

Ravaged

The Struggle Against Open-Pit Mining in Tampakan, South Cotabato, Mindanao

22 March 2024

*UP Center for Integrative and Development Studies
University of the Philippines Diliman, Quezon City*



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ABOUT THE PROCEEDINGS

This manuscript is the documentation of the video documentary launch and forum, “GIUGKAT (Ravaged): The Tampakan People’s Struggle Against Open-pit Mining” held last 22 March 2024 at the UP Center for Integrative and Development Studies. This project was co-organized by the Philippine Network of Food Security Programmes (PNFSP), Climate Change Network for Community-based Initiatives (CCNCI), Alliance for Genuine Development SOCKSARGEN, and the UP Center for Integrative and Development Studies (UP CIDS) Program on Alternative Development (AltDev). The success of the project was made possible through the support of Action Solidarité Tiers Monde and Solidagro.

The event was structured into two segments. The first segment featured a presentation from a civil society representative actively opposing the mining project in Tampakan in Cotabato, Mindanao, Philippines. Next was the launch of a video documentary detailing the resistance of the Tampakan people against the open-pit mining project. The documentary presented the atrocities caused by the project through the stories of a farmer, a scientist, members of the church and other religious groups, and other affected community members. The second part of the event featured reactions from various civil society organizations representing different sectors, such as environmental groups, indigenous people’s (IP) organizations, and women’s organizations. The primary objectives of the event were to:

1. Illuminate the ongoing and potential devastation, due to open-pit mining, of the environment, biodiversity, and the livelihood of communities;
2. Bring to the attention of policymakers and the general public the severe impacts of mining operations;
3. Highlight the struggle of the people in Tampakan and other affected areas as they resist the mining company’s operations; and
4. Provide a foundation for a renewed call to repeal the Mining Act of 1995.

These proceedings were prepared by Rafael Dimalanta and Junah Delfinado.

Paglaban ng Mamamayan sa Tampakan Copper-Gold Project (People's Struggle against the Tampakan Copper-Gold Project)

*Abdurahman Magangcong, Panalipdan Youth, and Defend
Tampakan Network¹*

Abdurahman “Abdul” Magangcong of Panalipdan Youth and Defend Tampakan Network delivered a compelling presentation on the ongoing struggles faced by the people of SOCCSKSARGEN² in their resistance against the Tampakan Copper-Gold Project. He emphasized the critical importance of the forum for disseminating information about the current status of the conflict and the persistent resistance against mining operations in Tampakan. He remarked:

¹ Defend Tampakan Network is a multi-sectoral alliance based in SOCCSKSARGEN opposing the Tampakan Mining Project.

² This region used to be known as Central Mindanao. The acronym stands for South Cotabato, Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat, Sarangani and General Santos.

Kung matuloy ang mga ganitong mapanirang proyekto na sisira sa ating mga bundok, uubos sa ating mga likas na yaman, katakot-takot na kapahamakan ang darating lalo sa mga lokal na komunidad na malapit sa minahan.

(If these destructive projects proceed, which threaten to devastate our mountains and deplete our natural resources, the local communities, especially those near the mining area, will face catastrophic consequences.)

The Tampakan Mining Project straddles the boundaries of four provinces—Tampakan in South Cotabato, Columbio in Sultan Kudarat, Malungon in Sarangani, and Kiblawan in Davao del Sur. Abdul explained that this project aims to exploit one of the world’s largest untapped copper-gold deposits. Estimates suggest the mine could produce an average of 375,000 tons of copper and 360,000 ounces of gold annually for over 17 years. Sagittarius Mines, Inc. (SMI), a Philippine company, currently oversees operations, succeeding Xstrata Copper, a foreign company which had managed the project through SMI.

According to Abdul, if the Tampakan Copper-Gold Project progresses to full-scale operation in the coming years, it is certain to lead to significant environmental destruction and have adverse impacts on the livelihoods and lives of the local communities, especially farmers and indigenous peoples. The situation is expected to exacerbate food insecurity and increase hunger. According to Abdul,

1. The project could negatively affect river systems and watersheds by disrupting the headwaters of three major watersheds—the Catisan Allah Watershed, Marbel Watershed, and Padada River Watershed—and five significant river systems, namely Mateo, Taplan, Padada, Alip, and Buayan. This disruption may alter natural river flows, pollute watersheds, and affect other bodies of water such as Lake Buluan, Liguasan Marsh, Davao Gulf, and Sarangani Bay.
2. In terms of forests, arable lands, and biodiversity, the project plans to clear 3,935 hectares of forest and agricultural land. This would impact the Liguasan Marsh, the largest and most intact wetland in the country, which is home to endemic bird species. It is also a recognized wetland site for its swamp forest, and a crucial livelihood source for approximately 100,000 households. The mining site is noted for its high ecological value, hosting around 1,000 floral species and 280 fauna species, 30 percent of which are unique to the Philippines, with over 50 species already facing extinction.

