



MEMORANDUM

FOR : **The Undersecretaries**
Field Operations – Luzon, Visayas and Environment
Integrated Environmental Science *Use CP*

The Directors
Legal Affairs Service
Policy and Planning Service
Climate Change Service
Knowledge and Information Systems Service

All Bureau Directors

The Regional Executive Directors
Region VIII, XI, XIII

The Administrator
National Mapping Resource and Information Authority

The Officer-in-Charge
Mines and Geosciences Bureau

FROM : **The Undersecretary**
Special Concerns and Legislative Affairs

SUBJECT : **INVITATION TO COMMITTEE MEETING AND CONSULTATIVE MEETING AND REQUEST FOR COMMENTS ON PENCAS BILLS, PROTECTED AREA BILLS AND HR NO. 778 "A RESOLUTION URGING THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE GAPS AND INCONSISTENCIES OF LAND USE AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT LAWS AND SUBSEQUENT MISUSE AND ABUSE, LEADING TO GROSS SOIL, WATER AND AIR POLLUTION IN FORESTLANDS, WATERSHED AND BUFFER ZONES IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF PALOMPON, PROVINCE OF LEYTE", FROM THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

DATE : 05 MAY 2023

In reference to the electronic mail received on 05 May 2023 from the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives is inviting the Department to a face-to-face Committee meeting on **15 May 2023 (Monday), 10:00 in the morning at Speaker Belmonte Hall, South Wing Annex, House of Representatives** to deliberate on the following:

I. National Bills

Philippine Ecosystem And Natural Capital Accounting System (PENCAS)

1. House Bill No. 73, entitled "An Act Institutionalizing The Philippine Ecosystem And Natural Capital Accounting System (PENCAS), Mandating Its Use In Policy And Decision-Making, Designating The Agencies Responsible For Its Implementation, Providing Institutional Arrangements Among Responsible Agencies, Appropriating Funds Therefore And For Other Purposes", authored by Rep. Jose Francisco "Kiko" B. Benitez, PhD.; and
2. House Bill No. 2604, entitled "An Act Institutionalizing The Philippine Ecosystem And Natural Capital Accounting System (PENCAS), Mandating Its Use In Policy And Decision-Making, Designating The Agencies Responsible For Its Implementation, Providing Institutional Arrangements Among Responsible Agencies, Appropriating Funds Therefor And For Other Purposes", authored by Rep. Antonio "AA" B. Legarda.

II. Local Bills

1. Panaon Island Protected Area

- a) House Bill No. 3743, entitled "An Act Declaring The Panaon Island And Its Surrounding Areas, Situated In The Province Of Southern Leyte As Protected Seascope, Pursuant To Republic Act 11038, Otherwise Known As The Expanded National Integrated Protected System (ENIPAS) Act Of 2018", by Rep. Luz Mercado;
- b) House Bill No. 4095, entitled "An Act Declaring The Panaon Island And Its Surrounding Areas, Situated In The Province Of Southern Leyte As Protected Seascope, Pursuant To Republic Act 11038, Otherwise Known As The Expanded National Integrated Protected System (ENIPAS) Act Of 2018", by Rep. Christopherson "Coco" M. Yap;
- c) House Bill No. 6677, entitled "An Act Declaring The Waters Surrounding Panaon Island, In The Province Of Southern Leyte, A Protected Area With The Category Of Protected Seascope Under The National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS), To Be Referred To As The Panaon Island Protected Seascope, Providing For Its Management, And Appropriating Funds Therefor" by Rep. Christopherson "Coco" M. Yap;

2. House Bill No. 7160, entitled "An Act Declaring A Parcel Of Land Located In The Municipalities Of Palompon, Matag-Ob And Villaba In The Province Of Leyte, A Protected Area With The Category Of Protected Landscape Under The National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS), To Be Referred To As The Palompon Protected Landscape, Providing For Its Management, And Appropriating Funds Therefor", authored by Rep. Richard I. Gomez, DPA

Part II.

III. Inquiry in Aid of Legislation:

House Resolution No. 778

"A Resolution Urging The House Committee On Natural Resources To Conduct An Inquiry, In Aid Of Legislation, Into The Gaps And Inconsistencies Of Land Use And Environmental Management Laws And Subsequent Misuse And Abuse, Leading To Gross Soil, Water And Air Pollution In Forestlands, Watershed And Buffer Zones In The Municipality Of Palompon, Province of Leyte", authored by Rep. Richard I. Gomez, DPA

In this regard, we would like to request your **comments/recommendations** on the above-mentioned measures. Kindly submit it on **or before May 9, 2023, at 5 PM** via email at denrlo@denr.gov.ph for the drafting of the position paper requested by the Committee due on May 12, 2023.

