



12 8 MAR 2023

DATE

MEMORANDUM

FOR : THE REGIONAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
DENR – MIMAROPA Region

FROM : THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR
EMB MIMAROPA Region

SUBJECT : ON-GOING CONFLICT IN SAN FERNANDO, SIBUYAN ISLAND,
ROMBLON DUE TO ALTAI PHILIPPINES MINING CORPORATION

Respectfully endorsing for your reference and appropriate action, the copy of the letter from Center for Environmental Concerns – Philippines and Kalikasan People's Network for the Environment dated 06 February 2023 and which our Office has received on 09 March 2023.

Relative to the actions taken by this Office to address the concerns pertaining to the operations of Altai Philippines Mining Corporation (APMC), please be informed that a Notice of Violation has already been issued against APMC on 02 February 2023 for violation of Section 4 of P.D. 1586, for undertaking the construction and operation of a causeway project without a valid Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) issued by this Office.

Furthermore, a Technical Conference was conducted with APMC representatives on 07 February 2023 wherein it was agreed among others, for APMC to write to EMB – Central Office to clarify as to whether the ECC Application for the causeway project should be filed with the EMB Central Office or Regional Office, and to secure PRA Permit and Area Clearance from the Philippine Reclamation Authority and DENR Regional Office.

During the Technical Conference, APMC representatives were served with the Joint Order issued by DENR-EMB-MGB MIMAROPA Region dated 06 February 2023 directing APMC among others to **CEASE AND DESIST** from the construction and operation of its causeway project located in Sitio Bato, Brgy. España, San Fernando, Romblon, as a precautionary measure against potentially irreparable damage to the environment.

For the Regional Executive Director's information and appropriate action.

JOE AMIL M. SALINO





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

7/F DENR Building, 1515 Roxas Boulevard, Ermita, Manila
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02 March 2023

MEMORANDUM

FOR : The Regional Executive Director
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
MIMAROPA Region

FROM : The OIC, Office of the Regional Director
This Office

SUBJECT : On-going Conflict in San Fernando, Sibuyan Island,
Romblon due to Altai Philippines Mining Corporation

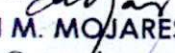
We are respectfully forwarding the 06 February 2023 letter from the Executive Director of the Center for Environmental Concerns – Philippines Inc. and the National Coordinator of the Kalikasan People's Network for the Environment, requesting the urgent action of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) on the above subject.

Please be informed that in the 14 February 2023 letter of Altai Philippines Mining Corporation (Altai) to this Office, it has voluntarily stopped all its exploration related activities on 06 February 2023 in Sibuyan Island, Romblon (copy attached). The Ore Transport Permit No. OTP-APMC-162-001-2022-MIMAROPA issued by this Office to Altai has also expired on 24 February 2023.

This Office has scheduled the regular annual monitoring of the contract area under Mineral Production Sharing Agreement (MPSA) No. 304-2009-IVB granted to Altai on the second quarter of CY-2023. However, we are respectfully requesting the DENR – MIMAROPA, as well as the Environmental Management Bureau – MIMAROPA, for their assistance on the monitoring of the areas outside Altai's MPSA area and an update on the investigation/s conducted by the PENRO – Romblon.

For the Regional Executive Director's information and appropriate action.

By Authority of the Regional Director:

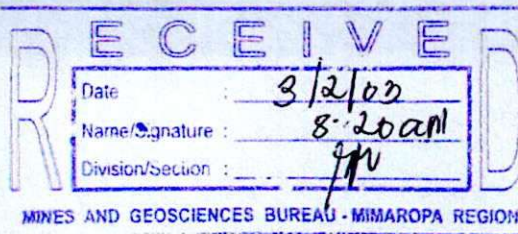

EDWIN M. MOJARES, PhD
Chief, Geosciences Division

Enc'l: As stated

cc: The Regional Director
Environmental Management Bureau
MIMAROPA Region

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





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

¹
[https://www.facebook.com/rodne.galicha/posts/pfbid02zB9eikFc8guC8dTr6BcfgLeg7fdFDvC2BMWjw4CTJsS7eChomryRbWDH9R7TbUTUI?__cft__\[0\]=AZV_AMMsGon7haj8TGySk4DjiAAsH312smRILYgaPpBmi7AsiaD4ho75D_EfhjpPnEEn4scFiaT_Axvp4GuQuE8wOCTsNWlqUWJJx3XLWtpAVnSqPCIZEmORQKUjzAA0GLjb85HAZgv0bCrJf74p17tC4f1o6kiler8T9O1KoJaLZ5wDY8TS6ODGeKlskrqBib7slYjwoVWmlG0fVAyEsv4D&__tn__=-R](https://www.facebook.com/rodne.galicha/posts/pfbid02zB9eikFc8guC8dTr6BcfgLeg7fdFDvC2BMWjw4CTJsS7eChomryRbWDH9R7TbUTUI?__cft__[0]=AZV_AMMsGon7haj8TGySk4DjiAAsH312smRILYgaPpBmi7AsiaD4ho75D_EfhjpPnEEn4scFiaT_Axvp4GuQuE8wOCTsNWlqUWJJx3XLWtpAVnSqPCIZEmORQKUjzAA0GLjb85HAZgv0bCrJf74p17tC4f1o6kiler8T9O1KoJaLZ5wDY8TS6ODGeKlskrqBib7slYjwoVWmlG0fVAyEsv4D&__tn__=-R)

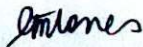
²
<https://www.philstar.com/headlines/climate-and-environment/2023/01/30/2241320/sibuyan-folk-fear-nickel-mini-ng-will-destroy-galapagos-asia>

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.

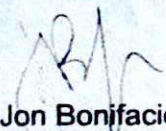
We call for the immediate investigation of the mining operations and legal requirements of APMC and for accountability for the PNP personnel involved in the violent dispersals. We also support the calls of the residents of Sibuyan Island to cancel the Mineral Processing and Sharing Agreement (MPSA) of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

⁴

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

26 Mathlunghin St., Brgy. Central, Quezon City ✓