3. Health and safety concerns are significant, as the bodies of water in the area face potential contamination from hazardous chemicals used in mining operations. Additionally, the extraction of copper ore is linked to arsenic contamination, heightening the risk of severe health issues such as cancer, skin disorders, respiratory ailments, and cardiovascular diseases. The extensive clearing of forest areas also increases the likelihood of flash floods and landslides.
4. The rights of indigenous peoples (IPs) are at risk. There are approximately 870 households in the area, 582 of which are from the B'laan indigenous community. They face displacement due to the mining project. The B'laan have already experienced various human rights violations since the project's introduction, with many members being forcibly relocated and losing their ancestral lands, which are central to their daily lives, religious practices, and food sources.
5. Food security is another major concern. The mining project threatens the availability and quality of irrigation water for over 100,000 farmers in Davao Del Sur, Sultan Kudarat, and other parts of Mindanao. Pollution from the mining activities could degrade river ecosystems, leading to a decline in fish and marine resources. Lake Buluan, a critical water source near the mining site, supports approximately 42,000 jobs across 27,000 households dependent on fish production. Similarly, the Liguasan Marsh, known for its fertile rice-growing areas, mangrove forests, and role as a game refuge and bird sanctuary, faces potential disruption and contamination from the project.

Abdul explained further:

Alam namin ang malalang epekto ng large-scale open-pit mining. Ang aming mga mahahalagang ilog na pinagkukunan ng tubig para sa mga sakahan ay malalason at masisira. Lubhang tatamaan ang kabuhayan at pamumuhay ng mga magsasaka, mangingisda, katutubong Lumad,³ at iba pang sektor na nakadepende sa mga ito.

³ Lumad is a term that refers to Indigenous peoples in Mindanao, Philippines.

(We are well aware of the severe consequences of large-scale open-pit mining. Our crucial rivers, which provide water for agriculture, will become poisoned and destroyed. This will have a devastating impact on the livelihoods and well-being of farmers, fishermen, Indigenous Lumad communities, and other sectors dependent on these resources.)

Abdul also outlined significant updates on the Tampakan Mining Project, starting from pandemic period to March 2024.

In 2019, SMI petitioned the Koronadal City court to lift the ban on open-pit mining stipulated in the Environmental Code of South Cotabato. The court, however, rejected this petition in 2020. The company then appealed to the Court of Appeals (CA), which, in 2022, overturned the decision of the Regional Trial Court (RTC) in Koronadal in favor of SMI. By October 2023, SMI announced its intention to commence the commercial phase of its operations.

In August 2020, the Tampakan Municipal Council annulled the Municipal Principal Agreement (MPA) between the local government unit (LGU) and SMI, citing the latter's failure to meet its contractual obligations, particularly regarding the updating of the MPA. Attempts to review the agreement excluded the Municipal Mayor of Tampakan and other LGU representatives.

In October 2020, pro-mining groups and mining corporations, including SouthCot Mining Corporation and Tampakan Mining Corporation, petitioned against the open-pit mining ban in South Cotabato Province. The RTC in Koronadal denied their request for an injunction against the ban, which had been in place since 2010. Simultaneously, the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples issued a Certificate Precondition to SMI, signifying the Prior and Informed Consent of 11 B'laan Indigenous Peoples communities affected by the mining project.

In May 2022, the Provincial Board of South Cotabato lifted the open-pit mining ban, just a week following the provincial elections (Sarmiento 2022). However, Governor Reynaldo Tamayo, Jr. vetoed this decision in June 2022.

By August 2022, the Court of Appeals' 23rd Division in Cagayan de Oro City revised the Regional Trial Court's ruling, declaring that the open-pit mining ban in South Cotabato was valid only for small-scale mining, not for large-scale operations like those of SMI. Despite this ruling and the South Cotabato Governor's decision to overturn the Provincial Board's action, SMI announced that construction operations for the Tampakan Mining Project will commence in late 2023.

