



March 15, 2023

MEMORANDUM

FOR : The Regional Executive Director
DENR MIMAROPA Region
1515 DENR By the Bay Buiding, Roxas Boulevard,
Barangay 668, Ermita, Manila

THRU : The Provincial Environment and
Natural Resources Officer
Sta. Monica, Puerto Princesa City

FROM : The Community Environment and
Natural Resources Officer

SUBJECT : **COMPLETED STAFF WORK RE: THE PUBLIC
ASSEMBLY/RALLY CONDUCTED BY THE RESIDENTS OF
BROOKE'S POINT, PALAWAN AGAINST THE MINING
OPERATION OF IPILAN NICKEL CORPORATION AT
BARANGAY MAASIN, BROOKE'S POINT, PALAWAN AS OF
MARCH 15, 2023**

I. FACTUAL BACKGROUND

16 February 2023 - Pursuant to Batas Pambansa No. 880 or the Public Assembly Act of 1985, Hon. Cesareo R. Benedito, Jr., Municipal Mayor/Local Chief Executive (LCE) of the Municipal LGU of Brooke's Point, Palawan issued:

1. Memorandum Order No. 2023-054 addressed to Pastor Job Z. Lagrada granting Permit to Conduct Public Assembly/Rally from Maasin Crossing (provincial road going to Sitio Panay) down to the approach of Tagdidili Bridge, Purok 5, Barangay Maasin, Brooke's Point, Palawan valid from 6:00 AM of February 18 to 10:00 AM of February 21, 2023. Said Memorandum Order also indicated that it shall be Pastor Lagrada's duty and responsibility to take all reasonable measures and steps to the end that the public assembly shall be conducted peacefully.

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2. Memorandum Order No. 2023-055 with subject "Strict Enforcement of Batas Pambansa Blg. 880, Otherwise known as the Public Assembly Act of 1985" addressed to PMAJ Raffy C. Esperida, Chief of Police, Brooke's Point Municipal Police Station and The Punong Barangay and Barangay Officials of Barangay Maasin, Brooke's Point, Palawan informing them re: the conduct of the Public Assembly/Rally and likewise ordering them to ensure that the provisions of Batas Pambansa 880 are strictly enforced within their respective territorial jurisdiction.

II. CHRONOLOGY OF RELATED EVENTS AND ACTIONS TAKEN

The Monitoring and Enforcement Section of CENRO Brooke's Point have been tasked to facilitate the conduct of continuous monitoring for the duration of the Public Assembly/Rally wherein the following activities/events took place:

➤ February 18 to February 21, 2023 (Duration/Validity of Original Permit to conduct Public Assembly/Rally)

18 February 2023 - The protesters/public assembly participants composed of residents from the different barangays and community sectors (e.g. Youth, Women etc.) in the Municipality of Brooke's Point, Palawan carrying placards with statements like "*KALIKASAN INGATAN PARA SA KABATAAN*", "*AGRIKULTURA HINDI PAGMIMINA*", "*SAGIPIN ANG KALIKASAN*", "*PAGMIMINA TUTULAN*", "*INC BANTA KAYO SA AMING KABUHAYAN*", *NO TO MINING IN BROOKE'S POINT*, "*MINAHAN SALOT NG KALIKASAN*" among others started to assemble in front of the office of Ipilan Nickel Corporation (INC) with approved MPSA No. 017-93-IV-2000 located at Barangay Maasin, Brooke's Point, Palawan.

The group of protesters set up barricades using bamboo poles at the Hauling Road 1 and 2 of the company obstructing the passage of hauling trucks and equipment from the mine pit going to the causeway. The group also held a program citing their issues and concerns relative to the mining operation of the company particularly; they are condemning that the company is still operating despite having no issued Business/Mayor's Permit from the Municipal LGU for CY 2023. In the evening, the protesters held a prayer vigil spearheaded by Pastor Job Z. Lagrada. The group likewise set up temporary sheds wherein the other protester mainly comprised of males decided to sleep over/stay for the night.

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20 February 2023 - CENRO Brooke's Point submitted Spot Report to PENRO Palawan re: the subject Public Assembly/Rally. Advance copy of which was sent thru email.

20 February 2023 - As reported by Bandera News TV Philippines posted in their Facebook Page, Ipilan Nickel Corporation requested for the Municipal LGU to cancel/revoke the permit to conduct Public Assembly/Rally due to alleged violations of the provisions of Batas Pambansa 880 committed by the participants/protesters. In line therewith, Mayor Benedito also reminded the company in writing that the MLGU had issued an order (kautusan) dated February 6, 2023 instructing the company to temporarily stop its operation until such time that they have complied/process their Mayor's Permit which had already expired on December 31, 2022. Unfortunately, the company still continued its operation despite the said order which clearly shows its lack of respect for the MLGU and the local ordinances requiring all businesses to secure a Mayor's Permit.

(Source: https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=pfbid02aHqm3DvMndKd3CCQbNZKaXDdqNYPwTJciVA3yvixyc6HPdt5kYd89J6UEgFfYDxCi&id=101123261418626&mibextid=Nif5oz) Copy attached marked as Annex A.

21 February 2023 - Mayor Benedito issued:

1. Memorandum Order No. 2023-056 granting permission for the request for the **extension to conduct Public Assembly/Rally until February 28, 2023**. It has also been reiterated that it shall be Pastor Job Z. Lagrada's duty and responsibility to take all reasonable measures and steps to the end that the public assembly shall be conducted peacefully.
2. Memorandum Order No. 2023-057 addressed to PMAJ Raffy C. Esperida, Chief of Police, Brooke's Point Municipal Police Station and The Punong Barangay and Barangay Officials of Barangay Maasin, Brooke's Point, Palawan informing them that conduct of the Public Assembly/Rally has been extended until February 28, 2023. Also mentioned in the said Memo Order that the counsels of Ipilan Nickel Corporation had informed the Office of the Mayor re: the alleged disregard for the law and the safety and well-being of the public shown by the participants of the Public Assembly however no official report has been submitted to their Office as to the validity of the information, hence, the request of the participants for extension to conduct Public Assembly/Rally has been granted. Accordingly, pursuant to RA 8551 or the Philippine National Police Reform and Reorganization Act of 1998, the PNP MPS are ordered to strictly enforce the provisions of

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Batas Pambansa 880. Likewise, the Barangay LGU has also been directed to do the same within their respective territorial jurisdiction.

21 February 2023 - In compliance to the Memorandum from the Regional Executive Director relative to the Submission of Weekly Reports on Surfacing and Pressing/Red-Flag Issues within the respective areas of jurisdiction of each field offices, CENRO Brooke's Point submitted report re: the ongoing Public Assembly/Rally following the prescribed tabular format. Copy of which was submitted thru email to the DENR MIMAROPA Regional Office, copy furnished the Regional Strategic Communication and Initiatives Group and PENRO Palawan.

