++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/ Emailweb@denrgov.ph

MEMORANDUM

FOR

THE REGIONAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DENR Region IV B

L & S Bldg., Roxas Blvd., Manila

FROM

THE CHIEF OF STAFF

Office of the Undersecretary for Field Operations Luzon, Visayas

and Environment

SUBJECT

ALLEGED WATER POLLUTION CAUSED BY MINING

ACTIVITIES IN SIBUYAN ISLAND, ROMBLON

DATE

MAR 0 1 2023

This pertains to the letter dated 25 January 2023 addressed to the DENR Secretary of Dir. Jaime Llaguno Mabilin of the Presidential Management Staff endorsing the email of Ms. Gladlie Fabunan regarding the abovementioned subject.

May we refer the matter to your Office for verification and further appropriate action. Kindly furnish this Office and the parties concerned of the actions taken citing document tracking number DENR CO-ASRMD 2023-003346 for monitoring and record purposes.

For compliance.

ATTY. RICKY A. ARZADON, CESO IV

c.c.

Office of the Secretary

Dir. Jaime Llaguno Mabilin Presidential Management Staff pcc@malacanang.gov.ph

Ms. Gladlie Fabunan fabunangladlie@gmail.com

Office of the President PRESIDENTIAL COMPLAINT CENTER

Malacañang, Manila

Secretary MA. ANTONIA YULO-LOYZAGA

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

Thru: Ms. MARILOU G. ERNI

Undersecretary and Chief of Staff

Madam:

25 January 2023



Respectfully forwarding the attached copy of an email, with enclosure/s, from Ms. GLADLIE FABUNAN, <fabunangladlie@gmail.com>, for appropriate action, consistent with existing laws, rules and regulations, subject of the Center's earlier e-transmittal to that Office.

PCC Code No.	Date of email	Referred to Agency	Date sent to agency
PCC-CAM-01-10-2023-042	January 10, 2023	DENR	January 12, 2023

A reply direct to the party/ies concerned, copy furnished the Center, citing PCC Code Number, will be highly appreciated. Expeditious action is requested in accordance with the provisions of Republic Act No. 11032, otherwise known as the Ease of Doing Business and Efficient Government Service Delivery Act of 2018 as implemented and enforced by the Anti-Red Tape Authority. Please be reminded that failure to timely respond to the public's concern shall be a ground for administrativesanctions under existing laws and regulations.

Our cordial regards.

Very truly yours,

Director IV

Encl. All enclosures forwarded to agency

n HRI

*This serves as 2nd Indorsement of our earlier e-transmittal to that Office.

**Please disregard if advice of status or action taken had been earlier sent.

IMPORTANT

Information contained in this communication is privileged, confidential and intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to whom it is addressed and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the intended recipient, you must not disclose or use the information contained in it. If you have received this communication in error, please notify the Presidential Complaint Center immediately and dispose this communication in accordance with the provisions of Republic Act 10173 otherwise known as the Data Privacy Act of 2012.

BAHAY UGNAYAN, JOSE P. LAUREL STREET, MALACAÑANG, MANILA

Telephone Numbers: 736-8645 (Governance and Local Affairs Division); 736-8603 (Social Services Division); Fax Number: 736-8621

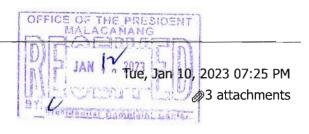
Email Address: pcc@malacanang.gov.ph

Mining in Sibuyan Island, Romblon

From: GLADLIE FABUNAN <fabunangladlie@gmail.com>

Subject: Mining in Sibuyan Island, Romblon

To: pcc@malacanang.gov.ph



Good day po.

