



MASUNGI
— GEORESERVE —

November 15, 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Masungi Georeserve Foundation condemns threat to conservationist and untruthful statements of Rublou Inc. and Green Atom; calls for the immediate removal of private guards from the Upper Marikina Watershed

Two weeks after Rublou (and its renewable energy subsidiary Green Atom) fenced and deployed armed guards inside the Upper Marikina River Basin Protected Landscape, it appears even clearer now that it does not have any legitimate basis nor authority to do so. Since the dismantling of fences and structures by the DENR and Masungi park rangers on October 25, 2020, Rublou's guards have more than doubled. The guards continue to patrol at least 500 hectares of the watershed.

On November 9, 2020, suspicious movements by unidentified and unpermitted individuals prompted a pursuit with army conservation partners until 2:00 AM. This morning, one of our managing trustees, a National Geographic explorer and United Nations awardee, was threatened with harm by Rublou's guards, wherein the guards also suggested that "PENRO" was allegedly "working against Masungi."

Indigenous Peoples of Antipolo deny involvement with Rublou

In a statement dated October 30, 2020 signed by 24 tribal elders, chieftains, and officers, the Tribong Dumagat-Remontados ng Antipolo denied involvement in the deployment of armed guards by Rublou Inc.

This invalidates Rublou's Official Statement dated October 26, 2020 where it claimed that the tribe asked for "help in the deployment of security guards."

Rublou also released another statement entitled "Official Statement of the Dumagat-Remontados" signed by an Atty. Juancho Botor, who claimed he is the tribe's "legal counsel". The statement alleged that the tribe asked Mr. Luizo Ticman, owner of Rublou, for "funding to buy arms to protect themselves." Instead of buying arms, Mr. Ticman allegedly "engaged the services of licensed security guards [from 2018] up until the present."

The Tribong Dumagat-Remontados ng Antipolo in their authentic Official Statement dated October 30, 2020 denied that Atty. Juancho Botor is their legal counsel. It therefore appears that the statements released by Rublou and Green Atom dated October 26, 2020 contain allegations that are false and untrue.

Removal of Rublou sought

Despite repeated requests, Rublou and Green Atom still could not present any legal document or permit to justify their occupation and actions within the watershed. Even before the Masungi Geopark, the joint reforestation project of Masungi and

the DENR, the UMRBPL was already declared a protected area in 2011 and occupation, sale, disposition, and other destructive activities therein have been prohibited since 1904 due to its importance as a watershed reservation.

We call on our President Duterte and our partners at the DENR led by Secretary Cimatú to protect the integrity of this critical watershed by immediately causing Rublou to vacate the protected area including the patch of Benguet pine trees grown by the government in the 1970's.

A Show Cause Order was reportedly issued on October 26, 2020 by the PENRO Rizal. The DENR mandated that Rublou would only be given three days to present their documents. It is now more than two weeks from that deadline.

To assist the DENR in environmental enforcement, we also urge the National Bureau of Investigation and the Presidential Anti-Corruption Commission to help investigate and address the wholesale buying and selling of forest land and land scams in the protected area, as a matter of national interest and welfare. This shall be made in conjunction with the President's renewed drive against corruption.

We believe it is in the interest of the Department of Energy (DOE) and the entire Philippine renewable energy industry to review the integrity of Green Atom's renewable energy projects given the business practices and ethics it displays.

Why is this Important?

The Philippines is one of the most vulnerable nations to the harrowing effects of climate change, and protecting our people starts with protecting the integrity of our forests and ecosystems which shield us from floods, landslides, and pandemics.

The presence of armed guards and arbitrary occupation of forest land pose a threat to the safety park rangers and volunteers and disrupt urgent restoration work.

In the past months and throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, rising cases of illegal logging, charcoal-making, and illegal occupation have been monitored in reforestation areas, necessitating increased monitoring and protection efforts in high-risk zones.

The Masungi Geopark aims to restore and rewild 2,700 hectares of degraded lands around the Masungi limestone formation. Less than 10% forest cover can be observed in the northern portion of the project site where Rublou operates.

The project uses the "Assisted Natural Regeneration" approach which is centered on the principle that nature can heal itself when it is left undisturbed. This means that site protection from encroachments is a prerequisite to native tree planting and nurturing. These actions can accelerate the regeneration process by up to 50%.

For breaking inertia in watershed rehabilitation and speaking truth to power in campaigns against illegal quarrying and occupation, Masungi was recently [announced](#) as one of the 12 global [Water Changemakers Award](#) finalists to be honored at a High-Level Awards Ceremony in the 2021 UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) in Glasgow.

The Masungi Geopark and Ancestral Domain

The Masungi team met with the Dumagat-Remontados of Antipolo and learned that an estimated 500 hectares of the 2,700-hectare Masungi Geopark project site was included in their application for a 13,000-hectare Ancestral Domain Title (CAD-T).

The Masungi Georeserve Foundation reiterated its commitment to respect the rights of the indigenous group within the section of the Masungi Geopark that is covered by their ongoing application for a CAD-T.

It looks forward to working with the group for the conservation of critical sections of the Upper Marikina Watershed, a declared 26,000-hectare protected area that is in need of urgent care and restoration from decades of illegal logging, land speculation, abuse, and neglect.

