

November 30, 2023

Governor Abdul Ghani Kasuba
North Maluku Provincial Government
Jl. Trans Halmahera, Gosale Puncak,
Sofifi, North Maluku
Indonesia

SENT VIA EMAIL AND REGULAR MAIL

RE: Summary of findings for upcoming report on the environmental and human rights impacts of the nickel industry in Indonesia

Dear Governor Abdul Ghani Kasuba,

I am writing on behalf of Climate Rights International, a U.S.-based NGO that conducts research and advocacy on the human rights dimensions of the climate crisis. For the past several months, we have been carrying out research for a report that we plan to publish on the human and environmental impacts associated with nickel mining and smelting at and near the Indonesia Weda Bay Industrial Park (IWIP).

Based on more than forty interviews with community members, our research finds that nickel mining in Central and East Halmahera, North Maluku and nickel smelting at IWIP are threatening the rights of local people, harming the local environment, and contributing to the climate crisis. Community members told Climate Rights International that their lands have been illegally taken by nickel companies, they were not able to fairly negotiate land sales, and Indigenous Peoples have been denied their legal right to Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC). In addition, pollution from industrial activities is threatening critical freshwater resources and the ecosystems that people depend on for their traditional livelihoods. Despite claims that nickel from this project is needed to power the electric vehicle transition, massive deforestation for nickel mining and coal use at IWIP are directly contributing to the climate crisis, making this project a climate bomb.

We want to ensure that our report accurately reflects the views, policies, and practices of relevant authorities and companies, and we hope that you or your representatives will respond to the following questions, outlined below. Any responses will be reflected in our reporting as appropriate, and we may publish your responses at our discretion and when appropriate, either in full or in part.

Questions:

1. Does the North Maluku Provincial Government facilitate dialogue between affected communities and nickel mining and smelting companies regarding land tenure or environmental impacts? Can local residents request that the provincial government intervene? If yes, please describe that process.

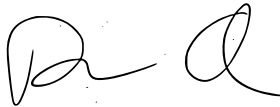
2. Does the provincial government monitor nickel mining companies' activities? If yes, what precisely does it monitor, and how does it do so?
3. What steps does the provincial government take when it receives allegations that a mining company has harmed the environment or violated environmental laws?
4. What steps does the provincial government take to ensure that mining concessions do not violate regional spatial planning, including designations of protected forest and other protected areas?
5. Does the provincial government share public information on the development and expansion of nickel mining and smelting? If so, how is that information shared and to whom? Is information about long-term spatial planning publicly available and accessible by mining-impacted communities?

Please provide your responses in writing. Your responses can only be considered for inclusion in our report if we receive them by December 21, 2023. Please reply in English or Bahasa Indonesia at [REDACTED], copying [REDACTED]. In addition, please include any other materials, statistics, and/or information you think may be relevant.

I also welcome the opportunity to speak with you or your representatives. Please let me know if you have any questions or if you would like to arrange a meeting or video conference.

Sincerely,

Brad Adams



Executive Director, Climate Rights International

[REDACTED]