



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
BIODIVERSITY MANAGEMENT BUREAU
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31 MAR 2023

MEMORANDUM

FOR : The Regional Executive Director
DENR Region 4-B (MIMAROPA)
1515 L & S Bldg., Roxas Blvd., Metro Manila

FROM : The OIC, Assistant Director
In concurrent capacity as Chief, Coastal and Marine Division

SUBJECT : **CONCERNS OF LEADERS OF THE PALA'WAN CULTURAL COMMUNITY IN BROOKE'S POINT, PROVINCE OF PALAWAN**

**DENR MIMAROPA
RECORDS SECTION
RECEIVED**

APR 12 2023
E-2023-103813 - LPDD

☐ INCOMING ☐ OUTGOING

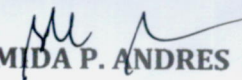
BY: _____ DATE NO. _____

TIME: _____

This pertains to the invitation letter dated 16 January 2023 of Leaders of Pala'wan Cultural Community to Hon. Allen A. Capuyan, Chairperson, National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) to explain the entrance of Ipilan Nickel Mining Corporation mining operation and activities such as putting up of fence, exploitation of the forest, abuse of resources therein resulting to the destruction of ancestral domain of Pala'wan Cultural Community.

In relation to this, may we refer the attached letter of the Leaders of the Pala'wan Cultural Community to conduct investigation in coordination and or collaboration with the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development (PCSD).

For consideration:


ARMIDA P. ANDRES



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
BIODIVERSITY MANAGEMENT BUREAU



BMB202301589



UNITED NATIONS DECADE ON
**ECOSYSTEM
RESTORATION**
2021-2030

Ika- 16 ng Enero 2023

HON. ALLEN A. CAPUYAN

Chairperson

National Commission on Indigenous Peoples

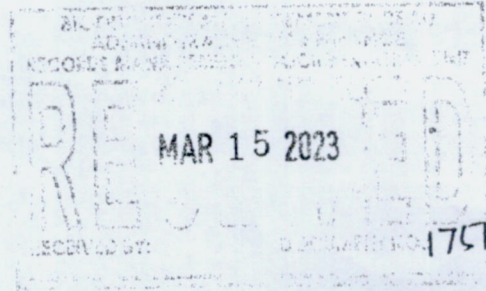
6th and 7th Floor ,Sunnymede IT Center

1614 Quezon Ave., Diliman 1103

Quezon City, Philippines.

iao.records@ncip.gov.ph

chairperson.external@ncip.gov.ph



Ginoo:

(Sir):

Isang mapayapayang araw po sa inyo!

(Greetings of peace)

Kami po ay mga lidere/pinuno ng **Katutubong Komunidad/Pamayanan ng Pala'wan**, na may lupaing ninuno na sakop ng **Bukid et Gantung** at kasalukuyang nagdodokumento ng aming *Indigenous Political Structure* bilang pagsunod sa *IPRA* at *NCIP Administrative Order No. 2, Series of 2012 The General Guidelines on The Confirmation of Indigenous Political Structures and The Registration of Indigenous Peoples' Organizations*. Kasama po namin ang **MKE BICAMM-Mga Kalebonan Et BICAMM** (Barangays Barong-barong, Ipilan, Calasaguen, Aribungos, Mambalot at Maasin), isang samahan na binubuo ng mga kababaihang katutubo at kababaihang nasa lokal na komunidad/pamayanan na nasa loob at labas ng lupaing ninuno ng **Katutubong Komunidad/Pamayanan ng Pala'wan** . Kami po ay sadyang nagsama ng aming mga kaisipan at damdamin upang maiparating sa inyo ang sulat na ito.

(We are leaders of Pala'wan Cultural Community whose ancestral domain covers the Bukid et Gantung. We are currently documenting our Indigenous Political Structure in accordance with IPRA and NCIP Administrative Order No. 2, Series of 2012 The General Guidelines on The Confirmation of Indigenous Political Structures and The Registration of Indigenous Peoples' Organizations. With us is the MKE BICAMM-Mga Kalebonan Et BICAMM (Barangays (Barong-barong, Ipilan, Calasaguen, Aribungos, Mambalot at Maasin), an organization of indigenous women and women from the local communities within and outside of the said ancestral domain of Pala'wan Cultural Community. We have come together with our minds and hearts, to send you this letter.)