Further, to be prepared for the upcoming Committee Meeting, we are inviting you or your representative for a consultative meeting to discuss the aforementioned measures on **May 10, 2023, 10:00 AM, at the 5th Floor, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Policy, Planning and Foreign Assisted and Special Projects Conference Room, DENR Central Office**. Lastly, kindly inform us of the name/s of the representative/s from your office who will participate in the meeting so we may include him/her/them as resource person/s.

Attached herewith are the invitation letter, agenda, and the House Resolution. For your perusal, the materials for the meeting may be accessed through this link <https://bit.ly/3pa4bPd>.

Your attendance is highly encouraged.

Traveller,


IGNATIUS LOYOLA A. RODRIGUEZ



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Committee on Natural Resources

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☎ +63 (2) 8931-5001 local 7161; Telefax: +63(2) 8951-3003
committee.naturalresources@house.gov.ph, naturalresources.hrep@gmail.com

4 May 2023

ATTY. JONAS R. LEONES, CESO I

Undersecretary for Policy, Planning, and International Affairs
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
DENR Bldg. Visayas Avenue, Diliman,
Quezon City

Dear Undersecretary Leones:

The Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives will be holding a face-to-face Committee Meeting on **15 May 2023 (Monday), 10:00 in the morning at Speaker Belmonte Hall, South Wing Annex, House of Representatives.**

In light of this, we would like to invite you or your authorized representative to attend the said meeting and shed light on the following:

I. National Bills

A. Philippine Ecosystem And Natural Capital Accounting System (PENCAS)

- a. **House Bill No. 73**, entitled "An Act Institutionalizing The Philippine Ecosystem And Natural Capital Accounting System (PENCAS), Mandating Its Use In Policy And Decision-Making, Designating The Agencies Responsible For Its Implementation, Providing Institutional Arrangements Among Responsible Agencies, Appropriating Funds Therefore And For Other Purposes", authored by **Rep. Jose Francisco "Kiko" B. Benitez, PhD.**; and
- b. **House Bill No. 2604**, entitled "An Act Institutionalizing The Philippine Ecosystem And Natural Capital Accounting System (PENCAS), Mandating Its Use In Policy And Decision-Making, Designating The Agencies Responsible For Its Implementation, Providing Institutional Arrangements Among Responsible Agencies, Appropriating Funds Therefor And For Other Purposes", authored by **Rep. Antonio "AA" B. Legarda.**

II. Local Bills

1. Panaon Island Protected Area

- a. **House Bill No. 3743**, entitled "An Act Declaring The Panaon Island And Its Surrounding Areas, Situated In The Province Of Southern Leyte As Protected Seascape, Pursuant To Republic Act 11038, Otherwise Known As The Expanded National Integrated Protected System (ENIPAS) Act Of 2018", by **Rep. Luz Mercado**;
- b. **House Bill No. 4095**, entitled "An Act Declaring The Panaon Island And Its Surrounding Areas, Situated In The Province Of Southern Leyte As

Protected Seascape, Pursuant To Republic Act 11038, Otherwise Known As The Expanded National Integrated Protected System (ENIPAS) Act Of 2018”, by **Rep. Christopherson “Coco” M. Yap**;

- c. **House Bill No. 6677**, entitled “An Act Declaring The Waters Surrounding Panaon Island, In The Province Of Southern Leyte, A Protected Area With The Category Of Protected Seascape Under The National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS), To Be Referred To As The Panaon Island Protected Seascape, Providing For Its Management, And Appropriating Funds Therefor” by **Rep. Christopherson “Coco” M. Yap**;
2. **House Bill No. 7160**, entitled “An Act Declaring A Parcel Of Land Located In The Municipalities Of Palompon, Matag-Ob And Villaba In The Province Of Leyte, A Protected Area With The Category Of Protected Landscape Under The National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS), To Be Referred To As The Palompon Protected Landscape, Providing For Its Management, And Appropriating Funds Therefor”, **authored by Rep. Richard I. Gomez, DPA**

Part II.

III. Inquiry in Aid of Legislation:

House Resolution No. 778

“A Resolution Urging The House Committee On Natural Resources To Conduct An Inquiry, In Aid Of Legislation, Into The Gaps And Inconsistencies Of Land Use And Environmental Management Laws And Subsequent Misuse And Abuse, Leading To Gross Soil, Water And Air Pollution In Forestlands, Watershed And Buffer Zones In The Municipality Of Palompon, Province of Leyte”, **authored by Rep. Richard I. Gomez, DPA**

We would like to request the submission of your **position paper** on the aforementioned measures, or a draft thereof, on or before **12 May 2023**, in order to give the Committee Members enough time to read through the materials. Attached herewith is a copy of the House Bills, for your kind reference.

