



DEFEND ILOCOS AGAINST MINING PLUNDER

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PRESS REAEASE

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PROTECT COASTAL AREAS AND FISHING GROUNDS FROM DESTRUCTIVE MINING

Defend Ilocos Against Mining Plunder today called on government agencies to use all the means to ensure that fishing ground and the coastal environments are protected from large-scale and destructive mining. The call came as non-government and peoples organizations around the globe commemorate World Fisheries Day. The group also emphasized the need for the people affected by blacksand mining operation on the Ilocos coast to strengthen their unity and resolve to oppose, expose and put an end to the destructive operation.

"As we celebrate the World Fisheries Day, we should all renew our commitment to protect our resources and livelihood specially our fragile coastal environment against destructive industries and plunder," states Donna Rabang Peta, one of the convenor of Defend Ilocos.

"Offhsore and onshore mining disturb and stress the natural environment, like the increase of suspended solids and sediments that may damage the breathing mechanisms of fishes and other marine animals leading to decrease of their population and catch," says Peta.

Peta also expressed the group's concern regarding the region's vulnerability to one-meter rise of the sea level that may affect 20, 322, 900 square meters in 48 municipalities and cities along the Ilocos coast.

"The removal of magnetite or blacksand will cause land subsidence and destabilizes the beach and dunes aggravating erosion and increases the possibility of flooding," explains Peta.

Fishery and aquaculture are one of Ilocos regions top source of revenue and livelihood since most of its communities are located near the coastal areas. However, the two has long been threatened by widespread blacksand extraction operations and applications covering the provinces of Pangasinan, La Union, Ilocos Sur and Ilocos Norte.

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