



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



MEMORANDUM

FOR : **The Undersecretary**
Field Operations for Luzon, Visayas and Environment

The Director
Legal Affairs Service

The Bureau Directors
Biodiversity Management Bureau
Environmental Management Bureau

The Regional Executive Director
Region VIII

The Regional Director
Environmental Management Bureau Region VIII

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

SUBJECT : **REQUEST FOR COMMENT AND APPROPRIATE ACTION FROM THE OFFICE OF SENATOR RISA HONTIVEROS RE: SEAWALL CONSTRUCTION IN BRGY. LALAWIGAN, BORONGAN CITY EASTERN SAMAR, DESTROYING THE BEACH AND PART OF THE CORAL ROCKS ALONG AND BELOW THE SHORELINE**

DATE : **APR 15 2024**

The Office of Senator Risa Hontiveros is requesting comment and appropriate action to the letter complaint from Ms. Eva Marie Siatela, a native of Borongan, Eastern Samar, seeking help to stop the ongoing Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) Region VIII project of seawall construction which involves digging up and destroying the beaches, coral reef systems and parts of the natural coral rocks along and below the shoreline of Barangay Lalawigan, Borongan City.

In this regard, we respectfully request that the action/s on the above request be coursed through the Legislative Liaison Office for proper submission to the Office of Senator Hontiveros. Attached herewith is the letter of complaint from Ms. Siatela.

For information and appropriate action.


IGNATIUS LOYOLA A. RODRIGUEZ



Policy-Legislation Unit OSRH <legisrhb@gmail.com>

SAVE LALAWIGAN BEACH & NATURAL SHORELINE (Borongan City, Eastern Samar)

ems0713 <ems0713@gmail.com>

Mon, Apr 1, 2024 at 8:30 AM

To: legisrhb@gmail.com

Cc: jaye.bekema@gmail.com, Teresitadala@yahoo.com

Hon. Senator Rissa Hontiveros
Office of the Senate of the Philippines
GSIS Building, Diosdado Macapagal Boulevard, Pasay,
M. Manila

Dear Sen. Rissa,

I am Eva Marie Siatela a native of Borongan, Eastern Samar and currently residing in Biñan City Laguna. I am writing n behalf of our beloved hometown particularly the residents Barangay Lalawigan, Borongan City. We are URGENTLY SEEKING YOUR HELP THROUGH YOUR OFFICE TO STOP A DPWH REGION 8 PROJECT FROM DESTROYING OUR BEACHES, CORAL REEF SYSTEMS AND PARTS OF NATURAL CORAL ROCKS ALONG AND BELOW THE SHORELINE OF THE BARANGAY.

The ongoing project which we vehemently opposed to:

1. The building of a Flood Control Structure (seawall) along along the stretch of Borongan -Guiuan Road KM0945+549+549 - KM0945-879 located at Barangay Lalawigan, Borongan City.
2. This project was issued a Certificate of Non-Coverage (CNC) by DENR Region 8; started and implement along the shoreline of Barangay Lalawigan WITHOUT prior or proper consultation with residents or bereft of any known study made on its feasibility, economic impact and effect on the marine life bio-diversity of the place in violation of the Local Government Code.
3. As of this writing the DPWH contractor has already dug up and destroyed parts of the coral rocks off the shore to be used as materials for building the reclamation foundation of the seawall. The coral rocks below the shoreline are are actually serving as natural breakwater from waves coming in from the sea. These also are the breeding grounds and habitat of various marine life iin the area.
4. It is heartbreaking for the residents have to watch the beautiful beaches being ruined before their very eyes because the planned walls are being constructed are right smack on the beach itself very near the water line.
5. The residents and visitors of Borongan City will be and are being deprived of the enjoyment of the natural beauty and use of the last open beach in the city.

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6. The fishermen of Dvinubo Island across Borongan Bay will also be deprived from docking on the beach in order to sell their catch at the town center. The beach is the nearest crossing and safest access from the island to the mainland of Borongan.

7. It must be noted also that even LGU Borongan and DPWH Eastern Samar Engineering District were not involved and privy in the planning, much less in the implementation as this flood control project which was neither requested nor even needed in the locality. Flood control and mitigation would be more useful along river banks in upland barangays going downstream.

PLEASE, please Sen. Rissa, help us to immediately put a halt and STOP this destruction on our beaches and the construction of this seawall until all issues and concerns are addressed and satisfied. We are helpless, mystified even, with all the secrecy behind this project. We do not even know who the project proponent of this is. We are in desperate need of help to stop this before further and irreversible damage is done to our sea life, beaches and shoreline.

I am attaching pertinent photos and videos for reference. We hope to hear from you. THANK YOU very much. We remain.

Very truly yours,
Eva Marie Siatela
E-Mail: ems0713@gmail.com
Mobile #09062173706

Contact on site for further details and information in
Lalawigan Borongan City:

Ms. Teresita Dala
E-Mail:
Teresitadala@yahoo.com
Mobile. No. 09176211253

9 attachments



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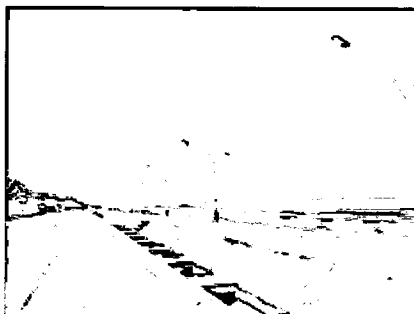
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