



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



Item No.:
Date: 21 2026 APR

BAGONG PILIPINAS

April 1, 2026

Ref.No. MGB-MMD-2026-407

MR. KWOK YAM IAN CHAN

President

Strong Built (Mining) Development Corporation

Price Mansion Compound, J. Romualdez St.

Corner Sto. Niño St., Tacloban City

Dear Mr. Chan:

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, please be informed that 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.

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).

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

Mines and Geosciences Bureau
Candahug, Palo, Leyte

RELEASED

Date: 06 APR 2026

THRU: HC

By: _____

Sangguniang Panlalawigan
Province of Leyte

RECEIVED

Date: APR 15 2026

By: Chua 3:55pm

Thank you.

Very truly yours,


GLENN MARCELO C. NOBLE
Regional Director

cc:

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



040126-R08-81486



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
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BAGONG PILIPINAS

Ref. No. MGB-MMD-2026-~~400~~

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

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



040128-R08-81487



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Office of the Regional Director



Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF LEYTE
 Palo, Leyte
 6000



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 RESOLUTION REFERRING TO THE SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES, COMMITTEE ON RULES, LAWS AND PRIVILEGES, COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND COMMITTEE ON DISASTER, RISK REDUCTION AND MANAGEMENT AND TO THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNOR'S OFFICE, RESOLUTION NO. 1, S. 2026 OF LIDAROIMMA IRRIGATORS' ASSOCIATION, INC. AND THE LETTER FROM UNLAD, FOR INVESTIGATION.

WHEREAS, submitted to the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Leyte are the following documents, to wit:



1. Resolution No. 1, Series of 2026 from LIDAROIMMA IRRIGATORS' ASSOCIATION INC. Barangay Liwayway MacArthur, Leyte entitled: **A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING STRONG OPPOSITION TO THE PLANNED MINING AND DREDGING OPERATIONS IN MACARTHUR, LEYTE AND DEMANDING THE IMMEDIATE HALT OF SAID ACTIVITIES TO PROTECT WATER RESOURCES, IRRIGATION SYSTEMS, FARMLANDS AND COMMUNITY LIVELIHOOD;**
2. Letter dated February 9, 2026 from Ms. **BERNARDITA C. MORCILLA**, Secretary General, UNLAD Convenor, Sama Kamo, PATROCENIA T. RAEL, AND RUBEN Y. MANAOG OF UNLAD addressed to the Sangguniang Panlalawigan thru Vice Governor Leonardo M. Javier, Jr. seeking assistance regarding the escalating mining activities particularly in Maya, Liwayway and San Pedro of the Municipality of MacArthur, Leyte which undermining the environmental safeguards, and jeopardize food security;

WHEREAS, the August Body deemed it proper to refer the said documents to the SP Committees on Environment and Natural Resources, Rules, Laws and Privileges, Agriculture, and Disaster Risk Reduction and Management for investigation;


NOW, THEREFORE, on motion presented by Atty. Carlo P. Loreto, duly seconded by Atty. Rannan Christiar M. Reposar, and Honorable Wilson S. Uy, be it

RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, to **REFER TO THE SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES, COMMITTEE ON RULES, LAWS AND PRIVILEGES, COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND COMMITTEE ON DISASTER, RISK REDUCTION AND MANAGEMENT AND TO THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNOR'S OFFICE, RESOLUTION NO. 1, S. 2026 OF LIDAROIMMA IRRIGATORS' ASSOCIATION, INC. AND THE LETTER FROM UNLAD, FOR INVESTIGATION.**

RESOLVED FURTHER TO REQUEST THE MINES AND GEOSCIENCES BUREAU (MGB) OF DENR REGIONAL OFFICE VIII AND THE LGU OF MACARTHUR, LEYTE TO SUSPEND FURTHER ACTIVITIES OF THE MINING COMPANY INVOLVED, PENDING INVESTIGATION.

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:

Hon. Carlos Jericho L. Fulilla
Governor - Province of Leyte

Hon. Leonardo M. Javier, Jr.
Chairperson - SP Committee on Environment
And Natural Resources

Atty. Rannan Christian M. Repasar
Chairperson - SP Committee on Rules, Laws and Privileges

Atty. Carlo P. Loreto
Chairperson - SP Committee on Agriculture and
Committee on DRRM

LCE and Sangguniang Bayan
of MacArthur, Leyte

Bernardito C. Marcillo
Secretary General, UNLAD
Convener, Sama Kamo



Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF LEYTE
 Palo, Leyte
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16 MAR 2026
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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:

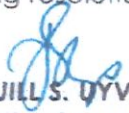
1. To REQUIRE the mining operator to present copies of its MPSA or mining permit, Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC), approved work program, and other relevant permit for verification;

Page 2 of 2 - Res. No. 2026-700-A dated February 11, 2026
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

FJSLJ/ASS
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