



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

February 3, 2023

THE HONORABLE SECRETARY

Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Quezon City

Dear Madam Secretary:

This refers to the on-going mining operations (exploration stage) by Altai Philippines Mining Corporation (AMPC) in the Municipality of San Fernando, Romblon which is being conducted by the company under its Permit MPSA No. 304-2009-IVB issued by the DENR on December 23, 2009.

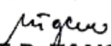
It may be recalled that on December 28, 2022, the Mines and Geosciences Bureau, DENR-MIMAROPA, thru Regional Director Glenn Marcelo Noble, issued to AMPC an Ore Transport Permit No. OTP-AMPC-162-001-2022-MIMAROPA, for the transport of 50,000 WMT of Nickel Lateritic Ore from its mining site to its private port in San Fernando, Romblon. On December 29, 2022, the Bureau, thru Atty. Wilfredo G. Moncano, issued another permit to AMPC under Mineral Ore Export Permit No. DENR-MGB-22-008 for the transport/export of 50,000 WMT of Nickel Laterite Ore from its private port in San Fernando, Romblon to a destination in China.

At present, however, people from around Sibuyan Island, particularly from this municipality and municipalities of Cajidiocan and Magdiwang, have strongly protested to the impending transport/export by the company of these mineral soil abroad, even to the point of putting up human barricades and obstruction at the gate of the company leading to its port. They are demanding that the company show them the necessary clearances and permits from the DENR and the PPA for the construction of its private port, among others, which the mining company failed to produce. Although police forces are present in the area, the tense situation between the protesters, the police and the mining operators is so high that we are worried and apprehensive that the same may spiral out of control resulting to possible injuries to the people in the area, a situation which has already happened in the past.

In order therefore to ease the tension and avoid untoward incidents from happening, we are respectfully recommending that the DENR issues a suspension order to put on hold the mining activities of AMPC while dialogue is being conducted among the parties involved and while comprehensive investigation is being made by the department on the issues raised by the protesters.

Thank you very much.

Very truly yours,


NANETTE B. TANSINGCO, MD.
Municipal Mayor

Copy Furnished:

1. Regional Executive Director, DENR-MIMAROPA
2. PENRO, Odiongan, Romblon