

**MATRIX OF ISSUES AND CONCERNS ARISING FROM THE 1st QUARTER 2021
MINE REHABILITATION FUND COMMITTEE MEETING FOR
RIO TUBA NICKEL MINING CORPORATION**

Virtual Meeting (via ZOOM Application)
25 March 2021

No.	ISSUES/CONCERNS	BACKGROUND INFORMATION, UPDATES AND FOLLOW THROUGH ACTION/S	FOCAL AGENCY/ PERSON	ACTION TAKEN/REMARKS
1.	Relocation of informal settlers in coastal Sitios of Tagdalungon and Marabajay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engr. Nunilon Tanguilig (EMB MIMAROPA) already forwarded to CENRO Conrado Corpuz the results of the water sampling conducted by the EMB. 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. 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CENRO Brooke's Point Provincial, Municipal LGUs EMB MIMAROPA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CENRO Corpuz committed to 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. Atty. Aquino said that they are just waiting for the official communication from the Municipal LGU so the Provincial Government can formally address this matter. RD Matias committed to submit a report and recommendations in time for the next meeting, and collaborate with the LGU on how to

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				facilitate the relocation of informal settlers.
2.	Payment of royalties IPDO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RD Marie Grace Pascua (NCIP) said that she consolidated all the issues lodged to the NCIP upon entering the agency. She shared that 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NCIP Companies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RD Pascua to meet with company representatives via Zoom to have a deeper discussion and understanding of various issues concerning IPs.
3.	Update on the complaint of Mr. Roberto Contreras et al. – conduct of third party study re: effect of companies' operations on adjacent farmlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MGB MIMAROPA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Chairperson agreed that a meeting shall be immediately arranged with the BSWM before the Holy Week.
4.	MOO Revision/ MMT Reconstitution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engr. Hanna Lee Arriesgado (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, 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secretariat 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Committee will stick to the DAO 2015-02 provision and format in the existing MOO.
5.	EMB's Adopt and Air Quality Monitoring Program in Rio Tuba	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The EMB presented to the MRFC the Adopt and Air Quality Monitoring Program in Rio Tuba, Bataraza, Palawan which was already discussed with the three identified adaptors: RTNMC, CBNC, and Graymont (Philippines) Inc. 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EMB MIMAROPA Companies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The companies concerned should discuss first the availability of SDMP-DMTG funds since the current priority is the procurement of vaccines.

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 		
6.	Applicable water quality standard for Cr ⁶⁺ for nickel mining operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Citing observed Cr⁶⁺ exceedances despite mitigating measures being employed by the company, RD Matias suggested that through the EMB and the MRFC, a recommendation to the EMB Central Office be made for the formulation of appropriate parameters and standard for nickel ore mining operations. <p>The Chairperson responded that this should be studied further since Cr⁶⁺ level in the area is naturally high. RD Matias clarified that the goal is to provide clarification on the part of the regulatory bodies and the companies in this sector.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Rommel Cruz (NAC) shared that they have been conducting studies on Cr⁶⁺ in their mining sites since 2018. In relation to RD Matias' recommendation, he proposed for the company to present the results of their studies. Mr. Inocencio Magallanes (HARIBON Palawan) recommended for the EMB to clarify the standards on Cr⁶⁺, especially when it is naturally occurring in the area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EMB MIMAROPA MRFC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RD Matias suggested for the MMT to continue Cr⁶⁺ sampling as part of database building, in addition to the study being conducted by the company.