

# MINE REHABILITATION FUND COMMITTEE

Mines and Geosciences MIMAROPA Region  
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## MINE REHABILITATION FUND COMMITTEE Rio Tuba Nickel Mining Corporation

### RESOLUTION NO. 2021 – 01

**A RESOLUTION ENDORSING TO THE CONTINGENT LIABILITY REHABILITATION FUND STEERING COMMITTEE (CLRFSC) THE APPROVAL OF THE FINAL MINE REHABILITATION AND DECOMMISSIONING PLAN (FMRDP) OF RIO TUBA NICKEL MINING CORP. (RTNMC) FOR ITS BENEFICIATED NICKEL SILICATE ORE PROJECT LOCATED IN BRGY. RIO TUBA, BATARAZA, PALAWAN**

**WHEREAS**, the Beneficiated Nickel Silicate Ore Project of RTNMC is under Mineral Production Sharing Agreement (MPSA) No. 114-98-IV-Amended I with an annual production of 4.8 Million Wet Metric Tons (MWMT), occupying a total project area of 3,548.44 hectares and covered by Environmental Compliance Certificate No. ECC-CO-1906-0015 dated August 22, 2019 as issued by Environmental Management Bureau – Central Office;

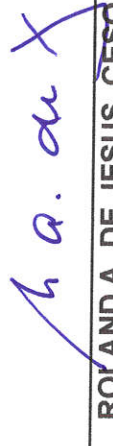
**WHEREAS**, the submitted FMRDP was presented to the Mine Rehabilitation Fund Committee (MRFC) for deliberation on March 25, 2021 via Zoom Application;

**WHEREAS**, upon review by the MRFC and the MRFC Secretariat, the FMRDP was found to be in order and in accordance with the pertinent provisions of DENR Administrative Order (DAO) No. 2010 – 21, the Revised Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act No. 7942, *the Philippine Mining Act of 1995*;

**WHEREAS**, RTNMC has estimated its total FMRDP cost at ₱ 290,451,697.00 to be filled up from CY 2022 - 2026;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED**, that the FMRDP of RTNMC for its Beneficiated Nickel Silicate Ore Project is hereby endorsed to the CLRFSC for final review and approval.

**APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY** on March 25, 2021 online via zoom platform.

  
**ROLAND A. DE JESUS, CEO V**

Regional Director, Mines and Geosciences  
Bureau – MIMAROPA Region and Chairperson, MRFC

  
**MA. LOURDES G. FERRER**

Regional Exec. Director, DENR MIMAROPA Region  
And Vice Chairperson, MRFC

**MARIE GRACE T. PASCUA**  
Regional Director, NCIP MIMAROPA Region

  
**PERLITA I. QUILING**  
PCSDS Representative

  
**INOCENCIO C. MAGALLANES**  
Haribon Palawan – NGO

  
**ROMMEL L. CRUZ**  
Vice President for Operations, NAC

  
**ATTY. MICHAEL DRAKE P. MATIAS**  
Regional Director, EMB MIMAROPA Region

  
**ATTY. NOEL E. AQUINO**  
LGU-Palawan Representative

  
**BENJAMIN A. TANSINGCO**  
Vice President for Environmental Mgmt.,  
CBNC

**MINUTES OF THE 1<sup>st</sup> QUARTER 2021**  
**MINE REHABILITATION FUND COMMITTEE (MRFC) MEETING**  
**Rio Tuba Nickel Mining Corporation and**  
**Coral Bay Nickel Corporation**  
 Virtual Meeting (via ZOOM Application)  
 March 25, 2021 09:00 a.m.

