

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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Email: region4b@mgb.gov.ph



02 March 2023

Ms. Lia Mai Torres

Executive Director

Center for Environmental Concerns – Philippines Inc.

Mr. Jon Bonifacio

National Coordinator

Kalikasan People's Network for the Environment

Dear Messrs. L. M. Torres and J. Bonifacio:

This refers to the 06 February 2023 letter addressed to the Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) requesting for the immediate investigation of the mining-related activities of Altai Philippines Mining Corp. (Altai) and for the accountability of the Philippine National Police (PNP) on its violent dispersal during the protests against Altai in Sibuyan Island, Romblon.

The above letter was received by this Office on 02 March 2023 through the 20 February 2023 Memorandum of the Assistant Secretary for Finance, Information Systems and Mining Concerns – DENR, for our appropriate action.

Please be informed that this Office together with the DENR–MIMAROPA Region and the Environmental Management Bureau – MIMAROPA issued a Joint Order to Altai on 06 February 2023 (copy attached). Altai has also informed this Office that on 06 February 2023 it has voluntarily suspended all its exploration related activities in Sibuyan Island, Romblon.


This Office shall forward your concerns to the DENR–MIMAROPA Region for its further action.

With regards to the peace and order situation in the area, this Office has no authority to monitor the actions of the PNP and the residents opposing Altai.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

By Authority of the Regional Director:


EDWIN M. MOJARES, PhD
Chief, Geosciences Division
OIC, Office of the Regional Director

Enc'l.: As stated.

cc: The Assistant Secretary
Finance, Information Systems and Mining Concerns
Department of Environment and Natural Resources

The PENRO
Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office
Romblon

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

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

030323-RO4B-0569

Letter: 3/3/2023





IN RE: ILLEGAL CONSTRUCTION OF CAUSEWAY AND OTHER
RELATIVE ACTIVITIES OF ALTAI PHILIPPINE MINING CORPORATION
(APMC)

JOINT ORDER

WHEREAS, a Mineral Production Sharing Agreement (MPSA) was granted to APMC on 23 December 2009, with MPSA No. 304-2009-IVB, pursuant to Republic Act (RA) No. 7942, otherwise known as the *Philippine Mining Act of 1995*;

WHEREAS, on 19 September 2011 the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) Central Office (CO) issued a Cease-and-Desist Order (CDO) to APMC due to environmental and social issues;

WHEREAS, on 13 December 2020, APMC filed a Motion to Recall the Appeal and lift the CDO with the DENR Central Office;

WHEREAS, on 09 September 2021, DENR lifted the CDO stating that the concerns on environment and social issues can be addressed during the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process. APMC was required to secure an Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC), Environmental Protection and Enhancement Program (EPEP) and Final Mine Rehabilitation and/or Decommissioning Plan prior to its operation;

WHEREAS, an application for Miscellaneous Lease Agreement (MLA) was filed by APMC for its Causeway at Brgy. España, San Fernando, Romblon on 12 September 2022;

WHEREAS, on 07 December 2022, APMC applied for Mineral Ore Export Permit (MOEP) to ship out its sample ore consisting of 50,000 WMT to a Direct Shipping Ore (DSO) pyro-plant and testing company in China to complete the necessary metallurgical study;

WHEREAS, on 28 December 2022, MGB MIMAROPA Region issued Ore Transport Permit (OTP) No. OTP-APMC-162-001-2022-MIMAROPA for 50,000 WMT +/- 10% of ore from the MPSA contract area to APMC's port in San Fernando, Romblon;

WHEREAS, on 29 December 2022, the MGB Central Office issued MOEP No. DENR-MGB-22-008 to APMC

WHEREAS, on 13 January 2023, Forest Technician I Ernie L. Forcadas from DENR Sibuyan Sub-Station, Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO) Romblon received a verbal complaint from a concerned citizen on the alleged illegal construction of causeway by APMC;

WHEREAS, on 18 January 2023, OIC PENRO Arnoldo A. Blaza, Jr. wrote a letter to APMC to immediately suspend the ongoing construction;

WHEREAS, on 28 January 2023, a report from the Investigating Team of PENRO Romblon in an investigation conducted on 17 January 2023 confirmed that there is an ongoing construction of causeway, and flattening of the proposed roadway. The Report also stated that there was a reclamation activity approximately measuring 16 meters wide and 210 meters length, which started on 13 January 2023;

WHEREAS, on 01 February 2023, OIC PENRO Blaza issued a Notice of Violation (NOV) for the construction of APMC's causeway without an approved lease agreement and/or Provisional Permit;

WHEREAS, on 01 February 2023, the Chief of Environmental Management Services, Provincial Environmental Management Unit (PEMU) Romblon, conducted a site inspection at APMC's Causeway Project and observed that APMC has no Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) for the project;

WHEREAS, on 02 February 2023, the EMB MIMAROPA Region issued an NOV with Suspension Order against APMC for its Causeway Project located in Sitio Bato, Brgy. España, San Fernando, Sibuyan, Romblon in violation of Section 4 of P.D. 1586, otherwise known as the *Philippine Environmental Impact Statement System*, for constructing/operating a causeway project without an approved ECC. Further, APMC was directed to suspend any further developments relative to the construction and operation of the causeway effective immediately upon receipt of the NOV to prevent grave and irreparable damage to the environment.

