

MGB makes clear Jasareno no longer with bureau

Nation

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THE MINES and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) has made it clear that its former chief, Leo L. Jasareno, who is now working as a consultant of the Environment Department, is no longer involved with the bureau to avoid “cross signals.”

In a statement posted on its Web site, the MGB said that Mr. Jasareno “is not in any way connected anymore” to the bureau since Sept. 30, 2016.

“Please report any attempt or act of misrepresentation by, for, and/or in behalf of Mr. Jasareno on official MGB concerns to the office of the director,” the statement added.

Sought for comment on the necessity to issue such a public warning, MGB Director Mario Luis J. Jacinto said: “Just so there are no crossed signals.”

“If he is a Special Assistant now on contract of service, still there is no employee-employer relationship under Civil Service regulations. Maybe he can assist (Environment) Secretary Gina (L.) Lopez if he is really useful to her but he cannot give instructions to MGB offices nor make representations in relation to MGB concerns,” Mr. Jacinto said.

“If he represents himself as an official of MGB or give instructions to MGB offices, that will be usurpation of official functions,” he added.

To recall, President Rodrigo R. Duterte ordered last Aug. 1 the replacement of Mr. Jasareno as acting director of the bureau.

He was officially replaced last Sept. 28 when the President appointed Regional Director Wilfredo G. Moncano.

At that time, Mr. Jasareno was spearheading the metal mines audit launched last July.

Ms. Lopez had said that the sudden replacement contributed to the delay of completing the mine audit, which took nearly seven months to be concluded. -- **Janina C. Lim**