



Republic of the Philippines  
Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
**ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT BUREAU**  
Regional Office No. VIII  
DENR Compound, Jones St., Tacloban City, Philippines  
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17 March 2022

**Mr./Ms. JANIL ORIOQUE**

Secretariat

Coalition Against Bontoc Reclamation

Brgy. Talisay Bontoc, Southern Leyte

E-mail: [savebontoc@gmail.com](mailto:savebontoc@gmail.com)

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT BUREAU  
RELEASED  
DATE: 3/23/2022  
TIME: 3:53 pm

Dear **Mr./Ms. Orioque**:

Environmental Greetings!

This has reference to your letter-complaint submitted to this Office expressing your opposition to the proposed construction/development of a seashore protection and landfill project along the municipal public market of the Municipality of Bontoc, Southern Leyte.

As you may well be aware, an investigation on the matter has been conducted by technical and legal personnel from this Office in November of 2021. In a meeting held during the conduct of the said investigation, the investigating personnel informed complainants, several stakeholders and members of the community of the nature and significance of an **Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC)** to the proposed project.

To reiterate, an ECC is not a permit, rather a set of conditionalities which should be strictly followed by the project proponent in all stages of the project implementation in order to mitigate potential adverse impacts on the environment brought by the project. **The issuance thereof does not operate as a permit to the project proponent to proceed with the construction/implementation of the project.** It shall not be construed as an exemption to the project proponent from securing other government permits and clearances. Independently from an ECC, the project or the proponent thereof is duty-bound to secure other permits and clearances necessary to the project. Even if a thousand ECC are issued to the project, if no permit to reclaim is issued by the concerned government agency, or an area clearance is secured from the relevant issuing agency, the project still cannot proceed with the implementation.

Nonetheless, this Office would like to accord special attention to your organization as an advocate seeking to protect public and the environment's best interests. This Office has long been receptive to a wide range of environmental complaints, and the public's involvement is accorded appropriate recognition and respect in the administrative process. As this Office remains on guard over the said project, please continue to keep an eye as well over the same as this Office ought to act accordingly whenever allegations of environmental violations are raised.

For your guidance, information and reference. Thank you for your cooperation.

Respectfully,

tr:   
**ENGR. REYNALDO B. BARRA**  
OIC- Regional Director