

Imperatives in the Struggle Against Corporate Mining

Presented by Windel Bolinget, Secretary General,
CORDILLERA PEOPLES ALLIANCE

Developing the Substantial Content of the Struggle Against Corporate Mining

- We must develop the substantial content of the struggle against corporate mining in the broad context of the people's comprehensive movement against imperialist globalization and social misdevelopment and disempowerment

Developing the Substantial Content of the Struggle Against Corporate Mining

- Substantial means:
 - Our basic critique of the corporate mining industry (including government policies and programs) and the underlying socio-economic framework;
 - Our basic lineup of demands directed at the mining industry and government;

Developing the Substantial Content of the Struggle Against Corporate Mining

- Our own alternative models and policy proposals for overhauling the industry and the underlying socio-economic framework;
- Deepening studies on the basic problems in Philippine society;
- Research on TNCs and the impact of their mining operations; case studies on closed mining; scientific research

Critique of corporate mining and the underlying social framework

- It is clear from our experience that any critique of corporate mining will also need to critique the underlying dominant social (economic, political) forces.

Alternative models and policy proposals for the mining industry

A particularly imposing challenge on the people's movement is to push our research and advocacy for alternative models and policy proposals for overhauling the mining industry to make it truly serve as an engine for genuine economic development at the national and local levels.

- Even if not yet constructed as a draft law or blueprint economic program ready for implementation, these would be powerful educational and information tools, points for additional leverage, as well as internal guides for further policy studies.

Alternative models and policy proposals for the mining industry

- Study various options for alternative mining industry - small-scale mining which is non-destructive, environment-friendly, community-managed, and controlled, and the use of appropriate technology to mitigate environmental effects and lighten labor
- Alternative agriculture and formulation of environmental code

Develop consensus on principles of alternative social development

- Necessarily, such models and policy proposals will presume an advocacy of underlying principles of alternative social development, or at least a common understanding of the need to reject the development principles that underpin imperialist globalization and to forge alternative principles in the process of actual experiences especially at the grassroots.

Mining issues must be linked to other people's issues (or broadening of the mining campaign)

In our handling of mining-related issues, including our efforts at popular education and public information but especially in the Grafting of concrete demands, we must take into full consideration other closely related people's issues & demands, such as:

- Indigenous peoples' rights
- Peasants and fisherfolk's rights
- Workers' rights (taking into consideration the seemingly contradictory pro-mining sentiments among mine workers)

Mining issues must be linked to other people's issues (or broadening of the mining campaign)

- Women's rights
- Environmental concerns
- Socio-economic development at the grassroots, especially in the rural areas and on the agrarian question
- Nationalist economic program, especially on the question of industrialization and national patrimony

Developing the capacity of the people's forces in the anti-mining struggle

We must continue to develop the capacity of the people's forces in sustaining and broadening the struggle against corporate mining, also in the broad context of the people's comprehensive movement.

This particularly means:

- The extent and depth of people's organizations, advocacy groups, and networks or alliances actively involved in the struggle, which is ultimately based on their pursuit of their respective long-term programs and strategies;

Developing the capacity of the people's forces in the anti-mining struggle

- The level of unity and common experience achieved by these forces in defining and refining the substance and direction of the anti-mining issues and demands, struggles and campaigns, as well as the parameters for their working together in areas of common concern;

Developing the capacity of the people's forces in the anti-mining struggle

- The organizational machinery and resources for planning, directing, supporting, and/or coordinating the various fields of struggle on a day-to-day basis;
- Skills training for research, monitoring, and paralegal; and building human rights machinery and activists.

Active and solid people's organizations with strong grassroots base

- Firm unity building with the different grassroots organizations and communities in advancing their anti-mining struggle.
- We call on all people's organizations, especially in areas directly affected by mining projects, to become more active in the campaign, and to expand and con-solidate their grassroots base among the communities and basic sectors.

Active and solid people's organizations with strong grassroots base

- A particularly important concern is to strengthen organizations of basic sectors such as peasants/farmers, fisherfolk, part-time and fulltime workers, women, youth and students. Among indigenous peoples, raising the level of unity among tribal/ village elders is also important.

Active and solid people's organizations with strong grassroots base

- Among indigenous peoples, tribe-or community-wide associations are essential, but the basic sectoral organizations are equally valuable especially in articulating and coordinating the distinct concerns/demands of their constituent sectors in the mining campaign.
- We call on all anti-mining advocacy groups and networks to extend more concrete support to these people's organizations especially in expanding and consolidating their grassroots base.

Broad alliance of people's organizations and advocacy groups

- This alliance is best expressed through its basis of unity: not actually in terms of an actual form of alliance organization, but in terms of a formal consensus or unity pact. But we should also be open to the possibilities of forming specific ad-hoc coordinating bodies or inter-network task forces for specific joint projects or tasks in the campaign.

Broad alliance of people's organizations and advocacy groups

- Broader networking with other general and issue-based alliance would help ensure that the anti-mining campaign is firmly linked with the broader people's movement, and thus gain broader projection and public support through this movement.
- Alliance work with media, local government units, church and other groups

- **Developing stronger international support and solidarity work in pursuit of the anti-mining campaign**
- **More sustained public information and popular education campaign**
- **Sharing of information and experiences, conducting exposure programs**
 - Case studies, video documentaries/photos on mining, monitoring of mining updates
 - Exchange visits and experiences and lessons

International & national focus on specific flashpoint areas

- Full support and wide projection of local anti-mining issues and struggles in such areas
- Identification and noting of prospective major national and international occasions (conferences/forums) to ensure that they are considered in the anti-mining campaign plan
- Fact-finding missions

Combination of legal and extra-legal methods

- Considering the duplicity of current laws, rules and regulations on the mining issue, we must clarify our own attitudes and experiences in using traditional legal tactics (court cases, legislative lobby work) and in resorting to more militant but still legal or meta-legal methods of mass struggle and pressure points (petitions, protest actions, barricades, etc.)
- Exhaust legal means
- Tap Commission on Human Rights, government officials in handling human rights violations

Combination of legal and extra-legal methods

- Policy recommendations for new mining legislation
- Armed resistance for the defense against the entry of mining TNCs
- Support from various forces and groups

Concrete and sustained Actions