Nais po namin kayong imbitahan upang magpaliwanag tungkol sa mga bagay na may kinalaman sa nasabing lupaing ninuno ng **Katutubong Komunidad/Pamayanan ng Pala'wan**. Kami po ay nakahandang tanggapin kayo sa aming komunidad/pamayanan sa aming Lupaing Ninuno sa Bukid et Gantung o BICAMM sa bayan ng Brooke's Point, Palawan at sa ano mang petsa at oras na nakalista sa baba:

1. Kelangbenwa Kepengyan Bgy Aribungos, Brooke's Point, Palawan Ika-8 ng Pebrero 2023 sa ganap na ika-9 ng umaga.

2. Kelangbenwa Kepengyan Bgy Aribungos, Brooke's Point, Palawan Ika-9 ng Pebrero 2023 sa ganap na ika-9 ng umaga.
3. Kelangbenwa Kepengyan Bgy Aribungos, Brooke's Point, Palawan Ika-10 ng Pebrero 2023 sa ganap na ika-9 ng umaga.

*(On any of the date, time and place as listed below, we would like to invite you to explain to us matters pertaining to the said ancestral domain of **Pala'wan Cultural Community**.)*

1. Kelangbenwa Kepengyan Bgy Aribungos, Brooke's Point, Palawan, 8 February 2023 at 9:00 in the morning.
2. Kelangbenwa Kepengyan Bgy Aribungos, Brooke's Point, Palawan, 9 February 2023 at 9:00 in the morning
3. Kelangbenwa Kepengyan Bgy Aribungos, Brooke's Point, Palawan, 10 February 2023 at 9:00 in the morning

Mangyaring kumpirmahin ang inyong pagtanggap sa aming imbitasyon sa pamamagitan ng sulat sa email address na ito, kelibunan.gantung@gmail.com.

(Please confirm your acceptance of our invitation through kelibunan.gantung@gmail.com.)

Bakit po gusto namin kayong makausap at magpaliwanag tungkol sa nasabing lupaing ninuno ng **Katutubong Komunidad/Pamayanan ng Pala'wan**?

*(Why do we want to talk to you and ask you to give explanation as regards the said ancestral domain of **Pala'wan Cultural Community**?)*

Bilang mga lidere/pinuno ng Katutubong Komunidad/Pamayanan at ng mga Kababaihan, kami po ay matagal nang nababahala sa mga pangyayari dito sa nasabing lupaing ninuno ng **Katutubong Komunidad/Pamayanan ng Pala'wan**. Isa po dito ay ang kasalukuyang pagpasok ng pagmimina. Ang *Ipilan Nickel Corporation* ay may binakurang lugar sa loob ng kagubatan sa nasabing lupaing ninuno ng **Katutubong Komunidad/Pamayanan ng Pala'wan** at naisama pa ang mga sagradong lugar at pangasuhan. Ang mga kagubatan at lupain doon ay tuloy-tuloy nilang pinapakinabangan at pinagsasamantalahan tungo sa pagkasira/ pagkawalak nito at umabot na sa estado na hindi na syang nais naming sitwasyon ng lupaing ninuno ng **Katutubong Komunidad/Pamayanan ng Pala'wan**. Kasama dito ay ang napipintong pagkawala ng **Katutubong Kultura**.

*(As leaders of **Pala'wan Cultural Community** and Women in the communities within and outside of the ancestral domain of **Pala'wan Cultural Community**, we have been worrying about the events that have been occurring in the said ancestral domain. One of these concerns is the entry of mining activities and operations. The *Ipilan Nickel Corporation* put up a fence in the said ancestral domain where the sacred and hunting grounds are likewise located. They have been exploiting the forests and land therein, and continuously benefiting while they abuse the resources resulting to the destruction of the ancestral domain reaching a status that we do not envision. With this, even the indigenous culture is threatened towards its eventual loss.)*

Hindi po fingid sa inyo na may ginagawang proseso dito sa amin tungkol sa pagpasok ng pagmimina sa pamamagitan ng *Ipilan Nickel Corporation*. Dahil po sa bilis ng takbo ng pangyayari at sa aming kakulangan ng kasanayan at kaalaman, kami ay hindi lubos na makasabay sa mga itinakdang mga iskedyul ng tinatawag na *FBI process* at *FPIC process* dito sa amin na dapat ay naayon sa *NCIP Administrative Order No. 3, Series of 2012 The Revised Guidelines On Free And Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) And Related Processes Of 2012*. Mangailang beses po naming ipinahayag ang aming mga hinaing tungkol dito subalit di kami nabibigyan ng kalinawan at di kami napapakinggan. Wala din po kaming hawak na kahit na anong report/ulat na dapat naming patunayan (*validate*) na syang dapat naganap sa mga sinasabing mga pulong o asembleya. Dahil po dito ay minarapat namin na imbitahin kayo upang magpaliwanag sa amin.

