



++Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City 1116
Tel Nos. 9296626 to 29 ; 9296633 to 35
Website <http://www.denr.gov.ph/> Email web@denrgov.ph

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 : **COMPLAINT AGAINST THE OPERATIONS OF ALTAI
MINING IN SIBUYAN ISLAND, ROMBLON**

DATE : **FEB 27 2023**

This pertains to the email dated 06 February 2023 addressed to the DENR Secretary of Ms. Yolanda R. Esguerra, National Coordinator of Philippine Misereor Partnership, Inc., regarding the abovementioned subject.

May we refer the matter to your Office for appropriate action. Furnish this Office and parties concerned citing document tracking number DENR CO-OSEC 2023-000667 for monitoring and record purposes.

For compliance.


ATTY. JUAN MIGUEL T. CUNA, CESO I

c.c.

Office of the Secretary

Ms. Yolanda R. Esguerra
National Coordinator
Philippine Misereor Partnership, Inc.
secretariat@pmpi.org.ph



Office of the DENR Secretary <osec@denr.gov.ph>

Letter to Sec. Loyzaga regarding the mining operation of the Altai Mining Philippines in Sibuyan Island

PMPI National Secretariat <secretariat@pmphi.org.ph>

Mon, Feb 6, 2023 at 3:03 PM

To: ohea@denr.gov.ph, osec@denr.gov.ph

Cc: Yolanda Esguerra <yre.pmpi@gmail.com>, PMPI CandyLH <candyhidalgo.pmpi@gmail.com>, martin 1984 <jaymartin.pmpi@gmail.com>

6 February 2023

Hon. Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga

Secretary

Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)

Dear Sec. Loyzaga,

Warm greetings from the Philippine Misereor Partnership, Inc. (PMPI).

We are sending our statement concerning the violent dispersal of Sibuyanons' barricade in Brgy. España last 3 Feb 2023 during their expression of resistance from the ongoing mining operation of the Altai Mining Philippines, Inc. in Sibuyan Island, Province of Romblon.

PMPI, including all our mining-affected community partners whose signatures appear in the attached solidarity statement, shared this position of Sibuyanun who are only acting to protect the only home they know, home of their people and all other nonhuman residing and thriving in Sibuyan Island.

We believe that the preservation and conservation of Sibuyan Island – a key biodiversity area is imperative to our global commitment in reducing our nation's carbon footprint, and more importantly, our survival from the climate crisis.

Thus, we ask your good office to investigate the incident being raised by the Sibuyan people and immediately stop Altai Philippines Mining Corporations mining activity in the island until the DENR's investigation has been concluded. From our long experience working with mining host communities, all have experienced negative effects of mining rather than the promised good and bright future for all.

We hope that your office will take immediate action on the matter.

Thank you.

Regards,

Yolanda R. Esguerra

National Coordinator

Philippine Misereor Partnership, Inc.



Letter to Sec. Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga.pdf

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PHILIPPINE MISEREOR PARTNERSHIP INC.



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Visayas: Fr. Chris Gonzales

Mindanao: Ma Cristeta Chanyee
CBCP-NASSA Fr. Tony Labiao

National Coordinator: Yolanda Esguerra

6 February 2023

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Secretary

Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)

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We hope that your office will take immediate action on the matter.

Thank you.

Regards,

Yolanda R. Esguerra

National Coordinator

Philippine Misereor Partnership, Inc.

Unit 204 Pacific Century Tower 1472-1476 Quezon Avenue, Brgy. South Triangle, Quezon City, Philippines



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PMPI STATEMENT OF SOLIDARITY WITH THE SIBUYANON IN THEIR FIGHT AGAINST MINING

WE, from the Philippine Misereor Partnership, Inc. (PMPI)¹ together with our partner Sites of Struggle – communities that are also host to or are under threat from mining – send our staunch support to all Sibuyanons that have vigilantly guarded their home – the Sibuyan Island of the Province of Romblon from the impending mining operations in their island.

WE condemn in the strongest possible terms the violent dispersal of Sibuyanons of their barricade by the Philippine National Police today! WE see this violent dispersal of the PNP of Romblon as an eradication of Sibuyanons' legitimate right to choose the type of development they need in the island and to express opposition to this so-called development project that they believe will destroy their homes, livelihood, and everything that nurtures Sibuyanon's culture.

WE condemn the participation of the PNP in this violent dispersal, who are supposed to be the protector of the people. We ask the PNP why collude with the mining company? On what grounds and what price? We believe this exercise of Altai Mining Corporation suppresses the will of Sibuyanons including their municipal government to decide in favor of protecting the common good of its people and the environment, fully enshrined in the Local Government Code of the Philippines.

¹ Philippine Misereor Partnership, Inc. (PMPI) – a network of 230 civil society organizations, peoples' organizations, and Diocesan Social Action Centers across the Philippines working for the protection of, and advocating for the passage of the Rights of Nature Bill.

PHILIPPINE MISEREOR PARTNERSHIP INC.



WE believe that Sibuyan Island, also other areas in the Philippines that are home to endemic and critically endangered species, key biodiversity areas, legally recognized protected areas, and ancestral domains, should be fully protected from any destructive economic projects such as large-scale mining. More than ever before, the preservation and conservation of these places are critical to our survival vis-à-vis this Climate Crisis.

WE demand a full stoppage of Altai Philippines Mining Corporation's mining activity in the island, and a full investigation from no less than the Office of the Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

WE demand from the Department of Interior and Local Government and the Philippines National Philippines (PNP) a full investigation of the recent violent dispersal of certain personnel of PNP of Romblon, and penalize those found responsible for the violent dispersal.

Yolanda R. Esguerra
National Coordinator
Philippine Misereor Partnership, Inc.

Chito Trillanes
SOS-Cantilan

Tony Abuso
Executive Secretary
ECIP National Secretariat

Heidi Hernandez
Executive Director
Save Zambales Kalikasan Movement
SOS-Zambales

Atty. Mark Peñalver
Executive Director
Interfacing Development Interventions for
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Carmi Macapagao,
President
HEARD Inc.

PHILIPPINE MISEREOR PARTNERSHIP INC.



PMPI Davao Region Cluster Member

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Rev. Fr. Arvin Anthony J. Madla, Chairman
Board of Trustee, Marinduque Council for
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