“As we demand Rublou to respect the rule of law in our protected areas, Masungi Georeserve will continue to fearlessly report any violations that it sees on the ground in pursuit of genuine biodiversity conservation and landscape restoration. We thank all of our partners and advocates for helping us make this possible despite the odds,” Ann Dumaliang, Managing Trustee, said.

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Contact: communications@masungigeoreserve.com

ANNEX A - Authentic Statement of the Tribong Dumagat-Remontados ng Antipolo dated October 30, 2020

**UPISYAL NA PAHAYAG NG TRIBONG DUMAGAT-REMONTADOS NG ANTIPOLO
HINGGIL SA USAPIN SA PAGITAN NG GREEN ATOM ENERGY CORPORATION
AT MASUNGI GEORESERVE FOUNDATION
SA LUPAING SAKLAW NG AMING LUPAING NINUNO**

Sa gitna ng alitan sa pagitan ng Green Atom Energy Corporation at ng Masungi Georeserve Foundation sa loob ng lupaing ninuno ng Dumagat-Remontados ng Antipolo. Nais ipagbigay-alam at ipabatid sa lahat ng aming tribo ang mga sumusunod:

1. Walang kinalaman ang tribong Dumagat-Remontados ng Antipolo sa alitan sa pagitan ng Green Atom Energy Corporation at ng Masungi Georeserve Foundation. Nais lamang linawin at igit ng tribo na ang pinag-aawayang lugar ay bahagi ng aming Lupaing Ninuno na ano mang gawain o proyekto sa nasabing lugar ay dapat ipagbigay alam sa tribo at sumailalim sa proseso ng FPIC alinsunod sa batas IPRA.
2. Hindi nais makialam o makisangkot ng tribong Dumagat-Remontados ng Antipolo sa alitan sa pagitan ng Green Atom Energy Corporation at ng Masungi Georeserve Foundation. Wala ding pinapanigan sa nasabing isyu ang tribong Dumagat-Remontados ng Antipolo.
3. Si Atty. Juancho L. Bator ay hindi kinatawan o "legal counsel" ng kabuuang tribong Dumagat-Remontados ng Antipolo o ng KAKSAAN Ne Dumaget De Antipolo, Inc., sya lamang ay hiniangan ng kagyatang tulong legal ni Enrico Vertudez, presidente ng KAKSAAN Ne Dumaget De Antipolo, Inc. para lamang sa "Show Cause Order" na inihain naman sa kaniya ng DENR.
4. Ang tribong Dumagat-Remontados ng Antipolo ay walang "private army" o armas at ang mga armadong kalalakihan at "blue guards" na nasa video na lumabas sa balita ay hindi sa tribo o ipinitawag ng tribo, bagkus ay mga tauhan ng Green Atom Energy Corporation.
5. Parehong walang pahintulot mula sa hanay ng tribong Dumagat-Remontados ng Antipolo ang pagpasok ng Green Atom Energy Corporation at Masungi Georeserve Foundation sa nasabing lugar na bahagi o saklaw naman ng aming Lupaing Ninuno. Pinapayuhan ng tribo ang magkabilang panig na ipaalam ang mga gawaing ito sa NCIP at sumailalim sa proseso ng FPIC alinsunod sa batas IPRA.

Pinagpasyahan at pinagtibay ngayong ika 30 ng Oktubre, 2020.

Daniilo Bendaña
MEMENCO
MGA LAGDA:
DANILO SAN JOSE
BCHU

Pangalan		lugar	Position	lagda	
1	Gerardo	Don'teo	calawis	chryptain	<i>[Signature]</i>
2	Nelia	Don'teo	calawis	Elder	W. D.
3	Daniela	Don'teo	calawis	(Elder) chryptain	<i>[Signature]</i>
4	Marino	villarama	calawis	(Elder)	M.V.
5	Picmo	ferrer	san Josyph	Elder	P.Y.
6	Wilma	Legaspi	san Josyph	Elder	Wilma
7	Lorita	Veracruz	san syon	Elder	L. B. Lantada
8	laouido	Ben'dam	san syon	Elder	L. B.
9	Enrique	Don'teo	calawis	Treasurer	E. S. S.
10	Renato	paustito	san Josyph	Elder	<i>[Signature]</i>
11	Daniela	Don'teo	Balon	chryptain	<i>[Signature]</i>
12	Rolando	Veracruz	san syon	JPMR	J. J. J.
13	Benjamin	CRUZ	paglitaw	Elder	B. CRUZ
14	Jimmy	CRUZ	paglitaw	Elder	<i>[Signature]</i>
15	Juanito	Verano	paglitaw	Elder	J. V.
16	Ernesto	CRUZ	paglitaw	Elder	<i>[Signature]</i>
17	Nemencio Jr.		paglitaw	council	
18	tyson	Don'teo	calawis	council	
19	Nemencio	con'teo	paglitaw	chryptain	<i>[Signature]</i>
20	Almarino	Don'teo	calawis	Busmess.	<i>[Signature]</i>
21	Alex	Bundana	san Josyph	chryptain	DSJ
22	Daniela	San Jose	calawis	Elder.	<i>[Signature]</i>
23	Desiree	Don'teo	calawis	Secretary	<i>[Signature]</i>
24	Rygnaloto	Don'teo	calawis	Rapu	<i>[Signature]</i>