Abdul highlighted the longstanding (over two decades) opposition to the Tampakan Mining Project. Environmental groups, IP organizations, local communities, and religious groups have collectively resisted the project, striving to protect the environment from ongoing exploitation and destruction. Abdul mentioned how the residents of SOCCSKSARGEN and Davao del Sur demonstrated remarkable unity and resistance against open-pit mining, particularly the Tampakan Project. This persistence has prevented the company from fully operating since the early 1990s.

Various forms of protest were employed by the community, including signature campaigns, petitions, lobbying efforts, protests, caravans, barricades, and even armed resistance by local communities. The New People's Army (NPA)⁴ also played a significant role in the struggle by targeting the machinery and infrastructure of SMI. Their collective actions culminated in the passing of the Environmental Code of South Cotabato in 2010, a crucial legal victory for the opposition. Support for the resistance was not only robust within Mindanao but also to national and international communities.

However, Abdul also noted that these efforts have been met with severe human rights abuses. The resistance has been marred by kidnappings, harassment, fabricated charges, and the killing of activists, environmental advocates, clergy, and affected community members. Notable incidents include the assassination of Eliezer Billanes in March 2008, in Koronadal City, the massacre of Juvy Capion and her two children by the 27th Infantry Battalion of the Philippine Army in October 2012, and the brutal killing of the Freay family by the military in August 2013, in Davao del Sur. Abdul also pointed out the formation of Task Force

⁴ The NPA is the armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines.

KITACOM (Kiblawan, Tampakan, Columbio, and Malungon),⁵ an investment defense force responsible for abducting and killing opposition leaders.

This violence ignited widespread outrage among civil society groups and the general public. The worsening human rights crisis intensified opposition to the mining operations of Glencore-Xstrata, mounting pressure on the company to reduce its activities in the region in 2013.

Despite public condemnation, SMI persisted in its operations and employed aggression and violence to intimidate the opposition. Anti-mining civil society organizations (CSOs) are continuously victimized by redtagging and harassment. In recent years, Abdul has noted a marked escalation in attacks and crackdowns on activists, which have temporarily undermined the resistance of local communities.

SMI has also employed a range of tactics to erode unity and opposition, including the co-optation and bribery of certain tribal leaders to secure their support for the project. According to Abdul, since 2023, SMI has demonstrated a strategic shift by actively engaging with local authorities and Indigenous communities through significant financial contributions for community projects and infrastructure development.

For instance, from January 2024 to March 2024, SMI allocated PhP 1.5 million to the municipal mayors of Kiblawan, Davao Del Sur, and Columbio, Sultan Kudarat, as well as PhP 2.1 million to the Municipal Treasurer of Malungon, Sarangani for community development initiatives. Additionally, SMI provided PhP 500,000 to the IP officers of the National Indigenous Peoples Mandatory Representative for community projects in Malungon. Under its Social Development and Management Program, SMI will contribute PhP 3.0 million annually to the host municipalities, with the aim of enhancing living standards.

For the 2023-2024 school year, SMI provided scholarship grants to 1,354 underprivileged students from Tampakan, South Cotabato; Columbio, Sultan Kudarat; Malungon, Sarangani; and Kiblawan, Davao del Sur. In Tampakan, South

⁵ A specialized military unit, Task Force KITACOM was established to safeguard the mining area. This force is under the direct command of the 1002nd Army Brigade situated in Malungon, Sarangani province (Zonio 2013).

Cotabato alone, SMI also distributed financial assistance totaling PhP 5,500 to 46 college students. SMI has committed Php 10.2 million for educational support under its SDMP and Corporate Social Responsibility programs, with a significant portion of these scholarships benefiting Indigenous students. The company has also entered into a Memorandum of Agreement with its three host communities in Tampakan for the five-year implementation of the SDMP associated with the Tampakan Mining Project. However, Abdul asserts that:

Walang silbi ang mga suhol na ito kumpara sa matagalang pagkasira ng kalikasan at komunidad na dulot ng minahan nila.

(These bribes are worthless and pale in comparison to the long-term destruction of nature and communities caused by their mining operations).

