



724-42-86



His Excellency Rogrigo Roa Duterte
President of the Philippines

Palawan 28 July, 2016

RE: REQUESTING TO HALT THE EXPANSION OIL PALM PLANTATIONS IN PALAWAN AND NATION-WIDE

Dear Mr. President,

First of all we would like to express our appreciation for the great and admirable moves that you have recently taken to clean our country from drugs and to ensure that industrial business such as mining will be carried out responsibly and not at the expenses of millions of rural/indigenous Filipinos and of our beautiful environment.

It is now our hope that you will be able to exercise your authority and high-sense of justice also to bring to an end the expansion of oil palm plantations in our country that has brought much misery, conflicts and environmental destruction especially to the people of Mindanao, Palawan and Bohol.

In this respect, I would like to bring to your attention a petition being signed by more than 4,200 members of indigenous and farmers communities which have been adversely impacted by oil palm plantations in our province. They are calling for a moratorium on any further expansion of oil palm plantations and this call is justified by well-circumstantiated reasons that are listed in the attached petition. In addition to this, we have included sufficient evidences on the impact of oil palm plantations in the accompanied DVD, which contains photos, reports, videos and previous moves that we have taken to counter oil palm expansion. Unfortunately, in spite of all documentary evidence showing the violations and illegalities committed by oil palm corporations, the previous National administration, concerned government departments such as DENR, DA, PCA and NCIP, as well as the current provincial administration, have taken no action to respond to the outcry of hundreds of affected communities, neither they have made any attempt to mitigate the adverse socio-environmental impact of oil palm plantations.

So, by approaching You, Mr. President, we feel confident that your administration will be able to mark the difference and finally bring to an end the blatant violations committed by oil palm companies and to stop them from further expanding in Palawan, and in the Philippines as a whole.

We are confident that you will be able to use your authority to protect and restore your land for your people. In the longer term, any move that your administration would be able to take against oil palm expansion, will surely constitute a marvelous legacy for yourself, and the pride and future of our rural and indigenous communities.

We are willing to come to Manila to discuss this matter personally with your Good Office, and we look forwards to hearing from you soon,

Very truly yours


MOTALIB KEMIL
President

Coalition against Land Grabbing (CALG) - Philippines

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