



August 1, 2022

**MEMORANDUM**

**FOR** : Regional Executive Director

**THRU** : The Assistant Regional Director for Technical Services

**FROM** : The OIC, PENR Officer

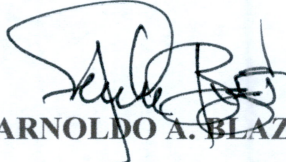
**SUBJECT** : **SUBMISSION OF COMPLETED STAFF WORK (CSW) ON THE COMPLAINTS AGAINST ALTAI PHILIPPINES MINING CORPORATION (APMC) AND SERIES OF ACTIONS TAKEN BY THIS OFFICE**

Respectfully submitting the CSW on various complaints against ALTAI Philippines Mining Corporation and series of actions taken by this office on the matter.

Attached is the CSW Report of For. Sheilla Jane M. Forlales and the following Investigation Reports:

1. Investigation Report regarding the reported construction of a roadway being constructed adjacent to a coastal area located in Brgy. Taclobo, San Fernando, Romblon and construction of bunkhouses, destruction of vegetation, and clearing of the site as reported thru an e-mail by certain Helly Y. Asoy, a concerned citizen
2. Report on the undated letter complaint of Ireneo Rafol Romano et al. re: alleged unlawful extraction of nickel, gold, and illegal logging in Sibuyan Island, Romblon by APMC (CO-2022-089703)
3. Inspection and inventory report on the alleged illegal cutting of trees undertaken by the ALTAI Philippines Mining Corporation in Brgy. España, San Fernando, Romblon

For information and reference.

  
**ARNOLDO A. BLAZA, JR.**  
A M





August 1, 2022

## **MEMORANDUM**

**FOR** : The OIC, PENR Officer

**THRU** : The Chief, Technical Services Division

**FROM** : The Chief, Monitoring and Enforcement Section

**SUBJECT** : **SUBMISSION OF COMPLETED STAFF WORK (CSW) ON THE COMPLAINTS AGAINST ALTAI PHILIPPINES MINING CORPORATION (APMC) AND SERIES OF ACTIONS TAKEN BY THIS OFFICE**

## **FACTUAL BACKGROUND**

1. A letter complaint from Helly Y. Asoy dated June 17, 2022, was referred to this office thru a memorandum from the DENR-Mines and Geosciences Bureau MIMAROPA and from the DENR-Environmental Management Bureau MIMAROPA dated June 20, 2022, and June 21, 2022, respectively. The complaint was about the construction of a roadway being constructed adjacent to a coastal area located in Brgy. Taclobo, San Fernando Romblon and construction of bunkhouses, destruction of vegetation, and clearing of the site.
2. A memorandum signed by the OIC, ARD for Technical Services was forwarded to this office regarding the undated letter complaint from Ireneo Rafol Romano et al., on the alleged unlawful extraction of nickel, gold, and illegal logging in Sibuyan Island by ALTAI Philippines Mining Corporation (CO-2022-089703).
3. DENR Forest Patrollers assigned in San Fernando, Romblon reported the alleged illegal cutting of trees within the MPSA area on July 15, 2022.

## **SERIES OF ACTIONS TAKEN**

1. The OIC, PENRO, Arnoldo A. Blaza, Jr. directed the MES to create Composite Team of personnel from EMB Romblon, MGB Romblon, Monitoring and Enforcement Section and Regulation and Permitting Section.

By virtue of PENRO Special Order No. 22-73, dated June 21, 2022, the team conducted investigation on June 27, 2022, to verify the allegations reported by Helly Y. Asoy. (Please see attached Investigation Report marked as Annex A)





Findings of investigation revealed that bunkhouse were already established since 2012 based on the generated Google Earth. Also, no mining activity has been conducted and no cutting of trees were observed in large scale.

2. To take appropriate action on the memo from the OIC, ARDTS regarding the complaint of certain Ireneo Rafol, the In-Charge PENRO and Chief TSD immediately instructed the MES to conduct investigation on the matter. MGB embedded personnel together with two personnel from Sibuyan Sub-Station, were formed to validate the alleged unlawful extraction of nickel, gold, and illegal logging in Sibuyan Island operated by the ALTAI Philippines Mining Corporation (APMC).

Based on the result of the investigation conducted on July 7, 2022, no environmental laws were violated by the APMC. (Please see attached investigation report marked as Annex B)

3. Concerning the report of the DENR forest patrollers, the In-Charge PENRO, on the same day, immediately prepared a letter addressed to the president of APMC directing them to stop the cutting of trees and advising them to secure permits before the cutting operation.

Further, the OIC PENRO instructed the MES to conduct immediate action on the alleged illegal cutting of trees facilitated by the APMC in Brgy. Espana, San Fernando, Romblon. On July 19, 2022, the team conducted inspection and inventory of the alleged cutting of trees.

Based on the generated map, the cutting of trees was found to be at lot number 2469 and is within the timberland area. The team recommends for the cancellation of the title. In addition, they also recommend for the immediate conduct of consultation meeting among agencies of MGB, EMB, DAR, DENR, MLGU and other stakeholders involved. *(Please see attached Inventory Report marked as Annex C)*

## **OTHER CONCERNS**

In relation to the request letter of APMC for conduct of inspection of proposed access road for the exploration activity under Mineral Production Sharing Agreement No. 304-2009-IVB dated July 8, 2022, the OIC PENRO requested them to attend the Technical Conference scheduled on August 1, 2022. The activity aims to discuss matters concerning inventory of trees to be cut, the requirements, and processes involved.

For information and reference.

  
**SHEILLA JANE M. PORLALES**





## MEMORANDUM

**FOR :** The PENR Officer

**FROM :** Chief, EMS Romblon  
Science Research Specialist II  
Forester II  
Special Investigator  
Land Management Inspector

**SUBJECT :** **INVESTIGATION REPORT REGARDING THE REPORTED CONSTRUCTION OF A ROADWAY BEING CONSTRUCTED ADJACENT TO A COASTAL AREA LOCATED AT BRGY. TACLOBO, SAN FERNANDO, ROMBLON AND CONSTRUCTION OF BUNKHOUSES, DESTRUCTION OF VEGETATION, AND CLEARING OF THE SITE AS REPORTED THRU AN EMAIL BY A CERTAIN HELLY Y. ASOY, A CONCERNED CITIZEN**

**DATE :** July 4, 2022

## FACTUAL BACKGROUND

1. Letter from a certain Helly Y. Asoy, a concerned citizen, alleged that a roadway is being constructed that leads to an adjacent seashore claiming that it will be used as an entry/exit point of all mining activities in Brgy. Taclobo, San Fernando, Romblon. The reports added that a bank houses are already constructed in Sitio Talaba which resulted to the destruction of the surrounding vegetation. Ms. Asoy also alleged that the activity being made in the vicinity affected the protected areas and the buffer zone of Mt Guiting-guiting including mangrove areas.

## ACTION TAKEN

A composite team of personnel from Environmental Management Bureau - Romblon, Mines and Geosciences Bureau - Romblon, Enforcement Section, and Regulation and Permitting Section (RPS) of DENR PENRO Romblon was formed to conduct an investigation on the allegation of an illicit activities in Brgy. Taclobo, San Fernando, Romblon in relation to the supposed mining activity of Altai Philippines Mining Corporation (APMC).

By virtue of the Special Order No. 22-73 dated June 21, 2022 issued by OIC, PENR Officer Arnoldo A. Blaza, Jr., the team headed to the Island of Sibuyan, Romblon on June 27, 2022 to verify the veracity of the allegations as reported by a certain Helly Y. Asoy. Upon arrival to the port of Ambulong, Magdiwang, Romblon the team headed straight to the Brgy. Taclobo, San Fernando, Romblon to conduct investigation. Likewise, the team went to the Office of the Municipal Mayor of San Fernando, Romblon to gather information whether the LGU have issued necessary permit in regards with the activity in the mentioned barangay, however, the Municipal Mayor is not around during the time of the visit.

