



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

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24 October 2022

MEMORANDUM

FOR : **THE REGIONAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
MIMAROPA Region



FROM : **THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR**
This Office

SUBJECT : **HIGHLIGHTS OF THE CONSULTATIVE DIALOGUE AND
CAPACITY BUILDING ON MINING AND ENVIRONMENT FOR
STAKEHOLDERS OF SIBUYAN ISLAND**

Respectfully submitting herewith the highlights of the Consultative Dialogue and Capacity Building on Mining and Environment for Stakeholders of Sibuyan Island held on 19 October 2022 in San Fernando, Romblon.

For the Regional Executive Director's information and ready reference.


GLENN MARCELO C. NOBLE

 
The Regional Director
Environmental Management Bureau
MIMAROPA Region

The OIC PENRO
Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office - Romblon



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



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24 October 2022

MEMORANDUM

FOR : **THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR**
This Office

ATTENTION : **THE PLANNING OFFICER**
This Office

THRU : **THE CHIEFS**
Mine Management Division - *jo*
Mine Safety, Environment, and Social Development
Division

FROM : **THE UNDERSIGNED**
Administrative Officer IV (Information Officer II)

SUBJECT : **HIGHLIGHTS OF THE CONSULTATIVE DIALOGUE AND
CAPACITY BUILDING ON MINING AND ENVIRONMENT FOR
STAKEHOLDERS OF SIBUYAN ISLAND**

NOTED:
[Signature]
GLENN MARCELO C. NOBLE
Regional Director

Pursuant to the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) MIMAROPA Regional Special Order No. 87 Series of 2022, this Office conducted the Consultative Dialogue and Capacity Building on Mining and Environment for the Stakeholders of Sibuyan Island, 19 October 2022, at the Evacuation Center, Brgy. Panangcalan, San Fernando, Romblon.

This undertaking is in connection with the request of the Municipality of San Fernando, Romblon to conduct an information, education, and communication (IEC) activity to address the issues and concerns on mining activities in Sibuyan Island. This Office partnered with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) MIMAROPA Region, the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) MIMAROPA Region, the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO) – Romblon, and the Local Government of San Fernando, Romblon.

The said IEC activity is also among the agreements during the Capacity Building for LGUs of Romblon on 15 August 2022, and in response to the Sangguniang Bayan Resolution No. 144, S. 2022, dated 03 October 2022 of the Municipality of San Fernando, Romblon requesting the DENR MIMAROPA Regional Executive Director to send licensed forester and mining engineer to conduct IEC on mining issues in Brgys. España and Taclobo.

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Lecture Proper

Technical personnel from this Office, the DENR MIMAROPA Region, and the EMB MIMAROPA Region tackled the major requirements and activities for every stage of mining pursuant to Republic Act No. 7942 or the Philippine Mining Act; the environmental laws on the protection and conservation of biological diversity and ecosystems; and environmental related measures for mining and quarry projects to help our local officials further understand and enforce pertinent laws, rules, and regulations.

Session 1: Mining 101 (MGB MIMAROPA Region)

Engr. Ivan F. Macandog
Engineer III – Mine Management Division

Engr. Hanna Lee B. Arriesgado
Senior Science Research Specialist
Mine Safety, Environment, and Social Development Division

Session 2: Environmental laws on the protection and conservation of biological diversity and ecosystems (DENR MIMAROPA Region)

For. Maria Victoria D. Sario
Chief, Forest Utilization Section - Licenses Patents, and Deeds Division

Session 3: Environmental management related measures for environmentally critical projects (EMB MIMAROPA Region)

Irwin A. Anzaldo
Chief, Environmental Management Services – Romblon

Summary of Issues and Concerns

1. Issuance of exploration permit to Altai Philippines Mining Corporation (APMC) despite the staunch opposition from the Sibuyanons

The Regional Director clarified that a Mineral Production Sharing Agreement, not an exploration permit, was issued to APMC.

2. Possible risks associated with mining especially in Sibuyan Island which has active fault line and is susceptible to geohazards (flooding and landslide)

The Regional Director noted that there are active fault lines in the whole country, not just in Sibuyan Island.