➤ **February 21 to February 28, 2023 (1st Extension)**

23 February 2023 - CENRO Brooke's Point submitted a Status Report as of February 23, 2023 re: the on-going Public Assembly/Rally detailing that:

- a) the public assembly/rally is being held peacefully;
- b) the company (Ipilan Nickel Corporation) has been providing/distributing free food packs to the PNP personnel and Barangay Officials monitoring in the area including the protesters/participants of the Public Assembly/Rally;
- c) the bamboo barricade and temporary sheds set-up/established by the protesters in front of Hauling Roads 1 and 2 which have been impeding/obstructing the operation of Ipilan Nickel Corporation are within the private property of the company with Lot No. 5737 (going to mine site) and Lot No. 5738 (heading towards the causeway area);
- d) in connection with the bamboo barricade set-up by the protesters, the MGB-MIMAROPA Regional Director Glenn Marcelo C. Noble sent a letter dated February 20, 2023 addressed to Mr. Karl Caesar R. Rimando, *CESO III*, Regional Director, Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) MIMAROPA Region attention to Mr. Virgilo L. Tagle, Provincial Director, DILG Palawan requesting the DILG to extend assistance to Ipilan Nickel Corporation and permit the company to do its regular business and protect the workers from harassment from the protesters given that as far as the MGB MIMAROPA is concerned, the company has not violated the mining act, other policies, as well as the terms and conditions of the MPSA contract granted to the company by the government. The Obligation of the Government stipulated under Section 11.3 of the MPSA is also cited in the said letter. In addition, it is likewise stated that the MPSA can only be cancelled or suspended by the issuing authority if the



contractor fails to comply with its contractual obligations and violates the mining act and its implementing rules and regulations. *(Copy of Letter from MGB MIMAROPA sourced out from the FB post of DYPR Palawan dated February 22, 2023 attached marked as Annex B.*

Copy of the status report submitted thru email to PENRO Palawan copy furnished the DENR MIMAROPA Regional Office, and the Regional Strategic Communication and Initiatives.

Note: Per information from the MGB Embedded personnel in CENRO Brooke's Point, said MGB letter is authentic and is supposed to be an official Office to Office communication only.

- 23 February 2023 - as reported/posted by DYPR Palawan in their FB Page, Mayor Benedito is leaving the decision to the PNP concerning the demolition of the structures established/set up by the protesters/participants of Public Assembly/Rally against the operation of INC. On the other hand, with regards to the matter of Mayor's Permit, Mayor Benedito stated that there are no new requirements asked/requested from INC and that the requirements that the company must comply are already included in the previous list of requirements for renewal of Mayor's Permit. Mayor Benedito explained that the Requirements for Renewal depend on the type of business. In the case of INC which is a large scale operation, they are required to submit new endorsement from the impact barangays.
(Source: https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=pfbid024oHQAqWNjRWRmFbCH39FdrCwsEjaKKDZ63dYNkexPBXrmwh2abKZKFjCRGbcz1Zl&id=100066537707923&mibextid=Nif5oz) Copy attached marked as Annex C.
- 23 February 2023 - Atty. Mary Jean Feliciano in a post in her FB account invited the residents of Brooke's Point to join/participate in the Alay Lakad para sa Kalikasan to be held on February 24, 2023.
(Source: https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=pfbid0n3RTA4UsLKxsCzyJBz8qUcxxxPDWfCdWqU3hpYWarcPzqJS8BRUdyOkCU4LhWYu7Ll&id=100001487910614&mibextid=Nif5oz) Copy attached marked as Annex D.
- 23 February 2023 - CENRO Brooke's Point received copy of letter correspondence dated February 12, 2023 of Mayor Cesareo R. Benedito, Jr. addressed to DENR Secretary Ma. Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga re: LGU and citizens of Brooke's Point demand the Urgent Cancellation of Ipilan Nickel Corporation's MPSA. Copy of said letter was forwarded/endorsed by this Office to DENR MIMAROPA Region on February 27, 2023.
- 24 February 2023 - The group of people/residents against mining conducted an Alay Lakad from Barangay Mambalot Plaza to front of INC Office;

meanwhile, the employees and other stakeholders of the Ipilan Nickel Corporation conducted an Employee and Stakeholders Appreciation Day in front of the Office of INC wherein an IEC re: Strategies and Techniques to gradually restore mined-out areas and other activities relevant to responsible mining were discussed.

24 February 2023 - A Press Conference Against Mining was conducted by the group who are against the Mining Operation of Ipilan Nickel Corporation via zoom. Said Press Conference was organized by the President of Farmers Association, Samuel Yayen, President of Irrigation Association Joel Luagna, Tagapanguna ng IP Nelson Sombra, Pastor Job Lagrada, Protesters Group Leader, Representatives (spokesperson) from ELAC Palawan Atty. Asia Wy and from Alyansa Tigil Mina Mr. Jaybee Garganera. The Press Conference was also attended by Mayor Cesareo R. Benedito, Jr. and Vice Mayor Atty. Mary Jean D. Feliciano.
(Source: Municipal Information Office - LGU Brooke's Point Official Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/100064411162819/posts/581680167322350/>) Copy attached marked as Annex E.

26 February 2023 - Based on the news/updates posted/reported/published by Palawan Star on its FB Page, The Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) clarifies that the MPSA No. 017-93-IV between the Philippine Government and Ipilan Nickel Corporation (INC) remains in force and valid until April 10, 2025. RD Glenn Marcelo C. Noble of MGB MIMAROPA issued the clarification in a letter dated February 21, 2023 addressed to Vice Mayor Atty. Mary Jean D. Feliciano of Brooke's Point in response to the Sangguniang Bayan Resolution of the municipality which sought to investigate the operations of INC following claims that the alleged renewal of its MPSA in 2018 was without the endorsement of the Municipality of Brooke's Point and that the company is operating without a Certificate Precondition (CP) from the NCIP and a PAMB Clearance.

Per explanation of RD Noble, the MPSA of INC did not expire on August 8, 2018 as the same was amended on April 10, 2000 to conform to RA 7942 or the Philippine Mining Act of 1995 and that to resolve the issue on its effective date, the DENR issued an Order dated December 21, 2021 to confirm that the effective date of the MPSA shall be reckoned from the date of the execution of the amended MPSA. RD Noble further clarifies that INC does not need to secure a Certificate Precognition (CP) as this requirement only applies to applications filed after RA 8371 or the IPRA Law of 1997 was enacted. Hence, in reference to the letter correspondence dated March

31, 2006 by the NCIP, it was stated that the INC is no longer covered as it was already awarded an MPSA four years prior on August 5, 1993. On the other hand, the INC has already concluded the process of securing a CP in preparation for the renewal of its MPSA in 2025 during a series of community consultations from June to August 2022 under the guidance of the NCIP whereas majority of the IPs voted for the continued operations of the company.

Further, it was also mentioned that there is also no need to secure a PAMB Clearance as the MPSA predates the Proposed Final Boundary of MMPL.

In addition, it was likewise indicated in the news report that the INC employs over 1,500 people wherein 90% are residents of Brooke's Point and that 28% of the total workforce are IPs.

(Source: https://web.facebook.com/PalawanStar/posts/pfbid0ZXW96AQ2JRJKKXRBGQFkddk5mYXzM2YVqZttioBcWVhY5CuTQxG2Vh5munUfzphhl?_rdc=1&_rdr) Copy attached marked as Annex F.

It is further informed that the subject Public Assembly/Rally has once again been extended until March 7, 2023 in reference to Memorandum Order No. 2023-065 issued by Hon. Cesareo R. Benedito, Jr., Brooke's Point Municipal Mayor addressed to PMAJ Raffy C. Esperida, Chief of Police of PNP Brooke's Point Municipal Police Station and the Punong Barangay and Barangay Officials of Barangay Maasin, Brooke's Point, Palawan who are directed to ensure that the provisions of the Batas Pambasa Blg. 880 or the Public Assembly Act of 1985 are strictly enforced.

In addition, as observed by the Monitoring Team, the protesters/participants of the Public Assembly/Rally transferred/placed the bamboo barricade along the satellite/side of the hauling road however per assessment of the team there is a possibility that the protesters will set-up a human barricade in case the hauling truck/s of the Ipilan Nickel Corporation will pass through.

➤ **February 28 to March 7, 2023 (2nd Extension)**

- 6 March 2023
- Hon. Cesareo R. Benedito, Jr., Brooke's Point Municipal Mayor issued Memorandum Order No. 2023-072 addressed to Pastor Job Z. Lagrada re: extension of the Public Assembly/Rally until March 14, 2023. In the said memorandum order it has been reiterated that it shall be Pastor Lagrada's duty and responsibility to take all reasonable



measures and steps to the end that the intended public assembly shall be conducted peacefully.