Afterwards, the team met with Helly Y. Asoy and discussed the investigation being conducted and the possible recommendation that DENR PENRO Romblon may issue on





the basis of the evidences gathered during the investigation. The team also met with the person who sold the property adjacent to the coastal area in Brgy. Taclobo.

## FINDINGS

- That the subject lot where the roadway is being constructed is identified as Lot 81-C, Psd-04-093729(AR) covered by Transfer of Certificate of Title No. CLOA-2099 awarded to Gloria Rafol Abdula;



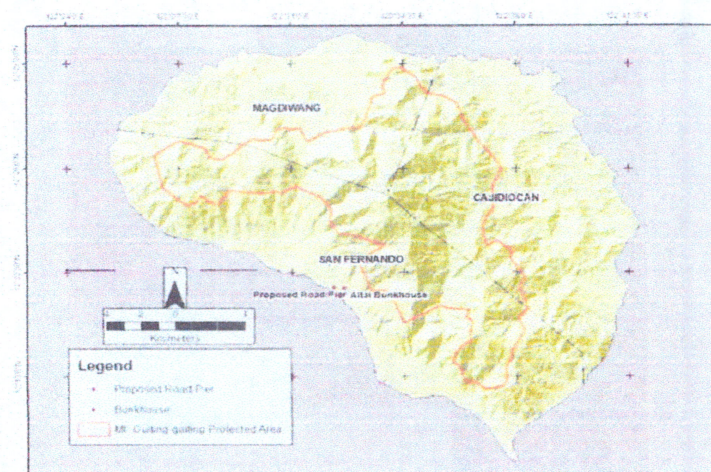
- That the subject lot is now Tax Declared to Zoraida R. Repil under Tax Declaration No. 001491 by virtue of a Deed of Absolute Sale on the other hand the title is yet to be transferred to her name;
- That the subject lot as per verbal information given by Mr. Rene Ventura, resident of the same barangay whose house is adjacent to the subject lot, stated that the subject lot has been sold by Zoraida R. Repil to Altai Philippines Mining Corporation or Altai Mining as known in the locality;
- That as per Zoraida R. Repil, no agreement of sale has been signed between her and Altai Mining as of yet;
- That the subject lot has already been enclosed by a barbed wire with a sign "No Trespassing, Private Property";







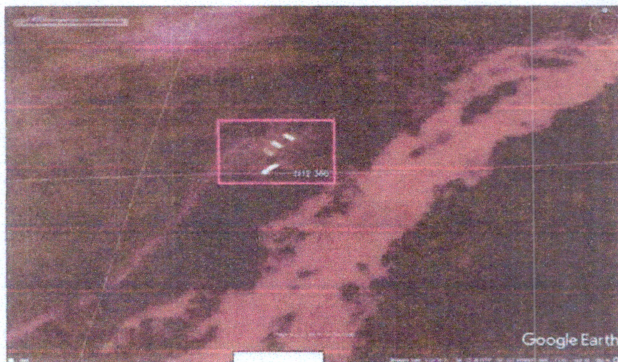
- That the subject lot has been flattened as a preparation for a possible roadway that leads to the seashore;
- That there are no signs of cutting of mangrove trees during the time of the investigation, if there were mangrove trees that have been cut-down it may have been buried underneath due to the levelling of the area;
- That the only signs of cutting was of the mango trees stacked on the corner of the property;
- That the LGU of San Fernando has not issued any permits in regards with the proposed roadway in Brgy. Taclobo;
- That at present Altai Mining have applied for foreshore lease, however, due to lacking requirements DENR PENRO Romblon have sent them a letter to submit the necessary requirements including Certification of No-Object to be issued by the Sangguniang Barangay of Taclobo and Sangguniang Bayan of San Fernando, Romblon;
- That the subsequent area which also been bought by Altai Mining as per information, where the bank houses are located, is located somewhere around 100 meters away from Lot 81-C where it has also been enclosed by a barbed wire having the same warning that the area is a private property;
- That the team were not allowed to conduct inspection inside the premises as the personnel manning the main gate said that their superiors are not in the vicinity to give the team the permission to enter the premises;
- That per drone shot it was found out that there are several dump trucks, bank houses, and heavy equipment's stationed in the vicinity;
- That the area where these heavy equipment's are stationed have been cleared providing clear area for bank houses and the like however no signs of cuttings were found in the vicinity during the flight of the drone;
- That based on the generated map provided by Science Research Specialist II, Felix Carl Falquerabao, the location of bunkhouses are outside the boundary of the protected area;







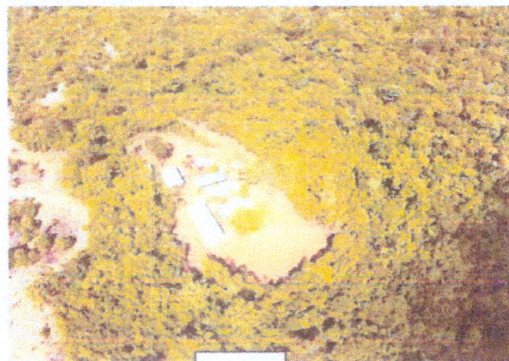
- That based on the generated google earth the bunkhouses are already in the vicinity since 2012;



2012



2019



2022

- That as of this writing no mining activity is being conducted in the vicinity and no cutting of trees were observed in large scale;

#### **LEGAL BASIS**

##### **Presidential Decree No. 1067 known as The Water Code of the Philippines**

- "Article 51. The banks of rivers and streams and the shores of the seas and lakes throughout their entire length and within a zone of three (3) meters in urban areas, twenty (20) meters in agricultural areas and forty (40) meters in forest areas, along their margins are subject to the easement of public use in the interest of recreation, navigation, floatage, fishing and salvage. No person shall be allowed to stay in this zone longer than what is necessary for recreation, navigation, floatage, fishing or salvage or to build structures of any kind."

##### **Presidential Decree No. 705**

- **Section 47.** Mining operations. Mining operations in forest lands shall be regulated and conducted with due regard to protection, development and utilization of other surface resources.

Location, prospecting, exploration, utilization or exploitation of mineral resources in forest reservations shall be governed by Mining laws, rules and





regulations. No location, prospecting, exploration, utilization, or exploitation of mineral resources inside forest concessions shall be allowed unless proper notice has been served upon the licensees thereof and the prior approval of the Director, secured.

Mine tailings and other pollutants affecting the health and safety of the people, water, fish, vegetation, animal life and other surface resources, shall be filtered in silt traps or other filtration devices and only clean exhausts and liquids shall be released therefrom.

Surface-mined areas shall be restored to as near its former natural configuration or as approved by the Director prior to its abandonment by the mining concern.

- **Section 68.** Cutting, gathering and/or collecting timber or other products without license. Any person who shall cut, gather, collect, or remove timber or other forest products from any forest land, or timber from alienable and disposable public lands, or from private lands, without any authority under a license agreement, lease, license or permit, shall be guilty of qualified theft as defined and punished under Articles 309 and 310 of the Revised Penal Code; Provided, That in the case of partnership, association or corporation, the officers who ordered the cutting, gathering or collecting shall be liable, and if such officers are aliens, they shall, in addition to the penalty, be deported without further proceedings on the part of the Commission on Immigration and Deportation.

#### **Provision of Foreshore Lease Application**

Application conveys no right to the applicant to enter upon, occupy, cultivate, or make clearings on the land until the same has been finally approved and lease contract executed, and that any lease applicant who shall willfully and knowingly submit false statements or execute false affidavits in connection with the foregoing application shall be deemed guilty of perjury and published by a fine of not more than two thousand pesos and by imprisonment for not more than five (5) years, and in addition thereto his application shall be cancelled and all amounts paid on account thereof forfeited to the Government, and he shall not be entitled to apply for any public land in the Philippines.

#### **COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATION**

The investigation conducted by the composite team was in accordance with the Special Order No. 22-73 dated June 21, 2022 issued by this Office and in response to the request of a certain Ms. Helly Y. Asoy to investigate the subject areas both located in Brgy. Taclobo, San Fernando, Romblon.

