



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
MIMAROPA Region
PROVINCIAL ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES OFFICE
Bgy. Sta. Monica, Puerto Princesa City, Palawan
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DENR MIMAROPA
RECORDS SECTION
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MAR 27 2023

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BY: _____ DATE NO. _____
TIME: _____

March 22, 2023

MEMORANDUM

FOR : The Regional Executive Director
DENR MIMAROPA Region
1515 DENR By The Bay Building, Roxas Boulevard,
Barangay 668, Ermita, Manila

THRU : The Regional Director
MGB –MIMAROPA Region

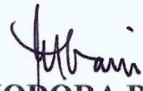
FROM : Provincial Environment and
Natural Resources Officer

SUBJECT : **LETTER DATED 22 FEBRUARY 2023 FROM CESAREO BENEDITO JR. MUNICIPAL MAYOR, BROOKE'S POINT, PALAWAN ADDRESSED TO THE DENR SECRETARY ANTONIA YULO-LOYZAGA RE: LGU AND CITIZENS OF BROOKE'S POINT DEMAND THE URGENT CANCELLATION OF NICKEL CORPORATIONS MPSA**

Forwarded herewith is a copy of letter dated 22 February 2023 of Mayor Cesareo Benedito Jr. Municipality of Brooke's Point addressed to the DENR Secretary Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga with enclosures regarding the LGU and Citizens of Brooke's Point Demand the urgent cancellation of Iplan Nickel Corporation's MPSA.

For information, and possible intervention, if need be.

"FOR THE PENRO"


RHODORA B. UBANI
SvEMS/Chief, CDS
In-Charge, Office of the PENRO

RGT/EMU
Doc. No. 2023-1813

DENR-PALAWAN
PENRO-RECORDS
RELEASED
By: 
Date: 22 MAR 2023 CN 23-749



Republic of the Philippines
Province of Palawan
MUNICIPALITY OF BROOKE'S POINT
Office of the Municipal Mayor


Email Address: brookespointmayorsoffice@gmail.com

February 22, 2023

SECRETARY ANTONIA YULO-LOYZAGA

Secretary
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Visayas Avenue, Dlliman, Quezon City 1100,
Metro Manila, Philippines

**DENR PENRO
PALAWAN RECORDS
RECEIVED**

BY: 
DATE: 03-07-2023 CN 23.1813

Re: LGU and Citizens of Brooke's Point Demand the Urgent Cancellation of Ipilan Nickel Corporation's MPSA

Dear Secretary Loyzaga:

Greetings from the Municipality of Brooke's Point!

I write as the Local Chief Executive of the Municipality of Brooke's Point, where the Ipilan Nickel Corporation (INC) has been operating without a Mayor's Permit, Certification Precondition as required by the Indigenous Peoples' Rights Act and failed to secure the approval of the Sangguniang Bayan when it applied for the extension of its Mineral Production Sharing Agreement (MPSA) from 2018 to 2025. INC has been completely disregarding my authority as Local Chief Executive by continuing to operate despite my orders to stop until it has secured the necessary permits. INC also refuses to be transparent and be subjected to inspections by the LGU. I, as Local Chief Executive, am authorized under the powers granted by the Local Government Code, to issue permits for activities within the municipality of Brooke's Point.

As a background, INC was granted a Mayor's permit by the interim mayor in 2021 when then Mayor Jean Feliciano, now Vice Mayor, was suspended for a year by the Ombudsman for a case filed by INC. The Ombudsman's office ruled she had overstepped her authority in her actions against INC, for operating and cutting 27,900+ pieces of old growth forest trees in our municipality, after it refused to follow orders despite three notices from the then Mayor. Nevertheless, she won a landslide victory as my Vice Mayor last year.

Thereafter, INC has been wreaking havoc in the uplands and coasts of our municipality. Farmlands inundated by floodwater containing laterite, ancestral domains becoming inaccessible to Indigenous communities gathering non-timber forest products and sacred grounds, coastal lobster farms being covered with silt, an ill-constructed causeway covering a marine protected area with silt [Annex 1].

We have reached the status of a first class municipality through agriculture. This is why our Municipal Comprehensive Land and Water Use Plan (MCLWUP) does not include a mineral zone. Mining is not included in the vision for development of the People of Brooke's Point. The ecosystem services provided by MMPL to our agricultural sector far outweighs the economic benefits that mining has to



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offer. This is clearly seen from the Total Economic Valuation (TEV) conducted in 2009 conducted by the Local Provincial Government, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Conservation International and Palawan Council for Sustainable Development [Annex 2]. This TEV led to the signing of Presidential Proclamation 1815 declaring Mount Mantalingahan Protected Landscape (MMPL) as a protected area.

