

**Representatives of
Bantay Kalikasan
ng Sibuyan:**

ELMOR A. BORDA

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ATTY. RON GUTIERREZ

6 March 2023

LORMELYN E. CLAUDIO

Regional Executive Director
DENR – MIMAROPA

Dear DENR/PENRO,

In light of the **Joint Order by the DENR, MGB and EMB MIMAROPA** issued on February 6, 2023 to Altai Philippines Mining Corporation due to their extraction/construction activities and the numerous notices of violation, including PD 705 otherwise known as the Revised Forestry Code for cutting trees and clearing/exploration without the required permit and/or certification, we demand that your office enforce this Joint Order with full force.

It has been a month since the Joint Order and we would like to follow-up on the status of the investigation conducted by PENRO Romblon and the inventory of trees cut and the amount of ores illegally extracted by Altai in its activities.

We hope, as concerned citizens of Sibuyan Island, to be part of the investigation team to ensure objectivity throughout the process.

Praying that your office will take an immediate action regarding this matter.

We look forward to your positive consideration.

Sincerely,

BANTAY KALIKASAN NG SIBUYAN



DENR STATEMENT ON THE RECENT INCIDENT INVOLVING ALTAI PHILIPPINES MINING CORPORATION (APMC) IN THE ISLAND OF SIBUYAN, PROVINCE OF ROMBLON

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) informs the public that it has issued a Joint Order (JO) to Altai Philippines Mining Corporation (APMC) on February 6, 2023 through Regional Offices of DENR, Mines and Geosciences Bureau, Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) in Region IV-B MIMAROPA regarding the illegal construction of causeway and other related activities.

The Joint Order reads as follows:

"WHEREFORE, this Office (DENR) hereby ORDERS the following:

- 1. Altai Philippines Mining Corporation (APMC) to CEASE AND DESIST the construction and operation of its causeway in Sitio Bato, Brgy. España, San Fernando, Romblon;*
- 2. Ore Transport Permit No. OTP-APMC-162-001-2022-MIMAROPA issued to APMC is SUSPENDED, in view of the non-operation of its causeway;*
- 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, as amended, otherwise known as the Public Land Act, 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 alleged damage / destruction of seagrass and other marine resources.*

All these orders are IMMEDIATELY EXECUTORY upon receipt."

It also ordered the DENR Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO) in the Province of Romblon to file appropriate legal actions against APMC if warranted, on the reported cutting of trees without permit and to conduct an investigation on the alleged damage to sea grass and other marine resources as a result of the construction of the causeway project.

Beginning February 1, 2023, the DENR Environmental Management Bureau in MIMAROPA issued Notices of Violation to APMC for violation of Section 4 of Presidential Decree No. 1586 or the Philippine Environmental Impact Statement System, Republic Act (RA) 6969 or the Toxic Substances and Hazardous and Nuclear Wastes Control Act of 1990, RA 9275 or the Philippine Clean Water Act of 2004, and Presidential Decree 705 for cutting trees without a permit.

The DENR firmly assures the public, especially the residents of Sibuyan Island, that the Department continues to strictly implement environmental laws in order to ensure the safety of the community and promote inclusive development in the Province of Romblon.

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