

October 11, 2025

Eduardo M. Francisco  
President and General Mine Operations Head  
Marcventures Mining and Development Corporation  
Cc: Marcventures Holdings Inc.

Dear Mr. Eduardo M. Francisco,

I am writing on behalf of Climate Rights International, an international 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, environmental, and climate impacts associated with nickel mining in the Philippines' Caraga Region.

Based on roughly sixty interviews with community members, our research finds that nickel mining in Dinagat Islands and Surigao del Sur is threatening the rights of local people, harming the local environment, and exacerbating the impacts of the climate crisis. People told Climate Rights International that nickel mining and related pollution is destroying fishing and farming livelihoods, contributing to food insecurity, polluting water and air, and increasing health problems. Perversely, mining for nickel, needed for the renewable energy transition, is making local communities – who bear extremely little responsibility for the climate crisis – more vulnerable to climate impacts, including extreme weather events. The Philippines is the most dangerous country in Asia to be a land and environmental defender, and Climate Rights International also documents how those who oppose mining can face threats, criminalization, and attacks.

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.

The following questions are related to the Marcventures Mining and Development Corporation (MMDC) mining operations under MPSA No. 016-93-X (SMR).

Questions:

1. Does MMDC monitor air, water and soil quality? Please provide the results of any air and water quality data you have compiled relating to mining concessions in Surigao del Sur.
  - a. Please provide information about MMDC's water quality testing, if any, including how frequently water samples are taken, where those samples are collected, and what pollutants it tests for.
  - b. Please provide information about MMDC's air quality monitoring, if any, including how frequently air samples are taken, where those samples are collected, and what pollutants it tests for.

- c. Please provide information about MMDC's soil quality monitoring, if any, including how frequently air samples are taken, where those samples are collected, and what pollutants it tests for.
2. Does MMDC make the results of any pollution monitoring public? If so, please explain how community members are able to access that information. Please provide the results of any air and water quality data you have compiled relating to mining concessions in Surigao del Sur.
3. Individuals interviewed by Climate Rights International from Cantilan and Madrid, Surigao del Sur, were concerned over the impacts of MMDC's operations on the Caraca-an River. What steps is MMDC taking to ensure that its operations are not causing freshwater pollution, including of the Caraca-an River?
  - a. Please provide information about MMDC's water quality testing relating to the Caraca-an River, including how frequently water samples are taken, where those samples are collected, and what pollutants are tested.
  - b. Please provide information about MMDC's pollution abatement measures.
  - c. Please provide information about how MMDC manages its tailings and other mining waste, including what steps MMDC takes to ensure that tailings ponds are able to withstand extreme weather events.
4. It is our understanding that, after a landslide that buried homes, which was triggered by Tropical Storm Basyang in February 2018, MMDC blocked the road to Barangay Babuyan, Carrascal, Surigao del Sur. Please provide information about this event including:
  - a. Any documentation relating to investigations undertaken by MMDC, MGB, or other agencies examining the potential impacts of MMDC operations on the landslide.
  - b. Any documentation regarding MMDC's tailing ponds, stockpiles, and cut trees, including any assessment of the impacts of Tropical Storm Basyang on MMDC operations and waste management systems.
  - c. Information explaining why MMDC security guards were instructed to not allow members of the public or media to enter the road to Barangay Babuyan after the landslide event.
5. Climate Rights International has reviewed documents related to MMDC's December 2024 request for a Special Tree Cutting Permit. Please provide evidence, for example, satellite imagery or other documentation, supporting MMDC's January correspondence that the trees had not been cut prior to applying for the permit.
6. Regarding the lawsuit *Jaime "Datu Dagsaan" Bat-ao, Liquisa Irrigators Association, Represented by Peter William Olan, Nagkahugpong Managatay Para sa Kalambuan Nan Ayoke (NAGMAKAAYO), hereby Represented by Crisologo E. Anino, Sr., Lydia L. Lascano, and Nick Matthew Q. Iriberry, a minor represented by his Father, Vicente Cirilo Iriberry vs. Marcventures Mining and Development Corporation*:

- a. Multiple plaintiffs told Climate Rights International that they suffered from intimidation after filing the lawsuit, including having suspicious men on motorcycles visiting their private residences. Is MMDC aware of any intimidation of plaintiffs? What steps, if any, did MMDC take to prevent such intimidation?
  - b. Climate Rights International heard allegations that MMDC intentionally hired the family members of judges in the case in order to prolong the case. Please provide a full list of all legal professionals hired by MMDC or its parent company, Marcventures Holdings Inc., since the start of the litigation.
7. What steps does MMDC take when it receives an allegation of environmental pollution or negative impacts of its operations on local communities? Does MMDC have a grievance mechanism through which community members can file a complaint? If so, please provide information regarding that mechanism, including how often it is used, how community members can access it, and how MMDC responds to complaints.
8. Does MMDC have climate adaptation plans, including plans to adapt to extreme weather events? If so, please elaborate.
9. It is our understanding that the nickel ore mined by MMDC in Surigao del Sur is exported to China. Is all nickel ore mined by MMDC in Surigao del Sur and elsewhere in the Philippines exported? Please provide a list of companies that purchase nickel ore from MMDC, including its Surigao del Sur mine, and companies involved in the export of nickel ore mined by MMDC.
10. Did MMDC hold public meetings with local communities about the proposed project before the commencement of mining? If so, please provide information about the dates, locations, and attendance of those meetings, including information about how community members were made aware of the meetings. In addition, please detail the information provided to communities at those meetings.
11. Has MMDC held any public meetings with local communities since the commencement of mining? If so, please provide information about the dates, locations, and attendance of those meetings, including information about how community members were made aware of the meetings. In addition, please detail the information provided to communities at those meetings.
12. Does MMDC have plans to renew its MPSA, which is set to expire in 2027? If so, please provide information about MMDC's 25-year plan for mining from the period of 2027 to 2052, as well as documentation regarding the MPSA renewal.
13. Please provide a list of all subcontracting companies that work with MMDC at its Dinagat Islands nickel mining operations. What steps does MMDC take to ensure that individuals hired by subcontractors are properly compensated and have access to occupational health and safety protections?

Please provide your responses in writing. Your responses can only be considered for inclusion in our report if we receive them by October 22, 2025. Please reply in English. In addition, please include any other materials, statistics, and/or information you think may be relevant.

We would 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