



October 13, 2008

To the Ambuklao-Binga Project stakeholders,

In behalf of the CAO Field Team, we wish to express our appreciation for the continued collaboration of all stakeholder groups. Our proposal for a 3-stage process of intervention is now entering its third stage which shall consist of the facilitated dialogues where parties will come together to negotiate on the agreed issues. As previously described, this stage *should lead to greater clarity about how best to approach the issues that have been raised, to build a better relationship, and to agree – where appropriate – practical measures that we can take together. We believe that this dialogue process will allow both the issue of individual claims as well as broader community concerns to be discussed effectively, giving all concerned parties a path forward.*

#### Consolidated Issues

During the capacity building program, you listed numerous issues affecting your respective communities and organizations. We have consolidated these issues into 5 major categories namely: 1) those that will require legal research and discussions; 2) those that can possibly be answered through the Corporate Social Responsibility activities of SNAPB and NPC; 3) those that will require further consultations; 4) those that may already be considered in the issues for negotiations; and 5) those that can be addressed by the communities with little or no assistance from outside. These consolidated issues were further discussed with representatives from the 10 stakeholder groups during our most recent field visit between September 24 and October 3, 2008.

#### Comprehensive Planning Session

We proposed a comprehensive planning session to be held some time in November where stakeholder groups, particularly those in the municipal, barangay and indigenous people's organizations, will present a prioritized and aligned project list. A format for the presentation of project list was disseminated during the meeting. We encourage you to work extensively with your respective Councils and communities in streamlining the project list. We welcome new inputs into the list of issues and concerns so we encourage you, our stakeholder representatives, to reach out to your respective principals. You have the opportunity to allow everyone to be heard. We hope to receive the project list from Benguet, Itogon, Bokod, Tinongdan, Ambuklao and the 2 IP organizations before the end of October 2008.

#### Neutral Evaluator

It was also during these recent series of meetings that we proposed to engage a **Neutral Evaluator** to look into the historical land claims. This proposal was overwhelmingly supported by those who were present during the meetings as it could help clarify many of the questions in people's minds. The scope of work of the neutral evaluator (to be completed in about 60 days) shall include:



1. review of all documents pertinent to the land claim, for the purpose of defining the history of the conflict
2. assessment and identification of legal and non-legal options open to the claimants and the communities (including an appraisal of the time and cost involved for each option)
3. presentation of its findings to the Stakeholders/communities
4. preparation of a communications document (including its translation) to inform each and every citizen on its findings

As we move forward in this 3<sup>rd</sup> stage of our process, let us be reminded of the norms and code of conduct that we all agreed upon during the capacity building program for these upcoming negotiations:

- |                                      |                             |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. punctuality                       | 7. open-minded              |
| 2. generosity                        | 8. preparedness             |
| 3. respect                           | 9. nobody gets to be wrong  |
| 4. friendly                          | 10. sincerity               |
| 5. sensitivity to each other's needs | 11. totally present         |
| 6. frankness                         | 12. positiveness / optimism |

We look forward to our next meeting. We encourage you to share these updates to all of your principals.

Thank you.