

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Iloilo
Municipality of Tigbauan

Office of the Sangguniang Bayan

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COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 2020-009

TO: The Honorable Presiding Officer and the Members of the August Body

BY: The Committee on Environmental Protection, Housing, Land Utilization, Zonification, Assessment & Expropriation c/o Hon. Neri T. Camiña

SUBJECT: re: Report on the Joint Field Inspection and River Assessment Conducted in the Portion of Sibalom River Traversing Barangay Bitas, Municipality of Tigbauan, Province of Iloilo submitted by Engr. KimLloyd Y. Manzanares, *Science Research Specialist I, MGB Embedded Personnel-PENRO Iloilo*.

"FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS:

1. *The Report on the Joint Field Inspection and River Assessment conducted by Engr. KimLloyd Y. Manzanares (together with the Provincial Government Environment and Natural Resources Office of Iloilo (PGENRO-Iloilo) and Environmental Management Bureau Regional Office VI (EMB RO-VI)) on November 26, 2019 in the portion of the Sibalom River traversing Barangay Bitas, Municipality of Tigbauan, Province of Iloilo was submitted to this SB Office last January 23, 2020 and copies were also furnished to the following:*

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|--|---|
| 1.) Engr. Raul A. Laput
Officer-In-Charge
Office of the Regional Director
Mines and Geosciences Bureau, Region 6
Queen City Garden Mall, J. de Leon St., Iloilo City | 4.) Atty. Ramar Neil V. Pascua
Regional Director
EMB, Region 6
Iloilo City |
| 2.) Atty. Arturo C. Cangrejo
OIC, PGENRO
PGENRO-Iloilo
Capitol Building, Muelle Looney, Iloilo City | 5.) Ms. Emelita P. Santuyo
Complainant
Sitio Banglid, Brgy. Bitas
Tigbauan, Iloilo |
| 3.) Mr. Leo Ledesma
Brgy. Captain
Brgy. Bitas, Tigbauan, Iloilo | |

2. *That the adoption of such Inspection and Assessment Report of the concerned agencies shall prevail.*
3. *That the Conclusion and Recommendations of said Joint Field Inspection Report were the following:*
 - a. *Sibalom River has changed its course for the past years. Comparison with the NAMRIA Reprinted 1993 Topographic Map, Scale 1:50,000, Tigbauan Quadrangle, Sheet No. 3452II and Google Earth Satellite Image reflected the change in the course of Sibalom River of the coverage area. Moreover, the ground survey conducted by the team also revealed the great changes in the course of Sibalom River traversing Brgy. Bitas, Tigbauan, Iloilo.*
 - b. *Bank scouring/erosions is a natural phenomenon that occurs as part of the morphological changes of rivers. Thus, whether there is quarrying activities or no quarrying activities, bank scouring/erosion can still occur.*

