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Republic of the Philippines  
Office of the President  
**NATIONAL MUSEUM**

**A VOYAGE  
OF 100 YEARS**



THE NATIONAL MUSEUM

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

13 August 2003

**HON. VICENTE EMANO**

Mayor  
Cagayan de Oro City

Dear Mayor Emano:

The archaeological assessment conducted by **Mr. Sheldon Clyde B. Jago-on**, Researcher of the Archaeology Division of the National Museum of the Philippines has settled the issue of whether or not the Huluga Open Site, which was identified by Mr. Angel P. Bautista, Senior Museum Researcher in 1991, was affected by the construction of the road leading to the Taguanao-Balulang Bridge.

We noted the effort of the local government of Cagayan de Oro in adjusting the placement of the road from its original location to avoid the Huluga Cave and the place where the coordinates of Mr. Bautista pointed to, and which was inaccurately referred to as the Huluga Open Site. Apparently, there was a misunderstanding in the exact location and extent of the site.

The new road leading to the Taguanao-Balulang Bridge indeed cut through a portion of the Huluga Open Site. This was confirmed by the presence of artifacts (e.g. obsidian flakes, earthenware sherds, chert flakes) on the sides of the newly bulldozed area. It is therefore our recommendation that the rest of the undisturbed area be subject to a Rescue Archaeological excavation, wherein qualified archaeologists will systematically and extensively excavate the area; conduct an extensive exploration along the banks of the Cagayan River; build a site museum where the materials that will be excavated from the Huluga Open Site, and other archaeological sites will be exhibited and opened to the public for viewing. Appropriate signages explaining the importance of the archaeological site and the need to protect and preserve them will also be put on the site. As the National Museum has no allocated funds for the rescue

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archaeological activities, we request that local government of Cagayan de Oro  
appropriate funds for this very important effort.

We look forward to continuing collaborative efforts for the site. Thank you.

Very truly yours,

  
CORAZON S. ALVINA  
Director IV