The allegations of Ms. Asoy regarding the cutting of trees including mangroves were not observed in the vicinity except for the mango trees stacked in the corner of the lot. Though there might have been cutting of trees which is possible given the condition of the area, however, since the area have already been flattened there have been no visible signs of cutting. Moreover, since both areas are considered private, the owner, Altai Philippines Mining Corporation or Altai Mining, have the rights to exercise their free will over their dominions, thus, DENR PENRO Romblon nor the LGU of San Fernando does not have the rights to interfere in their activities inside their private property, except with those activities that may harm the surrounding ecosystems which is tantamount to violations of environmental laws and regulations. But since there have been no activity during the conduct of investigation that may constitute violations of environmental laws and regulations therefore no sanctions can be issued against the occupation of Altai Mining.

Regarding the use of salvage zone and its foreshore area, Altai Mining will have to pursue their Foreshore Lease Application and submit all the necessary requirements including the



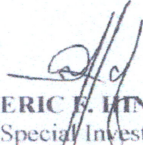


Certification of No Objection to be issued by both Sangguniang Bayan of San Fernando and Sangguniang Barangay of Taclobo. Without those, use of the salvage zone and its foreshore area without necessary clearances from DENR will be treated as illegal and Cease and Desist Order and Notice to Vacate must be issued immediately. As for the cutting of trees, DENR PENRO Romblon specially the Enforcement Section has to be vigilant. As such, the Enforcement Section may create a special team to monitor the activity in the subject area and use of drone is highly recommended as well since the entry to the vicinity is prohibited.

Prior to any exploration activities, ALTAI Mining has to secure the approval of its application for the renewal of the exploration period in compliance with Section 39 of DENR Administrative Order (DAO) No. 2010-21. Likewise, prior to development/commercial extraction, the endorsement of the Sangguniang Bayan concerned shall be secured by ALTAI pursuant to Section 39.ac of DAO No. 2010-21 and the pertinent provisions of R.A. No. 7160, the Local Government Code of 1991.

In closing, the presence of Altai Mining in the locality have caused apprehension and fear to the residents in the locality and to the entire island of Sibuyan. Mining if not done properly may cause large scale damage to the environment including loss of lives, and their livelihood.

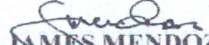
  
**IRWIN ANZALDO**  
Chief, EMS Romblon

  
**ERIC F. MINDAP**  
Special Investigator

  
**JOSE MARIE F. FABITO**  
Environmental Monitoring Officer

  
**FELIX CARL FALQUERABAO**  
Science Research Specialist II

  
**ROMER E. GERVACIO**  
Land Management Inspector

  
**JAMES MENDOZA**  
Forester II/Team Leader



COMPOSITE TEAM COMPOSED OF EMB AND MGB ROMBLON,  
ENFORCEMENT SECTION, AND REGULATION AND PERMITTING SECTION



LOT 81-C, PSD-04=093729 (AR) covered by Transfer of Certificate of Title  
no. CLOA-2099 awarded to Gloria Rafol Abdula which was sold to Zoraida  
R. Repil and was allegedly sold to ALTAI Mining, location where the  
proposed road is located



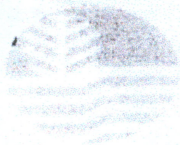




LOT 81-C, PSD-04=093729 (AR) covered by Transfer of Certificate of Title no. CLOA-2099 awarded to Gloria Rafol Abdula which was sold to Zoraida R. Repil and was allegedly sold to ALTAI Mining, location where the proposed road is located







Republic of the Philippines  
Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
**MIMAROPA Region 5**

June 21, 2022

**PENRO SPECIAL ORDER No. 22-73**  
**Series of 2022**

**SUBJECT: CREATION OF INVESTIGATION TEAM FOR THE ONGOING  
ROAD CONSTRUCTION AT SAN FERNANDO, ROMBLON**

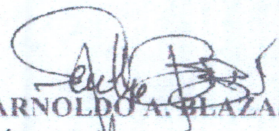
In the interest of service and in order to validate/investigate the ongoing road construction in San Fernando, Romblon, the selected personnel are hereby authorized to comprise the investigation team to wit:

- |                              |                               |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. JAMES M. MENDOZA          | - Forester II                 |
| 2. ERIC HINDAP               | - Special Investigator I      |
| 3. ROMER GERVACIO            | - Land Management Inspector I |
| 4. IRWIN A. ANZALDO          | - Chief, EMS - EMB            |
| 5. FELIX CARL F. FALQUERABAO | - SRS II - MGB                |

The Investigation Team shall coordinate with the concerned individuals/LGU/BLGU and investigate the alleged illegal road construction in the island per letter of Mr. Helly Y. Asoy dated June 17, 2022.

They shall submit report with categorical recommendation within seven (7) days after the completion of the activity.

This Order takes effect immediately.

  
**ARNOLDO A. BLAZA, JR.**





Republic of the Philippines  
Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
**MIMAROPA Region**

08 July 2022

**MEMORANDUM**

**FOR : THE REGIONAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**  
**DENR MIMAROPA Region**

**THRU : THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL DIRECTOR**  
**For Technical Services**

**FROM : THE OIC-PENR OFFICER**  
**PENRO Odiongan, Romblon**

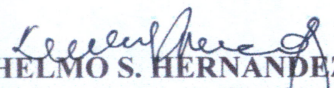
**SUBJECT : REPORT ON THE UNDATED LETTER COMPLAINT OF MR.**  
**IRENEO RAFOL ROMANO ET. AL. RE: ALLEGED**  
**UNLAWFUL EXTRACTION OF NICKEL, GOLD, AND**  
**ILLEGAL LOGGING IN SIBUYAN ISLAND, ROMBLON**  
**BY ALTAI MINING PHILIPPINES (CO-2022-089703)**

Respectfully forwarding the investigation report dated 08 July 2022 of Science Research Specialist II Felix Carl F. Falquerabao, Forest Ranger Ludwin M. Ruado, and Forest Technician I Ernie L. Forcadas regarding the above-mentioned subject.

Based on the investigation report, no environmental laws were violated by Altai Mining Philippines Corporation.

For information and further instruction.

*"For and in the absence of the OIC-PENR Officer"*

  
**THELMO S. HERNANDEZ**  
Chief, Management Services Division

cc: **The Regional Director**  
Mines and Geosciences Bureau – MIMAROPA Region  
7/F DENR Bldg., 1515 Roxas Blvd. Ermita, Manila

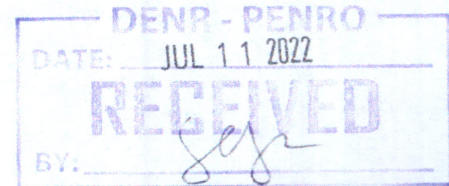
PENRO Romblon Barangay Tabing-dagat, Odiongan, Romblon 5505  
Direct Line: (042) 567-5030  
Email Address: [penrorom\\_r4b@yahoo.com.ph](mailto:penrorom_r4b@yahoo.com.ph)





08 July 2022

**MEMORANDUM**



**FOR :** THE OIC PENR OFFICER  
PENRO Odiongan, Romblon

**FROM :** FELIX CARL F. FALQUERABAO  
Science Research Specialist II

LUDWIN M. RUADO  
Forest Ranger

ERNIE L. FORCADAS  
Forest Technician I

**SUBJECT :** REPORT ON THE UNDATED LETTER COMPLAINT OF MR. IRENEO RAFOL ROMANO ET. AL. RE: ALLEGED UNLAWFUL EXTRACTION OF NICKEL, GOLD, AND ILLEGAL LOGGING IN SIBUYAN ISLAND, ROMBLON BY ALTAI MINING PHILIPPINES (CO-2022-089703)

**Background Information**

On 06 July 2022, the OIC PENR Officer of Romblon forwarded a memorandum signed by the OIC, ARD for Technical Services with the corresponding above-mentioned subject. In line with this matter, the undersigned was tasked to urgently investigate the allegations to shed light on its veracity.