**ATTENDANCE:**

**Members:**

|                                  |   |                                                                        |
|----------------------------------|---|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Roland A. de Jesus            | - | Chairperson and Regional Director,<br>MGB MIMAROPA Region              |
| 2. Ma. Lourdes G. Ferrer         | - | Vice Chairperson and Regional Exec. Director<br>DENR MIMAROPA Region   |
| 3. Marie Grace T. Pascua         | - | Regional Director, NCIP MIMAROPA Region                                |
| 4. Atty. Michael Drake P. Matias | - | Regional Director, EMB MIMAROPA Region                                 |
| 5. Ms. Perlita I. Quiling        | - | Representing Atty. Teodoro Jose S. Mata                                |
| 6. Atty. Noel E. Aquino          | - | Executive Director, PCSDS                                              |
| 7. Inocencio C. Magallanes       | - | Representing Hon. Jose C. Alvarez                                      |
| 8. Rommel L. Cruz                | - | Governor, LGU-Palawan                                                  |
| 9. Rogel C. Cabauatan            | - | NGO – HARIBON, Palawan                                                 |
| 10. Benjamin A. Tansingco        | - | Vice President – Operations, NAC                                       |
|                                  | - | Assistant Vice President - Community<br>Relations and Environment, NAC |
|                                  | - | VP – Environmental Management, CBNC                                    |

**Other Participants and Guests**

|                           |   |               |
|---------------------------|---|---------------|
| 1. Lyndel Novencido       | - | DENR MIMAROPA |
| 2. Nunilon R. Tanguilig   | - | EMB MIMAROPA  |
| 3. Jane Dumenden          | - | EMB MIMAROPA  |
| 4. Cynthia E. Rosero      | - | RTNMC         |
| 5. Janice M. Tupas        | - | RTNMC         |
| 6. Iskandar A. Sali       | - | RTNMC         |
| 7. Jocelia C. Viacrucis   | - | RTNMC         |
| 8. Venice Teresa N. Guian | - | RTNMC         |
| 9. Briccio T. Abela       | - | CBNC          |
| 10. Antonio O. Sanone     | - | CBNC          |
| 11. Lawrence Amores       | - | CBNC          |
| 12. Jeb B. Badlon         | - | CBNC          |
| 13. Maan Baribar          | - | SMMPH         |

- |                      |   |                                          |
|----------------------|---|------------------------------------------|
| 14. Reya Belaro      | - | SMMPH                                    |
| 15. Rolando V. Cuaño | - | BMP Environment and Community Care, Inc. |
| 16. Marita G. Cuaño  | - | BMP Environment and Community Care, Inc. |

**MMT Members:**

- |                           |   |                                          |
|---------------------------|---|------------------------------------------|
| 1. Conrado M. Corpuz      | - | CENRO, Brooke's Point<br>MMT Team Leader |
| 2. Venus V. Jesoro        | - | MGB MIMAROPA                             |
| 3. Dessa Jie B. Madarcos  | - | MGB MIMAROPA                             |
| 4. Kenneth Kevin E. Perez | - | MGB MIMAROPA                             |
| 5. Merlinda Hilario       | - | PCSDS                                    |
| 6. Roland A. Talabucon    | - | PENRO Palawan                            |

**Secretariat (MGB MIMAROPA):**

- |                           |   |                  |
|---------------------------|---|------------------|
| 1. Ferdinand P. Olivares  | - | Head Secretariat |
| 2. Rocelyn F. Rebullante  | - | Secretariat      |
| 3. Hanna Lee B. Arriegado | - | Secretariat      |
| 4. Joel V. Balquiedra     | - | Secretariat      |
| 5. Al Janry S. Tuazon     | - | Secretariat      |
| 6. Nheslaine C. Eval      | - | Secretariat      |

**I. Preliminaries**

Engr. Roland A. De Jesus – MGB Assistant Director and Regional Director in concurrent capacity, and MRFC Chairperson – called the meeting to order at 9:20 am after the Secretariat confirmed a quorum.

Ms. Rocelyn Rebullante (MGB MIMAROPA) led the prayer.

The Chairperson then welcomed newly-appointed NCIP MIMAROPA Regional Director Marie Grace Pascua. In her message, RD Pascua also invited the members to their series of Indigenous Peoples Session, saying there will be a discussion regarding IPs in areas where mining companies are operating, including the best practices of companies in extractive industries.