WHEREAS, on 03 February 2023, PENRO Romblon, also issued an NOV to APMC for violations of Presidential Decree No. 705, otherwise known as the *Revised Forestry Code of the Philippines*, as amended, for cutting and damaging trees and clearing the exploration site of the APMC at Sitio Bato, Brgy. España, San Fernando, Romblon, without the required cutting permit.

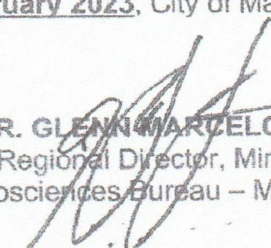
WHEREFORE, this Office hereby **ORDERS** the following:


1. For APMC to **CEASE AND DESIST** from the construction and operation of its causeway in Sitio Bato, Brgy. España, San Fernando, Romblon as a precautionary measure against potential irreparable damage to the environment;
2. Ore Transport Permit No. OTP-APMC-162-001-2022-MIMAROPA issued to APMC is **TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED** by virtue of Item No. 1 hereof;
3. APMC to **STOP** transporting ore from the contract site to the causeway;
4. APMC's application for Miscellaneous Lease Agreement is **DENIED** for its violations of Commonwealth Act 141, otherwise known as the Public Land Act, as amended, and its related issuances;
5. PENRO Romblon to **FILE** appropriate legal actions, if warranted, on the reported cutting of trees without permit; and,
6. PENRO Romblon to **CONDUCT** investigation on the potentially damaged sea grass and other marine resources.


This Order is immediately executory upon receipt.

SO ORDERED.

06 February 2023, City of Manila, Philippines.


ENGR. GLENN MARCELO C. NOBLE
Regional Director, Mines and
Geosciences Bureau – MIMAROPA

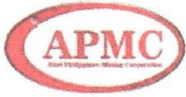

JOE AMIL M. SALINO
Regional Director, Environmental
Management Bureau – MIMAROPA


LORMELYN E. CLAUDIO, CESO IV
Regional Executive Director
DENR – MIMAROPA

Copy furnished:

MR. HANNIEL T. NGO
President, Altai Philippine Mining Corporation
1901 Tycoon Center, Pearl Drive, San Antonio
Ortigas Center, Pasig City

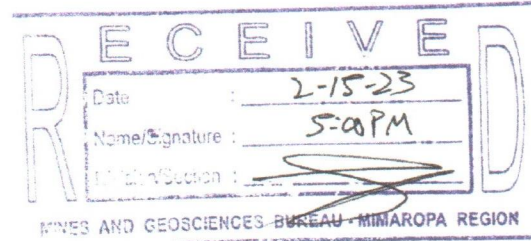




ALTAI PHILIPPINES MINING CORPORATION

February 14, 2023

Engr. GLENN MARCELO C. NOBLE
Regional Director
Mines and Geosciences Bureau – MIMAROPA
7th Floor DENR By the Bay Building
1515 Roxas Blvd., Ermita, Manila



**SUBJECT: Notice of Voluntary Stoppage of Exploration
And Related Activities**


Dear Director Noble:

Please be informed that in view of the issues that have been raised recently about the transport of bulk metallurgical sample from the exploration site to the port situated at Sitio Bato, Barangay Espana, San Fernando, Sibuyan Island, Romblon, **ALTAI PHILIPPINES MINING CORPORATION ("APMC") voluntarily stopped all exploration and related activities thereat as of February 6, 2023.** This voluntary stoppage is intended to address any concerns or issues that have been raised against APMC.

It is APMC's priority to maintain peace and order, to ensure the concerns and well-being of the Sibuyanons and to ensure that no parties are negatively impacted by our operations. In doing so, we will abide by environmental protocols in implementing such stoppage.

APMC reiterates its commitment to comply with prevailing environmental laws, rules, and regulations pertaining to its exploration and related activities. It shall continue to coordinate with your Office for guidance to ensure compliance to protect the interests of all stakeholders.

Truly yours,


ATTY. MARY JANE F. BALAGTAS
Legal Counsel

Copy Furnished:

Mr. JOE AMIL M. SALINO
Regional Director
Environmental Management Bureau (EMB)
6th Floor DENR By the Bay Building
1515 Roxas Blvd., Ermita, Manila 1000