6 March 2023

- Based on the news/updates published by Palawan Star on its FB Page on March 6, 2023, the Ipilan Nickel Corporation (INC) has filed a complaint with the Anti-Red Tape Authority (ARTA) against Mayor Benedito and MENR Officer Remie Mostiero allegedly for excessive demands and intentional delays in the renewal of the company's business permit for CY 2023 and likewise requesting for the ARTA Director General Hon. Secretary Ernesto V. Perez to step in and order the immediate release of the requested business permit.

(Source: https://web.facebook.com/PalawanStar/posts/pfbid02jKWBb1shKPsRfmGYqPHMDTBLD86YwW6gxpsXrYwEcibQd7wVjcArRWmDkdXvTwCpl?_rdc=1&_rdr) Copy attached marked as Annex G.

7 March 2023

- CENRO Brooke's Point submitted a Status Report re: result of monitoring activities from March 1 to March 7, 2023.

➤ **March 7 to March 14, 2023 (3rd Extension)**

7 March 2023

- A mass was held by Bishop Socrates Mesiona in the area attended by the participants of the public assembly/rally. The mass was also attended by Vice Mayor Atty. Mary Jean D. Feliciano and ten (10) parish priests from other parish churches.

(Source: Municipal Information Office - LGU Brooke's Point Official Facebook Page
https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=pfbid023kzsVcabQ7GTKs5ozF1WCAJ4rErrdTihEi169uaMcuokxD2U8teunCqVFax6gMxl&id=100064411162819&mibextid=Nif5oz) Copy attached marked as Annex H.

10 March 2023

- RTC Branch 165 Presiding Judge Ramon Chito Mendoza signed and issued a 20-day Temporary Restraining Order (TRO) based from Civil Case No. BPT-0040 for Damages and Injunction, with Prayer for Ex-parte 72-hour TRO (with extension) and/or Writ of Preliminary Mandatory and Prohibitory Injunction, filed by Ipilan Nickel Corporation (INC) against Pastor Job Z. Lagrada, Dominador Magdaluyo, Marcelo Palmones and/or all other persons claiming rights under them and occupying the property of INC

13 March 2023

- Sheriff IV Clodualdo V. Levita from the Office of the Executive Judge, Regional Trial Court, Branch 165 sent a Notice/Communication addressed to PMAJ Raffy C. Esperida, Chief of Police, PNP Municipal Police Station, Brooke's Point, Palawan requesting for the presence of sufficient PNP Personnel on March 13,



2023 at 1:00 in the afternoon, the day that Sheriff Levita will personally serve the copies of the TRO to the concerned defendants.

13 March 2023

- CENRO Brooke's Point submitted a Status Report re: result of monitoring activities from March 7 to March 13, 2023.

13 March 2023

- The anti-mining protesters refused to accept the Temporary Restraining Order (TRO) served by Sheriff IV Clodualdo V. Levita.

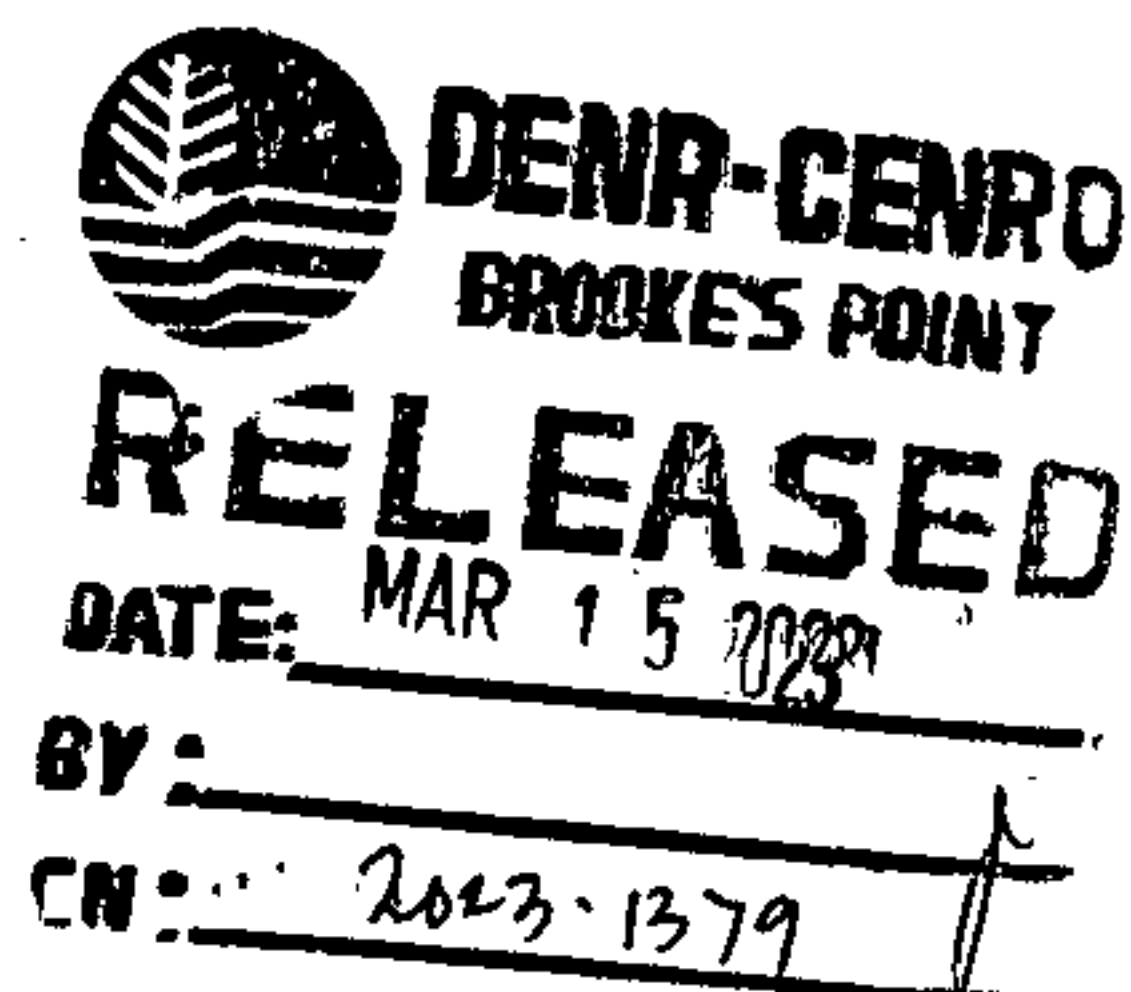
(Source: https://web.facebook.com/PalawanNewsPage/posts/pfbid02LDiSDA4mkx3e4EiJhdQ1gZwSuDUggjcxoHfWW8ftAwZ7Vk8mp3Yr8tVJeG5WjeOgl?_rdc=1&_rdr) Copy attached marked as Annex I.

14 March 2023

- Mayor Cesareo R. Benedito, Jr. issued Memorandum Order Nos. 2023-079 and 2023-080 addressed to Pastor Job Z. Lagrada and PMaj Raffy Esperida, Chief of Police, Brooke's Point Municipal Police Station and the Punong Barangay and Officials of Barangay Maasin, Brooke's Point, Palawan re: Extension of Permit to conduct Public Assembly/Rally until March 21, 2023.