For confirmation of attendance or further inquiries, the Committee may be reached at committee.naturalresources@house.gov.ph. We are looking forward to having a fruitful discussion with you on the said measures. Thank you very much!

Very truly yours,



HON. ELPIDIO F. BARZAGA JR.

Chairperson

Committee on Natural Resources

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES
May 15, 2023 (Monday), 10:00 AM
Speaker Belmonte Hall, South Wing Annex
House of Representatives

REGULAR COMMITTEE MEETING
(Face-to-Face Meeting)

AGENDA

- I. **Call to Order/Roll Call/Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting**
- II. **Acknowledgment of Members and Resource Persons**
- III. **Opening Remarks of the Chairperson**
Hon. Elpidio F. Barzaga Jr.
4th District Cavite

Part I:

- IV. **Consideration of the following measures:**
 - A. **National Bills – *Philippine Ecosystem And Natural Capital Accounting System (PENCAS)***
 1. **House Bill No. 73**, entitled “An Act Institutionalizing The Philippine Ecosystem And Natural Capital Accounting System (PENCAS), Mandating Its Use In Policy And Decision-Making, Designating The Agencies Responsible For Its Implementation, Providing Institutional Arrangements Among Responsible Agencies, Appropriating Funds Therefore And For Other Purposes”, authored by **Rep. Jose Francisco “Kiko” B. Benitez, PhD.**; and
 2. **House Bill No. 2604**, entitled “An Act Institutionalizing The Philippine Ecosystem And Natural Capital Accounting System (PENCAS), Mandating Its Use In Policy And Decision-Making, Designating The Agencies Responsible For Its Implementation, Providing Institutional Arrangements Among Responsible Agencies, Appropriating Funds Therefor And For Other Purposes”, authored by **Rep. Antonio “AA” B. Legarda.**

B. Local Bills – Panaon Island Protected Area

1. **House Bill No. 3743**, entitled “*An Act Declaring The Panaon Island And Its Surrounding Areas, Situated In The Province Of Southern Leyte As Protected Seascope, Pursuant To Republic Act 11038, Otherwise Known As The Expanded National Integrated Protected System (ENIPAS) Act Of 2018*”, by **Rep. Luz Mercado**;
2. **House Bill No. 4095**, entitled “*An Act Declaring The Panaon Island And Its Surrounding Areas, Situated In The Province Of Southern Leyte As Protected Seascope, Pursuant To Republic Act 11038, Otherwise Known As The Expanded National Integrated Protected System (ENIPAS) Act Of 2018*”, by **Rep. Christopherson “Coco” M. Yap**;
3. **House Bill No. 6677**, entitled “*An Act Declaring The Waters Surrounding Panaon Island, In The Province Of Southern Leyte, A Protected Area With The Category Of Protected Seascope Under The National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS), To Be Referred To As The Panaon Island Protected Seascope, Providing For Its Management, And Appropriating Funds Therefor*” by **Rep. Christopherson “Coco” M. Yap**;

V. Initial Deliberation of the following local bill:

House Bill No. 7160, entitled “*An Act Declaring A Parcel Of Land Located In The Municipalities Of Palompon, Matag-Ob And Villaba In The Province Of Leyte, A Protected Area With The Category Of Protected Landscape Under The National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS), To Be Referred To As The Palompon Protected Landscape, Providing For Its Management, And Appropriating Funds Therefor*”, **authored by Rep. Richard I. Gomez, DPA**

Part II.

VI. Inquiry in Aid of Legislation:

House Resolution No. 778

“*A Resolution Urging The House Committee On Natural Resources To Conduct An Inquiry, In Aid Of Legislation, Into The Gaps And Inconsistencies Of Land Use And Environmental Management Laws And Subsequent Misuse And Abuse, Leading To Gross Soil, Water And Air Pollution In Forestlands, Watershed And Buffer Zones In The Municipality Of Palompon, Province of Leyte*”, **authored by Rep. Richard I. Gomez, DPA**

Resource Persons

1. Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)
2. National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA)
3. Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA)

4. Forest Management Bureau (FMB)
5. Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB)
6. National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (NAMRIA)
7. Land Management Bureau (LMB)
8. Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB)
9. Environmental Management Bureau (EMB)
10. National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP)
11. Concerned LGUs