



Republic of the Philippines  
Department of Environment and Natural Resources Office  
CENRO FIELD OFFICE  
Semirara Island, Caluya, Antique

*Memorandum*

FOR: *The* OIC, PENROFFICER  
DENR - SAN JOSE, ANTIQUE

*Thru* CHANNEL

FROM: F. SUPERVISOR FREDDIE E. MAGTOTO  
OFFICER IN CHARGE  
CENRO FIELD OFFICE

DATE: 16 FEBRUARY 2009

SUBJECT:

RESULT OF THE INVESTIGATION/VERIFICATION  
CONDUCTED BY THE OIC, IN COMPLIANCE  
WITH PENRO MEMORANDUM ORDER DATED  
JANUARY 30, 2009, IN RELATION WITH THE  
PETITION/COMPLAINTS OF SITIO BIGO RESI-  
DENTS, BRGY. ALEGRIA, CALUYA, ANTIQUE.

ON FEB. 8, 2009, THE OIC, TOGETHER WITH  
MR. VICTOR A. CONSUNJI, PRES. OF SEMIRARA MI-  
NING CORP. (SMC), ENGR. JANISTO DIAZ OF ENVIRON-  
MENTAL UNIT *and* MR. TIMIE O. BIENES, HEAD OF THE  
COMMUNITY RELATIONS OFFICE CONDUCTED AN OCUL-  
LAR INSPECTION AT SITIO BIGO, TO VERIFY THE  
VERACITY OF THE SAID COMPLAINTS OF SITIO BIGO'S  
RESIDENTS ON THE ALLEGED SILTATION, WHICH ACCOR-  
DINGLY, AFFECTED/DAMAGED THE NATURAL GROWN  
MANGROVE FOREST *and* THEIR MAIN SOURCE OF LIVING  
WHICH IS SEaweeds (TAMBALANG) FARMING.

UPON ARRIVAL AT BIGO CREEK, WE WERE SUR-  
PRISED, BECAUSE WE SAW PLENTY OF PEOPLE, HARVES-  
TING *and* TRANSPLANTING THEIR SEaweeds. (PLS. SEE  
HEREIN ATTACHED PICTORIALS.)

IN ADDITION, THE GROUP FOUND OUT, THAT ALLEGATIONS OF THE PETITIONERS WERE NOT TRUE. AND, MORE OR LESS TWENTY EIGHT (28) SIGNATORIES OF THE LETTER COMPLAINT ADDRESSED TO DENR SECRETARY, HON. JOSE L. ATIENZA, WERE REALLY NOT RESIDENTS OF SITIO BIGO, BRGY. ALEGRIA, CALLUYA, ANTIQUE.

BEFORE, I PROCEED TO OTHER FINDINGS, PLS. LET ME CORRECT FIRST SOME MISINFORMATIONS AND WRONG ALLEGATIONS.

ON SAID PETITION PAPER DATED SEPTEMBER 6, 2008, THE COMPLAINANTS ALLEGED THE FF:

1) THAT THE SEMIRARA MINING CORPORATION(SMC) IS OPERATING ALREADY FOR MORE THAN TWENTY YEARS IN SEMIRARA ISLAND.

PLS. BE INFORMED, THAT IT WAS ONLY ON AUG. 12, 1999, THAT SEMIRARA MINING CORP. HAS STARTED THEIR MINING ACTIVITIES, BEC. THAT WAS THE TIME THEN DENR SECRETARY ANTONIO H. CERILLES, ISSUED THE SO-CALLED ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE CERTIFICATE OR ECC.

FURTHERMORE, IT WAS THE SEMIRARA COAL CORP(SCC), A GOVERNMENT OWNED AND CONTROLLED CORP.(GOCC) OPERATED AT UNONG MINES PRIOR TO THE OPERATIONS OF SEMIRARA MINING CORP.

HENCE, IT WAS THE SAME WASHING PLANT AND SILTATION PONDS OF THEN SCC, THAT WERE UTILIZED BY SEMIRARA MINING CORP. WHEN THEY STARTED THEIR MINING ACTIVITY AT PANIAN COAL MINE.

EARLY IN THE MORNING OF FEB. 9, 2009, THE GROUP AGAIN WENT BACK AT SITIO BIGO, FOR FURTHER INVESTIGATION AND TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE LOWTIDE, SO THAT WE CAN REALLY PROVE, IF THE REPORTED SILTATION AND DAMAGES IS REAL.

WE WENT DIRECTLY IN THE PLANTATION AREA

OF SITIO BIGO'S SEAWEEDES FARMERS LOCATED AT BONBON REEF.

FORTUNATELY, WE SAW THERE BRGY. KAGAWAD CEZAR DELA TORRE, ONE OF THE RESIDENTS AND PETITIONER OF SITIO BIGO. HE TOLD US THAT HE HARVESTED HIS SEAWEEDES, TO GET THE MATURED PARTS FOR DRYING AND SELECT AGAIN GOOD BRANCHES FOR ANOTHER SEED LINES (SEMILYA) FOR TRANSFER. IN ADDITION, DURING WITH THE INTERVIEW OF THE COMMUNITY RELATIONS OF FICER, MR. TIMIE O. BIENES, MR. CEZAR DELA TORRE TOLD HIM THAT THEY ARE LUCKY BEC. THEIR SEAWEEDES WERE HEALTHY AND FAST GROWING BEC. OF THE GOOD WEATHER CONDITION THAT IS FAVORABLE TO RAPID GROWTH OF THEIR TAMBALANG.

