ESCALATING
INVESTMENT REFUGEES
IN MINDANAO ISLAND
(PHILIPPINES)

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Workshop on Mining, Law, and Equity
SOAS, University of London
outline

- Landscape of Mindanao
- Influx of Investments
- Issues and Concerns
- Investment Refugees
- Ways forward
Landscape of Mindanao

- 22 Million inhabitants; 97,530 km²
  - 4M IPs; 4M Moro; 11 M settlers
- 1/3 of the land area is devoted to agriculture
- More than 1/3 of the labor force is employed in agriculture, fishery and forestry
- Supplies 44% of the country’s food
- Accounts for 41% of the country’s total vegetative cover
Landscape of Mindanao

- (46.52%) has the **HIGHEST POVERTY INCIDENCE**.

In fact, Mindanao is home to 7 of 10 poorest provinces in the Philippines

- (46.52)

- (22.2%) share to **NAT’L GROWTH**.

  **GOLD ORE** – 48% of the national gold reserves

  **NICKEl STOCKS** – 63% of the national nickel reserves
Landscape of Mindanao

This is Paradise
Influx of Investments

MINING

Approved
- 15 EP
- 1 FTAA
- 2 MPP
- 66 MPSA

Pending
- 4 EPA
- 4 APSA
Influx of Investments

MINING
Influx of Investments

- Logging –in the guise of Tree Plantation

Gingoog City, Misamis Oriental

IFMA Total – 566,355 hectares

Lake Sebu, South Cotabato
Issues and Concerns

Violations of Human Rights (ESCR)

- Violations and abuses on their basic rights as IPs;
- Militarization and acts of violence and intimidation;
- Establishment of checkpoints and blockade on the entry of food and other basic necessities;
- Disrupting education and delaying construction of school building;
- Disrupting travel from farm to market road;
- Prohibition on the entry of health services;
- Destruction of their fishing and hunting grounds, including their herbal medicine area;
- Violation of their religious rights;
Issues and Concerns

Damages or Costs brought about by Mining

- Displacement
- Threat to food security
- Pollution
- Diminished water supply
- Competition for energy supply and distribution
- Logging/ Timber rights
- Easement right
- Right to use explosives
Issues and Concerns

Environmental Impacts of Mining

- Open-pit mining as method of Mining is employed by all the operations today

- As an archipelago with narrow, steep and irregular-shaped islands, and mountainous terrain, mining activities (in the uplands) will impact downstream, destroying ecosystems along the way

- 14 major rivers are already contaminated by mining residues (Tujan and De Guzman, 2002), which also results in the contamination of coralline and sea grass areas as freshwater mixes with seawater

- Contamination of water supply

- Flash floods due to forest denudation
Investment Refugees

Haribon
Investment Refugees

Displaced natives or local communities as “investment refugees”, escalating number communities are displaced to “give way to development projects with promising package to host communities and local governments units for a time being undermining the long-term effects.
Ways forward

• Strengthening Organization/Community Cohesion

• Capacity Building and Skills enhancement of the Community leaders

• Set-up Community Paralegal Team
  - Community Planning
    - Legal Strategy Plan
    - Campaign Plan

• Alliance Building
Daghang Salamat! (Thank You so much)