In coordination with the Monitoring and Enforcement Section and Mt. Guiting-guiting Natural Park Protected Area Management Office (MGGNP-PAMO) of PENRO Romblon, the Agriculture Office of the Municipality of San Fernando, and officials from Barangay Taclobo, a composite team was assembled to investigate the alleged unlawful extraction of nickel, gold, and illegal logging in Sibuyan Island facilitated by Altai Mining Philippines Corporation (AMPC)

**Purpose and Scope**

The fieldwork aims to validate the veracity of the complaint and to recommend necessary actions to address the issue. The field investigation includes the ocular inspection of the area and a dialogue with the complainant along with the accused.



Prior to the investigation, the team made a courtesy call to Hon. Mayor Nanette B. Tansingco of San Fernando, and Hon. Barangay Chairman Fausto Bacero of Brgy. Taclobo. The purpose of the investigation was discussed during the meeting.

### **Findings and Observations**

1. The subject area is located at Brgy. Taclobo, San Fernando, Romblon in Sibuyan Island. Travel time from DENR Sibuyan Sub-station to the subject area is approximately 45 to 50 minutes by public utility vehicles. Its main access is the Sibuyan Circumferential Road. (See map for reference)
2. During the courtesy call with Mayor Nanette B. Tansingco (Photo No. 1), the team explained that a complaint was lodged to the DENR MIMAROPA Region regarding the unlawful extraction of nickel, gold, and illegal logging in Sibuyan Island being facilitated by Altai Mining Philippines. The team then asked assistance for the conduct of the investigation and Mayor Tansingco willingly provided in the person of Mr. Manny Ladera of the Agriculture Office. The team then proceeded to Brgy. Taclobo for a courtesy call and to ask for the same assistance. Chairman Fausto Bacero agreed to personally assist the team during the investigation (Photo No. 2).
3. The team asked Chairman Fausto Bacero if he knew a certain Mr. Ireneo Rafol Romano and if there is a chance for an interview. Chairman Bacero stated that Mr. Romano is unfortunately not in San Fernando but in Manila.
4. The team then headed to the office of Altai Mining Philippines in Brgy. Taclobo. Upon arriving, the team was greeted by Mr. John Cleofe, AMPC's Administrative Officer, Mrs. Ludilyn Romero Montojo and Ms. Luilyn Viñas, AMPC's Community Relations Officers (Photo No. 3). The team introduced themselves and proceeded to explain the nature of the visit; an investigation in relation to the complaint of Mr. Ireneo Rafol Romano et. al. regarding the company's alleged unlawful extraction of nickel, gold, and illegal logging.
5. Mr. Cleofe explained that AMPC has no on-going extraction activities. He added that the company is merely setting up camp. The team observed on-going construction of bunkhouses in the area and clearing operations. Mrs. Montojo added that the area is where the original office of the company years ago before the cease and desist order was issued. She explained that after many years, the area and the structures were overwhelmed with bushes and shrubs, so a clearing operation must be conducted.
6. The team asked permission from Mr. Cleofe and Mrs. Montojo if the team could look around the company's compound and take photos for documentation. Mr. Cleofe and Mrs. Montojo welcomed the team. During the inspection, the team observed cleared bushes and shrubs set aside the fence which serve as the bounds of the compound (Photo No 4). No sign of logged trees observed. In contrast, few living trees were observed within the camp. It was also noted that the materials used for the construction of



bunkhouses were coconut lumber. Drilling equipment, backhoe, loaders, and few dump trucks were also noticed (Photo No. 5).

7. Reports from forest rangers, forest technicians, and park rangers led by Forester I Rolly Morales from DENR Sibuyan Sub-station during their regular patrolling, monitoring, and surveillance of forestlands for the months of May and June reveal few old tree stumps in Barangay España and Barangay Taclobo. However, no illegal forest activities were encountered.
8. After the inspection the team asked Mr. Cleofe about the status of the company's renewal application for exploration. Mr. Cleofe suggested that the question be answered by Mr. Steve Taule, Company Director who was on his way back from a meeting. Mr. Taule arrived few minutes later.
9. Mr. Taule invited the team to one of the open bunkhouses for an open discussion regarding the investigation (Photo No 6). The team explained the nature of the visit then proceeded to ask the status of the company's renewal application for exploration. Mr. Taule stated that the company is well aware of the complaints and misconceptions being thrown at them and added that no environmental laws were being violated.
10. Mr. Taule added that the company is currently waiting for a reply letter from the Mines and Geosciences Central Office regarding the status of their application. He assured the team that the company will not be doing any exploration activities let alone extraction activities until the company's exploration permit be renewed.

#### **Comments and Recommendations**

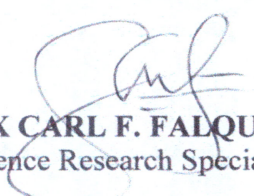
1. The result of the investigation shows that Altai Mining Philippines Corporation did not violate any environmental laws. No unlawful extraction of gold and nickel were being conducted. Extraction of nickel is done on a large scale so it would be obvious if extraction is being conducted. On the other hand, gold is not a mineral of interest for the company. Extraction of gold would be a liability for the company considering the fact that the declared commodity for their proposed mining operations are only nickel laterite and cobalt. However, Altai Mining Philippines Corporation is being reminded that prior to any exploration activities, the company has to secure the approval of its application for the renewal of the exploration period in compliance with Section 39 of DENR Administrative Order (DAO) NO. 2010-21. Likewise, prior to development/commercial extraction, the endorsement of the Sanggunian concerned shall be secured by Altai pursuant to Section 39.ac of DAO No. 2010-21 and the pertinent provisions of RA No. 7160, the Local Government Code of 1991.
2. The alleged illegal logging of Altai Mining Philippines Corporation is deemed untruthful. Inspection and verification within the company's compound in Brgy. Taclobo revealed that the on-going clearing operations only cut down overgrown bushes and shrubs. The company left out the trees for additional shade. Accordingly, patrolling reports from forest rangers of DENR Sibuyan Sub-station from May to June




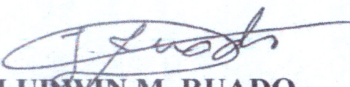
reveal that no illegal forest activities were encountered in Brgy. España and Taclobo. However, Altai Mining Philippines Corporation is being reminded of Section 68 of Presidential Decree 705 which states, *"Cutting, gathering and/or collecting timber or other products without license. Any person who shall cut, gather, collect, or remove timber or other forest products from any forest land, or timber from alienable and disposable public lands, or from private lands, without any authority under a license agreement, lease, license or permit, shall be guilty of qualified theft as defined and punished under Articles 309 and 310 of the Revised Penal Code; Provided, That in the case of partnership, association or corporation, the officers who ordered the cutting, gathering or collecting shall be liable, and if such officers are aliens, they shall, in addition to the penalty, be deported without further proceedings on the part of the Commission on Immigration and Deportation"*.

3. Regarding the bunkhouses being constructed, Altai Mining Philippines Corporation's compound is considered to be a private area. Thus, the company has the full right to exercise free will within their dominion. The Department of Environment Natural Resources and the Local Government of San Fernando have no right to interfere in any activities within the property unless there is a breach on any national (environmental) or local laws and regulations.

For the PENRO's consideration and further instruction.

  
**FELIX CARL F. FALQUERABAO**  
Science Research Specialist II

  
**ERNIE L. FORCADAS**  
Forest Technician I

  
**LUDWIN M. RUADO**  
Forest Ranger

cc: **The Regional Director**  
Mines and Geosciences Bureau – MIMAROPA Region  
7/F DENR Bldg., 1515 Roxas Blvd. Ermita, Manila



## Photo Documentation



Photo No. 1: Courtesy call with Mayor Nanette B. Tansingco.



Photo No. 2: Courtesy call with Barangay Chairman Fausto Bacero.

PENRO Romblon Barangay Tabing-dagat, Odiongan, Romblon 5505  
Direct Line: (042) 567-5030  
Email Address: [penrorom\\_r4b@yahoo.com.ph](mailto:penrorom_r4b@yahoo.com.ph)





Photo No. 3: Brief discussion of the purpose of the visit with AMPC officers.



Photo No. 4: Cleared out bushes and shrubs set aside to the bounds of the compound.





