

December 9, 2020

**RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE**

President

Republic of the Philippines

Malacañang Complex

JP Laurel St., San Miguel, Manila

**Dear Mr. President:**

Warm environmental greetings!

This letter comes as an appeal to you, Mr. President, from the people of Nueva Vizcaya on behalf of the people downstream, namely, Quirino, Isabela, and Cagayan that as head watershed of the Cagayan River System, **MINING SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED IN NUEVA VIZCAYA**, especially large-scale mining such as Oceana Gold Philippines, Incorporated and FCF Minerals, Inc.

The flood that devastated Northern Isabela and Cagayan due to unprecedented heavy rains brought about by typhoon Ulysses, could, in part be attributed to our province since the headwatersheds of the Cagayan River System is in Nueva Vizcaya. **Didipio, Kasibu where OGPI is located and Runruno, Quezon where FCF Minerals is situated are both locations of the subwatersheds** of the Cagayan River. These are **critical watersheds**, supporting Magat Dam and Adalam River Irrigation Project (ARIP) respectively. ARIP alone cost Php 1.3 billion, irrigating 5,875 hectares in Quirino and Isabela. Ironically, the mining tenement of OGPI is right at the very center of ARIP watershed.

**Environmental costs** that include the **loss of forests, agricultural lands, biodiversity, surface and ground water, peaceful co-existence among communities and loss of lives and properties** due to flooding **far outweighs the benefits derived from mining**. The Philippines is rich in mineral resources and since 1932, large scale mining companies have operated in our country, but **why are we still poor**.

Land conversion, clearing of forests use of machineries and equipment, blasting and other activities related to **Mining Operation exacerbates Climate Change**, due to carbon emission. It is inevitable that due to climate change, torrential rains and flooding will be a common occurrence in the future endangering lives and properties in Region 02. The absence of embankment of the tailings dam of OGPI also poses danger to the community since it is located in higher grounds.

Continuous operation of **OGPI and FCF endangers the lives of the community**. There are cracks in the Elementary and High School buildings and school grounds and also in residential houses that are no longer habitable in Didipio, Kasibu.

Nueva Vizcaya was declared by NEDA as a **"watershed haven and agroforestry hub"** which makes our province the **"life support system"** not only of Region 02 but also of Regions 1, CAR and 3. Our watersheds supply water both for irrigation services and hydroelectric power. And provide water supply to 7 big infrastructures, Magat Hydroelectric and Irrigation Dam, Addalam Irrigation

Project, Ambuklao Dam, Binga Dam, San Roque Dam, Casecnan Dam and Pantabangan Dam. Production and income from these infrastructures enters the Government's coffers 100% unlike mining where 100% of their income are repatriated to their home country.

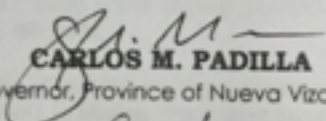
**Mr. President**, please heed our appeal. **NO TO RENEWAL OF OGPI FTAA**. The expansion of their mining operation endangers the unexplored Alimit Cave System and more importantly the Capisaan Cave System, a famous tourists destination in our province. It will also obliterate Kongkong Valley and Malabing Valley our province's vegetable bowl and fruit basket where not just **oranges** and **pomelo**, but also **lansones**, **rambutan**, **mangosteen**, **durian** and other fruits abound.

The Mines and Geoscience Bureau has listed our province as **number 3** in the list of top ten landslide prone provinces in the Philippines released on July 6, 2011. The Geohazard Map published by MGB on January 2012 indicated that Nueva Vizcaya is highly susceptible to landslide. A map provided by MGB also indicates that there are two active faults in the province, the Digidig Fault in Ambaguio and the Addalam Fault in Kasibu with the latter passing through OGPI mining tenement. Thus, we reiterate our petition, **NO TO FTAA RENEWAL OF OGPI, NO TO MINING IN NUEVA VIZCAYA**.

Mr President please put an end to the social division in our province by not signing the FTAA renewal of OGPI.

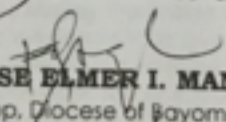
Anticipating your whole hearted support to our appeal for the love of our environment, for sustaining our natural resources and for ensuring that the future generation of Filipinos will still enjoy a healthy ecosystem and reap the benefits from our natural resources.

Very respectfully yours,



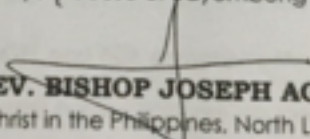
**CARLOS M. PADILLA**

Governor, Province of Nueva Vizcaya



**MOST REV. JOSE ELMER I. MANGALINAO, D.D.**

Bishop, Diocese of Bayambang



**MOST REV. BISHOP JOSEPH AGPAOA**

United Church of Christ in the Philippines, North Luzon Jurisdiction