Abdul concluded with a call-to-action, emphasizing the need to reinvigorate the resistance of local communities and various sectors in the face of intense attacks. He proposed launching creative forms of protest against the project and strengthening alliances with different sectors. Furthermore, Abdul underscored the importance of revitalizing support from organizations across the country and the international community to sustain the campaign against the Tampakan Mining Project. Despite facing significant obstacles, he affirmed the unwavering determination of advocacy groups and local communities opposed to the project. Abdul added:

Sa kabila ng matinding kinakaharap namin ngayon, patuloy kaming lalaban upang tutulan ang mapanirang Tampakan mining project - para sa kapakanan namin at para sa kinabukasan namin.

(Despite the severe challenges we face, we will persist in our fight against the harmful Tampakan mining project—for our own welfare and for our future).

Giugkat Documentary

The subsequent segment of the event featured the screening of the documentary “Giugkat,” which exposed the potential adverse effects of the Tampakan Copper-Gold open-pit mining project of the Sagittarius Mines, Inc. in the local communities, indigenous peoples, and the environment of southern Mindanao. This includes potential ecological destruction, such as deforestation, water pollution, and loss of biodiversity, as well as socio-economic repercussions, including displacement of indigenous peoples and local communities, disruption of livelihoods, and heightened conflicts over land and other natural resources.

This documentary is the result of a collaborative effort between the Philippine Network of Food Security Programmes, Alliance for Genuine Development, DIRECT Disaster Response Center, and with support from Solidagro and Action Solidarité Tiers Monde. It can be viewed through the QR code in Appendix A or via bit.ly/giugkat



- A screenshot from the “Giugkat” video documentary depicting a barren mountain stripped of trees and vegetation due to mining activities. The text reads, “For the mining companies, this is the most productive process because of the volume of minerals this extraction yields.”

Reactions

■ **Kat Dalon** *SABOKAHAN⁶*

In her response, Kat Dalon, an Indigenous Lumad, underscored that the responsibilities of IPs encompass more than cultural preservation; they also involve the proactive defense of ancestral lands against the encroachments of large, foreign corporations. She illustrated this pivotal issue by addressing the ongoing threats to the Pantaron Mountain Range, which represents one of the last substantial remnants of old-growth or primary forest in Mindanao.

She underscored the severe implications of environmental degradation, arguing that the destruction of natural resources jeopardizes the future of both the people and their cultural heritage, potentially relegating them to mere historical artifacts. Kat cited a recent catastrophe in Davao de Oro last February 2024, where Apex Mining's operations were linked to a devastating landslide that resulted in 98 fatalities and numerous missing persons. Despite the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) attributing the disaster to natural causes, she contended that Apex Mining's continuous operations during adverse weather conditions played a critical role, criticizing the inadequate relief efforts and the lack of accountability for the company's actions.

Further, Kat addressed the persistent challenges faced by the Lumad, particularly their lack of access to essential services such as education and healthcare. She highlighted the shortcomings of the state in addressing these needs, which have led the community to independently establish schools and health services. These initiatives are designed to provide education in local languages and practical skills, such as agriculture, to foster self-sufficiency.

6 SABOKAHAN (Unity of Lumad Women) is a grassroots organization composed of and led by Lumad women, working for women's rights, dignity, and emancipation.



- Kat Dalon of SABOKAHAN shared her personal experience with the Pantaron Mining and emphasized the urgent need to resist large-scale mining operations.



- Atty. Rolly Peoro of the Legal Rights and Natural Resources Center delivering a speech on the legal remedies pursued by the LRC in relation to the Tampakan mining.

■ **Atty. Rolly Peoro**

*Legal Rights and Natural Resources Center (LRC)*⁷

Atty. Rolly Peoro underscored the organization's long-standing commitment to defending IPs and addressing environmental concerns, a mission they have pursued for over two decades. He discussed the critical legal battles, particularly the landmark case involving the Tampakan Mining Project, highlighting the urgency of legal interventions.

He outlined potential legal remedies available to counter the mining project, emphasizing the importance of mobilizing additional petitioners to oppose projects such as the mining operations in Tampakan. Among the legal options he mentioned were the Writ of Kalikasan, a civil remedy for environmental protection, and various forms of civil, criminal, or administrative actions.

In discussing the writ of Kalikasan, Atty. Peoro noted its role in addressing severe environmental damage. The necessity to prove the project's environmental impact is substantial. He criticized the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) provided by the SMI, pointing out that while it claimed to have mitigation measures, the effectiveness of these measures is highly contested. He stressed the need for independent expert evaluations to challenge these claims.