Prepared by:

Roseville I. Mitra
ROSEVILLE I. MITRA
Forest Technician II



Attested by:

Leonard T. Caluya
LEONARD T. CALUYA
CENRO

Annex A

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February 20

OPERASYON NG IPILAN NICKEL CORPORATION SA BROOKE'S POINT, DAPAT ITIGIL DAHIL SA KAWALAN NG MAYOR'S PERMIT – MAYOR BENEDITO

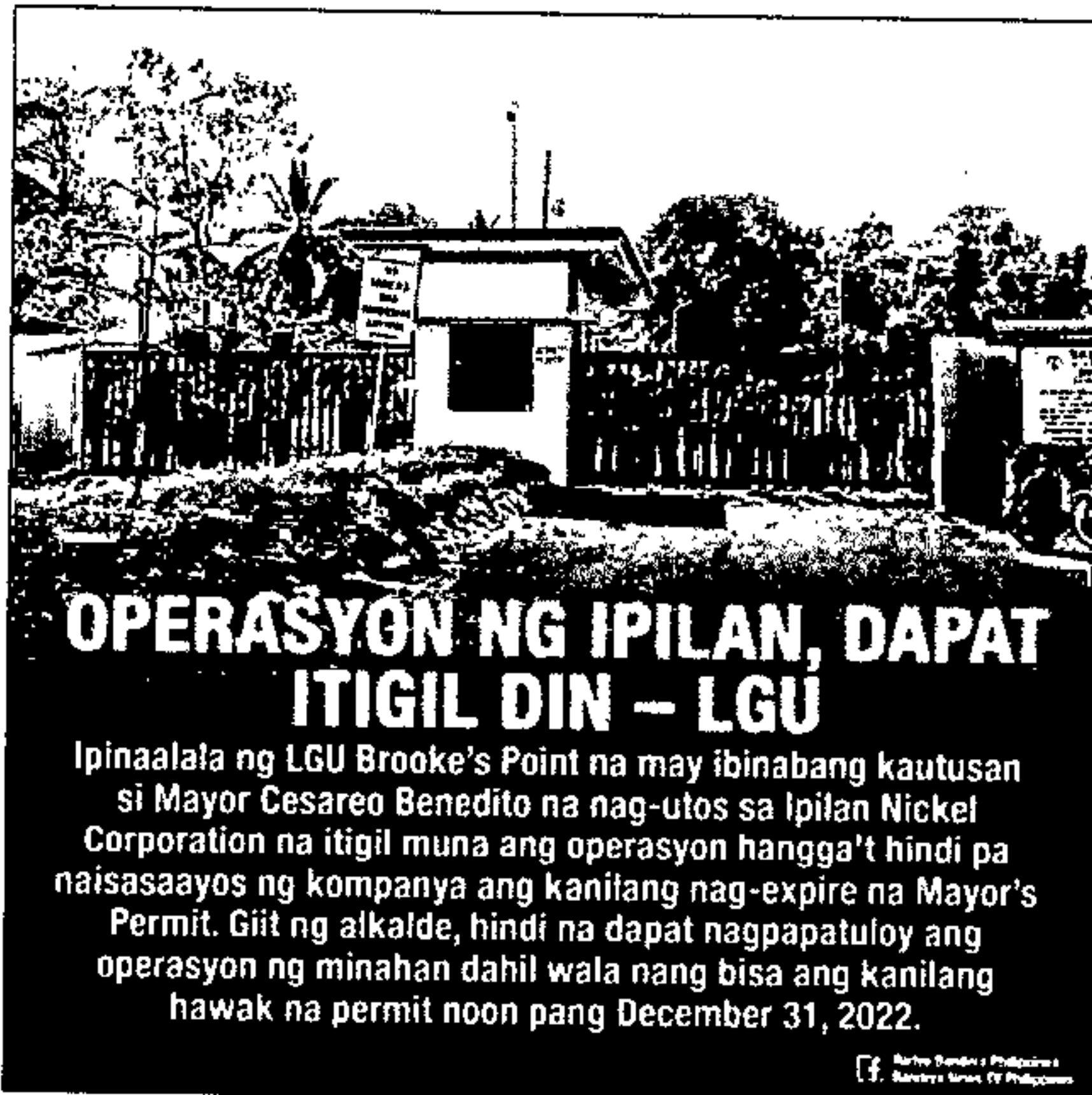
Agad na sumagot at nagpadala ng sulat ang tanggapan ni Mayor Cesareo Benedito kasunod ng kahilingan ng Iplan Nickel Corporation na bawiin na ng LGU ang Memorandum nito na nagpapahintulot sa iba't ibang sektor sa munisipyo na magsagawa ng kilos protesta sa Brgy. Maasin, Brooke's Point, Palawan.

Dito ay initalahad ng alkalde na kanyang ipapasilip sa PNP at sa pamunuan ng Brgy. Maasin ang hinaing ng kompanya na umano'y paglabag ng grupo sa Batas Pambansa bilang 880.

Pero sa pamamagitan rin ng sulat ay ipinaalala ng Lokal na Pamahalaan na may ibinaba itong kautusan nitong February 6, 2023 na nag-utos sa Iplan Nickel Corporation na itigil muna ang operasyon hangga't hindi pa naisasaayos ng kompanya ang kanilang nag-expire na Mayor's Permit.

Pero sa kabila nito ay nagpatuloy pa rin ang operasyon ng minahan na malinaw na pagpapakita ng hindi pagrespeto sa LGU at sa lokal na batas na may kaugnayan sa pagrerequire sa mga negosyong magkaroon muna ng Mayor's Permit bago makapag-operate.

Giit ng alkalde, hindi na dapat nagpapatuloy ang operasyon ng minahan dahil wala nang bisa ang kanilang hawak na permit noon pang December 31, 2022.



OPERASYON NG IPILAN, DAPAT ITIGIL DIN – LGU

Ipinaalala ng LGU Brooke's Point na may ibinabang kautusan si Mayor Cesareo Benedito na nag-utos sa Iplan Nickel Corporation na itigil muna ang operasyon hangga't hindi pa naisasaayos ng kompanya ang kanilang nag-expire na Mayor's Permit. Giit ng alkalde, hindi na dapat nagpapatuloy ang operasyon ng minahan dahil wala nang bisa ang kanilang hawak na permit noon pang December 31, 2022.

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Annex B



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

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Email: region4@mimaro.denr.gov.ph



20 February 2023

Mr. KARL CAESAR R. RIMANDO, CESO III
Regional Director
Department of Interior and Local Government
MIMAROPA Region
822 Quezon Avenue, Barangay Paligsahan
Quezon City, 1101
rimando.karl@gmail.com
rimando.karl@gmail.com

Attention: **Mr. Virgilio L. Tagle**
Provincial Director, Palawan
palawan.governor@gmail.com

DYPR
Atty. Gen. Diol

Dear RD K.C.R. RIMANDO:

This respectfully refers to the ongoing blockade at Brookes Point, Palawan against the mining operations of Iplan Nickel Corporation (Iplan) at the Mineral Production Sharing Agreement (MPSA) No. 017-93-IV as Amended 2000 contract area.

Iplan, through its 19 February 2023 letter (copy attached), requested this Office for intervention to stop the "disruptive actions of Pastor Job Z. Lagrada and his group," at its mine site on 18 February 2023. Accordingly, the group "erected structures and sheds across" its main gate and haul road, obstructing the operations of Iplan.

Please be informed that as far as this Office is concerned, Iplan has not violated the mining act, other policies, as well as the terms and conditions of the MPSA contract granted to them by the Government, thru the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. Among other obligations of the Government, the MPSA states:

"Section 11.3 Obligation of the Government

The Government shall:

- a) Ensure that the Contractor has the Government's full cooperation in the exercise of the rights granted to it under this Agreement;

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

- b) Use its best effort to ensure the timely issuance of necessary permits and similar authorizing documents for us of the surface of the Contract Area..."

The MPSA being a contract signed by the Contractor and the Government, thru the DENR, can be cancelled or suspended only by the issuing authority if it fails to comply with its contractual obligations and violates the mining act and its implementing rules and regulations.