PLS. REFER TO ATTACHED PICTURE OF HON. REND. CEZAR DELA TORRE TALKING WITH MR. TIMIE BIENES FOR ALMOST ONE (1) HOUR.

WHAT HON. CEZAR DELA TORRE'S STATEMENT DURING CONVERSATION WITH THE GROUP WAS A CONTRADICTION, TO WHAT HE/THEY ARE SAYING IN THEIR PETITION/LETTER ADDRESSED TO HON. JOSE L. ATIENZA OF THE DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES (DENR)

HE ALSO TOLD, THAT ONLY A FEW DAYS AGO, HE HAD CALIGHT MORE THAN 2 KLS. OF BIG PRAWNS IN THE MANGROVE AREA IN FRONT OF SITIO BIGO.

SO, IT WILL BE UNFAIR FOR THE SEMIRARA MINING CORP. (SMC), IF ALL THE SILTATION IN SUJA CREEK WILL BE SINGLY BLAMED TO SMC, BEC. FROM 1980'S UP TO 2ND QUARTER OF 1999, IT WAS THE SEMIRARA COAL CORP. (SCC) OPERATED IN LINONG MINES LOCATED AT BRGY. TINOGBOC, CALUYA, ANTIQUE.

FOR THE SAKE OF FAIR AND HONEST REPORTING, PLS. BE INFORMED FURTHER, THAT SEMIRARA MINING CORP (SMC) IS A DIFFERENT ENTITY/OR CORPORATION, COMPARED TO SCC WHICH WAS A GOV'T. OWNED & CONTROLLED CORP.

The following were observed during the conduct of the ocular inspection, to wit:

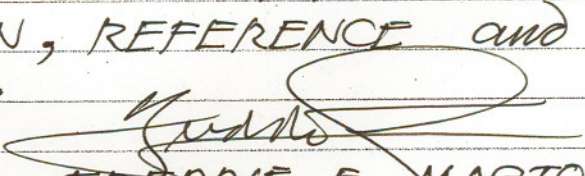
- 1) NO SILTATION IN THE NATURAL GROWN MANGROVE FORESTS, EITHER IN THE ESTABLISHED MAN-MADE MANGROVE PLANTATION OF SEMI-RARA MINING CORP., WITHIN THE AREA AND JURISDICTION OF SITIO BIGO, BRGY. ALEGRIA;
- 2) THAT THE BROWN COLOR OF THE SAND BENEATH AND UNDER THE MANGROVE PLANTATION IS NOT A SILTATION CAUSED BY THE MINING OPERATIONS, IT WAS A NATURAL SEDIMENTS WITH A MIXTURE OF SANDY LOAM AND CLAY, WHICH IS BUT ORDINARY TO ANY MANGROVE FORESTS STAND IN ANY PART OF THE COUNTRY;
- 3) THAT THERE'S NO DEAD MANGROVES IN BIGO CREEK OR EVEN IN TERRITORIAL WATER OR SHORELINE OF SITIO BIGO;
- 4) THERE'S STILL PLENTY OF SEA GRASSES, AS SHOWN IN THE ATTACHED PICTURES;
- 5) THE SEaweeds (TAMBALANG) PLANTATION OF SITIO BIGO RESIDENTS IN THE SEA WATER OF BIGO AND IN THE TIDAL FLAT/OR CORAL REEF COMMONLY KNOWN AS "BONBON REEF", WERE IN HEALTHY CONDITION AND GOOD QUALITY; AND
- 6) IT WAS THE COMPLAINANT/OR PETITIONER HIMSELF, BRGY. KAGAWAD CEZAR DELA TORRE, WHO TOLD US PERSONALLY THAT THEY ARE SO LUCKY NOW BECAUSE THEIR SEaweeds WERE FAST-GROWING AND IN HEALTHY/GOOD CONDITION.

Attached HERewith WERE CERTIFIED TRUE PICTORIALS OF THE MANGROVE FORESTS STAND, ALSO KNOWN AS NATURAL GROWN MANGROVES, THE MAN-MADE MANGROVE PLANTATION OF SEMIRARA MINING CORPORATION (SMC) INTENDED FOR REHABILITATION, THE SITTO BIGO RESIDENTS AND SEAWEEDES PLANTERS, THE TIDAL FLAT AND CORAL REEF COMMONLY KNOWN AS BONBON REEF WHEREIN THE SITTO BIGO FARMERS WERE PLANTING SEAWEEDES WITH SOME PLANTERS INCLUDING THE BRBY. KAGAWAD IN THE PERSON OF MR. CEZAR DELA TORRE.

SAID PICTURES / PHOTO DOCUMENTATION WILL SERVE AS SUPPORTING PAPER, THAT WILL TELL THE TRUTH BASED ON ACTUAL FACTS AND REALITY, AND NOT JUST BY A MERE ALLEGATIONS.

PLEASE BE NOTED ALSO, THAT PENRO MEMO RANDUM ORDER DATED JANUARY 30, 2009, WAS RECEIVED BY THE UNDERSIGNED, ONLY LAST FEBRUARY 5, 2009 AT AROUND 3 P.M.

FOR INFORMATION, REFERENCE AND APPROPRIATE ACTION.

  
FREDDIE E. MAGTOTO  
F. SUPERVISOR  
OFFICER IN CHARGE