**II. Meeting Proper**

**A. Review/Approval of the Provisional Agenda**

The Chairperson asked the Committee members for any other issues or concerns that they would like to include in the Provisional Agenda.

Engr. Nunilon Tanguilig (EMB MIMAROPA) requested to include the presentation regarding EMB's Adopt an Air Quality Monitoring Program in Rio Tuba.

Regional Executive Director Ma. Lourdes Ferrer (DENR MIMAROPA) moved for the approval of the Provisional Agenda for the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2021 MRFC Meeting, duly seconded by Engr. Tanguilig.

## **B. Review/Approval of the Draft Minutes of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2020 MRFC Meeting and the Matrix of Issues and Concerns**

The Chairperson requested the Committee to review the draft minutes for the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter MRFC meeting for RTNMC and CBNC, including the Matrix of Issues and Concerns.

There being no corrections/comments, on the motion of Mr. Inocencio Magallanes (HARIBON Palawan) and duly seconded by Ms. Perlita Quiling (PCSD), the Chairperson approved the draft minutes for the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2020 MRFC Meeting, including the Matrix of Issues and Concerns Arising from the said meeting.

## **C. Matrix of Issues and Concerns**

### **1. Relocation of informal settlers in the coastal Sitios of Marabajay and Tagdalungon**

Engr. Tanguilig said that he already forwarded to CENRO Conrado Corpuz the results of the water sampling conducted by the EMB.

CENRO Corpuz responded that he will submit a report by first week of April, including information on the inventory of coastal residents, awarded lots, the proposed plan of the Municipal LGU to purchase the adjacent property from the Dela Chicas, and the EMB report.

As to whether the settlers have already abandoned their houses in coastal areas, CENRO Corpuz said that many are still unable to relocate due to financial constraints. All these details will be included in the report that they are going to submit.

Meanwhile, Atty. Aquino shared that he advised Bataraza Mayor Abraham Ibba to coordinate with the Provincial Government to address the lacking basic facilities and road system for the area. As of the last MMT, he said that residents outside are now experiencing water and power problems. He added that they are just waiting for the official communication from the Municipal LGU so the Provincial Government can formally address this matter.

The Chairperson asked whether there is a representative from the Municipal LGU.

Engr. Ferdinand Olivares responded that there is none, assuring that the Secretariat forwarded a separate invitation letter and meeting link to the

Municipal LGU. He added that the MENRO of Bataraza informed the Secretariat via a text message that he is not fit to travel to Puerto Princesa City.

The Chairperson asked whether the company followed up on the said invitation.

Engr. Cabauatan replied that their ComRel personally delivered the letter which was received by Mayor Ibba. It was also learned that the Mayor instructed the MENRO to attend because he will be participating in another event.

Mr. Magallanes suggested setting up a special meeting with the Mayor in his office.

For their part, Regional Director Atty. Michael Drake P. Matias (EMB MIMAROPA) said that they are currently monitoring the water quality in the area, emphasizing that it is the responsibility of the LGU to ensure that they are complying. In the meantime, he said that they will get a detailed report of the analysis of the samples taken from the area, and immediately come up with recommendations. He committed to submit a report and recommendations in time for the next meeting, and collaborate with the LGU on how to facilitate the relocation of informal settlers.

## **2. Payment of Royalties to IPDO**

The Chairperson provided a background on the issue regarding IPDO's failure to submit any update on royalty payments, and the Ancestral Domains Sustainable Development and Protection Plan (ADSDPP).

RD Pascua responded that she consolidated all the issues lodged to the NCIP upon entering the agency. She said she instructed their legal officer to prioritize the top concerns, such as the release of royalty fees. She emphasized that they are also tapping financial institutions to help them promote financial literacy among IPs.