- c. *Bank scouring/erosions are the prevalent geo-hazards observed in the area. The bank scouring/erosion observed in the area is due to the following, to wit:*
- c.1 *Type of bank materials. The bank materials of the Sibalom River traversing Brgy. Bitas, Tigbauan, Iloilo is underlain by easily erodible earth materials. Bank stabilization must be employed in order to mitigate the occurrence of scouring/erosion. Moreover, proper buffer zone (5.0 meters) from both banks of the river must be observed.*
 - c.2 *The steepness of the slope. Bank scouring/erosion was observed at the left bank (going downstream) of Sibalom River located at the geographic coordinates of N10°42'26.4" latitude, and E122°22'49.2" longitude and the right bank (going downstream) of the river located at the geographic coordinates of N10°42'19.545" latitude, and E122°22'36.181" longitude. The slope of the bank is almost vertical. Bank stabilization must be employed in order to mitigate the occurrence of scouring/erosion. Moreover, proper buffer zone (5.0 meters) from both banks of the river must be observed.*
 - c.3 *Areas located at the outside of the curve of the meander wherein the maximum velocity of the river is located are highly susceptible to bank scouring/erosion. The left bank (going downstream) of Sibalom River located at the geographic coordinates of N10°42'26.4" latitude, and E122°22'49.2" longitude and the right bank (going downstream) of the river located at the geographic coordinates of N10°42'19.545" latitude, and E122°22'36.181" longitude of the aforesaid river in Brgy. Bitas are all located at the outside of the curve of the river. Bank stabilization measures and proper buffer zone (5.0 meters) from both banks of the river must be observed to mitigate the occurrence of bank scouring.*
 - c.4 *Scouring of both banks of the river was observed in areas wherein island bars were present. Island bars must be removed in order to prevent bank scouring/erosion. Moreover, removal of island bars will ensure the free flow of the river.*
- d. *Houses and establishments located near the banks of the river are in danger of collapsing. The bank materials are composed of erodible materials. The continuous action of the river at the base of the bank will cause the scouring at the base of the bank and subsequently will result to the collapse of the upper portion of the bank. Houses and establishments should not be constructed near the banks of the river. Proper buffer zone must be observed at the banks of the river. The Local Government Unit (LGU) of Brgy. Bitas and LGU-Tigbauan should further assess the houses and establishment near the embankments and give them the necessary guidance for their safety.*
- e. *The team observed traces of sand and gravel extraction at the geographic coordinates of N10°42'14.7" latitude, and E122°22'36.9" longitude. However, no approved sand and gravel permit was issued by PGENRO-Iloilo in that area. It is therefore recommended that no sand and gravel operation should be undertaken without an approved permit as **Section 2H.08. Quarry Permit** of the Revised Revenue Code of 2017, Provincial Ordinance No. 2017-145 which states to quote:
 "Section 2H.08. Quarry Permit- No person shall be allowed to extract quarry resources from the private and public lands, beds of seas, lakes, rivers, streams, creeks, and other public waters within the jurisdiction of the Province, without a permit issued under this Code."*
- f. *Based on the records of PGENRO- Iloilo, there are only three (3) approved sand and gravel permit in Brgy. Bitas, Tigbauan, Iloilo, to wit:*

- a. *Ms. Romelia Alinsasaguin is a Commercial Sand and Gravel permit holder CP-014 (19) PI (Ti) which is issued on February 1, 2019 and is valid until February 2, 2020 with approved total area of two (2) hectares. It has an approved annual extraction of 10,500 cubic meter. Total volume extracted is 5,406 cubic meter as of October 2019.*
- b. *Ms. Maria Anita Dela Cruz is an Industrial sand and gravel permit holder IP-01 (17) PI (Ti) which is issued on April 3, 2017 and is valid until April 4, 2020 with total approved area of 4.2168 hectares. It has an approved annual extraction of 10,500 cubic meter. Total volume extracted as of:*
2017-6581 cubic meter
2018-7425 cubic meter
2019-2,486 cubic meter as of October
- c. *Commercial Sand and Gravel application of Ms. Hayde Marie Gayapa has been approved on November 29, 2019 with the total approved area of 1.7196 hectares. It has an approved annual extraction of 8,000 cubic meter and ECC-OL-2019-0406 issued by the EMB RO-VI on July 8, 2019. It should be discussed during one of the Provincial Mining Regulatory Board (PMRB) of Iloilo meetings regarding her sand and gravel operation considering that downstream portion in the permit area is depleted as exposure of dalipe/hard pan is noted upon the inspection.*
- g. *Based on the plotted present river profile through arcGIS 10.3.1 software by the Geographic Positioning System (GPS) reading in both side of the riverbanks of the Sibalom River traversing Brgy. Bitas, Tigbauan, the sand and gravel permit areas in the said Barangay are confined within the riverbed.*
- h. *The possible Impacts of Stopping the quarrying operation in Sibalom River traversing Brgy. Bitas, Tigbauan, Iloilo are the following:*
 - a. *During rainy season the floodplain areas will be affected by flood and some areas could not recover from siltation.*
 - b. *The high elevation of the riverbed would trigger more destruction of properties and lives during flooding.*
 - c. *Heavy siltation could trigger to the change in course of the active river channel. The change in the course of active river channel could possibly affect the nearby lot properties in the area.*
- i. *Extraction of sand and gravel in the area should strictly follow all the conditions stipulated in their Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC).*
- j. *The extraction of materials should be supervised and monitored closely by the responsible government agencies especially by the LGU-Brgy. Bitas and should closely coordinate with the Municipal and Provincial Government Unit as Section 7 of the Provincial Ordinance No. 2017-145, 2017 Revised Code of Iloilo which states to quote:*
"Section 7. Enforcement. *Deputies of the Provincial Governor- The PENRO Provincial Legal Officer, Municipal Mayors, elements of the Philippine National Police and respective Punong Barangays shall be the deputies of the Provincial Governor in the implementation and enforcement of this ordinance and etc."*
- k. *The extraction should be designed leading to channeling the active river course to its desired direction. The desired width of the river that could accommodate the*