Ako po ay magtatanong sana kung bakit po natuloy ang pagmimina ng nickel sa aming isla ng Sibuyan na sakop ng probinsya ng Romblon. Ang aming pong isla ay maliit lamang, binubuo lamang ng 3 bayan. Ang Mt. Guiting-guiting po ay ideniklara na protected area by virtue of Presidential Proclamation No. 746 kaya bakit po napayagan na magmina dito? Pwede po ba kaming matulungan ng office of the president na mapatigil ang pagmimina? ang kabuhayan po ng mga tao dito ay pagsasaka at pangingisda. Malinis po ang aming mga ilog na masisira ng dahil sa pagmimina. Mabigyan nyo po sana ng pansin ito at maaksiyonan. Kaming mga mamamayan po ang lubos na mapipinsala ng pagmimina lalo na ang aming mga ilog at ang dagat kung saan kami umaasa. Salamat po.



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Nickel laterite ore deposits which constitute the Altai-Mining concessions in Sibuyan are low-grade deposits located close to the surface. Mining companies must extract large volumes of soil for a relatively small volume of minerals. The mineral deposits are extracted by open pit mining method where the land is dug up, pulverized to a find powder, mixed with acid to concentrate the minerals, and finally extracted by smelting the solution. The benefit of open pit mining comes from cheaper extraction costs: lower labor, shallow deposits, lower excavation and transportation costs, no large machinery. However, the extraction method uses an enormous amount of water for processing, to suppress dust, and for slurry transport. The water is sourced from groundwater, streams, rivers, etc., and after being used, if it is not held in a tailings pond to settle the more noxious byproducts, the water

is often dumped back to the environment no

and soaked in acid, it is a very fine sterile

longer useable for drinking or agriculture. After the minerals have been removed from the soil

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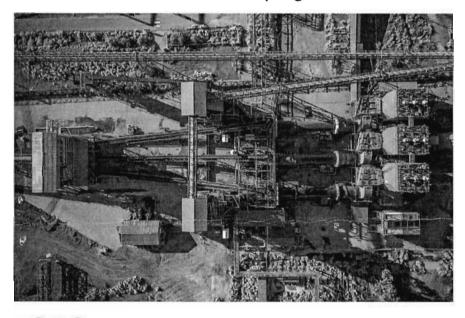
Romblon Ins...





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processing, to suppress dust, and for slurry transport. The water is sourced from groundwater, streams, rivers, etc., and after being used, if it is not held in a tailings pond to settle the more noxious byproducts, the water is often dumped back to the environment no longer useable for drinking or agriculture. After the minerals have been removed from the soil and soaked in acid, it is a very fine sterile powder devoid of structure or any benefit to plan-life. Whoever tells you that LARGE SCALE MINING in a small island is responsible and sustainable is selling you a bridge to nowhere. Beware of someone else's "progress".



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For the children's brighter, greener future. Mt. Guiting-guiting Natural Park (MGGNP) Protected Area Superintendent Malvin Rocero (right) teaches students of Cambalo Elementary School in Cajidiocan, Sibuyan, Romblon, the proper way of planting and taking care of mangrove trees which serve as breeding ground for diverse life forms, and as first line of defense against storm surges and tsunamis. The mangrove planting activity was held simultaneously with coastal and river cleanup to celebrate World Wetlands Day and MGGNP's 24th anniversary as a protected area.. (Photo by DENR MIMAROPA)

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources in MIMAROPA Region held on February 18 simultaneous coastal and river cleanup and mangrove planting activities to celebrate the 24th anniversary of Mt. Guiting-guiting Natural Park (MGGNP) as a protected area by virtue of Presidential Proclamation No. 746.

Located in Sibuyan Island in Romblon, Mt. Guiting-guiting boasts of a rich biodiversity, dense forest cover, and natural water system that provide and sustain life in the three municipalities that cover the great mountain range, namely, Magdiwang, Cajidiocan and San Fernando. The DENR and the local government units prepared activities for the whole month of February to allow the communities to recognize the value of Mt. Guiting-guiting to give back to it.

"By planting mangroves, we enrich Sibuyan's mangrove forest reserve. By cleaning up rivers and seas, we free the wetlands and bodies of water around it from trash," said