(As you know, there is an ongoing process here in relation to the mining operations of Ipilan Nickel Corporation. Due to the fast pace of the events and our lack of skills/capabilities and knowledge, we could not cope up with the imposed schedules of so-called FBI process and FPIC process here supposedly to follow the NCIP Administrative Order No. 3, Series of 2012 The Revised Guidelines On Free And Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) And Related Processes Of 2012. We have been expressing our grievances on this but we could not get clarity on what have been going on and we are not being listened to. Also, we do not have copies of any report that we are supposed to validate in meetings or assemblies. Given these, we decided to invite you to provide us with explanation on these matters.)

Nakalakip po dito ang ilang impormasyon sa *Ipilan Nickel Corporation* na nakuha namin sa *internet*.

(Herewith are information on Ipilan Nickel Corporation that we obtained from internet.)

Ang amin pong pagkabahala ay dahil sa alam po namin ayon sa *Section 9 ng IPRA* ang mga sumusunod na pananagutan ng mga Katutubong Pamayanang Kultura/ Katutubong Pamayanan na naninirahan sa tukoy na lupaing ninuno:

1. Panatilihin ang Balanseng Ekolohiya- Pangalagaan, mapanumbalik, at panatilihin ang mga balanseng ekolohiya sa lupaing ninuno sa pamamagitan ng pangangalaga sa mga halaman at hayop, katubigan, at iba pang reserba.
2. Panumbalikin ang mga Nakalbong lugar- Aktibong pangunahan, isakatuparan, at lumahok sa reporestasyon ng mga nakalbong lugar at iba pang mga programa at proyektong pangkaunlaran ayon sa makatwiran at naayong kabayaran; at
3. Sumunod sa mga Batas- Tumalima at sumunod sa mga probisyon ng Batas na ito at sa mga tuntunin at patakaran para sa maayos na pagpapatupad nito.

(Our concern is also anchored on the fact that we are aware of the responsibilities under IPRA according to Section 9 of the said law, for ICCs/IPs occupying a duly certified ancestral domain, as follows:

1. *Maintain Ecological Balance. — To preserve, restore, and maintain a balanced ecology in the ancestral domain by protecting the flora and fauna, watershed areas, and other reserves;*
2. *Restore Denuded Areas. — To actively initiate, undertake and participate in the reforestation of denuded areas and other development programs and projects subject to just and reasonable remuneration; and*
3. *Observe Laws. — To observe and comply with the provisions of this Act and the rules and regulations for its effective implementation.)*

Umaasa po kami na ang aming imbitasyon ang inyong paunlakan,

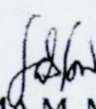
(We look forward to your favorable action on this request.)

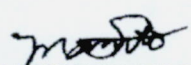
Gumagalang,

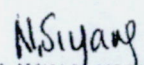
Liders/Pinuno
Katutubong Komunidad/Pamayanan
ng Pala'wan

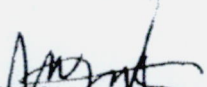
Liders/ Pinuno
ng MKE-BICAMM


NELSON SOMBRA


NORIMA M. MABLON


MAMERTO MELNES

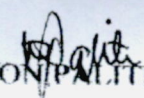

NOLSITA SIYANG


RONAL U. COMBANG


ANNJEN V. ANGKANI

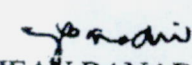

ROMEO MELNOCAN


REA BADINAS

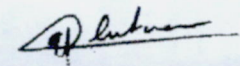

WELITON PALITE

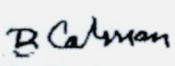

EVELYN SIYANG

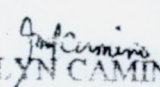

NELSON LANDUAN


JEAN BANADAN


MOHAREN TAMBILING


EFRAMIL LANDUAN


BETO CALMAN


JELYN CAMINO

R. Sendacan
RENIO SENDACAN

Edgar N. Inso
EDGAR N. INSO

R. Aslagan
ROSALES ASLAGAN