maximum volume of flood water during worst heavy downpour of rain should be studied, planned and lay-out. Proper mitigating measures at both embankments should be constructed to lessen the bank scouring/erosion in the area.

4. *That quarry operations shall be subjected to strict regulations and compliance to existing laws, rules and regulations, executive orders and particularly the Provincial Ordinance.*
5. *That the barangay is compelled to implement these laws, rules and regulations on quarrying.*
6. *That the quarry operators in Barangay Bitas may continue their quarry operations provided, they shall have to comply their obligations and responsibilities.*
7. *That the barangay officials are obliged to involve the petitioners in monitoring the quarry operation activities for transparency purposes.*
8. *That Barangay Bitas shall create the Barangay Quarry Task Force and submit its composition to the Office of the MENRO, PENRO and other government agencies concerned not later than two (2) months.*
9. *That Barangay Bitas and all the other respective Barangays in this municipality are encouraged to pass the needed brgy. ordinance regulating the quarry operations in their area.*

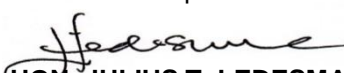
RECOMMENDATIONS:

Based on this Joint Field Inspection and River Assessment Report and as a result of the exhaustive deliberations during the two (2) hearings conducted by this committee, it is hereby recommended that the petition of Brgy. Bitas residents headed by Ms. Emelita P. Santuyo against the Quarry Permittees operating in said area shall be laid to rest."

Respectfully Submitted:

February 5, 2020, Tigbauan, Iloilo, Philippines


HON. NERI T. CAMIÑA
Chairperson



HON. JULIUS T. LEDESMA
Vice Chairman


HON. SUZETTE MARIE HILADO-BANNO
Member


HON. REYNALDO E. TUMABOTABO
Member


HON. NORBERTO T. TURALBA
Member

ATTESTED:


MARLENE TAYO-NAVA
S.B. Secretary

HON. VIRGILIO T. TERUEL, LAWYER
Municipal Vice Mayor

Sangguniang Bayan Members:

Hon. Dennis T. Valencia	Hon. Suzette Marie Hilado-Banno, <i>M.D.</i>	Hon. Ma. Gerrylin Santuyo-Camposagrado, <i>LAWYER, MPA</i>
Hon. NERI T. CAMIÑA	Hon. REYNALDO E. TUMABOTABO	Hon. Norberto T. Turalba
Hon. MARLON R. TERUÑEZ	Hon. Julius T. Ledesma, <i>O.D.</i>	Hon. Jerry T. Tuares, <i>Civil Engineer, (LnB-Pres.)</i>
		Hon. Dyossa Marie T. Teruñez, <i>SKMF President</i>

"Public office is a public trust. Public Officials must at all times be accountable to the people."