



CORDILLERA PEOPLES ALLIANCE

For the Defense of the Ancestral Domain and for Self Determination

27 February 2013

On the Resumption of PhilexPadcal Operations

The Mines and Geosciences Bureau of the DENR has again proved its inutility with its go-signal to the PhilexMines to resume operations in Padcal. We are very disappointed at this decision, even with the findings and recommendations of the Environmental and Social Investigation Mission (EIM) that Cordillera Peoples Alliance, KATRIBU Indigenous Peoples Partylist, AGHAM and Center for Environmental Concerns –Philippines submitted to the MGB-DENR. Paying the Php1 billion fine and submission of a rehabilitation plan should not be the sole basis in allowing the Padcal operations to resume.

MGB-DENR is highly accountable for the Philex Tailings Pond 3 failure and other mining disasters in the country, having issued permits for the large mines to operate, in turn resulting to environmental disasters, extrajudicial killings and violation of indigenous peoples' collective right to Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) and ancestral land. Because it virtually allowed Philex to commit the same mining disaster by giving the nod to the PhilexPadcal operations and the operation of the Tailings Pond 3, MGB shall remain accountable and be warned that this is another mining disaster waiting to happen.

We reiterate our recommendation from the EIM we conducted: decommissioning of the Tailings Pond 3 which is a crucial step for the and rehabilitation of river and terrestrial ecosystems; transparency—the damage to the environment remains undisclosed to the public, especially the affected communities; comprehensive assessment of identified impact sites and just compensation for affected communities of Benguet and Pangasinan and the workers of Philex.

The Philex resumption of Padcal operations, the issuance of an Environmental Compliance Certificate to Xstrata for its operations in Mindanao among other developments in the mining front shows the true face of the PNoy administration that promotes mining plunder at the expense of people's rights and genuine development. ***

Reference:

Mr. Santos Mero
Cordillera Peoples Alliance, Deputy Secretary General
Amianan Salakniban, Convenor

Attachments:

Summary of Findings: Salient Findings on the Philex TP3 Failure in Benguet and Pangasinan and FACTSHEET.

(Presented during the POINTS OF IMPACT FORUM: the Padcal and Espanola mining disasters. February 15, 2013.

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