In view of the above, this Office respectfully requests that assistance be extended to Ipilan and permit it to do its regular business and protect the workers from harassments from the protesters.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,



GLENN MARCELO C. NOBLE
Regional Director

cc: The Director
Mines and Geosciences Bureau
11011 Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City

The President
Iloilo Nickel Corporation
Penthouse, Platinum Tower
Asean Ave. cor Fuentes St.
Aseana, Zambo, Zamboanga City

Annex C

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DYPR Palawan

February 22

LOCAL NEWS | BARIKADA NG MGA ANTI-MINING SA BROOKE'S POINT, IPINAPAUUBAYA NA NI MAYOR BENEDITO SA PNP ANG PAGTANGGAL

Ipinapaubaya na ni Brooke's Point Mayor Cesario Benedito sa mga pulis niya doon na magpasya kung kailangang e-demolished ang mga itinayong estruktura ng mga raliyesta kontra pagmimina. Sabi nito sa panayam ng DYPR, mahigpit ang bilin niya sa mga pulis na dapat nasusunod ang itinakda ng batas sa mapayapang pagpapahayag ng damdamin at walang dapat masaktan, at nasusunod ng maayos ang ibinigay na permit.

Kaya hinahayaan niya ang mga pulis na kung sa assessment ng mga ito, na ang itinayong estruktura at ang pagharang sa hauling road ng minahan ay dapat alisin, ang mga pulis na umano ang magpasya at hindi na kailangang isangguni sa kanya, maari na itong gawin ng mga pulis, dahil malinaw naman sa permit na dapat walang gulo, walang naaabala ang mga nagrarily.

Sabi pa ng alkalde ang pag-issue ng permit to rally at ang pagkansela nito ay nasa kanyang kapangyarihan, pero ang pag-analisa ng nangyayari sa aktuwal na rally ay ipinaubaya nito sa mga pulis kung kailangan nilang tanggalin ang mga nakikita nilang labag na sa isinasaad ng batas.

Tulad ng sulat sa kanyang tanggapan ng Ipilan nickel mining corporation na humihiling na kanselahin na ang permit to rally dahil sa mga paglabag ng mga raliyista, pero wala naman daw sapat na katibayan para dito kaya wala siyang nakikitang dahitan para kanselahin ang permit.

Sa usapin naman ng Mayor's permit ng Ipilan mining, sabi ni Mayor Benedito wala silang bagong requirements na ibinigay sa kompanya, ang hinihingi nilang requirements ay dati na umanong nasa listahan ng renewal na dapat i-comply ng minahan.

Ipinaliwanag pa ng alkalde na ang renewal ng mayor's permit ay naka-depende ang requirements sa uri ng negosyo, at dahil ang Ipilan mining ay large scale operation kailangan nila na mag-submit ng bagong endorsement mula sa impact Barangay bilang patunay na nasunod nila ang alituntunin na dapat sundin sa kanilang operation sa nakaraang taon, na wala naman umanong pagkakaiba sa small scale quarry na kailangan din ng endorsement mula sa barangay na kanilang kinukunan ng produkto para matiyak na nasunod ng mga ito ang mga dapat ginagawa sa kanilang quarry operation.

Hindi umano pinapaulit mula sa simula ni Mayor Benedito ang Ipilan mining sa pag-comply ng requirements ng mayor's permit, kundi ipinapasubmit nila ang mga kulang tulad ng endorsement mula sa impact Barangay at kung ano pang kulang. Kapag nagawa umano ito ng Ipilan ay ibibigay niya ang mayor's permit para sa kanila, kung saan inaatay umano nila ngayon ang mga kakulangan na mga dokumento mula sa Ipilan nickel mining corporation.

Via Romy Luzares

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February 23 ·

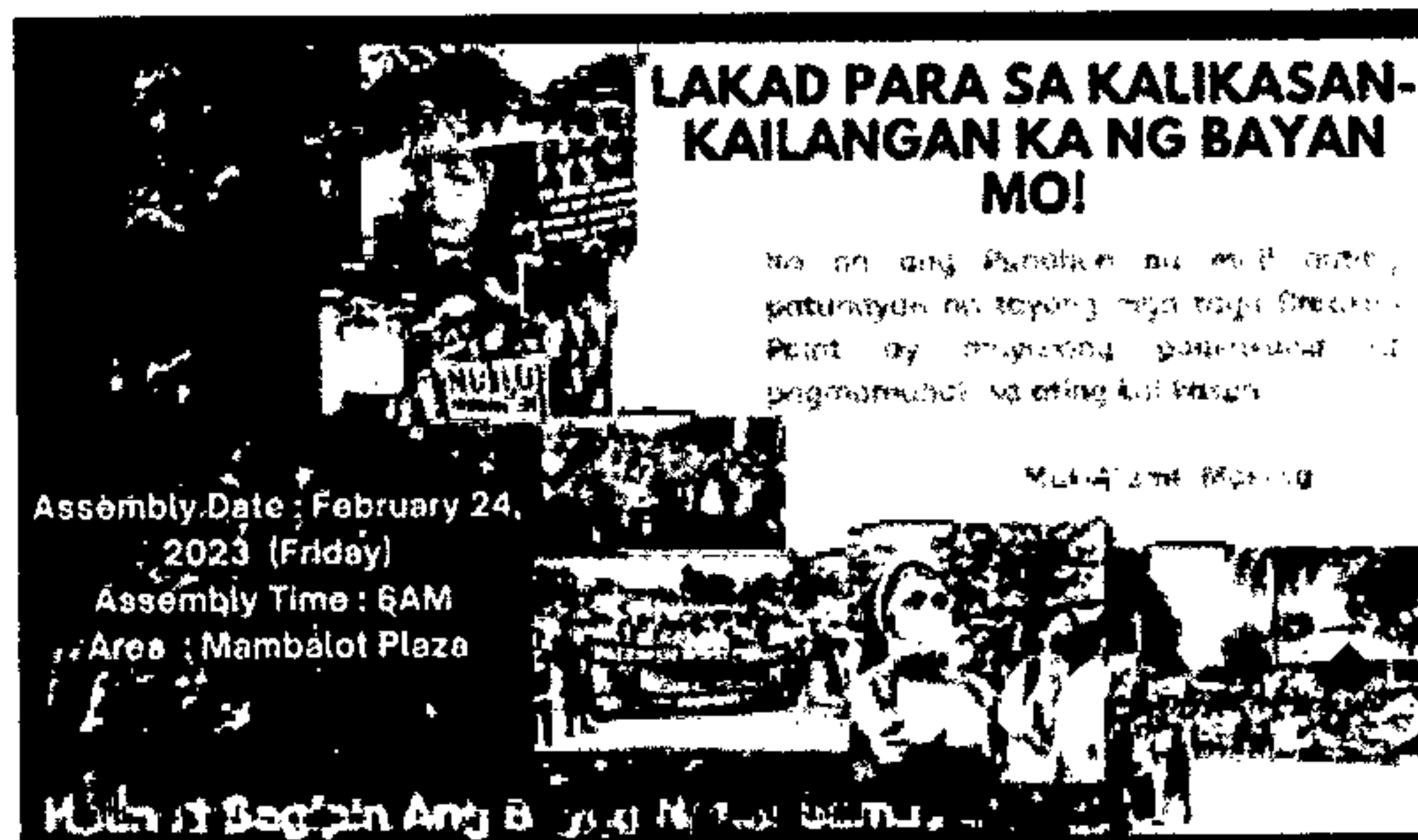
Minamahal na kababayan na nagsasabing mahal ang bayan ng Brookes Point , samahan nyo po kami sa **ALAY LAKAD** para sa **KALIKASAN** bukas ng umaga ganap na ika-7 ng umaga,magkitakita po tayo sa Brgy Plaza ng Mambalot. Magdala po kayo ng tubig, tinapay at payong.

Sa mga empleyado at mga estudyante, HOLIDAY PO BUKAS kaya pwede po kayong sumama.

Maraming salamat po.

GOD bless Brooke's Point.

