



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

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20 July 2022

Mr. Ireneo Rafol Romano
San Fernando, Romblon
Sibuyan Island

Dear Mr. I. R. Romano:

This refers to the submitted Motion for Urgent Resolution received by this Office on 18 July 2022.

In this regard, please be informed of the following:

1. The Mineral Production Sharing Agreement (MPSA) No. 304-2009-IVB was granted to Altai Philippines Mining Corp. (Altai) on 23 December 2009 pursuant to Republic Act No. 7942, the Philippine Mining Act of 1995 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.
2. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), through its Decision dated 09 September 2021, has lifted the 19 September 2011 Cease-and-Desist Order suspending the exploration activities under MPSA No. 304-2009-IVB granted to Altai for the following reasons:
 - a. The MPSA of Altai is merely in the Explorative Phase, meaning that the full-scale mining project is still subject to another application and assessment for Declaration of Mining Project Feasibility, the grant of which is contingent on whether or not the project is technically, socially, environmentally, and financially feasible and compliant.
 - b. The activities of Altai are limited only to activities to determine the feasibility of the project and is not a full-scale mining operation, and any disturbances that may happen to the environment are properly addressed in Altai's 23 December 2009-approved Environmental Work Program.
 - c. The records of MGB-MIMAROPA Region showed that the activities performed by Altai prior to the 19 September 2011 CDO was found to be in accordance with the terms and conditions of its 23 December 2009-approved Exploration Work Program.

Furthermore, the condition on the above stated Decision of the DENR on the approval of the assignment of MPSA No. 304-2009-IVB from Altai to Sibuyan Nickel Properties Development Corporation (Sibuyan Nickel) was deemed moot and academic due to the withdrawal of the Application of the Deed of Assignment by Altai and Sibuyan Nickel per the 09 November 2021 letter of Altai.

3. Altai paid its Occupation Fees for CYs 2011-2022 on 27 June 2022 at the Municipality of San Fernando amounting to PhP1,630,406.25 pursuant to Section 218 of DENR Administrative Order No. 2010-21. These Occupation Fees shall accrue to the Province of Romblon and the Municipality of San Fernando at 30% and 70%, respectively.

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IN SUSTAINING WEALTH CREATION AND IMPROVED QUALITY OF LIFE."**

4. The application for the first renewal of the Exploration Period of MPSA No. 304-2009-IVB was filed by Altai at the Mines and Geosciences Bureau - Central Office (MGB - CO).
5. The MGB - CO granted the first renewal of the Exploration Period under MPSA No. 304-2009-IVB as per 12 July 2022 Letter addressed to Altai (copy attached), which was received by this Office on 15 July 2022.
6. A Performance Bond in the amount of PhP8,807,000.00 was issued by Milestone Guaranty and Assurance Corporation to guarantee the faithful performance of Altai of its obligations in connection with the exploration period under MPSA No. 304-2009-IVB. This Performance Bond can be forfeited in favor of the government in case of violation/s to the exploration activities.
7. This Office requested the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office - Romblon to conduct reconnaissance on the MPSA contract area of Altai to assess the current status of its activities through the Memorandum dated 20 July 2022.

Rest assured that this Office shall monitor all the activities of Altai under its MPSA contract and strictly enforce all the relevant laws and policies for the protection of the environment while strengthening the economy.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,


GLENN MARCELO C. NOBLE
Regional Director

cc: **The Director**
Mines and Geosciences Bureau
North Ave. Diliman, Quezon City

The Regional Executive Director
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
MIMAROPA Region

The PENRO
Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office
Odiongan, Romblon

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Letter



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