



Ipilan Nickel Corporation

October 23, 2023

Engr. Felizardo A. Gacad, Jr.

Regional Director for MGB - Mimaropa Region
7th floor, 1515 DENR By the Bay Building
Roxas Boulevard, Brgy. 668, Ermita, Manila

Dear Engr. Gacad:

We refer to the news article published by the Philippine Daily Inquirer on October 21, 2023 entitled, "Mining firm in Palawan faces another stop order."¹ Following your request, please refer to the company's response below:

1. It is imperative that Brooke's Point Vice Mayor Mary Jean Feliciano, a lawyer who previously faced suspension, be reminded that she is not the embodiment of the law, and she and her supporters must refrain from attempting to take the law into their own hands;
2. In response to the Cease and Desist Order (CDO) issued by the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP), Ipilan Nickel Corporation (INC) has promptly lodged an appeal, a move that suspends the enforcement of the CDO following established protocols. Therefore, the responsibility now rests on Feliciano's group to exhibit due respect for the law and the prescribed legal procedures;
3. Under the guise of environmentalism, some individuals seek to exploit INC as a platform to advance their personal agendas, potentially including the acquisition of support for the upcoming barangay elections;
4. INC fully complies with the permitting requirements of the Local Government Unit (LGU) as outlined in its Citizen's Charter, which was approved following the applicable law. Recently, INC has paid a substantial local business tax after being authorized by the mayor's office, thereby equipping the LGU to finance its most pressing infrastructure and socio-economic initiatives to benefit the people;
5. It is paramount to note that the Supreme Court is actively deliberating the legitimacy of INC's operations through a Kalikasan Petition filed against the company. Up to this juncture, the request for a restraining order has not been granted, and both the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB), represented by the Office of the Solicitor General (OSG), have advocated for the dismissal of the case. Thus, Feliciano's stated intent to obstruct a pivotal national government

¹<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1849084/mining-firm-in-palawan-faces-another-stop-order>

development project is a matter of grave concern, as it not only encroaches upon judicial authority but also circumvents the court's ultimate verdict, an action deserving of severe censure; and

6. It is incumbent upon us to remain vigilant and not allow Feliciano's misleading stratagems to deceive once again the pro-progress and law-abiding citizens of Brooke's Point, particularly the thousands of industrious workers, families, and the Indigenous Peoples (IP) community who now enjoy and rely on the positive impact of INC's operations.

Please also find the attached Returns of the Writ separately filed by INC and the OSG (on behalf of the DENR and MGB) in relation to the Writ of Kalikasan case pending before the Supreme Court for your reference.

We hope this clarifies the matter.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Alex C. Arabis', is positioned above the printed name and title.

Alex C. Arabis

OIC - Resident Mine Manager