Engr. Cabauatan explained that RTNMC has been compliant on the release of royalties to IPDO, and acknowledged the efforts of the NCIP to assist the IPs on financial management. He said that their Community Royalty Development Plan (CRDP) has been submitted to the Provincial Office for evaluation. Engr. Cabauatan assured that in the absence of CRDP, they are coordinating with the field office on royalty releases. He noted that they are furnishing the Brooke's Point Field Office with e-copies of the report on royalties.

In addition, Engr. Cabauatan shared that they are currently securing FPIC ahead of the expiration of their MPSA in October. According to him, the NCIP Provincial Office conducted clustering and meeting with the IPs, and they expect that the new MOA will be drafted by the end of the month.

RD Pascua also invited the company representatives for a Zoom meeting to have a deeper discussion and understanding of various issues concerning IPs in mining communities in the Region. Engr. Cabauatan welcomed the said invitation.

## **D. Other Matters**

### **1. Presentation of revised EPEP – FMR/DP of RTNMC**

Dr. Rolando Cuaño and Ms. Marita Cuaño of BMP Environment and Community Care, Inc. discussed the FMR/DP of RTNMC-Nickel, covering the evaluation of progressive rehabilitation accomplishments, stakeholder consultations, updating and development of plans and costings for the 900 ha and included area, and review of completion criteria.

The consultants emphasized the crucial role of the MGB and other concerted efforts to ensure sustainability, especially the livelihood of the employees and communities that will be left behind after the mine closure in 2033. As pointed out earlier in the presentation, significant funds have been spent for development interventions in Bataraza, however, there remains high poverty and subsidence incidence. Moreover, the Social Impact Assessment cited the community's dependency and dole-out mentality and entitlement as major reasons for slow sustainability in the assisted barangays.

Ms. Cuaño also mentioned the need for the development of social closure criteria with the MGB, and integration of closure plan PPAs.

Dr. Cuaño then emphasized that there should be a strategic change particularly in terms of SDMP policy on mine closure to help companies achieve the sustainability objectives.

As for the presentation, the consultants said that RTNMC will provide all members with a copy of the same.

RD Pascua recognized that the data presented may be used to convince mining communities to look forward to investing. She also noted that there is a need to look into what are culturally sensitive and responsive indicators that can be contributed as a basis for monitoring.

Ms. Cuaño explained that the barangay has allotted only 1% of their budget for livelihood because they are relying on the SDMP of RTNMC.

In response to the sustainability of their SDMP projects, Engr. Cabauatan said that the RTNMC now considers business projects for communities. He added that it would also be much better if they incorporate the closure plan as part of the SDMP.

RED Ferrer asked whether the mine closure will require adjustment or formulation of new policies since this will be a pilot company in this regard.

She said that it could be possible to agree on the indicators, and not necessarily a policy adjustment or formulation.

The Chairperson responded that he agrees with all the recommendations, and that this document will still be presented to the Contingent Liability and Rehabilitation Fund (CLRF). He added that these policy recommendations will also be raised to the top management of the DENR and MGB, acknowledging that there are indeed some gaps in the guidelines or policy on mine closure that need to be addressed.

Dr. Cuaño offered their assistance in preparing the presentations, IEC, and policy formulation.

Regarding the presentation on social aspect, Mr. Magallanes suggested that the policy should also be reviewed in terms of the politicization and the internal policies on the selection of SDMP projects, saying that these are among the major issues on the ground.

RD Pascua raised that she would have wanted a detailed discussion on how indigenous peoples, who have been farmers and fisherfolks, will cope after the closure of the mine.

RD Pascua and Ms. Quiling then requested for a copy of the document for reference and further review.

Engr. Cabauatan noted that since almost all comments have been raised, he moved for the endorsement of the FMR/DP to the CLRF.

The Chairperson mentioned that should there be no other comments from the members, the MGB Regional Office could be endorsing it to the MGB CO as recommendations to fill in gaps on the existing FMR/DP policies.

