



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

7/F DENR Building, 1515 Roxas Boulevard, Ermita, Manila  
Telefax No. (+632) 8536-0215 / (+632) 5310-1369  
Email: region4b@mgb.gov.ph



01 February 2023

**Ms. Jeanella P. Mangaluz**  
Multimedia Reporter  
INQUIRER.net

**Dear Ms. J. P. Mangaluz:**

This refers to your 31 January 2023 inquiry on the mining operations in Sibuyan Island, Romblon addressed to the social media page of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), which was forwarded to this Office on 01 February 2023 for our appropriate action.

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 by the DENR pursuant to Republic Act No. 7942, the Philippine Mining Act of 1995 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations;
2. The first renewal of the Exploration Period under MPSA No. 304-2009-IVB was granted by the Mines and Geosciences Bureau – Central Office (MGB – CO) on 12 July 2022 which represents the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> years of its exploration period;
3. 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 mining and environmental laws;
4. The Exploration Work Program (ExWP) and Environmental Work Program (EWP) of Altai was approved by MGB – CO on 12 July 2022.

An addendum to the approved ExWP was approved on 21 December 2022 by the MGB – CO which includes the conduct of "Metallurgical Bulk Sampling and Analysis."

5. The Mineral Ore Export Permit (MOEP) No. DENR-MGB-22-008 was issued by the MGB – CO to Altai on 29 December 2022 for the purpose of bulk testing for 50,000WMT of ore per its approved ExWP.

The MOEP was requested by Altai on 07 December 2022 to "ship out [its] sample ore to a reliable DSO pyro-plant and testing company in order to complete the necessary metallurgical study."

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

6. This Office issued Ore Transport Permit (OTP) No. OTP-APMC-162-001-2022-MIMAROPA pursuant to the 21 December 2022 Memorandum of the MGB – CO instructing this Office that the *“issuance of the OTP may be given due course considering that APMC submitted an Addendum to its approved Exploration Work Program incorporating the conduct of metallurgical bulk sampling and analysis of its ores.”*;

An amendment to the OTP was issued on 25 January 2023 per request of Altai due to the non-consummation of the previous OTP; and

7. The OTP No. OTP-APMRC-162-001-2022-MIMAROPA (Amended) was forwarded to MGB – CO for its further evaluation, should it consider to amend the unconsummated MOEP No. DENR-MGB-22-008.

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.

We hope that the matter has been clarified. Thank you.

Very truly yours,

  
**GLENN MARCELO C. NOBLE**  
Regional Director

cf:

**The Secretary**

Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
Visayas Ave., Diliman, Quezon City

**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

020223-R04B-0328



Letter  
22-2023



MINES AND GEOSCIENCES BUREAU  
MIMAROPA Region