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**ATTY. GRIZELDA MAYO-ANDA**  
Executive Director, ELAC  
SAVE PALAWAN MOVEMENT  
Puerto Princesa City

ENVIRONMENTAL & SOCIAL ASSISTANCE CENTER INC. (ELAC)

DATE:  
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3-25-25  
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Madam:

We are forwarding herewith a copy of Provincial Ordinance No. 3646, series of 2025 of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Palawan, for information and appropriate action.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

BY AUTHORITY OF THE SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN:

  
**RAYMUNDO G. PADRONES JR.**  
Asst. Sangguniang Panlalawigan Secretary



Republic of the Philippines  
Provincial Government of Palawan  
**OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN**  
City of Puerto Princesa

**EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE 5<sup>TH</sup> SPECIAL SESSION OF THE  
44<sup>TH</sup> SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN HELD ON MARCH 5, 2025  
AT THE SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN SESSION HALL  
CITY OF PUERTO PRINCESA**

PRESENT:

Hon. Leoncio N. Ola,	<i>Vice Governor and Presiding Officer</i>
Hon. Winston G. Arzaga,	<i>Sangguniang Panlalawigan Pro Tempore</i>
Hon. Roseller S. Pineda	<i>Sangguniang Panlalawigan Floor Leader</i>
Hon. Marivic H. Roxas,	<i>Assistant Floor Leader – 2<sup>nd</sup> District</i>
Hon. Rafael V. Ortega Jr.,	<i>Assistant Floor Leader – 3<sup>rd</sup> District</i>
Hon. Juan Antonio E. Alvarez,	<i>S.P. Member – 1<sup>st</sup> District</i>
Hon. Maria Angela V. Sabando,	<i>S.P. Member – 1<sup>st</sup> District</i>
Hon. Nieves C. Rosento,	<i>S.P. Member – 1<sup>st</sup> District</i>
Hon. Ryan D. Maminta,	<i>S.P. Member – 2<sup>nd</sup> District</i>
Hon. Al-Nashier M. Ibba,	<i>S.P. Member – 2<sup>nd</sup> District</i>
Hon. Ariston D. Arzaga,	<i>S.P. Member – 2<sup>nd</sup> District</i>
Hon. Al-Shariff W. Ibba	<i>S.P. Member – PCL Federation President</i>
Hon. Ferdinand P. Zaballa,	<i>S.P. Member – ABC Federation President</i>
Hon. Arnel P. Abrina,	<i>S.P. Member – IPM Representative</i>
Hon. Luzviminda L. Bautista,	<i>S.P. Member- SK Federation President</i>

ABSENT:

None

xxx

xxx

xxx

**PROVINCIAL ORDINANCE NO. 3646**  
Series of 2025

**DECLARATION OF A FIFTY (50) YEAR EXTENDABLE MORATORIUM ON THE  
ISSUANCE OF ENDORSEMENTS FOR ALL LARGE AND SMALL SCALE MINING  
APPLICATIONS, INCLUDING APPLICATIONS FOR EXPLORATION PERMITS,  
MINERAL AGREEMENTS, AND FINANCIAL OR TECHNICAL AGREEMENTS, IN  
THE PROVINCE OF PALAWAN**

Authored by:

**HON. RYAN D. MAMINTA, HON. RAFAEL V. ORTEGA JR., HON. MARIA  
ANGELA V. SABANDO, HON. NIEVES C. ROSENTO, HON. ARNEL P. ABRINA,  
HON. AL-NASHIER M. IBBA, HON. ARISTON D. ARZAGA, HON. FERDINAND P.  
ZABALLA, HON. LUZVIMINDA L. BAUTISTA, HON. WINSTON G. ARZAGA,  
HON. ROSELLER S. PINEDA, HON. JUAN ANTONIO E. ALVAREZ, HON.  
MARIVIC H. ROXAS, AND HON. AL-SHARIFF W. IBBA**

**WHEREAS**, hailed as the “*last ecological frontier*”, Palawan is among the most biologically diverse areas in Southeast Asia. Declared as a “*Man and Biosphere Reserve*” by the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) owing to its vast land area and topography divided by tall mountain ranges, diverse, and endemic flora and fauna, Palawan’s status as a critical refuge for biodiversity in Southeast Asia cannot be discounted;

**WHEREAS**, as the country’s largest Province in terms of land area, Palawan’s natural resources, its long coastlines, unique flora and fauna, and old-growth forests with trees that run vast and deep deserve protection and preservation for future generations and are also a manifestation of the country’s decisive response to global warming;

**WHEREAS**, according to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources – Mines and Geosciences Bureau (DENR-MGB), Palawan currently accommodates eleven (11) holders of Mineral Production Sharing Agreement (MPSA), with 77 more pending applications as of December 2024;