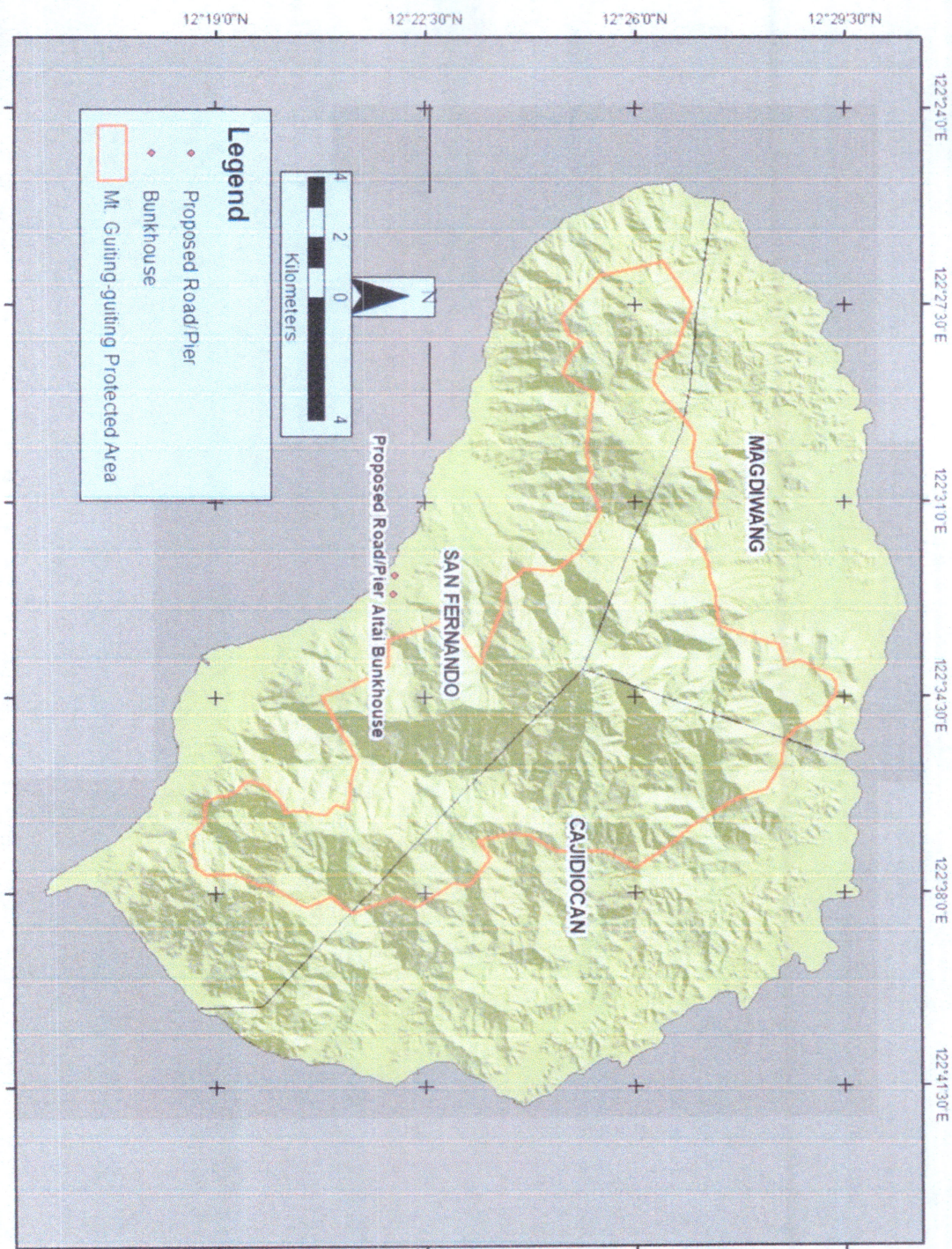
*Photo No. 5: AMPC's loader, backhoe, and dump trucks parked within the compound.*



*Photo No. 6: Discussion and interview with Company Director Steve Taule.*



# Location Map



PENRO Romblon Barangay Tabing-dagat, Odiongan, Romblon 5505  
 Direct Line: (042) 567-5030  
 Email Address: [penrorom\\_r4h@yahoo.com.ph](mailto:penrorom_r4h@yahoo.com.ph)





**MEMORANDUM**

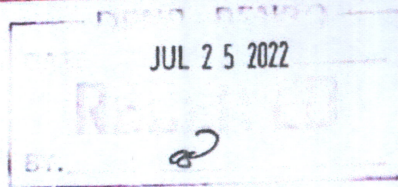
**FOR : THE OIC- PENRO OFFICER**  
**DENR, Odiongan, Romblon**

**THRU : The Chief Technical Services Division & PASu MGGNP**

**FROM : FORESTER-II JAMES M. MENDOZA ET. AL.**

**SUBJECT : SUBMISSION OF INSPECTION AND INVENTORY REPORT ON  
THE ALLEGED ILLEGAL CUTTING OF TREES UNDERTAKEN  
BY THE ALTAI PHILS. MINING CORPORATION LOCATED IN  
BRGY. ESPANA, SAN FERNANDO, ROMBLON**

**DATE : JULY 20, 2022**



**REFERENCE**

Per instruction of our OIC-PENR Officer Arnoldo A. Blaza, Jr. to conduct immediate inspection and inventory on the alleged illegal cutting of trees undertaken by the Altai Phils. Mining Corporation located in Brgy. Espana, San Fernando, Romblon.

**ACTIONS**

Pursuant to our approved travel, the undersigned immediately traveled to Brgy. Espana, San Fernando, Romblon.

- That on July 18, 2022, we coordinated with the Barangay Officials of Taclobo and we were able to talk with Kagawad Mr. Marlon Romero since he is the Officer on duty. That we discuss to him our purpose pertaining to the information about the activities undertaken by the Altai Phils. Mining Corporation;
- That on the same day, we also coordinated to the Barangay Officials of Espana and we talk with Kagawad Arnel Marin and informed about the activities of the Altai Phils. Mining Corporation;
- That on July 19, 2022, the undersigned DENR personnel together with the Municipal Local Government Unit headed by Mayor Nanette B. Tansingco, Vice Mayor Doming Marin, Sangguniang Bayan members, Barangay Espana Mr. Cris Cleope (acting Captain), and representative from the Municipal Police Station of San Fernando, Romblon conducted site inspection and inventory on the alleged illegal cutting of trees undertaken by the Altai Phils. Mining Corporation located in Brgy. Espana, San Fernando, Romblon;
- That the team, coordinated with Mr. Mike Sanchez, Project Manager of said Mining Company before we proceeded in the subject area;
- That the undersigned, used a safety gadgets /equipment (boots, hard hat) together with the representatives of other government agencies as a protocol of the said company;
- That during our actual inspection and inventory, we took geo-tagged photos on the area of drill holes being undertaken by the Altai Phils. Mining Corporation.

**FINDINGS**

- The undersigned able to conduct actual inventory of the alleged cutting of trees with the following details;

LOCATION	NUMBER	SPECIES	DIAMETER	PIECES	REMARKS
Drill hole with 5" diameter	7	Miscellaneous	3cm- 8cm	5	Drilling is completed
Drill hole with 5" diameter	8	Miscellaneous	3cm- 10cm	30	Drilling is completed





Drill hole with 5" diameter	17	Miscellaneous	5cm-8cm	10	Newly established with stake observed in the area
Drill hole with 5" diameter	18	Miscellaneous	3cm-8cm	15	Drilling is ongoing
Drill hole with 5" diameter	30	Miscellaneous	5cm-8cm	20	Drilling is ongoing
Drill hole with 5" diameter	35	Miscellaneous	3cm-10cm	25	Drilling is ongoing
<b>Total</b>				<b>105</b>	

-That based from the Map layout the drilling area is within lot number 2469 owned by Mr. Amado Ramiro covering an area of 11. 0268 has. and the area is within CBFM;  
-That the undersigned did not able to measure a tree having a diameter of more than 15 cm.;  
-That Altai Phils. Mining Corporation have a copy of Renewal for their Mineral Production Sharing Agreement (MPSA) No. 304- 2009- IVB and they started drilling operation on July 15, 2022 at Brgy. Espana, San Fernando, Romblon.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

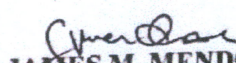
Considering the above findings and observation, the undersigned found out that the cutting of trees is located in lot number 2469 and owned by Mr. Amado Ramiro. That the undersigned recommends the cancellation of the title since the lot is within Timberland area.