On the motion of RED Ferrer, duly seconded by Mr. Magallanes, the EPEP and FMR/DP of RTNMC on their expansion in Mt. Bulanjao have been approved for recommendation to the CLRF. All related comments or recommendations will still be accepted until March 31, 2021. The company will also be requested to assist in routing the resolution to Palawan-based members for signature.

## **2. Update on the complaint of Mr. Roberto Contreras et al. – conduct of third party study re: effect of companies' operations on adjacent farmlands**

Given that there is still no decision on who will conduct the third-party study, Engr. Al Janry Tuazon (MGB MIMAROPA) informed the body that the Bureau of Soils and Water Management (BSWM) responded that they have the

capability to conduct the requested studies of analysis in the case of Citinickel Mines and Development Corporation. Should the MRFC agree, he said that a meeting with BSWM can be arranged to work out details and other possible arrangements given the travel restrictions that are currently in place.

The Chairperson raised that the initial plan is to tap experts from the academe, either from Palawan State University or Western Philippines University. In this case, Engr. Tuazon said that the exploratory talks with BSWM may be considered if the Committee has concerns with bias.

The Chairperson agreed that a meeting shall be immediately arranged with the BSWM before the Holy Week.

### **3. MOO Revision/MMT Reconstitution**

Engr. Hanna Lee Arriessgado (MGB MIMAROPA) mentioned that it has been agreed in the previous MRFC meetings that the MOO will be in status quo in terms of MMT membership. For this revision, the Secretariat would like to seek clarification from EMB regarding the format to be adopted by the companies in the MOO.

RD Matias responded that under DAO 2017-15, the mining companies will submit their Compliance Monitoring and Validation Reports (CMVR) through their MMTs, and that EMB's participation will just be as observers. Hence, the preparation of reports will be up to the group following the EMB's standard reporting format for CMVR.

In terms of Compliance Monitoring Report (CMR), RD Matias explained that the companies follow a standard form for that, and that the CMVR will just validate what was reported by the companies.

RD Matias asked whether the MMT is adopting a different format in terms of CMR validation.

Engr. Arriessgado replied that the CENRO is accomplishing the CMVR based on EMB format. She sought clarification on which format will be adopted in the MOO citing different requirements by EMB and DAO 2015-02.

RD Matias suggested that the provisions of the existing MOO be observed. He said that the MOO should be subject to endorsement and approval of EMB if it has not yet been endorsed.

Hence, the Committee will then stick to the DAO 2015-02 provision and format in the existing MOO.

### **4. EMB's Adopt an Air Quality Monitoring Program in Rio Tuba**

**Ms. Maevelyn Kathryn Tupasi / Jane Dumenden (EMB MIMAROPA)** presented the Adopt and Air Quality Monitoring Program in Rio Tuba, Bataraza, Palawan pursuant to Sections 6, 7, and 8 of RA 8749 or The Philippine Clean Air Act.

She noted that the EMB issued a Memorandum dated June 04, 2020, "Instruction to include ongoing industrial/commercial projects which may affect the air quality in carrying capacity studies towards designation of attainment/non-attainment airshed areas and other instructions related to industrial centers as special airshed to allocate emission quota."

Currently, she said that MIMAROPA has one officially designated airshed, the Baco-Calapan City-Naujan Airshed. They also submitted to the EMB Central Office the proposal to designate Puerto Princesa City Station and Rio Tuba Nickel Mining Golf Course as special airshed.

On October 30, 2020, the EMB released a Memorandum, "Instruction for the Implementation of the 'Adopt an Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Station Program,'" which aims to identify partners who are willing to enter into a MOA.

**Ms. Tupasi** informed the body that this program was already presented to the three identified adaptors in Rio Tuba: RTNMC, CBNC, and Graymont (Philippines) Inc.

Engr. Tanguilig clarified that this matter is presented to the MRFC as they are requesting the companies to adopt the said program.