Regarding concerns on geohazards, the Regional Director reminded the participants that there is still the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process, and that these may be taken into consideration during the public consultation of the EIA/ Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) process.

3. Assurance that mining in Sibuyan Island will be sustainable

The Regional Director clarified that APMC is in exploration phase, and that there will be no mining extraction in Sibuyan should it fail to secure an ECC.

Mr. Anzaldo reiterated that an ECC is not required during exploration phase. Once they secured the ECC, the company will then have to submit an environmental management and monitoring plan, and that there is a need to establish a multi-sectoral monitoring group. He stressed that there will be no operation without the ECC issuance.

The Regional Director further explained that it is during the public consultation that the constituents can raise their grievances about the mining project.

4. Impacts of mining operations

The Regional Director mentioned that one of the worst-case scenarios after a mining operation is a ghost town where many of those who were given educational and employment opportunities opted to leave the mining town for greener pastures.

On the other hand, he said that one of the benefits of mining would be an improved community – in the case of San Fernando, from a fourth-class municipality to cityhood, just like in Bataraza, Palawan.

He also mentioned that there is no law saying it is illegal to convince communities to support or oppose mining.

5. Mt. Guiting-guiting as a "no-go" zone for mining

As a protected area, the Regional Director assured that Mt. Guiting-guiting is closed to mining.

Referring to queries about why mining should be allowed in Sibuyan Island, he noted that its land area is around 45,000 hectares, with Mt. Guiting-guiting at 15,000 hectares. He reiterated that mining is only prohibited in protected areas.

Regarding buffer zone, Mt. Guiting-guiting Natural Park (MGGNP) Protected Area Superintendent For. Manuel B. Romero clarified that the overlapped portion of APMC's mining tenement has been removed, and that the project site has a total of 200 m buffer zone from the protected area.

6. Application requirements for quarry permit (QPs); existing QPs in Sibuyan Island

The Regional Director explained that quarry permit applications are being applied to and processed by the Provincial Mining Regulatory

Board, for approval by the Provincial Governor. He committed to provide the requested information to the participants.

7. Poverty incidence in areas with active mining operations

The Regional Director cited Bataraza, Palawan and Claver, Surigao del Norte as among the developed municipalities in the country since they are direct beneficiaries of the mining operations. He also talked about industries being magnet to people because of the opportunities there.

8. Legal definition of "responsible mining"

The Regional Director said that there is no legal definition of "responsible mining," but the MGB is adapting the definition of responsible mining that is complying with laws, rules, and regulations.

He also mentioned that mining companies are going through stringent regulation and monitoring of the MGB, DENR, EMB, and the Multipartite Monitoring Team. The companies also conduct self-monitoring and undergo third-party monitoring.

9. Stand of LGU San Fernando on mining

The Regional Director appealed to the people not to polarize the issue on mining. He believes that the LGU will listen and depend their decision on the will of the people of Sibuyan.

10. Tree cutting in mining areas

The Regional Director responded that the trees will be turned over to the DENR, and may be donated to the Department of Education or LGUs.

11. Concept of social acceptability

The Regional Director talked about social acceptability as a question of valid yes or valid no. During the EIA process, there should be a valid reason why a certain individual supports or opposes the potential mining project in their area.

12. Status of the drilling activities of APMC

The Regional Director said that the company is required to submit a status report every six months. Since they just started around July 2022, they are expected to submit a report by December.

For the Regional Director's information and ready reference.


NHESLAINE C. EVAL

PHOTO DOCUMENTATION



Vice Mayor Domingo B. Marin
Municipality of San Fernando



RD Glenn Marcelo C. Noble
MGB MIMAROPA Region



PENRO Arnoldo A. Blaza, Jr.
PENRO Romblon



For. Manuel B. Romero
MGGNP Protected Area Superintendent



Engr. Ivan F. Macandog
MGB MIMAROPA Region
Session 1: Mining 101



Engr. Hanna Lee B. Arriessgado
MGB MIMAROPA Region
Session 1: Mining 101



For. Maria Victoria D. Sario
DENR MIMAROPA Region
Session 2: Environmental laws on the protection
and conservation of biological diversity
and ecosystems



Irwin A. Anzaldo
EMB MIMAROPA Region
Session 3: Environmental management related
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