

DEFEND ILOCOS AGAINST MINING PLUNDER (DEFEND ILOCOS)

UNITY STATEMENT

**Bambantay ken baybay, salakniban!
Agkaykaysa a suppiaten ti dadakkel ken makadadael a panagminas!**

We, delegates of the Ilocos Peoples Mining Summit held today November 26, 2011 at the St. Paul College of Ilocos Sur hereby declare our stand, principles and program of action with regards to large-scale and destructive mining, and the protection and defense of our land and waters, life and resources.

We are aware of the ill effects that large-scale and destructive mining has brought to our communities and environment.

Magnetite mining on the coastal areas of La Union and Ilocos Sur in the 1960s and 1970s destroyed the shorelines and displaced communities. Those who remained were exposed to flooding and storm surges. Until now, the coastal communities remain vulnerable as the shorelines cannot be recovered anymore and worse, some sections continue to erode. The offshore mining of magnetite sand in San Vicente, Sta. Catalina and Vigan, all in Ilocos Sur is destroying the marine ecological balance and eroding the shoreline in the area endangering the sources of food and livelihood.

Years of mining the limestone deposits of Bacnotan, La Union and southern Ilocos Norte, the feldspar of Pasuquin (Ilocos Norte), the metallic minerals of Nueva Era (Ilocos Norte) and the iron lump ores of Carasi (Ilocos Norte) has wrought environmental problems – siltation of rivers due to soil erosion, deforestation, drying up of some springs and rivulets, air pollution – that disturbed and destroyed the habitat of various flora and fauna. It also affected agricultural production and damaged infrastructures.

Mining has not spurred national industrialization and did not create significant employment opportunities for the local populace. Communities in and around the mining areas remain poor while the mining corporations rake in superprofits.

We express alarm at the aggressive entry of transnational and local mining corporations that aim to gain profit from our natural resources. And we are appalled that the government's economic development program puts mining in the priority area of investment and that government agencies like the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) and the National Commission on Indigenous People (NCIP) are serving the interests of the mining corporations and not the people.

We believe that the present mining industry will not pave the way for development and prosperity for our people. The plunder of our natural resources must be stopped.

Therefore, we signatories recognize the need for the building of an alliance between individuals, organizations, institutions, local government units and agencies that share a common goal of protecting and preserving our natural resources.

As part of our information dissemination and education, we will hold discussions, meetings, forums and the like to make our campaign heard and seen by as many people as possible.

We will conduct activities and mobilizations that will show our collective stand against large-scale and destructive mining.

As such, we declare that:

- The Philippine Mining Act of 1995 is being used to liberalize the mining industry and must be scrapped. In its place, the pro-people and pro-environment Peoples Mining Bill must be passed.
- We call for national industrialization that will push the mining industry to be of service to the people and not for profit-oriented companies.
- We assert the right of the people to their natural resources.
- We push for people-centered sustainable development and the protection of the environment including the recognition of the rights of the communities and indigenous peoples to their land, natural resources and self-determination.
- The permits given to large-scale mining corporations must be recalled and nullified.
- We call for a moratorium on large-scale mining.
- The militarization, killings and human rights violations on mining areas must be stopped.
- The mining companies that have been found guilty of committing crimes against the environment, lives and livelihood of the people must be held accountable.

Signed at the St. Paul College of Ilocos Sur, Bantay, Ilocos Sur this 26th day of November, 2011.

CONVENORS ILOCOS PEOPLE'S MINING SUMMIT

1. Solidarity of Peasants Against Exploitation – STOP Exploitation
2. Ilocos Region Ecumenical Council - IREC
3. Solidarity of Ilocos Associations of Women - SILAW
4. Ilocos Human Rights Alliance - IHRA
5. Children's Rehabilitation Center – CRC
6. Timek ken Namnama ti Mangngalap – TIMEK-LU
7. People's Solidarity Against Large scale and destructive Mining in Ilocos Norte - PSALM-IN
8. ANAKBAYAN - Ilocos
9. College Editors Guild of the Philippines - CEGP ILOCOS
10. National Union Students of the Philippines - NUSP ILOCOS
11. Central Board of Student – Data center college of the Phils.
12. Don Mariano Marcos Memorial State University – DMMMSU-LU
13. Mariano Marcos State University - IN
14. Central Board of Students (CBS) St. Paul College of Ilocos Sur
15. Ilocos Sur Ecumenical Movement – ISEM
16. Dadapilan
17. Save the Abra River Movement - STARM
18. Kabataan Partylist

Individuals

1. Cris Palabay
2. M. P. Santos