Atty. Rolly also challenged the legality of the Financial and Technical Assistance Agreement (FTAA) extension granted to the Tampakan Mining Project by the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB). He argued that under the Mining Law of 1995, only the President has the authority to extend such permits. Instead of extensions, Atty. Rolly proposed that renewals should be implemented, necessitating compliance with all legal requirements, including thorough consultations with local government units (LGUs) and CSOs. He further criticized the MGB's stance: that public consent is unnecessary for mining projects. Atty. Rolly emphasized the fundamental right of local communities and LGUs to be involved in decision-making processes that directly affect their lives and environment.

⁷ LRC is a legal and policy advocacy environmental non-governmental organization that partners with marginalized indigenous and upland rural poor communities for the respect, protection, and promotion of their rights to land and other natural resources.

Originally set to expire on March 21, 2020, the 25-year FTAA was granted a 12-year extension by the MGB, pushing the deadline to March 21, 2032 (Sarmiento 2020). This extension further highlights the need for stricter regulations and greater transparency in the mining industry, particularly in terms of public consultation and environmental protection.

Furthermore, Atty. Rolly then discussed various local and national ordinances related to mining, including the ban on open-pit mining in South Cotabato and restrictions on mine tailings dams in Davao del Sur. According to him, there are continuing efforts to transfer the tailings dam from Davao del Sur to Tampakan, which raise further concerns.

He concluded by noting the involvement of other legal groups eager to assist in challenging the Tampakan Mining Project. Atty. Rolly called for continued vigilance and advocacy to ensure that the rights of IPs and that of the environment are upheld against the encroachment of large-scale, open-pit mining operations.

■ **Cha Castano**

*Gabriela Women's Party (GWP)*⁸

Cha Castano expressed gratitude for being invited to the event, and explained how the GWP has been echoing the concerns of IPs, environmental groups, and advocates regarding pro-mining policies that are being lobbied in Congress.

Before starting her sharing, Cha reflected on the context of mining legislation in the Philippines, specifically referencing the Philippine Mining Act of 1995. She pointed out this marked a significant liberalization of domestic mining policies.

Through the substantial opposition from various sectors, the Supreme Court initially ruled this legislation unconstitutional. While its provisions were nullified by the Supreme Court in January 2004, this was also reversed in December 2004 after motions for reconsiderations were filed by corporate entities, and pro-mining lobbyists such as the Chamber of Mines of the Philippines.

⁸ Gabriela's Women Party-list (GWP) is the sole representative of the women's sector in Congress, dedicated to advocating for the rights and welfare of marginalized and under-represented Filipino women.



- Cha Castano of the Gabriela Women’s Party as she delivers her reaction to the “Giugkat” video documentary.

She highlighted the recurring issue, where promises to protect the environment made during political campaigns are often abandoned once officials are elected.

The GWP, along with its allies in the Makabayan⁹ bloc, has consistently filed the People’s Mining Bill, aimed at advancing national industrialization, countering the negative impacts of large-scale mining, and addressing the exploitation and environmental degradation caused by mining. Despite repeated submissions, the aforementioned bill has not been prioritized by the government.

Under the Duterte administration, the situation deteriorated with the expansion of open-pit mining. Cha noted that while former Secretary Gina Lopez of the Department of Natural Resources (DENR) initially imposed a ban on open-pit mining and suspended 26 permits due to violations, her efforts were overturned, and the ban was lifted. This reversal was linked to plans to rehabilitate nickel mines to meet the demand from the government of China.

⁹ Makabayan is a coalition of progressive partylist groups in the Philippine Congress, including prominent members such as the GWP, Alliance of Concerned Teachers, Kabataan Partylist, and Bayan Muna.

Additionally, Cha warned about the potential implications of proposed constitutional amendments that aim to open up the country to 100 percent-foreign ownership. This comment was made in reference to the resolution of both Houses of Congress, a constitutional amendment bill filed on February 26 that seeks to relax economic restrictions in the 1987 Constitution. The bill aims to allow 100 percent-foreign ownership in public utilities, education, and advertising (Porcalla 2024a). Proponents of the measure cite the current economic challenges as justification for these changes, arguing that increased foreign direct investment will stimulate economic growth (Porcalla 2024b).

These provisions, as Cha pointed out, threaten to exacerbate mining-related issues and further endanger local communities and natural resources of the country.