Ton Abengoza Tad Balean Kiel Española Rodriguez Sarah Jane Crespo-Abon Leah DelaCruz Valdestamon Victor Colili Norly Guipaya Norli Colili Jimart Mariano Naingue Ireneo Abadines Maestrecampo Gil Valdestamon Scirty Lagrosa Dagot Liecel Bacani Vin Vlax Fred Bocobo Jaime Jaspio Jonas PCafe Elynne May Tacadena-Cafe Melanie Cuevas Nacino Dalwin Osalia Callon



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Municipal Information Office - LGU Brooke's Point

February 24 ·

February 25, 2023

PRESS CONFERENCE AGAINST MINING

Isinagawa ang press conference ng mga grupo na tutol sa pagmimina ng Ipilan Nickel Mining o INC sa bayan ng Brooke's Point via Zoom na inorganisa ng Pangulo ng Farmers Association Samuel Yayen, Presidente ng Irrigation Association Joel Luagna, Tagapanguna ng Indigenous People Nelson Sombra, Pastor Job Lagrada Protesters Group Leader, mga tagapagsalita ng Environmental Legal Assistance Center (ELAC) Palawan na si Atty. Asia Wy at Alyansa Tigil Mina na si Ginoong Jaybee Garganera kasama sina Mayor Cesareo R. Benedito Jr., Vice Mayor Atty. Mary Jean D. Feliciano araw ng Pebrero 24, 2023 kasabay ang kilos protesta at Alay Lakad para sa Kalikasan ng mga mamamayan ng Brooke's Point.

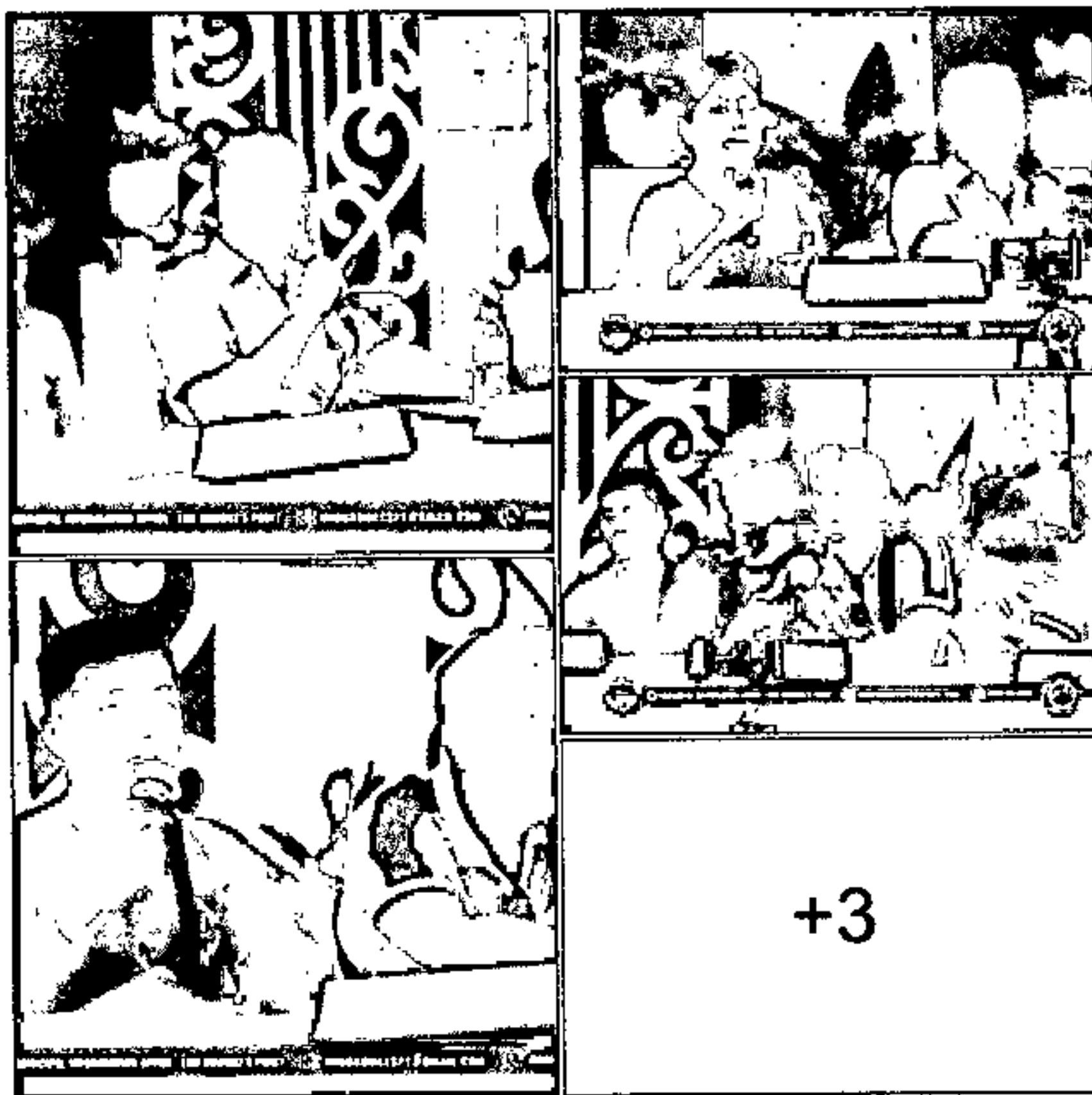
Layunin ng press conference na ilahad ang mga paglabag ng Ipilan Nickel Corporation sa mga panuntunan, talakayin ang epekto ng pagmimina sa komunidad gayundin ang legal na aspeto ng isyu at manawagan sa Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) na maglabas ng Cease and Desist Order laban sa INC dahil sa patuloy na operasyon ng pagbubungkal ng lupa kabundukan ng Barangay Maasin na walang kaukulang Mayor's Permit.

Umaasa ang mga mamamayan at pamahalaang lokal ng Brooke's Point na diringgin ang kanilang panawagan at protesta para sa bayan.

#LabanBrookesPoint

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Palawan Star
February 26 ·

#ProvincialNews

The Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) has clarified that the Mineral Production Sharing Agreement (MPSA No. 017-93-IV) between the Philippine government and Iplan Nickel Corporation (INC) remains in force and valid until 10 April 2025.

This allows INC, a subsidiary of diversified conglomerate Global Ferronickel Holdings, Inc., to maintain its exclusive right to conduct responsible mining operations in the Municipality of Brooke's Point, Palawan, covering 2,835 hectares, with 260 hectares already partially declared as a mining area.

Engr. Glen Marcelo C. Noble, Regional Director for MGB-MIMAROPA Region, issued the clarification in a letter dated 21 February 2023 to Brooke's Point Vice Mayor Mary Jean D. Feliciano in response to a resolution by the Sangguniang Bayan of Brooke's Point.

The resolution sought to investigate the operations of INC following claims that the alleged renewal of its MPSA in 2018 was without the endorsement of the Municipality of Brooke's Point and that it is operating without a Certificate Precondition (CP) from the National Commission of Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) and a Protected Area Management Board (PAMB) clearance.

Director Noble explains that the MPSA did not expire on 05 August 2018 as MPSA No. 017-93-IV was amended on 10 April 2000 to conform to RA 7942, otherwise known as the Philippine Mining Act of 1995. To resolve the issue on the effective date of the MPSA, the DENR has issued the Order dated 21 December 2021 confirming that the effective date of the same MPSA shall be reckoned from the date of the execution of the amended MPSA.

Director Noble further clarifies that INC does not need to secure a CP as this requirement only applies to applications filed after RA 8371, or the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act of 1997, was enacted. He cites a letter by the NCIP dated 31 March 2006 stating that INC is no longer covered as it was already awarded an MPSA four years prior on 05 August 1993.

