

Alyansa Laban sa Mina
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“NO LGU CONSENT, NO MINING” : PAJE

December 16, 2011 – Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Ramon J. Paje assured the people of Mindoro that no mining project shall operate in the island without the consent of the local government units. The statement was made by Paje in the recent presentation of the investigation report on the environmental compliance certificate of the Mindoro Nickel Project held at the Bulwagang Ninoy, Parks and Wildlife Center, Quezon City.

Also present in the event were Oriental Mindoro Governor Alfonso V. Umali, Jr., Occidental Mindoro Josephine Ramirez-Sato, Presidential Adviser on Environment Neric Acosta and , and Presidential Adviser on Climate Change Elisea Gozun.

“Kung ayaw ng mga Governors, hindi yan matutuloy”, (If the Governors do not want the project, it will not proceed) Paje said. Secretary Gozun, a former DENR Secretary herself, supported Paje’s statement saying that approval of the concerned Sanggunian should be considered. She added that it is the prime mandate of the DENR to protect areas that are important not only to economic activities but also to national patrimony.

On November 27, 2009; the ECC of the proposed Mindoro Nickel Project of Intex Resources was temporarily revoked by then Secretary Joselito Atienza following a 10-day hunger strike of some 25 Mindoreños in front of the DENR National Office demanding for the immediate cancellation of the proposed mining project. Atienza’s decision also ordered the creation of an investigation team to look into possible violations in the application and approval of the ECC.

The Report stated that lack of social acceptability was evident with the declaration of 25-year Mining Moratorium, and several cease and desist orders to stop activities related to the conduct of EIA. Indigenous Peoples consultation was also limited to a small group within the declared CADC of Alangan and Tadyawan Tribes which do not represent all the affected indigenous cultural communities. Also, the Report says that the proposed mining project falls within the critical Mag-asawang Tubig watershed.

Secretary Acosta conveyed his appreciation for the effort of the Investigation Team whose recommendations may contribute to the on-going study on mining policy of the government. “Kung sinabi ng Governor na hindi pwede yan, hindi talaga pwede yan” (If the Governor said the project is not accepted, then it is not accepted).

Paje also instructed EMB Director Juan Miguel Cuna to draft an order compelling Intex Resources to suspend all their activities.