At this very moment, hundreds of my people are protesting via human barricade to stop the illegal operations of the said Mining Corporation. Farmers, Indigenous Peoples, Fisher folk, Women and Youth groups are taking a stand to protect MMPL, despite the possible violence posed by INC [Annex 3]. The people of Brooke's Point understand and therefore fight for the value of our watersheds, food security and the right to a clean and healthy environment. Because of this premise, I MUST STAND WITH THEM. As Agadi once said, "Environment is no one's property to destroy, it's everyone's responsibility to protect", Brooke's Point will rise and heal as one in defense of Mother Nature for the present and future generations.

I hereby implore your office to hear the voice of the People of Brooke's Point for the **CANCELLATION of the Mineral Production Sharing Agreement (MPSA) and Environmental Compliance Certificate of INC; and for the issuance of the CEASE AND DESIST ORDER** while this request for cancellation is still pending.

In Public Service:


CESAREO R. BENEDITO, JR.
Municipal Mayor

Copy Furnished:

The Hon. BENJAMIN C. ABALOS, JR.

Secretary
Department of the Interior and Local Government
DILG NAPOLCOM Center
EDSA cor. Quezon Avenue, Quezon City

CG ADMIRAL ARTEMIO M. ABU

Commandant
Philippine Coast Guard
PCG Headquarters
No. 139 25th Street, Port Area, Manila



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Atty. WILFREDO G. MONCANO

DIRECTOR

Mines and Geosciences Bureau

Central Office

Department of Environment and Natural Resources

MGB Compound, North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City

Mr. FELIZARDO B. CAYATOC

PENRO

Barangay Sta. Monica, Puerto Princesa City,
Palawan

Mr. LEONARDO T. CALUYA

CENRO

Brooke's Point, Palawan

SANGGUNIANG BAYAN OFFICE

Brooke's Point, Palawan

GOV. VICTORINO DENNIS M. SOCRATES

Governor

Office of the Governor

Provincial Government of Palawan



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Annex 1



Causeway in Brgy. Maasin and Mambalot where Lobster farmers are being deprived of their livelihood



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Photos of a once lush old growth forest now denuded.