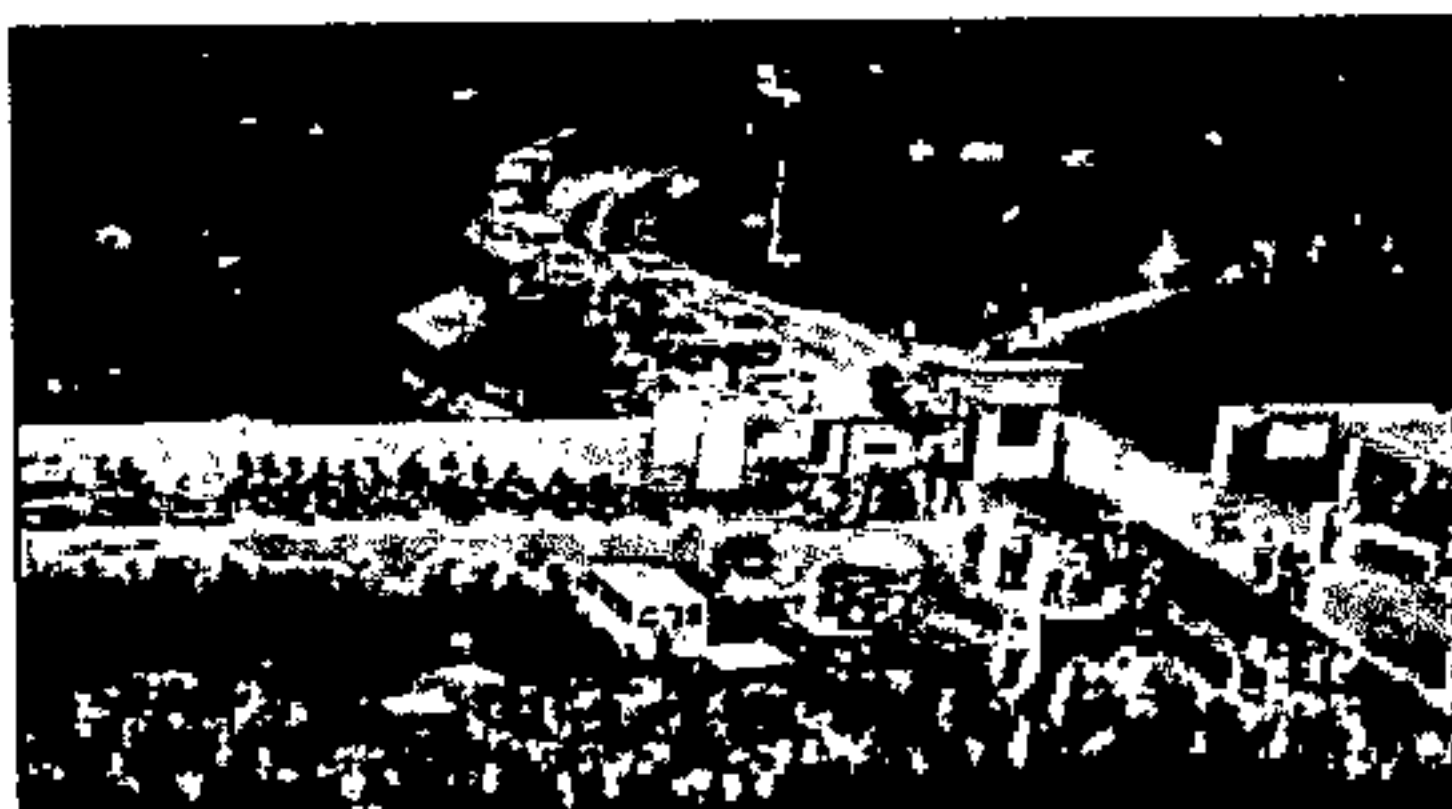
INC, on the other hand, has concluded the process of securing a CP in preparation for the renewal of its MPSA in 2025. During a series of community consultations last June 2022 to August 2022 under the guidance of the NCIP, an overwhelming number of indigenous peoples (IPs) voted for the continued operations of INC. In total, 3,739 IPs from Barangays Aribungos and Calasaguen voted in favor of INC versus only 614 dissenters from Barangay Aribungos. In Barangay Calasaguen, 100 percent of the eligible voters were in favor of responsible mining. This led the IPs from Barangay's Barong-Barong, Iplan, Mambalat and Measin to concede in favor of INC.

There is also no need to secure a PAMB Clearance as the MPSA predates the proposed Final Boundary of the Mt. Mantalingahan Protected Landscape (MMPL). It is protected under the pertinent provision of Presidential Proclamation No. 1815, creating the MMPL while recognizing prior or vested rights.

"We are awaiting the renewal of our Mayor's Permit as we have already submitted the necessary documents and complied with all laws and regulations," said Alex Arabis, Resident Mine Manager of Iplan Nickel Corporation.

INC employs over 1,500 people, wherein 90% are residents of Brooke's Point. The IPs are also well-represented as they make up 28% of the total workforce. To date, INC has spent close to P53.3 million to fund various projects to improve the quality of life in Brooke's Point and nearby areas.(PR)

#PalawanStar



**DENR AFFIRMS IPILAN
NICKEL CORPORATION'S
RIGHT TO CONDUCT RESPONSIBLE MINING
OPERATIONS IN BROOKE'S POINT, PALAWAN**

INC Palawan
February 26, 2023

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Palawan Star

March 5 ·

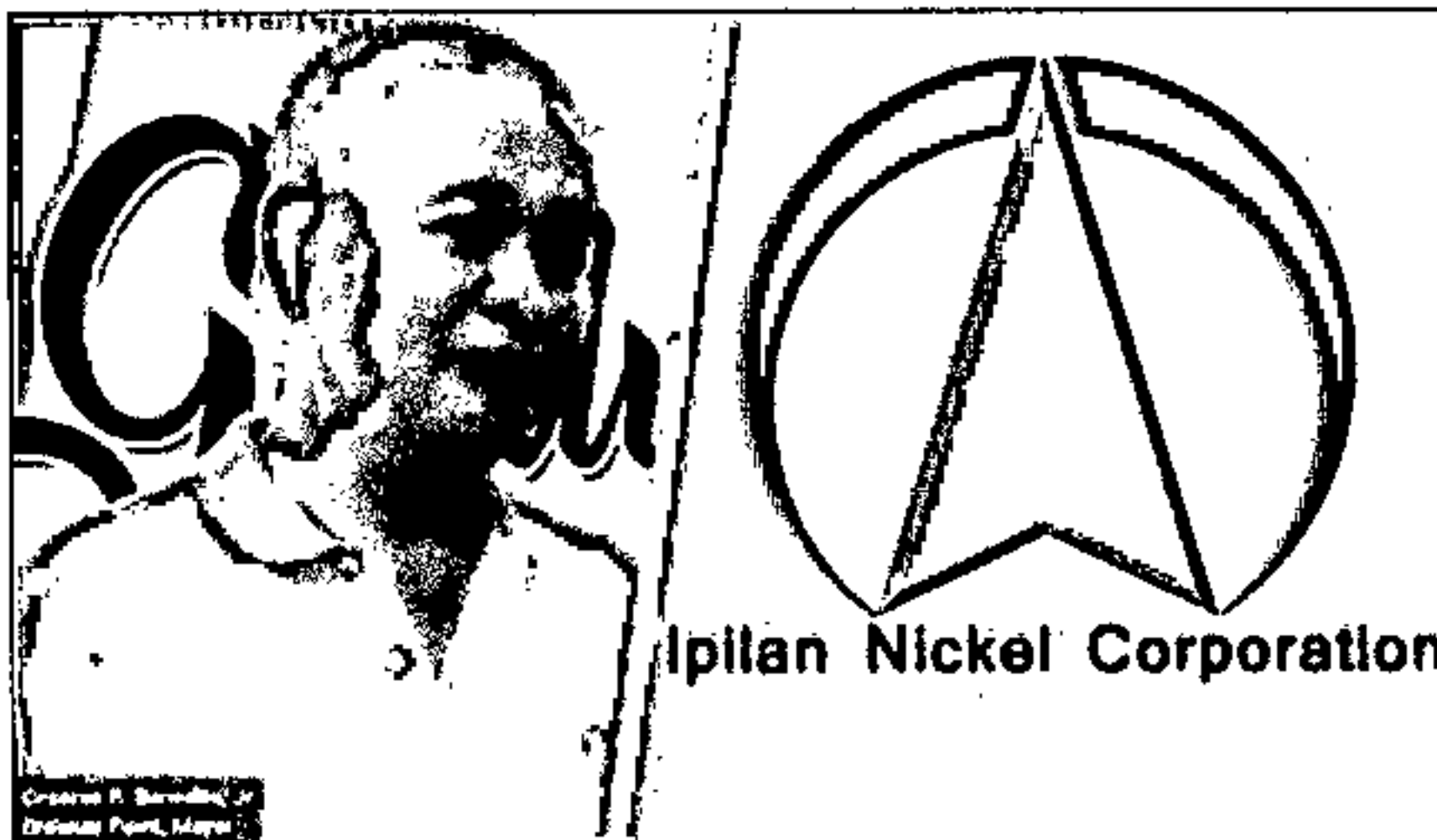
JUST IN || Sinampahan ng reklamo ng Ipilan Nickel Corporation (INC) sa Anti-Red Tape Authority (ARTA) si Brookes Point Mayor Cesareo R. Benedito, Jr. kabilang si Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Officer Remie Mostiero (MENRO Mostiero).