**WHEREAS**, recognizing the risks and potential benefits of mining in the development of the Province as well as the country, the Provincial Government of Palawan hosted its first ever Palawan Stakeholders’ Congress on Mining and the Environment (PSCME), attended by representatives from national government agencies, local government units, the academe, and the private sector;

**WHEREAS**, one of the decisive pronouncements in the said gathering, garnering eighty-four point five percent (84.5%) of affirmative votes, is to have a moratorium on the approval of applications for new mining activities in the Province of Palawan;

**WHEREAS**, Section 16, Article 11 of the 1987 Constitution provides that the State is mandated to protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature;

**WHEREAS**, further, Section 25, Article II of the Constitution provides that the State shall ensure the autonomy of local governments, guaranteeing the powers of local government units to govern and regulate effectively on their own, through the promotion of public health, safety, morals, and public order as well as convenience, prosperity and general welfare;

**WHEREAS**, in consonance with the declarations under the Constitution, Section 16 of Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the *Local Government Code of 1991*, provides that every local government unit shall ensure and support, among other things, the preservation and enrichment of culture, promotion of health and safety, enhancement of the right of the people to a balanced ecology, and preservation of the comfort and convenience of their inhabitants;

**WHEREAS**, Section 26 of the same Code provides for the duty of the national government agencies in the maintenance of ecological balance by consulting with local government units, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and other sectors concerned, while Section 27 provides for the requirement of prior consultations for any project or program and the approval of the Sanggunian concerned;

**WHEREAS**, in relation to Sections 26 and 27 of the Local Government Code, Section 43 of DENR Administrative Order No. 2010-21, or the Revised Implementing Rules and Regulations of the Mining Act of 1995 (RA 7942), provides that the contractor shall comply with the required endorsement of the project by at least the majority of the Sanggunian concerned pursuant to the pertinent provisions of RA No. 7160 prior to the commencement of the development and/or utilization activities;

**WHEREAS**, on November 25, 2008, this august Body through Provincial Resolution No. 7728, series of 2008, resolved to declare a twenty-five (25) year moratorium in the issuance of its endorsements for small-scale mining applications for mining activities in the Province of Palawan, and declared its firm resolve to oppose at any time any large-scale mining application, and to press for the nullification of any existing mineral agreements for the cessation of their operations and this was supported by Palawan Council for Sustainable Development under PCSD Resolution No. 09-378;

**WHEREAS**, the Liga ng mga Barangay, through Provincial Resolution Nos. 20797, 20798 and 20799, all series of 2025, expresses support for the ordinance declaring a 50-year mining moratorium in the Province of Palawan; enjoins all 367 barangays to adopt additional requirements in endorsing mining applications within their jurisdictions; and expresses sentiments of the Liga ng mga Barangay to President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr., and the DENR to suspend the approval of new mining applications due to environmental concerns and the status of the Province as a biosphere reserve;

**WHEREAS**, this august Body passed and approved Provincial Resolution No. 20801, series of 2025 entitled: Requesting His Excellency President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr., to issue a special proclamation declaring the province of Palawan as a "No Mining Province" and an "Agri-Tourism Zone;"

**WHEREAS**, in the hierarchy of the endorsement, the endorsement of the Tribal Chieftain of any tribal community is not necessary. The Sanggunian endorsements are separate from the requirements being processed with respect to the Indigenous Peoples/Indigenous Cultural Communities endorsements and the Free, Prior and Informed Consent from the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples;

**WHEREAS**, recognizing the public outcry and the unequivocal support of Palawenos through the one hundred thirty-four thousand seven hundred fifty nine (134,759) signatures obtained in support of a twenty-five (25) year moratorium in Palawan, and consistent with the precautionary principle adopted under the Rules of Procedure for Environmental Cases and established through jurisprudence, this Body deems it necessary and just to impose a moratorium on large and small-scale mining in the Province of Palawan;

**WHEREAS**, in view of the glaring and overwhelming evidence that the continued accommodation or addition of large-scale mining activities in the Province of Palawan will have adverse and deleterious effects on the environment, this Body recognizes the immense necessity to impose a moratorium on the issuance of endorsements for all large and small scale mining and other related activities in the Province of Palawan for a period of fifty (50) extendable years.

**NOW THEREFORE**, on motion of Honorable Ryan D. Maminta duly seconded

**BE IT ORDAINED BY THE SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN IN SESSION:**

**SECTION 1. DECLARATION OF MORATORIUM AND POLICY.** Pursuant to the mandate of the Provincial Government of Palawan to ensure the general welfare of its people, there is hereby declared as a matter of policy, a **FIFTY (50) YEAR EXTENDABLE MORATORIUM** on the issuance of Sangguniang Barangay, Sangguniang Bayan, and Sangguniang Panlalawigan endorsements for large and small scale mining applications, including applications for exploration permits, mineral agreements, and financial or technical assistance agreements, throughout the Province of Palawan.

