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The Hon. ITHAMAR ESPINOSA
 Mayor
The Hon. J. LADETH CONTENTO
 Councilor, Youth Leader
MR. LOUIE REBAMONTE
 Coastal Enforcement Officer
 Sta. Fe, Bantayan Island, Cebu
 The Philippines
 16 May 2020

**Re: Your Quick Action to Remove Illegal Seashore
 Structure and Food Gardens**

Dear Messrs. Espinosa, Contento and Rebamonte:

Greetings from the Normandy Chair for Peace! We write to congratulate and commend you for your quick and effective action to a citizen's report. This was regarding concrete structures constructed on the easement zone of the seashore. (Water Code, Sec. 51, the NIPAS Law, and Presidential Proclamations 1234 and 1251).

Within less than 24 hours from receipt of the citizen's report, you took action. This is a rare act of great efficiency among government people.



The local government of Sta. Fe, Cebu quickly responded to the citizen's complaint. And within 24 hours from receipt of the report, they removed the illegal structures on the seashore.

What you did sends a very important message that we must keep our beaches clear and unobstructed. This is an important need to have a place for human connection to the Sea. What you did ensures that the beautiful seashores of Sta. Fe will be free from obstructions for the free passage of the people.

Not allowing the construction of human settlements on beaches close to the sea is clear common sense. This is a pure precaution against the fast-rising sea and the increasingly-violent storm surges. (UN Sustainable Development Goal No. 13)

We also commend you for the food gardens initiative you have launched in the town of Sta Fe. This sets an excellent example that will guide your people and the rest of the province to address the chronic problem of hunger. (UN Sustainable Development Goal No. 1)



Food gardens started in the grounds of the Municipal Hall of Sta. Fe, Cebu

You are indeed a shining exemplar of dedicated public servants worthy of emulation.

We trust that this letter finds you in good health and spirits. And on behalf of your grateful friends – people of shared passions -- from around the world, *Merci Beaucoup. Daghang Salamat!*

Very truly yours,

Durwood Zaelke
President
Institute for Governance &
Sustainable Development
Washington DC and Paris

Emilie Gaillard
Director
Normandy Chair for Peace
Region Normandie, France

Copies furnished

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