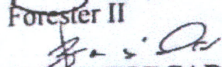
The undersigned recommends the immediate conduct of consultation meeting with the concerned agencies: Central Office of MGB, Regional Office of MGB, EMB, DENR, DAR, MLGU and other stakeholders involved to discuss, clarify, and to resolve the issues and concern pertaining to the activities undertaken by the Altai Phil. Mining Corporation including the protocol in monitoring activities to be conducted by the Task Force Pangangasiwa ng Kalikasan issued by the LGU of San Fernando.

Attached are the following pertinent documents;

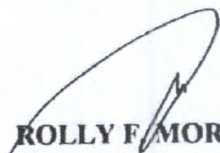
- Map Showing the Drilling Site of Altai Phil. Mining Corporation
- Copy of MPSA renewal for the Altai Phil. Mining Corporation issued by Engr. Juancho Pablo S. Calvez, OIC, Office of the Director
- Copy of Resolution issued by the LGU of San Fernando, Romblon
- Received copy letter from DENR PENRO Romblon to Altai Phils. Mining Corporation
- Geo-tagged photos

For your information and further instruction.

  
**JAMES M. MENDOZA**  
Forester II

  
**ERNIE FORCADAS**  
Forest Technician I

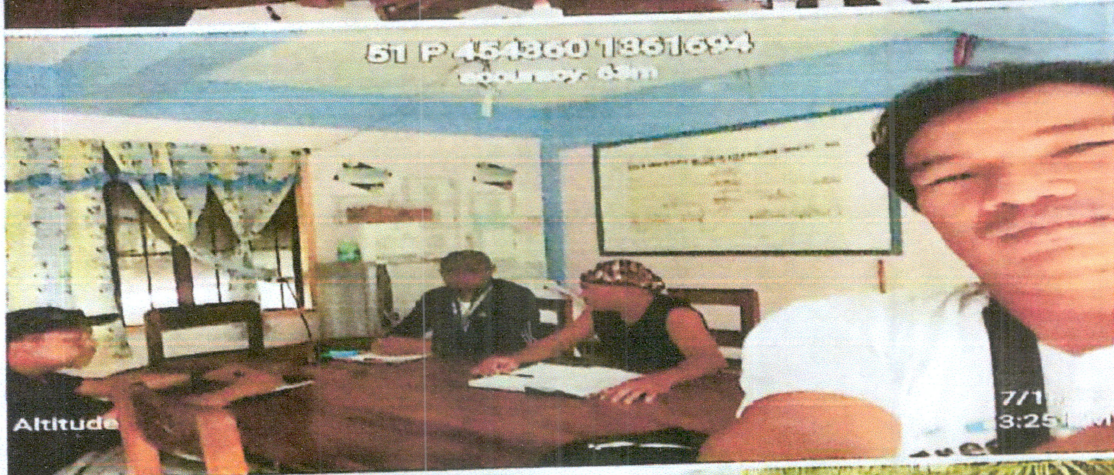
  
**HENRY CARBONILLA II**  
Forest Ranger

  
**ROLLY F. MORALES**  
Forester I

  
**RAMER MANALON**  
Forest Technician I

  
**LUDWIN RUADO**  
Forest Ranger





**GEO-TAGGED PHOTOS DURING THE COORDINATION WITH THE BARANGAY OFFICIALS OF TACLOBO AND ESPANA, SAN FERNANDO, ROMBLON**





Republic of the Philippines  
Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
MIMAROPA Region



**GEOTAGGED PHOTOS OF DENR PERSONNEL, MUNICIPAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT OF SAN FERNANDO (MAYOR, VICE MAYOR, SB, AND MAO) PNP AND PROJECT MANAGER OF ALTAI PHILS. MINING CORPORATION WITHIN THE COMPLETED DRILLING AREA**





**GEOTAGGED PHOTOS OF DRILLING HOLES NUMBER 35 AND SAMPLE COLLECTED**





**GEOTAGGED PHOTOS OF DRILLING HOLE NUMBER 18**





Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
GPS Time: Jul 19, 2022 12:03 PM  
Latitude: 12° 27' 50.7"  
Longitude: 122° 52' 39.4"

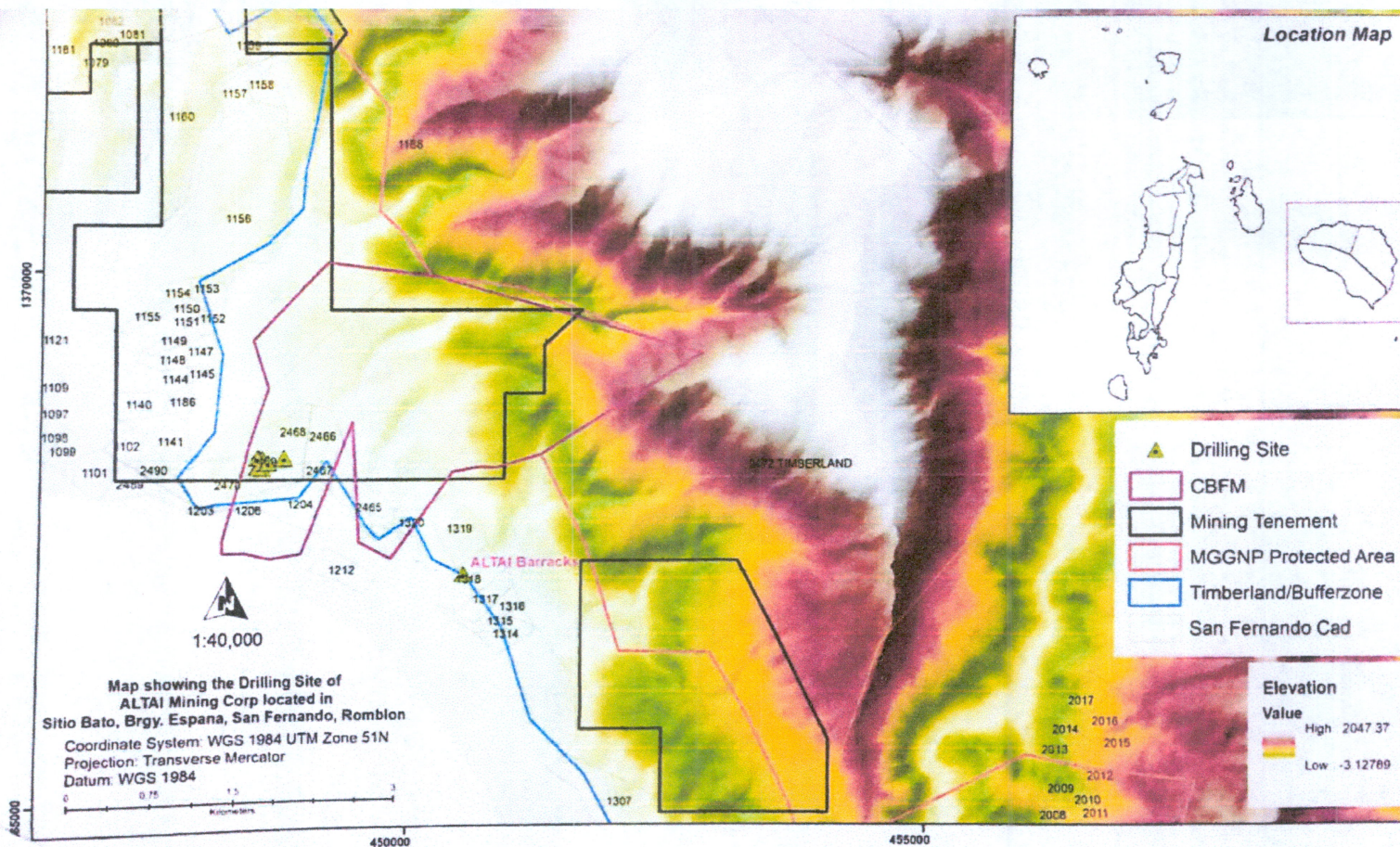


Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
GPS Time: Jul 19, 2022 11:53 AM  
Latitude: 12° 27' 6.15"  
Longitude: 122° 52' 33.22"

