



Republic of the Philippines
COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
MIMAROPA Regional Office

Ref. No.: CHR-IVB-L-09B23-0024

09 February 2023

DIR. LORMELYN E. CLAUDIO, CESO IV
Regional Executive Director
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
3rd Flr. 1515 DENR by the Bay Bldg., Roxas Blvd.,
Brgy. 668, Ermita Manila

Dear **DIR. CLAUDIO**,

Greetings from the CHR-MIMAROPA Regional Office!

This refers to the motu-proprio investigation being conducted by this Regional Office on the alleged harassment of environmental defenders and on the ongoing protest of the local residents of San Fernando, Romblon, regarding the mining activity of the Altai Philippines Mining Corporation (APMC), in the vicinity of Brgy. España, San Fernando, Romblon. Relative thereto, last January 25, 2023, this Regional Office monitored that some residents of San Fernando, Romblon, have been guarding the ongoing construction of sea port by the said company, after Mayor Nanette B. Tansingco, allegedly ordered the APMC to stop the construction of seaport until they comply with the necessary requirements. On January 31, 2023, we also monitored that police force were deployed in the area, wearing anti-riot gear in response to the protest of the residents who are opposing the mining activity of the APMC.

Pursuant to the provision of Section 18, Article XIII of the Constitution, the Commission on Human Rights is mandated to investigate, on its own or on complaint by any party, all forms of human rights violation involving civil and political rights and to request the assistance of any department, bureau or agency in the performance of its functions.

Documents gathered by this Regional Office has disclosed that a Notice of Violation has been issued by the DENR-EMB MIMAROPA to Altai Philippines Mining Corporation with regards their mining activity in Brgy. España, San Fernando, Romblon. In this light, may we be apprised of the status of the implementation of the said Order against Altai Philippines Mining Corporation. Further, may we request for a status of the action/s taken by your institution with regards the opposition of the local resident's relative to the mining activity of the afore-mentioned mining company.

The recent catastrophe caused by the recent tropical cyclones brought a massive destruction in Regions MIMAROPA, 6, 7, 8 and CARAGA, has again brought to light the enormous task of the State to ensure that the lives of its citizenry is its paramount concern as the country faces the effects of the unprecedented development and climate change. We are one with you in taking all the necessary steps, in accordance with our respective mandate, to ensure that no such incident will ever happen in MIMAROPA Region and that the rights of everyone will never be compromised as we aspire for a better MIMAROPA Region.

Your favorable response on the matter is highly appreciated and we continue to look forward working with your Office, in the interest of public service and our mutual concern for the respect of human rights.

Very truly yours,


ATTY. DENNIS F. MOSQUERA
Regional Director, CHR-MIMAROPA