VIII located in the Municipalities of Dulag, Mayorga, MacArthur, Javier, and Abuyog, all in the Province of

Leyte, covering an area of 7,411.5560 hectares, with a commodity of Magnetite, etc., granted on July 28, 2007.

This Office will formally communicate the scheduled details upon receipt of the official response from the Mines and Geosciences Bureau Central Office with regards to Memorandum dated April 1, 2026 (photocopy attached).

Thank you.

Very truly yours,



Digitally signed
by Glenn Marcelo
C. Noble
Date: 2026.04.07
15:48:37 +08'00'

GLENN MARCELO C. NOBLE
Regional Director



040726-R08-81588



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Mines and Geosciences Bureau
Office of the Regional Director



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
MINES AND GEOSCIENCES BUREAU
Regional Office No. VIII

MacArthur Park, Candahug, Palo, Leyte 6501
Tel. No. (+63 53) 832-4214; E-mail: region8@mgb.gov.ph; Website: region8.mgb.gov.ph



Ref. No. MGB-MMD-2026-406

MEMORANDUM

FOR : **THE OIC DIRECTOR**
Mines and Geosciences Bureau
North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City

ATTENTION : **THE CHIEF**
Mine Safety, Environment, and Social Devt. Division

THE CHIEF
Mining Tenements Management Division

FROM : **THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR**
Mines and Geosciences Bureau Regional Office No. VIII
Candahug, Palo, Leyte

SUBJECT : **REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE IN THE CONDUCT OF THE COMPLIANCE AUDIT AND ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW OF THE MINERAL PRODUCTION SHARING AGREEMENT OF STRONG BUILT (MINING) DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION DENOMINATED AS MPSA NO. 254-2007-VIII AS PER RESOLUTION NO. 2026-700-A OF THE SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN OF LEYTE**

DATE : April 1, 2026

Mines and Geosciences Bureau
Candahug, Palo, Leyte

RELEASED

Date: **06 APR 2026** Time: _____
THRU: mas
By: jea

This refers to Resolution No. 2026-700-A of the Office of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Leyte (photocopy attached) re: **A Resolution requesting the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB), the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the Local Government Unit of MacArthur to suspend any activities in relation to the black sand mining in MacArthur, Leyte pending compliance review**, in which the August Body resolved among others, to wit:

1. To REQUEST the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to conduct a compliance audit and environmental review of the said mining operations; and
2. To FORMALLY REQUEST the MGB, DENR, and LGU of MacArthur, to order the temporary suspension of any and all activities in relation to the mining operations pending the outcome of the compliance audit and environmental investigation, should substantial violations or risks to public safety and environmental integrity be established.

Relative thereto, may we kindly seek your assistance in the conduct of the compliance audit and environmental review of the Mineral Production

**"MINING SHALL BE PRO-PEOPLE AND PRO-ENVIRONMENT
IN SUSTAINING WEALTH CREATION AND IMPROVED QUALITY OF LIFE"**

Sharing Agreement of **Strong Built (Mining) Development Corporation** denominated as **MPSA No. 254-2007-VIII** located in the Municipalities of Dulag, Mayorga, MacArthur, Javier, and Abuyog, all in the Province of Leyte, covering an area of 7,411.5560 hectares, with a commodity of Magnetite, etc., granted on July 28, 2007.

May we request that this activity be treated with utmost priority due to the urgency and significance of the matter. In this regard, may we ask to promptly advise us of the preferred schedule for conducting the compliance audit and environmental review, so we can make the necessary preparations and coordination.

For the kind consideration of the OIC Director.


GLENN MARCELO C. NOBLE





Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF LEYTE
Palo, Leyte
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OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN

EXCERPTS FROM THE MINUTES OF THE 28th REGULAR SESSION OF THE 12th SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN OF LEYTE CONDUCTED AT THE SESSION HALL, LEYTE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT COMPLEX, PALO, LEYTE ON FEBRUARY 11, 2026.

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-700-A

A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE MINES AND GEOSCIENCES BUREAU (MGB) THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES (DENR) AND THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT OF MACARTHUR TO SUSPEND ANY ACTIVITIES IN RELATION TO THE BLACK SAND MINING IN MACARTHUR, LEYTE PENDING COMPLIANCE REVIEW.

WHEREAS, the Sangguniang Panlalawigan is vested with legislative authority under Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991, to enact measures to protect the environment and promote the general welfare of the inhabitants of the Province of Leyte;

WHEREAS, reports and complaints have been received from residents and stakeholders in the Municipality of MacArthur, Leyte, regarding alleged environmental impacts arising from ongoing activities in relation to the mining operation in the municipality of MacArthur, Leyte. Foreseen impacts include, flooding, soil erosion, siltation of waterways, damage to agricultural lands and irrigation system;

WHEREAS, while mining activities are regulated by the national government through the DENR and the Mines and Geosciences Bureau pursuant to Republic Act No. 7942 (Philippine Mining Act of 1995), local government units retain police power under the Local Government Code to ensure the protection of public health, safety, environmental integrity, and infrastructure within their territorial jurisdiction;

WHEREAS, it is imperative to determine whether any and all activities related to mining operations are strictly complying with the terms and conditions of their Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC), Mineral Production Sharing Agreement (MPSA) or other permits issued by the appropriate national agencies;

WHEREAS, there is a need to assess whether such operations are consistent with existing provincial zoning ordinances, environmental protection codes, disaster risk reduction policies, and infrastructure regulations;

NOW THEREFORE, on motion of Atty. Ronnan Christian M. Reposar, duly seconded by Honorable Wilson S. Uy,

BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED:

1. To REQUIRE the mining operator to present copies of its MPSA or mining permit, Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC), approved work program, and other relevant permit for verification;

Requesting MGB, DENR, LGU of MacArthur, Leyte

to suspend any activities in relation to the Black

Sand Mining in MacArthur, Leyte

2. To REQUEST the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) and the Department of Environmental and Natural Resources (DENR) to conduct a compliance audit and environmental review of the said mining operations;
3. To FORMALLY REQUEST the MGB, DENR, and LGU of MacArthur, to order the temporary suspension of any and all activities in relation to the mining operations pending the outcome of the compliance audit and environmental investigation, should substantial violations or risks to public safety and environmental integrity be established;
4. To FURNISH copies of this Resolution to the Office of the DENR Secretary, the Regional Director of MGB Regional VIII, the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB), and the Municipal Government of MacArthur for appropriate action.

Approved unanimously.

I HEREBY CERTIFY to the correctness of the foregoing resolution.


FLORINDA JILL S. UYVICO
Secretary to the Sanggunian

ATTESTED:


HON. LEONARDO M. JAVIER, JR.
Vice Governor/Presiding Officer

Copy furnished:

Secretary Rafael P.M. Lotilla
DENR Secretary
DENR Main Building, Visayas Avenue,
Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines, 1128

Mr. Glenn Marcel C. Noble
Regional Director - MGB VIII
MacArthur Park, Candahug,
Palo, Leyte

Engr. Alex D. Jimenez
Regional Director II
Environmental Management Bureau Region 8
Jones Ext. DENR Compound, Tacloban City

LCE and the Sagguniang Bayan
of MacArthur, Leyte