



ALYANSA
TIGIL
MINA

Zambales nickel mining impacts sustainable agriculture and fisheries

Who is the alleged victim(s) (individual(s), community, group, etc.):

Farming and fishing communities in Sta Cruz Zambales

Who is the alleged perpetrator(s) of the violation:

Four large-scale mining companies (extracting nickel) are blamed for the irreversible environmental degradation and destruction in the town of Sta. Cruz, namely:

Zambales Diversified Metals Corp.

Benguet Corp. Nickel Mines Inc.

Eramin Minerals Inc.

LNL Archipelago Minerals Inc

The nickel mining operations result in water pollution due to nickel laterite. This has seeped in the irrigated water sources and reached 30-nautical miles offshore, affecting both agriculture and fishery sectors.

Date, place and detailed description of the circumstances of the incident(s) or the violation:

Sta. Cruz is a 1st class municipality with rich arable land that is conjusive for farming. The whole province of Zambales owes its title as “home of the best carabao mango of the world” to its rich land.

To date, because of the nickel mining: Sta. Cruz, Zambales is losing 8,000 tons of palay production annually worth Php 200-million (US\$5M). It has an estimated loss of Php 20-million (US\$ 0.5M) from fish production in three major rivers and at least Php 30-million (or US\$0.75M) (each hectare earning a net of Php 300,000.00 annually) loss from fish production in at least 100-hectares of fishpond.

As an effect of the nickel laterite reaching offshore, there was also a decline in catch in deep sea fishing. There is also a radical reduction in the production of the best and sweetest carabao mango. Thus, because of mining, Sta. Cruz is losing half a billion pesos (US\$12M) worth of food, rice, mango and fish.

The government through the Mines and Geosciences Bureau temporarily suspended the operations of the firms but the companies still continue to haul nickel stock piles for export.

Identification of the person(s) or organization(s) submitting the communication (this information will be kept confidential):

Concerned Citizens of Sta Cruz Zambales (CCOS) and

Alyansa Tigil Mina (Alliance to Stop Mining) <www.alyansatigilmina.net>