Philippine Indigenous Peoples in Defense of Ancestral Domain and Self-Determination

JOANNA K. CARIÑO CORDILLERA PEOPLE'S ALLIANCE November 20, 2023

PHILIPPINE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' STRUGGLES IN DEFENSE OF ANCESTRAL LAND

AGAINST DEVELOPMENT AGGRESSION

Against Destructive DAMS



PANATA NG MAMAMAYAN: Tutulan, Labanan ang Kaliwa Dam!

A Forum on the Sierra Madre and the Peoples' Struggles against Dams February 20, 2PM | Student Union Building, UP Diliman





Jalaur Dam

Tumandoks unite against land-grabbing, mega dam, military harassment

🋔 Raymund Villanueva

② January 25, 2014

🧙 1 Comment

🕸 tumandok, typhoon yolanda



KATRIBU STATEMENT

Halt military ops in Tumandok communities! -KATRIBU

"Civil-military ops like this often lead to human rights violations, intimidation, and disunity in the IP communities. It shall cause fear and confusion among the Tumandok and silence them against the Pan-Ay Mega Dam Project. Like in the past, this might lead to dispossession and displacement."

BEVERLY LONGID, Kalipunan ng Katutubong Mamamayan ng Pilipinas | 01-16-23

Apayao Dams

#SaveApayao #LapatApayao #NoToApayaoDams #LetOurRiversFlow



The Department of Energy awarded **4 Apayao dam projects** to Pan Pacific Renewable Power Philippines Corporation (PPRPPC).



Against Destructive Mining





BREAKING NEWS

OCEANAGOLD CORP. TO RESUME OPERATIONS AFTER RENEWING ITS CONTRACT FOR 25 YEARS

OceanaGold Corporation on July 14 announced that the Philippine government has renewed the Didipio Mine Financial or Technical Assistance Agreement (FTAA) for an additional 25-year period, beginning June 19, 2019.



OCEANAGOLD, OUT NOW!

STAND WITH THE PEOPLE OF DIDIPIO, KASIBU, NUEVA VIZCAYA! NO TO DESTRUCTIVE MINING!



Priorities? Palace gives go-signal to Tampakan mining amid COVID-19 surge

🛔 Aaron Macaraeg 🛛 July 18, 2020 🧠 0 Comment 👒 Lumad, tampakan mine projects



A lumad student makes an alternative mask out of layered

"Without missing a beat, we are now seeing what this Terror Law is for: to further exploit the natural resources of our country while silencing those who oppose it."

BY AARON MACARAEG Bulatlat.com

DEFENSE OF ANCESTRAL LAND IS

ASSERTION OF SELF-DETERMINATION

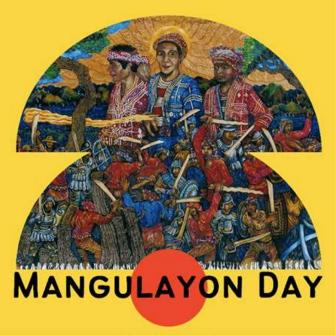
Cordillera Day – April 24



Declaring Own IP Days



KUSOG SA KATAWHANG LUMAD SA MINDANAO (KALUMARAN) BARUG KATUNGOD MINDANAO • INTERNATIONAL INDIGENOUS PEOPLES MOVEMENT FOR SELF-DETERMINATION & LIBERATION • PHILIPPINES AUSTRALIA SOLIDARITY ASSOCIATION • PHILIPPINE CAUCUS FOR PEACE



Self-determined development



Save Our Schools Network updated their cover photo. July 17 at 2:42 PM · 🕲

MARTSA PASULONG PANGIYAK NG LUMAD PARA SA EDUKASYON, KARAPATAN AT LUPANG NINUNO SA

GITNA NG PANDEMIYA AT KARAHASAN



1987 Philippine Constitution

- 1987 Constitution Article XII National Economy and Patrimony
 - Section 5. The State, subject to the provisions of this Constitution and national development policies and programs, shall protect the rights of indigenous cultural communities to their ancestral lands to ensure their economic, social, and cultural well-being.
 - The Congress may provide for the applicability of customary laws governing property rights or relations in determining the ownership and extent of ancestral domain.
- Article X Local Government Autonomous Regions Sections 15-21





1986 Photo by the Cordillera Peoples Alliance

Two Draft Organic Acts Two Failed Plebiscites

- The process towards setting up the Cordillera Autonomous Region defined in the Constitution is for Congress, with the help of a Cordillera Regional Consultative Commission, to draft an Organic Act to establish the autonomous region. The Organic Act is to be submitted to the people for ratification in a plebiscite called for the purpose.
- 1990 RA 6766 rejected except Ifugao igodol
 - 1997 RA 8438 rejected except Apayao
 - Through the years, various drafts, but still not approved; lack of education / information; distrust of personalities, traditional politicians who will lord over the proposed autonomous region



Lessons from Practice

- Genuine regional autonomy cannot merely be structural nor mechanical. For it to be substantial, it has to be predicated on a full and substantial recognition of indigenous people's rights to ancestral land and self-determination.
- GRA cannot be rushed, as it can only succeed when the people are fully knowledgeable, empowered and prepared for it.
- GRA cannot be merely granted from above, it has to be asserted by a conscientized and empowered people.

CPA Vision of GRA / RSD



IPRA - National Commission on IPs

- Land grabbing / Awarding Ancestral Land Claims to fraudulent claimants
- Anomalous conduct of Free, Prior and Informed Consent
- Graft and corruption
- Sowing disunity fake organizations, fake datus
- Effort to ban self-ascribed names/terms Lumad, Tumandok, even Igorot
- Instrument of Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict

Right to Self-Determination

International customary law, as defined in the UN Charter, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, affirms the right of all peoples to self determination, by virtue of which they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development.

2007 UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples affirms IPs the right to self-determination sc 10

SD is the assertion of IPR/HR

- Determination of political status means the extent that an IP group freely chooses to integrate into the wider society, on the condition that their rights are respected and discrimination and oppression rectified. Self-determined development means that IPs should define their own course of development, at their own pace, which very often conflicts with the dominant neo-liberal development framework which most States adhere to, allowing big business and corporate development to take over IP lands for private profit of only a few.
- The persistence of traditional indigenous values and socio-cultural systems manifest a refusal to integrate into wider State systems that continue to perpetrate discrimination and oppression against indigenous peoples, in itself is a manifestation of selfdetermination.

SD is the assertion of IPR/HR

Indigenous peoples in the Philippines have achieved many significant gains through forming strong IPOs in order to assert our democratic rights and welfare. We walk in the footsteps of our heroes and martyrs who have sacrificed their lives in defense of land, life and honor. Our people are learning that we have to solve our own problems, to assert our alternative forms of development in the face of government discrimination and neglect, like the Lumad schools, traditional medicine, environmental stewardship. We are learning autonomous governance from the grassroots, which is our assertion of the right to selfdetermination.

- Past Duterte authoritarian government and present Marcos Jr. have tried to wipe out many of our earlier gains (bombings, massacres, EJK, enforced disappearances, trumped-up charges, imprisonment, designation as terrorists)
- GRA cannot happen under an undemocratic, autocratic State
 - Indigenous peoples in the Philippines have united with other democratic classes and sectors as we persevere in the struggle for a truly democratic and sovereign Philippine society which would truly recognize the prior rights of indigenous peoples to ancestral land and self-determination

The struggle continues...

