



CORDILLERA PEOPLES ALLIANCE

For the Defense of the Ancestral Domain and for Self Determination

14 January 2013

Kicking Off 2013 with Victory

We salute the people of Mankayan and the Save Mankayan Movement (SMM) on their long-deserved victory after Far Southeast Gold Resources Inc. (FSGRI) pulled out its drill rig and other mining equipment from Tabeo, Madaymen over the weekend. We congratulate the community, the leaders and members of SMM in not surrendering the fight and sustaining a year of protest despite the cases filed against leaders of SMM by Lepanto and several attempts to dismantle the barricade, which basically served as the common home of community members while asserting land rights.

With the barricade marking its one year anniversary on January 26, 2013, this victory is worth celebrating, with the outpouring of support and solidarity from communities in neighboring Cordillera provinces, Ilocos Sur, other Philippine regions, and even among advocates in the global community.

The challenge however remains for the people of Mankayan and SMM to be more vigilant for this is not where the story ends, as MPSA (Mineral Sharing Production Agreement) 001 still stands and is in the process of conversion to an FTAA (Financial Technical and Assistance Agreement) and the mining equipment will only be transferred to Brgy. Poblacion. Peace can only resume in Mankayan if MPSA 001 is revoked and Lepanto desists from expanding its large mining operations.

Lepanto Mining is majority shareholder of FSGRI (60%), while 40% is held by South African mining giant Goldfields. The people of Mankayan have spoken. We expect that their stance to be respected, and that Lepanto, Goldfields including NCIP should stop from insisting and enforcing their mining interest.

Agbiagi ti Umili ti Mankayan and more victories the rest of the year!

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