



DEFEND ILOCOS AGAINST MINING PLUNDER

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MGB SHOULD WALK THE TALK ON BLACKSAND MINING IN ILOCOS

by [Defend Ilocos](#) on Wednesday, 21 November 2012 at 12:02 ·

PRESS RELEASE

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FACT: Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) Director Leo Jasareno confirmed through an article published in the Business Mirror yesterday that the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) said it has not issued any permit for the extraction of iron-ore sand along the Ilocos Sur coast.

(<http://businessmirror.com.ph/index.php/news/regions/3623-mgb-confirms-illegal-black-sand-mining-in-vigan-ilocos-sur-towns>)

FACT: Dir. Jaserno in an interview with ABS-CBN Patrol ng Pilipino aired last night admitted that mining in the coastal areas, especially near the shore will aggravate erosion. The said operation is even more dangerous when conducted illegally. (<http://www.abs-cbnnews.com/patrolngpilipino>)

FACT: Defend Ilocos filed a formal complaint and submitted evidence regarding the illegal magnetite extraction in the towns of Caoayan, Sta. Catalina, San Vicente and Sta. Cruz on October 18, 2012. However, up to this time, MGB Region I have not taken any decisive action to put a stop to this destructive and illegal mining activity in the province.



While we welcome Dir. Jasareno's affirmation of our claim, it is only right to point that the director's admission falls short of the actual intensity of the problem of illegal large-scale magnetite extraction, specifically in Metro Vigan. The director failed to mention, San Vicente where magnetite is being extracted since 2009 and the most recent offshore and onshore mining in Caoayan.



Defend Ilocos and the affected communities are greatly dissatisfied and incensed with the inaction of his office to address the issue. MGB has no right to claim that it ensures a “pro-people” and “pro-environment” mining atmosphere, while its field offices are sitting idly while mining corporations backed by foreign investors and greedy politicians, extract blacksand and plunder our coast.

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