Towards this end, agri-tourism development shall be given utmost priority of the Provincial Government of Palawan while in the 50-year extendable moratorium period to sustain local economy.

**SECTION 2. COVERAGE AND EFFECTIVITY OF THE MORATORIUM.** The moratorium shall be effective for fifty (50) years and is extendable from the date of signing of this Ordinance. The said moratorium shall cover endorsements for all large and small-scale mining applications, including applications for exploration permits, mineral agreements, and financial or technical assistance agreements, as provided under Republic Act No. 7942, otherwise known as the *Mining Act of 1995*.

**SECTION 3. EXCEPTIONS.** This Ordinance shall not cover those mining activities that rely heavily on manual labor using simple implements and methods, and do not use explosives or heavy mining equipment, as defined under Republic Act 7076, otherwise known as the *People's Small-Scale Mining Act of 1991*.

Moreover, this Ordinance does not apply to the following: a) extensions or renewals of existing mining permits or agreements that do not involve new areas; b) maintenance of existing mining operations that do not increase production; c) government-approved quarry projects; and d) desilting and dredging activities for river/irrigations, and waterway rehabilitation or restoration, duly approved by competent authorities.

**SECTION 4. PROHIBITED ACTS.** In view of the moratorium on the issuance of Sanggunian endorsements as declared above, it shall be unlawful for the Sangguniang Barangay, Sangguniang Bayan and Sangguniang Panlalawigan to issue endorsements to large and small-scale mining applications and its related activities, which include engaging in unauthorized land clearing, prospecting, exploration, drilling, excavation, mining, transportation, and such other activities in furtherance of and/or preparatory to large and small-scale mining operations for a period of fifty (50) extendable years.

It shall be unlawful for any person, whether natural or juridical, to engage in a large or small-scale mining related activities by virtue of a spurious endorsement which include engaging in unauthorized land clearing, prospecting, exploration, drilling, excavation, mining, transportation, and such other activities in furtherance of and/or preparatory to large and small-scale mining operations for a period of fifty (50) extendable years.

**SECTION 5. PENALTY.** A legislative body in this province who violates Section 4 of this ordinance shall be penalized with a fine not more than Five Thousand (P5,000.00) Pesos or imprisonment of not exceeding one (1) year or both, at the discretion of the court.

If the offender is a corporation or a business enterprise, the penalty of a fine of not more than Five Thousand (P5,000.00) Pesos or imprisonment of not exceeding one (1) year or both, at the discretion of the court, shall be imposed upon its officers, directors, managers and such other persons who have caused the commission of such acts and confiscation and forfeiture of all products, equipment and other paraphernalia used in the activity.

The penalty herein imposed shall be without prejudice to the prosecution and imposition of other penalties for violations under national laws or statutes.

**SECTION 6. COMPOSITION OF THE MINING MORATORIUM COUNCIL AND QUORUM ON MEETINGS** - To strengthen the Province's stance on environmental protection, the Mining Moratorium Council in the Province of Palawan is hereby created to act as a *recommendatory Body*.

The Council shall be composed of the following:

Chairman: Provincial Governor – shall preside over the council meetings  
Vice Chairman: Provincial Vice Governor or his duly authorized representative  
( designated by the Vice Governor and must be a regular member of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan )

1. Provincial Director of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR-PENRO)
2. Local Chief Executives of affected municipality and barangay
3. Three (3) representatives from the Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) – with expertise in mining operations or related activities:
  - Environmental Protection Advocacies
  - Environmental Legal groups / Law Enforcement
  - Faith based Groups
4. Executive Director of the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development
5. The Provincial Government Environment and Natural Resources Officer (PG-ENRO)
6. Program Manager, Provincial Mining Regulatory Board (PMRB)
7. Three (3) representatives from the Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) – preferably with expertise in mining operations or related activities, environmental protection and conservation, and agriculture
8. Committee Chairman, Sangguniang Panlalawigan Committee on Environmental Protection & Natural Resources
9. Provincial Indigenous Peoples' Mandatory Representative (IPMR)
10. Representative from the Academe – preferably a Mining Engineer or a professor with specialized knowledge and skills in mining

11. Representative from Provincial Agriculture and Fishery Council (PAFC)
12. President, Liga ng mga Barangay – Palawan Chapter
13. President, League of Municipalities of the Philippines – Palawan Chapter

The Council shall convene at least once (1) a year upon notice of the Chairman through the Secretariat. The Chairman may likewise call for additional meetings as warranted by the circumstances. Considering the significance of the subject matter of the moratorium on the environment of the Province of Palawan, the attendance of two-thirds (2/3) of the Members of the Council shall be required for the scheduled meetings to constitute a quorum for the conduct of official business.