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Annex 2
Land Use Map

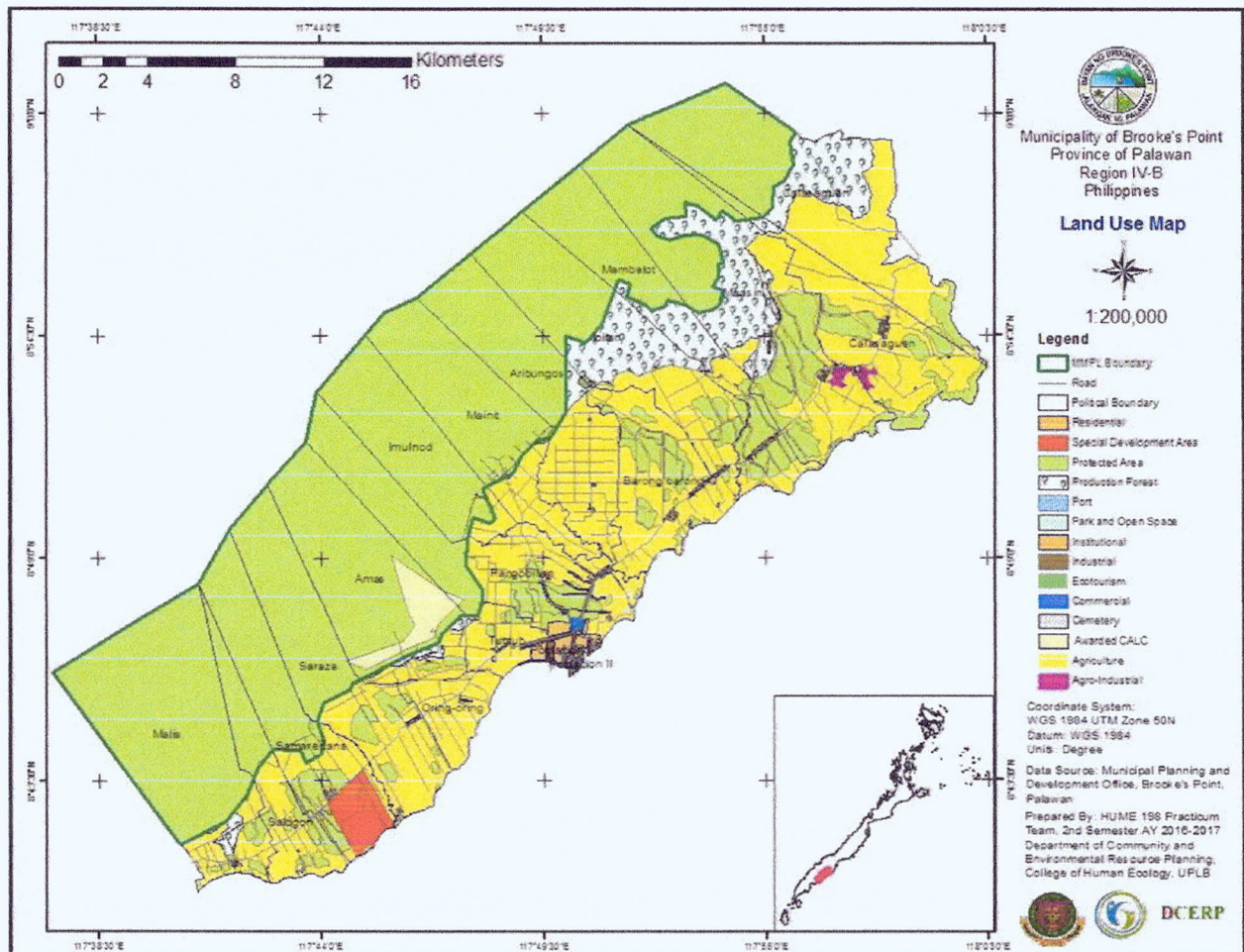


Figure 14. Land Use Map of Brooke's Point, Palawan

4.2.9 Mineral Resources Brooke's Point is one of the municipalities possessing abundant mineral resources. Its depths hide sizeable metal deposits like nickel, chromite, copper, cobalt, gold and iron which could be a huge potential in generating jobs and tax revenues for the government.

Non-metallic minerals include boulders, sand and gravel in the coastal area and river banks which are being tapped as construction materials. Despite the abundance of mineral deposits, the LGU and the community are against mining explorations. Thus, any mining applications have been subsequently suspended or canceled by the municipal government.

(quoted from the ECAN Resource Management Plan of June 2017)

Link: https://pcsd.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/05_Brookes-Point-ERMP.pdf



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Annex 3

Residents of Brooke's Point in Palawan Human Barricade



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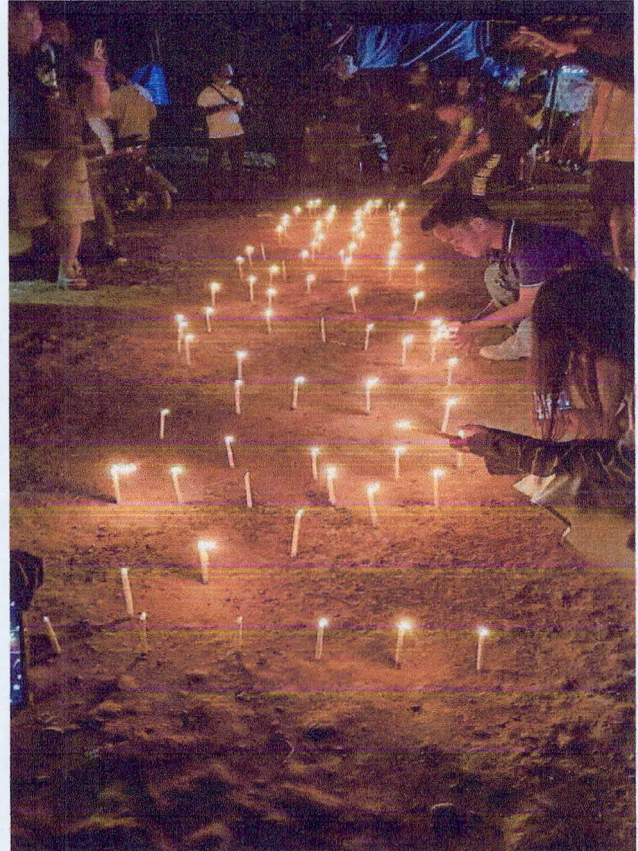


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Photos taken during the prayer vigil conducted by youth organizations of Brooke's Point. Praying for the safety of the Municipality and its People.



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