Engr. Briccio Abela (CBNC) confirmed that the EMB requested funding for the said program during their meeting with RD Matias. However, the companies said that they do not have funding for that at present. He then suggested for the EMB to present it to the MRFC, adding that the committee may consider funding from SDMP given the expenditures on equipment, etc.

The Chairperson raised that there is an MGB memorandum authorizing the companies to realign SDMP and SHP funds for the procurement of COVID-19 vaccines for their impact communities. He said that it will depend on the availability of funds given the budget requirement for the implementation of the EMB program.

In relation to this, Atty. Aquino appealed that the procurement of vaccines be prioritized.

The Chairperson said that the companies concerned should discuss first the availability of SDMP-DMTG funds since the current priority is the procurement of vaccines.

Regarding Atty. Aquino's request in relation to the expanded MPSA of RTNMC, the Chairperson requested the company to provide the former with the necessary documents for his information.

Mr. Rommel Cruz (RTNMC) committed to provide Atty. Aquino of the related documents.

Mr. Cruz also asked whether funding from this project can be charged to DMTG. The Chairperson answered in the affirmative.

## **D. Presentation of Technical Reports**

### **1. Report on the Highlights of the Entry and Exit Meetings of the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2020 MMT Validation**

CENRO Corpuz reported the highlights of the MMT entry and exit meetings, as follows:

- a. Complaint from Mr. Billy Elefane
  - Mr. Elefane, through MENRO Rey Rivera, lodged to the MMT a complaint letter dated 27 February 2021 containing the same issues against RTNMC:
    1. alleged siltation sourcing from Lower Togpon going to the mangrove area, claiming that such is affecting the established fishponds;
    2. water quality (dark discharge with foul odor) of wastewater from the townsite;
    3. alleged ECC violation specifically item no. 34 - perpetual lease agreement concerning the Macadam Road, and
    4. no. 35 - community representation to the MMT;
    5. alleged water shortage caused by the mining operations;
    6. land ownership relative to Lot No. 1640; and
    7. insufficient period for monitoring of the 4 projects.
  - An ad-hoc team led by MENRO Rivera conducted an investigation on 06 March 2021.
  - The MMT decided on the following after a thorough discussion:
    1. To conduct water sampling at the townsite discharge point; undertaking to be led by MENRO Bataraza accompanied by BLGU Rio Tuba as MMT-MSG's representative, and is scheduled along with RTNMC's in-house sampling. Complainant to witness the sampling activities, while testing fees shall be charged to the MTF;
    2. To refer this matter to the MRFC along with the proposal;
    3. To include in the MOO the provision that only notarized complaint letters will be acted by the MMT.
  - During the Q3 2020 MMT validation, the MMT received another complaint letter from the complainant saying that he is not satisfied with the responses in his initial complaint.
- b. MMT Proposed Work and Financial Plan (WFP) for 2021
  - Engr. Abela discussed the components and respective allotted budget comprising the proposed WFP for 2021 amounting to Php4,120,000. The MMT participation of individuals without issued Special Order (MGB MIMAROPA and DENR-CENRO Brooke's Point personnel) was also raised.
- c. Submission of CMVR Modules 1-6
  - Engr. Abela inquired about the process of obtaining a received copy of the CMVR Modules 1-6 submitted to EMB Regional and Central Offices. The MMT intends to seek the assistance of the EMB

MIMAROPA Region regarding the submission of the reportorial requirement.

d. Minutes of Entry and Exit Meetings

- For discussion in the MRFC on who will be responsible for the preparation of the minutes of the entry and exit meetings. CENRO Brooke's Point accepted the temporary workload, with the assistance of Engr. Venus Jesoro (MGB MIMAROPA).

e. Proposed Rehabilitation Plan of Rio Tuba Marine Protected Area

- Mr. Magallanes presented the proposed rehabilitation plan, stressing that the quarterly progress monitoring be conducted by the MMT in the subject area. However, Ms. Janice Tupas (RTNMC) requested that the recommended quarterly monitoring in the MPA not be a major activity during the validation considering that the MMT is not the primary body responsible for the compliance monitoring on the agrounding incident.

f. Proposed Change in Monitoring Schedule

- Ms. Tupas requested for modification in the MMT schedule. The body unanimously agreed for a change in the monitoring schedule starting on a Sunday, instead of a Monday-to-Monday scheme.