Itoy dahil sa umano'y pagsadyang pagantala o pagdelay ng mga opisyal sa renewal ng business permit ng INC sa kabila ng naisumite na ng kumpanya ang lahat ng kailangang dokumento sa renewal ng business permit.

"We have already submitted much more than what the law requires to renew our business permit. We are respectfully requesting the help of ARTA Director General Hon. Secretary Ernesto V. Perez to step in and order its immediate release," ayon kay Alex Arabis, Resident Mine Manager ng INC.

Sinusbukan pa ng Palstar na makuha ang panig ni Mayor Benedito Jr. sa hinggil sa nasabing isyu.

#PalawanStar



Cesareo R. Benedito, Jr.
Brookes Point, Mayor

JUST IN

MAYOR NG BROOKES POINT INIREKLAMO SA ARTA NG MINAHAN

Nahaharap ngayon sa reklamo sa Anti-Red Tape Authority (ARTA) si Brookes Point Mayor Cesareo R. Benedito, Jr. matapos ireklamo ng Ipilan Nickel Corporation (INC) dahil sa pagkaantala sa renewal ng kanilang business permit ngayong taon.



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Municipal Information Office - LGU Brooke's Point

March 7 ·

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March 7, 2023

BISHOP SOCRATES MESIONA NAGMISA SA BARIKADA

Nagmisa si Bishop Socrates Mesiona sa kanyang ikalawang pagbisita sa barikada ng mga katutubo, magsasaka at mangingisda na tumutulong sa pagmimina ng Ipilan Nickel Corporation sa bayan ng Brooke's Point na walang kaukulang Mayor's Permit, alas diyos ng umaga ng Martes, Marso 7, 2023.

Ayon kay Bishop Mesiona, ang mga lingkod ng Diyos na tulad niya ay itinuturing na mga pastol at ang mga mamamayan ay tulad ng tupa, kayat kung nasaan ang mga tupa ay naroon din ang mga pastol para alalayan at gabayan.

Dagdag pa ni Bishop na ang tunay na kalaban ng tao ay ang pagkaganid sa pera, at ang pagsira ng kalikasan ay kasalanan sa lumikha nito.

Hinimok rin ni Bishop Mesiona na maging mapagmatiyag at magtutungan ang bawat isa para sa pagprotekta ng kalikasan na ating tanging tahanan.

Dumalo sa nasabing misa sina Vice Mayor Atty. Mary Jean D. Feliciano at iba pang sampung mga pari mula sa iba't-ibang ibang parokya.

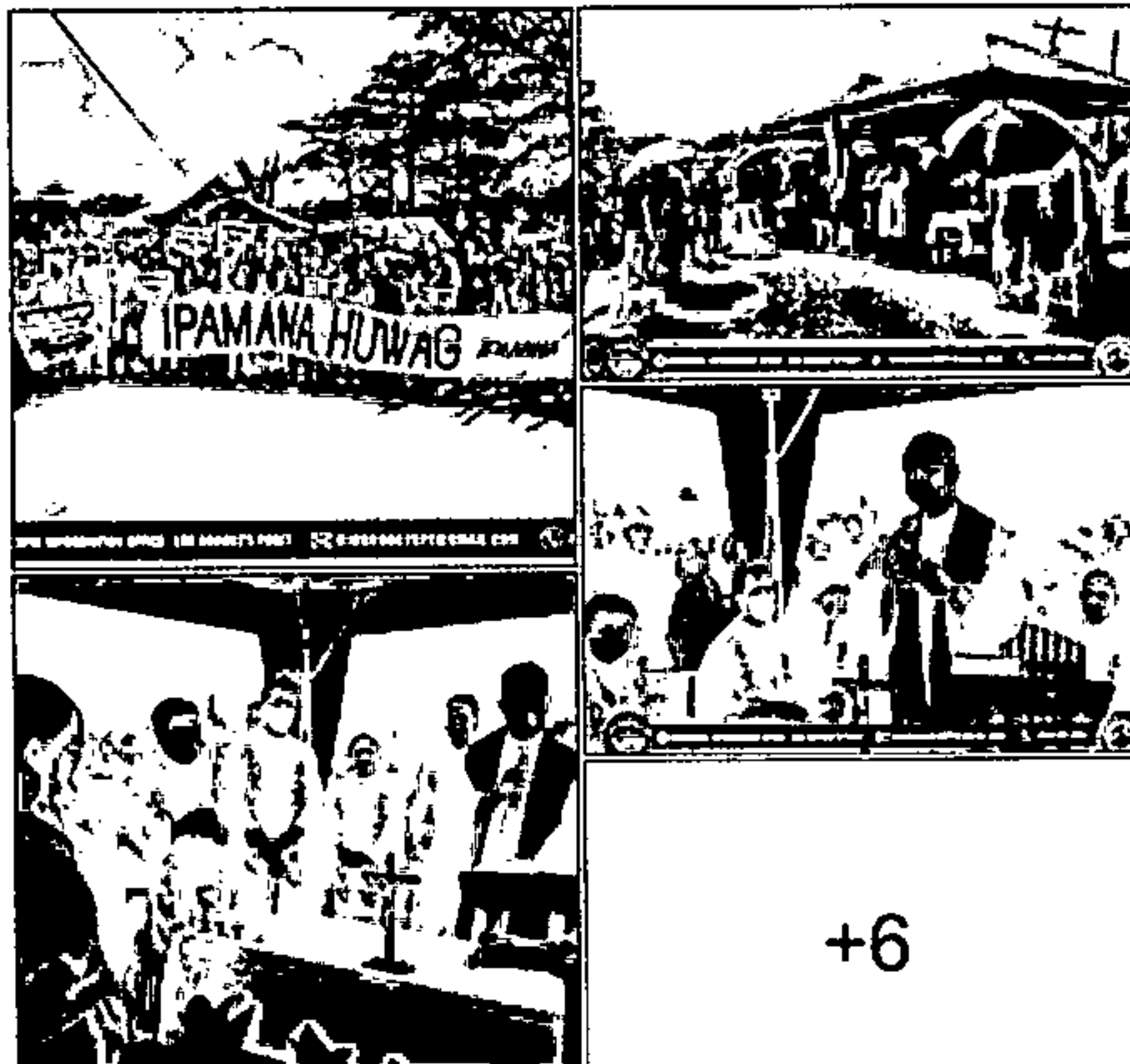
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