



February 3, 2020

Mark James Travers, President Commissioner  
Vice President Commissioner, Vale Indonesia Tbk  
President & CEO PT. Vale Indonesia, Tbk  
The Energy Building 31/F.  
Jl. Jend. Sudirman Kav. 52-53, Jakarta, Indonesia 12190

Cory McPhee, VP Corporate Affairs  
Vale Canada Ltd.  
200 Bay Street, Royal Bank Plaza, Suite 1600, South Tower  
Toronto, Ontario  
M5J 2K2

Via Email: [reception@vale.com](mailto:reception@vale.com), [cory.mcphee@vale.com](mailto:cory.mcphee@vale.com)

Dear Mr. McPhee and Mr. Travers,

Re: Human rights of the Karonsi'e Dongi in Sorowako, Indonesia

It has been almost two years since MiningWatch Canada wrote to Ms. Maki, CEO of Vale Canada, to request that the company support the restoration of the electricity to homes of the Karonsi'e Dongi people in Bumper, East Luwu, South Sulawesi, Indonesia.

Given that 80 percent of Vale Indonesia's annual output is sold to Vale Canada and that Vale Canada is also a major shareholder in PT Vale Indonesia, we hold both companies accountable for the impacts of the Sorowako nickel mining operation.

We are aware that Vale sent a recent delegation to Sorowako and that Mr. Travers, PT Vale Indonesia's President Commissioner, and Mr. McPhee, Vale Canada's, VP of Corporate Affairs, may have observed a demonstration of Karonsi'e Dongi women demanding that they be seen and heard. Today, January 27, 2020, the women demonstrated again outside PT Vale's office. Attached are photos of their demonstration. The women have asked us to write this letter to you, demanding that you support their simple demand: restoration of electricity to the Karonsi'e Dongi settlement area of Bumper, which was established two decades ago.

As stated in our letter from 2018, the East Luwu government and the Indonesian Human Rights Commission have requested that the company restore the electricity to the homes in the Karonsi'e Dongi settlement but they have not done so since the company cut the power in September 20, 2016.

MiningWatch Canada and other organizations in Canada have a long history of supporting the Karonsi'e Dongi community in their demands to ensure the survival of their Indigenous community. We remind Vale that the UN Guiding Principles of 2011 serve to reiterate the basic responsibility of corporations to respect human rights in their operations – defined by the principle author of the UN Guiding Principles as “do no harm” – and that in cases where a company has contributed to harm it must provide remedy.

We request that Vale and its various subsidiaries treat the Karonsi'e Dongi people with respect as the original inhabitants of the land where your company is operating. As a first step in this direction we request that Vale immediately ensure the Karonsi'e Dongi community is provided electricity.

The Karonsi'e Dongi people fled Sorowako during a time of social upheaval and when they returned they found Inco operating on their lands. The community has settled on their traditional land in an attempt to ensure the survival of their community. They have faced constant intimidation by the authorities for doing so but they remain on their land in brave survival. As one mother relayed to us, they need electricity so that their children can do their homework in the evenings. Karonsi'e Dongi children often don't finish high school and they have a hard time securing permanent employment at the mining operation.

We did not receive a reply to the letter that we sent in 2018. We expect to receive a reply to this open letter.

Sincerely,

Merah Johansyah,  
National Coordinator of JATAM

Catherine Coumans, Ph.D.,  
Asia-Pacific Program Co-ordinator of MiningWatch Canada

Copied:

Jennifer Maki, CEO of Vale Canada,  
Vale Canada Limited, Corporate Office  
200 Bay Street, Royal Bank Plaza, Suite 1600, South Tower  
Toronto, Ontario  
M5J 2K2  
[jennifer.maki@vale.com](mailto:jennifer.maki@vale.com)

Karonsi'e Dongi leaders