**SECTION 7. FUNCTIONS OF THE MINING MORATORIUM COUNCIL -**

The Council shall be responsible for ensuring that the present policy of the Provincial Government of Palawan (PGP) on mining shall be consistent with accurate, verifiable, and scientific data, and that there is proper coordination between the public and private sectors in regard to the imposition, extension, or possible lifting of the moratorium on large and small scale-mining, including exploration permits, mineral agreements, and financial or technical assistance agreements.

Specifically, the Council shall also perform the following:

- a. Within a reasonable period before the expiration of the current moratorium, gather all available data, initiate, sponsor, or oversee the conduct of scientific studies or analyses to determine and recommend the viability of granting another extension for an identified term;
- b. Call on various stakeholders to provide verifiable, accurate, and reliable information to assist in the conduct of scientific studies in support of the objectives of the Council;
- c. Based on available data, studies, and/or information gathered, issue recommendations or resolutions to the Office of the Governor, the Sangguniang Panlalawigan, and other concerned government agencies for tangible government action such as, but not limited to the following:
  1. Enactment of a new law or ordinance, or the amendment or revision of existing law, ordinance, or any rule or regulation relative to mining;
  2. Issuance of orders, memoranda, or any directive for the protection, mitigation, and/or prevention of illegal activities relative to mining;
  3. Prosecution of identified party or parties acting in violation of this Ordinance, or any environmental law or regulation particular to mining activities to the appropriate body/agency;
  4. Coordinate with existing bodies both from the government and non-government sector for efficient implementation of laws, rules, and regulations on mining; and

5. Other actions consistent with the objectives of this Ordinance, and proper for the recommendatory functions of the Council.

d. It shall serve as a review and recommendatory body to the Office of the Governor and the Sangguniang Panlalawigan.

**SECTION 8. DECISION AND RESOLUTIONS OF THE COUNCIL** - Prior to its first meeting, the Secretariat shall submit the names from each sector as above identified to the Provincial Governor. For all the decisions and actions of the Council, a two-thirds (2/3) votes of all members shall be required.

**SECTION 9. CREATION OF THE OFFICE OF THE MINING MORATORIUM COUNCIL** - In order to effectively implement this Ordinance, the Office of the Mining Moratorium Council is hereby created. It shall serve as the Secretariat of the Mining Moratorium Council (MMC).

**SECTION 10. LIFTING OR EXTENSION OF THE MORATORIUM** - For the lifting and/or extension of the subject moratorium, the following minimum requirements shall be strictly complied with, to wit:

- 1) Favorable recommendation of the Council and the existence of the compelling reasons which shall be based on accurate, economic, scientific and verifiable data; and
- 2) After due notice, the conduct of a mining convention or congress. The same shall be organized by the PGP upon the order of the Provincial Governor. And the input and recommendations of the Council shall be submitted/presented to the Sangguniang Panlalawigan, for review as the policy making Body.

**SECTION 11. AGRI-TOURISM ZONE** - Within the period of moratorium, it shall be the priority of the Provincial Government of Palawan to promote agricultural and ecotourism development to attract sustainable investments, generate employment opportunities, strengthen local economies, and enhance the province's status as a premier ecotourism destination while maintaining ecological balance;

**SECTION 12. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE** - Should any provision of this ordinance be later declared unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, such as judgement shall continue to be in full force and effect and shall not affect the remaining provisions.

**SECTION 13. REPEALING CLAUSE** - All existing ordinances or provisions of an ordinance inconsistent herewith, shall be deemed modified, amended or repealed accordingly.

**SECTION 14. TRANSITORY PROVISION** - The moratorium shall remain in effect for a period of fifty (50) extendable years from the date of its enactment. Consideration for lifting shall only commence after 50 years of implementation.

**SECTION 15. EFFECTIVITY** - This Ordinance shall take effect after posting in three (3) conspicuous places within the Provincial Government of Palawan building and publication in a newspaper of general circulation within the territorial jurisdiction of the Province of Palawan.

**SO ORDAINED.**



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
I CERTIFY to the correctness of the above-quoted Provincial Ordinance.

  
**ANGELA RODRIGUEZ-PEÑA**  
*Secretary to the Sanggunian*

ATTESTED:

  
**LEONCIO N. OLA**  
*Vice Governor and Presiding Officer*

APPROVED:

  
**V. DENNIS M. SOCRATES**  
*Governor*


**MARCH 13, 2025**

*Date*

*This document is not valid without Sangguniang Panlalawigan Seal*

VDMS/LNO/ARP/epp

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY

  
**RAYMONDO G. PADRONES JR**  
PGADH, ASST. SECRETARY TO THE SPI