



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES
KAGAWARAN NG KAPALIGIRAN AT LIKAS YAMAN



MEMORANDUM

FOR : **The Undersecretaries**
Field Operations – Luzon, Visayas, and Environment
Field Operations-Mindanao and Environment
Legal and Administration

The Head Executive Assistant
Head Executive Assistant Office

The Assistant Secretary
Legal Affairs

The Bureau Directors
Environmental Management Bureau
Biodiversity Management Bureau

The Director
Legal Affairs Service
Legislative Liaison Office

The Regional Executive Directors
Regions IV-A, VII, XI, XII, CARAGA

The Regional Directors
Environmental Management Bureau Regional Office
Regions IV-A, VII, XI, XII, CARAGA

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

SUBJECT : **COORDINATION MEETING IN PREPARATION FOR THE SENATE PUBLIC HEARING AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES MEETING/ BRIEFING REGARDING ISSUES ON CHOCOLATE HILLS NATURAL MONUMENT, UPPER MARIKINA RIVER BASIN PROTECTED LANDSCAPE, SIARGAO ISLAND PROTECTED LANDSCAPE AND SEASCAPE, AND MOUNT APO NATURAL PARK**

DATE : **APR 01 2024**

In preparation for the scheduled public hearing of the Senate Committee on Environment Natural Resources and Climate Change joint with the Committee on Local Government public hearing on Wednesday, 03 April 2024, 10:00 AM and the upcoming meeting/ briefing of the House Committee on Natural Resources, and as instructed by the Office of the Secretary, a coordination meeting is hereby scheduled on Tuesday, 02 April 2024, 3:30 PM at Seda Manila Bay, Parañaque, Metro Manila.

The meeting shall facilitate discussions and preparations for the congressional public hearing and meeting regarding the issues on Chocolate Hills Natural Monument, Upper Marikina River Basin Protected Landscape, Siargao Island Protected Landscape and Seascape, and Mount Apo Natural Park.

In this regard, we respectfully invite and require your presence at the coordination meeting. Further, we request your respective offices to furnish the Legislative Liaison Office (LLO) with all reports, positions, and comments related to the above-mentioned resolutions on or before 02 April 2024, 7 PM for their proper transmission to the Committee.

Kindly confirm your attendance and send the documents to the LLO via email at denrlo@denr.gov.ph. The Senate Resolutions may be accessed through this link: <https://tinyurl.com/SCENRCCResolutions>.

For information and compliance, please.


IGNATIUS LOYOLA A. RODRIGUEZ



Republic of the Philippines
SENATE
Pasay City

**COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES
AND CLIMATE CHANGE**

March 26, 2024

SECRETARY MARIA ANTONIA YULO-LOYZAGA
Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)

Dear *Secretary Loyzaga*:

The Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change, joint with the Committee on Local Government will conduct a **Public Hearing, *In aid of legislation***, on **Wednesday, 3 April 2024, 10:00 A.M.** at the **Sen. G.T. Pecson Room, 2nd Floor**, Senate of the Philippines, Pasay City, to discuss the following:

- 1) **P.S. Res. No. 967** – Resolution Directing the Proper Senate Committees to Conduct an Inquiry, In Aid of Legislation, on the Reported Construction of Structures Within the Vicinity of the Chocolate Hills, with the End in View of Preserving Bohol's Protected Area and Major Tourist Attraction, *introduced by Sen. Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay*;
- 2) **P.S. Res. No. 970** – Resolution Directing the Appropriate Committee/s of the Senate, to Conduct an Inquiry into Reports on the Destruction of Chocolate Hills and Defacement by Tourist Resorts and Other Projects, *introduced by Sen. Joel Villanueva*;
- 3) **P.S. Res. No. 973** - Resolution Urging the Appropriate Senate Committee to Conduct an Inquiry in Aid of Legislation into the Construction of Resorts Within the Chocolate Hills Natural Monument (CHNM) With the End View of Reviewing Existing Policies, Procedures, and Standards to Ensure the Conservation and Protection of Our Protected Areas, *introduced by Sen. Loren Legarda*
- 4) **P.S. Res. No. 976** - Resolution Directing the Appropriate Senate Committee to Conduct an Inquiry, In Aid of Legislation, on The Management Practices, the Presence of Tenurial Agreements, and the

Protection Mechanisms or the Lack Thereof, Accorded to the Country's Protected Areas, In Light of Distressing Reports of Exploitation or Defacement of Certain Protected Areas, Such as the Upper Marikina River Basin Protected Landscape in Rizal, the Siargao Island Protected Landscape and Seascape in Surigao Del Norte, the Chocolate Hills Natural Monument in the Province of Bohol, the Mount Apo Natural Park in the Provinces of North Cotabato and Davao Del Sur, and Davao City Among Others, *introduced by Sen. Cynthia A. Villar; and*

- 5) ***Privilege speech of Sen. Raffy T. Tulfo*** on the issues of illegal resort development and the environmental challenges besetting the Mt. Apo National Reserve, delivered in the plenary session last 18 March 2024.

In order to clarify issues on the aforementioned, your honor's physical presence in the hearing is requested.

Your agency's **position paper and/or a 5-minute PowerPoint presentation** on the said resolutions and speech is likewise solicited as part of our senators' briefer. Please send us an advance copy of the same through e-mail at senateenviandnatres@gmail.com.

Should you have further inquiries, you may reach Ms. Eloisa Tecson, Assisting Committee Secretary through text/viber at 09278409861.

We appreciate your attention on our requests.

Very truly yours,

**FOR THE CHAIRPERSON:
SEN. CYNTHIA A. VILLAR**


CHARLYNE CLAIRE FUENTES-OLAY
Legislative Committee Secretary