



MEMORANDUM

TO : **THE REGIONAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**
DENR Region IV B
L & S Bldg., Roxas Blvd., Manila

FROM : **THE UNDERSECRETARY**
Field Operations Luzon & Visayas and Environment

SUBJECT : **REQUEST FOR URGENT ACTION OF THE DENR ON THE ON-GOING CONFLICT IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF SAN FERNANDO, SIBUYAN ISLAND, PROVINCE OF ROMBLON DUE TO ALTAI PHILIPPINES MINING CORPORATIONS' (APMC) MINING PROJECT**

DATE : **FEB 20 2023**

This pertains to the letter addressed to the DENR Secretary from Ms. Lai Mai Torres, Executive Director of the Center for Environmental Concerns and Mr. Jon Bonifacio, National Coordinator of Kalikasan People's Network for the Environment regarding the abovementioned subject.

May we refer the matter to your Office for information and further appropriate action. Furnish this Office and parties concerned of the actions taken citing document tracking number DENR CO-ASRMD 2023-003228 for monitoring and record purposes.

For compliance.


ATTY. JUAN MIGUEL T. CUNA, CESO I

c.c.

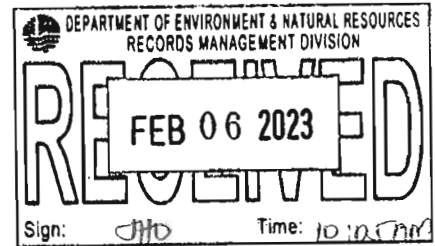
Office of the Secretary

Ms. Lai Mai Torres
Executive Director
Center for Environmental Concerns

Mr. Jon Bonifacio
National Coordinator
Kalikasan People's Network for the Environment
26 Matulungin St., Brgy. Central, Quezon City

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February 6, 2023

Sec. Maria Antonia Yulo Loyzaga
Office of the Secretary
Department of Environment and Natural Resources



Dear Sec. Loyzaga,

Good day!

We undersigned organizations request the urgent action of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) on the ongoing conflict in the Municipality of San Fernando, Sibuyan Island, Province of Romblon due to the Altai Philippines Mining Corporations' (APMC) mining project. According to the participants of the dialogue on February 3 between the Philippine National Police (PNP), local government representatives, representatives of DENR and other civil society organizations, the following information were verified:¹

1. APMC violated PD 1067 known as the Water Code of the Philippines - shore easement construction of structures
2. APMC violated DAO 2004-24 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations - no foreshore lease agreement (Sec. 2c); salvage zone construction
3. APMC violated Section 4 of PD 1586 - construction of causeway without Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC)
4. APMC violated Section 77 of PD 705 - cutting/clearing of trees without permit

Various local organizations, local religious organizations and national non-government organizations have raised concerns regarding the mining project for its potential environmental impacts that will consequently affect local livelihoods and worsening of natural hazards.² Sibuyan Island is considered the "Galapagos of Asia" due to its biodiversity endemism rate. It is home to the Mt. Guiting-Guiting, a mountain range declared a natural part under the National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS) Act.

In addition, the clashes between the residents and the PNP have been escalating despite the peaceful barricade and protests of the residents. The first one reported was

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[https://www.facebook.com/rodne.galicha/posts/pfbid02zB9eikFc8guC8dTr6BcfgLeg7fdFDvC2BMWjw4CTJsS7eChomryRbWDH9R7TbUTUI?__cft__\[0\]=AZV_AMMsGon7haj8TGySk4DjIAAsH312smRILYgaPpBmi7AsiaD4ho75D_EfhjpPnEEn4scFiaT_Axvp4GuQuE8wOCTsNWlqUWJJx3XLWtpAVnSqPCIZEmORQKUjzAA0GLjb85HAZgv0bCrJf74pJ7tC4f1o6kiler8T9O1KoJaLZ5wDY8TS6ODGeKlskrqBib7sIYjwoVWmIG0fVAyEsv4D&__tn__=-R](https://www.facebook.com/rodne.galicha/posts/pfbid02zB9eikFc8guC8dTr6BcfgLeg7fdFDvC2BMWjw4CTJsS7eChomryRbWDH9R7TbUTUI?__cft__[0]=AZV_AMMsGon7haj8TGySk4DjIAAsH312smRILYgaPpBmi7AsiaD4ho75D_EfhjpPnEEn4scFiaT_Axvp4GuQuE8wOCTsNWlqUWJJx3XLWtpAVnSqPCIZEmORQKUjzAA0GLjb85HAZgv0bCrJf74pJ7tC4f1o6kiler8T9O1KoJaLZ5wDY8TS6ODGeKlskrqBib7sIYjwoVWmIG0fVAyEsv4D&__tn__=-R)

²

<https://www.philstar.com/headlines/climate-and-environment/2023/01/30/2241320/sibuyan-folk-fear-nickel-mini-ng-will-destroy-galapagos-asia>

on February 1 when the truck of APMC was escorted by the PNP³ and on February 3, two people were hurt from the dispersal of the police⁴.

We call for the immediate investigation of the mining operations and legal requirements of APMC and for accountability for the PNP personnel involved in the violent dispersals. We also support the calls of the residents of Sibuyan Island to cancel the Mineral Processing and Sharing Agreement (MPSA) of APMC and to declare Sibuyan Island free of large-scale metallic mining.

We are open for further dialogue on the matter and hope that your office will heed our request. You may contact us through Lovely Joy Carino at 09974485942, lovely@cecphils.org, or 0283562166. Thank you very much.

Respectfully,



Lia Mai Torres
Executive Director
Center for Environmental Concerns – Philippines Inc.



Jon Bonifacio
National Coordinator
Kalikasan People's Network for the Environment

³ <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1724741/tension-grips-sibuyan-amid-mining-protest>

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<https://www.philstar.com/videos/2023/02/03/2242311/police-break-barricade-sibuyan-residents-resisting-mining-ops>

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