■ Joice Leray

*Center for Environmental Concerns (CEC)*¹⁰

In her reaction, Joice Leray connected the Tampakan Mining Project to other Financial and Technical Assistance Agreements (FTAAs) throughout the country, highlighting that these projects contribute to significant environmental issues such as pollution and water shortages. She explained that these highly extractive projects require substantial quantities of water, which leads to severe depletion of water resources essential for domestic use. This depletion results in the displacement of communities and the loss of their livelihoods. Joice noted that there are six FTAAs currently in the country.

She provided a detailed overview of the Mining Act of 1995, which grants the Philippine government the authority to issue three types of permits: (1) Exploration Permits (EPs), which grant exclusive rights to explore a tract of land based on an approved work program; (2) Mineral Production and Sharing Agreements (MPSAs), which are contracts between the government and a contractor; and (3) Financial and Technical Assistance Agreements (FTAAs), which are contracts for large-scale exploration, development, and utilization of mineral resources.

¹⁰ The Center for Environmental Concerns is a nongovernmental organization that works on environmental research, education, advocacy, and campaigns. It advocates for people-oriented, patriotic, sustainable, and scientific policies and programs for the protection of the Philippine environment.

Joice criticized the Mining Act of 1995 for its focus on profit. It runs counter to principles of environmental sustainability and traditional land practices. The legislation operates under a neoliberal framework that offers tax incentives to large corporations and allows for 60-percent foreign ownership.

This export-oriented framework results in the exploitation of natural resources at minimal cost, while finished products are sold at high prices. The legislation provided a legal basis for foreign mining companies to operate in the Philippines, offering fiscal incentives and enabling them to lease land for 25 years with an option for renewal.

Moreover, despite its promises, the Mining Act of 1995 has not delivered prosperity for the Filipino people and remains a minimal contributor to the country’s job creation and even to the Gross Domestic Product. The mining industry’s share of total employment from 2000 to 2009 averaged less than 0.376 percent while its contribution to the GDP is less than 1 percent from 2000 to 2021.

Mining in the Philippines

Type of Agreement	Number of Agreements	Areas (Has.)
Mineral Production Sharing Agreements (MPSAs)	297	540,863.23
Financial or Technical Assistance Agreements (FTAAs)	6	103,612.73
Exploration Permits (EPs)	46	95,845.56
TOTAL	349	740,321.52

(MGB, 2024)



- Figure 1. An image from the presentation of Joice Lera that shows the breakdown of mining permits across the country (Left). The overwhelming number of these tenements nearly covers the entire Philippine archipelago, rendering a base map superfluous (Right).

The environmental safeguards for the legislation, as Joice pointed out, are extremely inadequate. She pointed out that Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs), which are intended to assess the potential harm of a project to the environment, are often compromised by bias. This bias arises because the EIAs are

frequently conducted by the entities applying for the project, leading to a failure in accurately representing the true impacts of mining operations. Moreover, Joice highlighted that the Mining Act of 1995 has been associated with human rights violations, particularly affecting environmental defenders, including instances of abductions and killings, with these violations expected to escalate.

Closing Remarks

■ Dr. Jean Tales

Climate Change Network for Community-based Initiatives

For the closing remarks, Dr. Jean Tales from the Climate Change Network for Community-Based Initiatives (CCNCI) emphasized the severe threat posed by the Tampakan Mining Project to the rights of local communities, particularly concerning access to food and water, as well as the rights of IPs (Indigenous Peoples) and the environment. She highlighted the urgent need for creating platforms that amplify the voices of affected communities and ensure that their concerns are properly addressed by the relevant authorities responsible for safeguarding their rights.



- Attendees pose for a group photo at the conclusion of the event, holding signs with messages such as "No to Large-Scale Mining" and "Scrap Mining Act of 1995."

Dr. Jean concluded by calling for a concerted effort among various sectors and environmental organizations to advocate for the repeal of the Mining Act of 1995. She underscored the necessity of supporting the People's Mining Bill, which seeks to replace the current legislation with a framework that prioritizes national interests and genuine development. This proposed bill aims to focus on local needs rather than export interests; opposes 100 percent-foreign ownership; bans large-scale open-pit mining; and includes provisions for the revocation of permits in instances of human rights violations.

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Appendix A



The documentary *Giugkat (Ravaged)* can be viewed through the QR code in Appendix A or via the bit.ly link.

bit.ly/giugkat

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