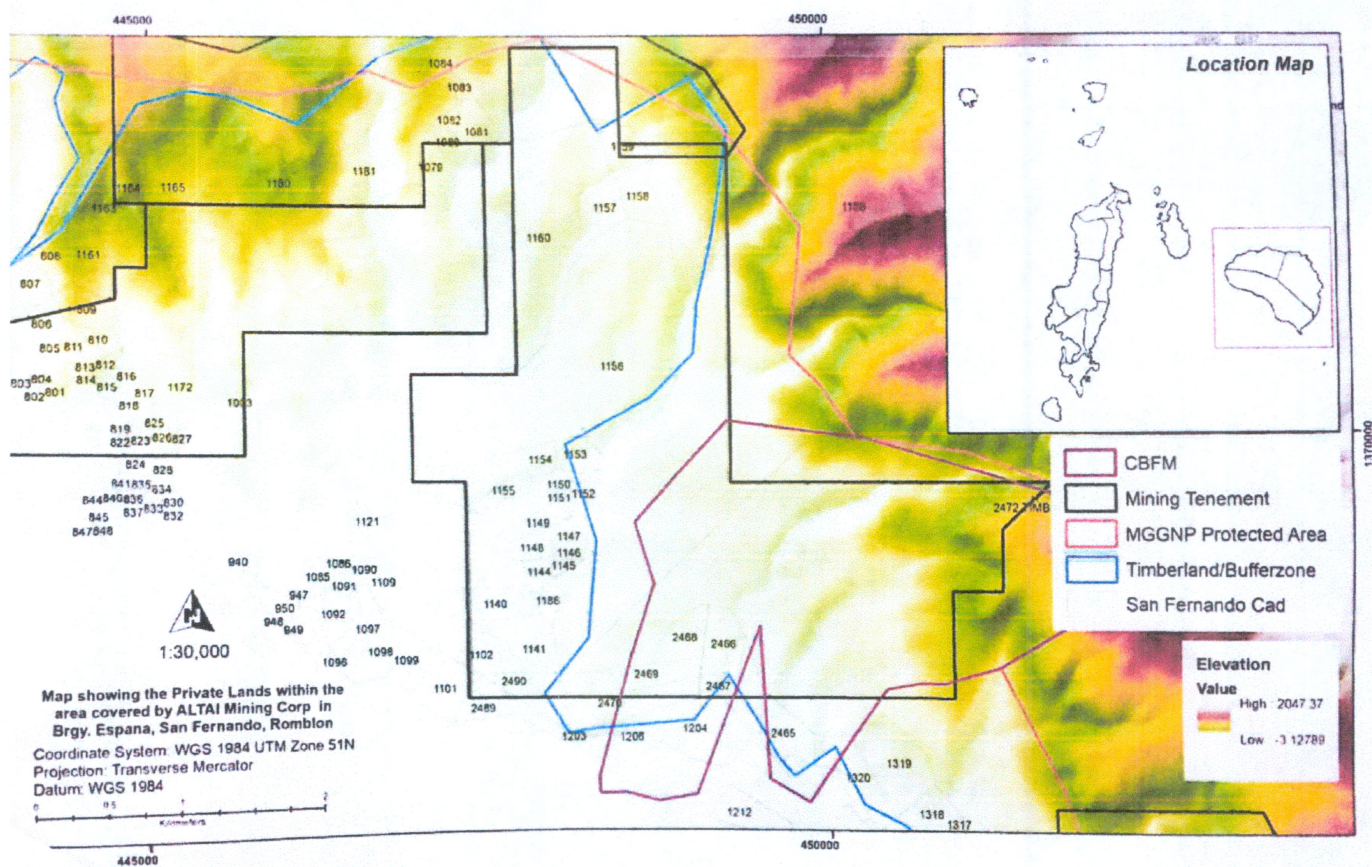


**GEOTAGGED PHOTOS DURING THE INVENTORY OF THE CUT TREES WITH  
SANGGUNIANG BAYAN MEMBER MR. DANTE MARIN (COMMITTEE ON  
ENVIRONMENT)**













Republic of the Philippines  
Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
**MINES AND GEOSCIENCES BUREAU**

North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines

Tel. No. (+63 2) 920-9120-9120-9130; Trunkline No. 567-6700; Loc. 134 Fax No. (+63 2) 920-1535 Email: [central@mgb.gov.ph](mailto:central@mgb.gov.ph)

July 12, 2022

Mr. Hanniel T. Ngo  
President  
Altai Philippines Mining Corporation  
1901 Tycoon Center, Pearl Drive  
Origas Center, San Antonio  
Pasig City

Dear Mr. H. T. Ngo:

This refers to the application for renewal of the Exploration Period under Mineral Production Sharing Agreement (MPSA) No. 304-2009-IVB granted to Altai Philippines Mining Corporation (APMC) on December 23, 2009 for the exploration development and utilization of nickel, iron, cobalt, chromite and other associated mineral deposits existing within the 1,580,8010-hectare contract area situated in San Fernando, Romblon, Sibuyan Island.

After evaluation of the pertinent documents, this Office hereby grants the first renewal of the Exploration Period under MPSA No. 304-2009-IVB pursuant to the pertinent provisions of Department of Environment and Natural Resources Administrative Order (DAO) Nos. 2010-21<sup>1</sup> and 2021-12<sup>2</sup> to take the effect starting this date, subject to the following conditions:

1. Such renewal of the Exploration Period shall represent the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> years of the Exploration Period under MPSA No. 304-2009-IVB as provided for under Section 5.1 thereof and that it shall not constitute an extension of the 25-year term of MPSA No. 304-2009-IVB.
2. A negative variance of at least twenty percent (20%) in the implementation of the Exploration Work Program (ExWP) and the corresponding expenditures shall be subject to the prior approval of the Director.
3. This grant requires the full implementation of the approved ExWP and Environmental Work Program (EWP), as well as compliance with the terms and conditions of the MPSA and the applicable provisions of DAO Nos. 2010-21 and 2021-12.

Please be guided that:

- a. The implementation of the approved ExWP and EWP by APMC is subject to periodic audit/monitoring by this Office and the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) MIMAROPA Region.
- b. A copy of the approved ExWP and EWP should be furnished by APMC to the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Romblon, and



Providing for a Consolidated Department of Environment and Natural Resources Administrative Order for Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act No. 7942, otherwise known as the Philippines Mining Act of 1995  
Guidelines for the Automatic Renewal of the Exploration Period and the Timely Filing of the Declaration of Mining Project Feasibility under the Exploration Permit, Mineral Production Sharing Agreement, Financial and Technical Assistance Agreement and Similar Mining Treatments

**"MINING SHALL BE PRO-PEOPLE AND PRO-ENVIRONMENT  
IN SUSTAINING WEALTH CREATION AND IMPROVED QUALITY OF LIFE"**

10-848717



- c The status reports on compliance with the approved ExWP and EWP should be submitted to MGB MIMAROPA Region copy furnished this Office

It is understood that failure to comply with the above requirement shall also constitute a breach of the MPSA. Attached is a copy of the approved EWP for your compliance

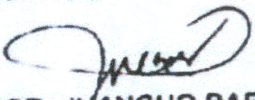
- 4 APMC shall secure the approval of the Community Development Program and Safety and Health Program in MGB MIMAROPA Region within 60 days from receipt hereof
- 5 APMC shall submit within 15 days from receipt hereof the following
- a Amended *PERFORMANCE BOND* No. 27191 issued by Milestone Guaranty and Assurance Corporation extending the expiry of the said Bond from July 05, 2024 to July 12, 2024.
  - b Revised EWP, taking into consideration the comments dated May 04, 2022 of the Mine Safety, Environment and Social Development Division of this Office, a copy of which is attached, and
  - c Revised ExWP, taking into consideration the comments of even date by the Mining Tenements and Management Division of his Office, a copy of which is attached

