



32

Republic of the Philippines  
**Department of Environment and Natural Resources**  
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**MEMORANDUM**

**TO :** THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR  
Mines and Geosciences Bureau  
Regional Office No. 4B (MIMAROPA)  
7/F, 1515 DENR Building  
Roxas Boulevard, Ermita, Manila

**FROM :** THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY  
Finance, Information Systems and Mining Concerns


**SUBJECT :** REQUEST FOR URGENT ACTION ON THE ONGOING  
CONFLICT IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF SAN FERNANDO,  
SIBUYAN ISLAND, PROVINCE OF ROMBLON AGAINST ALTAI  
PHILIPPINES MINING CORPORATION

**DATE :** 20 February 2023

Herewith is the Letter from the Executive Director, Center for Environmental Concerns – Philippines, Inc. and the National Coordinator, Kalikasan People's Network for the Environment addressed to the DENR Secretary, requesting immediate investigation of the mining operations and legal requirements of Altai Philippines Mining Corporation (APMC) and for accountability for the PNP personnel involved in the violent dispersals.

In view thereof, kindly coordinate with the concerned parties and inform this Office of the actions taken relative to the said request.

For appropriate action.

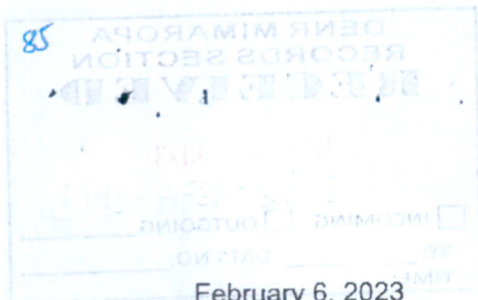
  
ENGR. NONITA S. CAGUIOA

cc : **THE REGIONAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**  
Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
Regional Office No. IVB (MIMAROPA)  
DENR by the Bay 1515 L&S Bldg., Roxas Blvd.

**LIA MAI TORRES**  
Executive Director  
Center for Environmental Concerns – Philippines, Inc.

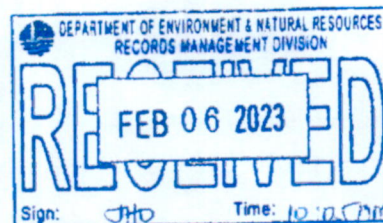
**JON BONIFACIO**  
National Coordinator  
Kalikasan People's Network for the Environment

**Let's Go Green**



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:<sup>1</sup>

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.<sup>2</sup> 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

<sup>1</sup> [https://www.facebook.com/rodne.galicha/posts/pfbid02zB9eikFc8guC8dTr6BcfgLeg7fdFDvC2BMWjw4CTJsS7eChomryRbWDH9R7TbUTUI?\\_\\_cft\\_\\_\[0\]=AZV\\_AMMsGon7haj8TGySk4DjIAAsH312smRILYgaPpBmi7AsiaD4ho75D\\_EfhpiPnEEn4scFiaT\\_Axvp4GuQuE8wOCTsNWlqUWJx3XLWtpAVnSqPCIZEm0RQKUjzAA0GLjb85HAZgv0bCrJf74pj7tC4f1o6kiler8T9O1KoJaLZ5wDY8TS6ODGeKlskrqBib7slyjwoVWmlG0fVAyEsv4D&\\_\\_tn\\_\\_=-R](https://www.facebook.com/rodne.galicha/posts/pfbid02zB9eikFc8guC8dTr6BcfgLeg7fdFDvC2BMWjw4CTJsS7eChomryRbWDH9R7TbUTUI?__cft__[0]=AZV_AMMsGon7haj8TGySk4DjIAAsH312smRILYgaPpBmi7AsiaD4ho75D_EfhpiPnEEn4scFiaT_Axvp4GuQuE8wOCTsNWlqUWJx3XLWtpAVnSqPCIZEm0RQKUjzAA0GLjb85HAZgv0bCrJf74pj7tC4f1o6kiler8T9O1KoJaLZ5wDY8TS6ODGeKlskrqBib7slyjwoVWmlG0fVAyEsv4D&__tn__=-R)

<sup>2</sup> <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 PNP<sup>3</sup> and on February 3, two people were hurt from the dispersal of the police<sup>4</sup>.

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

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<sup>3</sup> <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1724741/tension-grips-sibuyan-amid-mining-protest>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.philstar.com/videos/2023/02/03/2242311/police-break-barricade-sibuyan-residents-resisting-mining-ops>

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