The MMT Team Leader then proceeded with the MMT findings/observations and recommendations on the validation of the companies' ASHP, AEPEP, MFP-NGP, and ASDMP.

## 2. Report on the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2021 Water, Air, and Noise Monitoring and Sampling

Ms. Quiling presented the results of the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter MMT Air and Water Sampling:

- All sampling stations passed the standards on NOx and SOx, and TSP samplings.
- In-situ measurement and results of the water quality analysis are within the criteria. The team had a separate sampling for Cr<sup>6+</sup>.
- Station 16-Oning may no longer be passable in the next monitoring because the land area going to the sampling station has a new owner.
- A resampling for chromium hexavalent was conducted on January 6, 2021 for S1, S4, S5, S6, and S7. All sampling stations are within the water quality standard based on the results from SGS; while there are exceedances in three sampling stations based on the results from OMLI, SentroTek, and Intertrek.

- In the March 15, 2021 Cr<sup>6+</sup> resampling, all stations are within the standard based on the submitted results from OMLI; the three other laboratories are yet to submit the results.

RD Matias requested for clarification on the applicable water quality standard for each sampling station.

Ms. Tupas said that the standard for S7 should be 0.1, while S8 should be 0.01. In addition, she clarified that Cr<sup>6+</sup> is not a required parameter for nickel mining operation under the PSIC code. She explained that the company has been monitoring it since 2012 due to an issue with the community, but historically, the level of Cr<sup>6+</sup> in the area is already high. There are still observed exceedances despite mitigating measures by the company.

RD Matias suggested that through the EMB and the MRFC, a recommendation to the EMB CO be made for the formulation of appropriate parameters and standard for nickel ore mining operations.

The Chairperson said that this should be studied further since Cr<sup>6+</sup> level in the area is naturally high.

Mr. Cruz also shared that they have been conducting studies on Cr<sup>6+</sup> in their mining sites since 2018. Citing RD Matias' recommendation, he proposed for the company to present the results of their studies.

RD Matias agreed that this should be discussed and studied further, but the goal is to provide clarification on the part of the regulatory bodies and the companies in this sector.

Mr. Magallanes recommended for the EMB to clarify the standards on Cr<sup>6+</sup> especially when it is naturally occurring in the area.

Ms. Quiling asked whether they will continue Cr<sup>6+</sup> sampling in the next monitoring. RD Matias suggested to continue doing so as part of database building, in addition to the study being conducted by the company.

### **3. Compliance to the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2020 MMT's field findings and recommendations; and Presentation of Physical and Financial Accomplishments, including updating of established Funds**

Mr. Jeb Badlon and Ms. Tupas presented the AEPEP compliance and accomplishments of CBNC and RTNMC, respectively, for the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2021, including the action plan in response to the MMT field findings.

### **4. Recent drone shots/videos of rehabilitation areas**

The companies will forward to the Secretariat the requested drone shots/videos of rehabilitation areas.

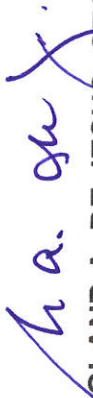
### III. Adjournment

All matters properly discussed and there being no other business for deliberation, the meeting was adjourned at 2:55 PM on the motion of Mr. Magallanes, duly seconded by Ms. Quiling.

Attesting to the correctness of the foregoing:

  
**NHESLAINE C. EVAL**  
Secretariat  
MGB MIMAROPA Region

Approved by:

  
**ROLAND A. DE JESUS, CESO V**  
Regional Director and  
Chairperson, MRFC for RTNMC-CBNC  