In the interim, APMC may implement the proposed ExWP and EWP pending the approval of its revision

Failure to submit the said documents within the deadline shall constrain this Office to withdraw the grant of this renewal of the Exploration Period under MPSA No. 304-2009-IVB.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

  
ENGR. JUANCHO PABLO S. CALVEZ  
Officer-In-Charge, Office of the Director



c/ Engr. Glenn Marcelo C. Noble  
Regional Director  
Mines and Geosciences Bureau  
MIMAROPA Region  
7th, 1515 DENR Building  
Roxas Boulevard, Ermita  
1500 Manila





**EXECUTIVE ORDER No. 18 s. 2022**

**AN ORDER CREATING THE TASK FORCE PANGANGASIWA NG KAPALIGIRAN IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF SAN FERNANDO, ROMBLON TO UNDERTAKE PROPER ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT AND STRENGTHEN ECOLOGICAL PROTECTION, CONSERVATION, AND PRESERVATION ACTIVITIES IN THE LOCALITY**

**WHEREAS**, Article II, Section 16 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution provides that the State shall protect and advance the rights of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature;

**WHEREAS**, Section 16 of the Local Government Code of 1991 explicitly provides that among the powers and attributes of LGUs' is the enhancement of the people's right to a balanced ecology;

**WHEREAS**, Section 455 of Republic Act 7160 authorizes the Local Chief Executive to adopt adequate measures to safeguard and conserve land, mineral, marine, forest and other resources of the local government unit;

**WHEREAS**, this local administration deems it necessary to reinforce and sustain the efforts in protecting and managing the environment and natural resources for the stability and growth of the natural ecosystems, promote human health, safety, and the quality of life for the benefit of the present and future generations.

**WHEREAS**, there is a need to have a proper venue or platform where consultation, coordination, monitoring, reporting, dialogue, decisions, and resolutions shall be made as a collective action of the municipal government whenever issues and concerns arise with respect to environmental management.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, NANETTE B. TANSINGCO, M.D.**, Municipal Mayor of San Fernando, Romblon, by virtue of the powers vested upon me by law, do hereby create the Task Force Pangangasiwa ng Kapaligiran under the Office of the Municipal Mayor to intensify the local environmental management efforts and other related actions and activities until otherwise revoked, amended or modified.

Section I: **COMPOSITION.** The Local Taskforce on Environmental Management, dubbed as: *Task Force Pangangasiwa ng Kapaligiran* shall be composed of the following:

Chairperson: Hon. Nanette B. Tansingco, M.D. - Municipal Mayor  
Vice Chairperson: Aivan Vincent M. Garniel - MLGOO

**Members:**

Hon. Domingo B. Marin - Vice Mayor

**ALL SANGGUNIANG BAYAN MEMBERS**

**ALL SANGGUNIANG BAYAN MEMBERS**





Republic of the Philippines  
Province of Romblon  
**MUNICIPALITY OF SAN FERNANDO**

**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR**

July 19, 2022

DENR REPRESENTATIVE

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**Sir / Madam:**

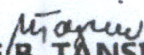
Greetings!

Please be informed that the **TASK FORCE PANGANGASIWA NG KAPALIGIRAN** will have a meeting on **Thursday, July 21, 2022, at 2:00 o'clock in the afternoon**, to be held on the **4th Floor, New Municipal Building**.

Important matters will be discussed.

For your information and guidance

Very truly yours,

  
**NANETTE B. TANSINGCO, M.D.**  
Mayor



Mr. Reynold Medecielo	-	PSDS
Mr. Nazarene Romano	-	ENHS
Ms. Merlin R. Bialen	-	DCMMMNHS
Mr. Edmund Bautista	-	AzagraNHS
Ms. Sally R. Vinas	-	San Fernando Central School
Mr. Mario Romano	-	San Fernando District Teachers Assoc. President
Ms. Marites R. Clavel	-	Alternative Learning System (ALS) Rep.
Mr. Jupiter Romero	-	San Fdo. District PTA Fed. President
Dr. Normer M. Ruailo	-	MHO
Mr. Harlie B. Relox	-	MDRRMO
Ms. Darryl V. Perez	-	MPDC
Mr. Jerome Madrona	-	Tourism Officer
Ms. Emma R. Garcia	-	MSWDO
Engr. Joaquin R. Batuigas	-	Municipal Engineer
Engr. Donabel Romero	-	Municipal Agriculturist / MENRO
Hon. Celedonio Tamayo	-	IPMR
Hon. Mila Royo	-	Punong Barangay, Agtiwa
Hon. Jesse Roda	-	Punong Barangay, Mabini
Hon. Armando Rios	-	Punong Barangay, Mabulo
Hon. Cris Cleope	-	OIC-Punong Barangay, España
Hon. Fausto Bacero	-	Punong Barangay, Taclobo
Hon. Johnny Riano	-	Punong Barangay, Pili
Hon. Joy Ruado	-	Punong Barangay, Poblacion
Hon. Antonio Mindo	-	Punong Barangay, Panangcalan
Hon. Jose Roldan	-	Punong Barangay, Campalingo
Hon. Reynaldo Rutor	-	Punong Barangay, Azagra
Hon. Jesus Yap Jr.	-	Punong Barangay, Otod
Hon. Ronald Montojo	-	Punong Barangay, Canjalon
Mr. Francisco N. Estores	-	OSCA Head
Mr. Romeo Tansiongco	-	CSO Representative (SPC-MPC)
Mr. Ramonito Gubaton	-	Pres., Irrigators Association
Engr. Rene Fajilagutan	-	ROMELCO/Mini Hydro
Rev. Fr. Cleopedy Fabonan	-	Parish Priest-Shrine of our Lady of the Immaculate Conception
Rev. Fr. Ric Magno	-	Romblon Diocesan Social Action Center (RDSAC)
Mr. Rodney Galicha	-	President, Bayay Sibuyanon Inc.
Atty. Antonio Magsanay	-	LGU Legal Consultant
Atty. Frank Parcon	-	IBP President, Romblon Chapter
4Ps Representative		
DENR Representative		
MGB	-	
EMB	-	
DAR Representative		

Section II. **FUNCTIONS.** The Task Force Pangangasiwa ng Kapaligiran shall carry out duties and functions, to wit:

1. Conduct regular monthly meeting or as often as necessary;
2. Provide a forum for dialogue and deliberation of major issues and problems concerning the environment;



3. Recommend measures which will improve, enhance, or strengthen the local environmental management;
4. Approve resolutions related to environment or environmental management which will serve as one of the collective actions of the LGU in addressing pressing issues and concerns;
5. Initiate monitoring and validation of any environmental activities in the Municipality;
6. Hold information education campaign;
7. Undertake consultation and coordination activities with concerned offices, including government, non-government or private organizations, religious sectors and any other institutions, instrumentalities, sectors, groups, and organizations;
8. Submit/Provide reports, resolutions, and other pertinent documents to concerned offices;
9. Monitor implementation of National and local laws pertaining to environment or environmental management; and
10. Perform all other functions as may be necessary.

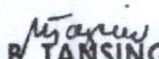
### Section III. MEETINGS AND QUORUM

The Task Force shall meet every month or as often as necessary, which shall be presided by the Chairperson, and in her absence, the Vice Chairperson. In the absence of the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson, the members present constituting a quorum shall elect from among themselves who may preside for such meeting only.

An affirmative vote of a majority of the members present in a meeting shall be necessary to approve an action of the Task Force. The presiding officer shall not join in the voting except to break a tie.

Section IV. **EFFECTIVITY.** The Executive Order shall take effect immediately and shall be valid until revoked or amended.

Issued this 8<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2022 in San Fernando, Romblon.

  
**NANETTE B. TANSINGCO, M.D.**  
Municipal Mayor