



# CORDILLERA PEOPLES ALLIANCE

*For the Defense of the Ancestral Domain and for Self Determination*

28 June 2012

## **PNoy's mining EO: No better mining law**

*This inseparable relationship between humans and the Earth, inherent to Indigenous Peoples, must be respected for the sake of our future generations and all of humanity.*

*-Kari-Oca II Declaration (Global Indigenous Peoples Conference on Rio+20 and Mother Earth)*

A new mining executive order by the President is in the offing—only awaiting the signature of PNoy, in fact. But what we need is not another mining law that will further reinforce a liberalized mining industry. What we need is not another mining law that will further lend teeth to the unconstitutional Philippine Mining Act of 1995. Any mining policy that upholds these will not uplift the economy or promote sustainable development—it will certainly not genuinely respect and recognize indigenous people's rights. For indigenous peoples in the Cordillera and the rest of the country, any mining policy that breeds such will further violate collective right to ancestral land and self determination.

The environmental crime and injustice unleashed by large mining are known facts: the Marcopper and Lafayette tragedies in Marinduque and Rapu-Rapu, and in our own homeland, the Colalo tragedy in Mankayan, Benguet. These experiences are testaments to government's myth of sustainable mining. The Cordillera experience tells how large mining violated indigenous peoples' collective right to ancestral land and Free, Prior and Informed Consent; dislocating IPs from their lands and traditional livelihoods and denying them the right to ownership and control over these. Such displacement violates IPs their right to cultural integrity and self determination, as they continue being displaced from the land and community that is the basis of their existence and identity.

PNoy's 6-point agenda on mining and this upcoming executive order are but reinforcements to the liberalized, extractive and destructive character of the country's present mining industry. IPs will surely be at the losing end still, with the planned streamlining of the FPIC process, the creation of a one-stop-shop for the processing of mining applications, and the strengthening of the Mineral Development Council tasked to ensure implementation of the Philippine Mining Act of 1995.

We owe it to people's resistance that local government units decisively and categorically passed resolutions supporting people's struggles versus large and destructive mining, who categorically banned large mining from their communities, and issued environment codes for the protection of existing or remaining resources and ecosystems. If PNoy's mining EO were to supersede such local legislation, then this proves more the fallacy behind PNoy's *daang matuwid* and *kayo ang boss ko*.

As such, let us be clear on the future indigenous peoples want: the realization of our right to self determination to own our ancestral lands and resources, and determine means for self development. We continue to urgently demand from Pnoy the realization and concrete implementation of the Indigenous Peoples Agenda—not another policy that will make IPs suffer more. We continue support and lobby for the passage of HB 4315 or the People's Mining Bill to reorient the current mining industry. \*\*\*

Reference:

Santos Mero  
Deputy Secretary General