

PAGKAKAISA NG AETA NG PINATUBO, INC.(PAP)
PANAN, BOTOLAN, ZAMBLES, PHILIPPINES
011-63-(47) 810-1288

July 27, 1999

Good afternoon to everyone: Madame Chairperson and Mr. J.Burger

My Name is Chito Balintay, a pure Aeta, a tribe from Botolan, Zambales, Philippines. I'm here to represent my group, a worldly known tribe in the Philippines. In 1991, the year Mt. Pinatubo erupted and displaced our entire tribes and forced to live in the place provided by our government, called the Resettlement Sites. Which further aggravates our agony as a human being, because they concentrated us in a small piece of land as against our tradition. We used to live in a vast abundant and peaceful areas in the mountain ranges. These situations have created a lot of cultural shocks and difficulties in relating to the low land people and sustaining our daily lives.

At the moment, the Philippine government has responded in the land problems of Indigenous People by enacting a law known as Indigenous People Right Act (IPRA). Republic act No. 8371.

This provides us a better hope of getting our ancestral domain titled in the name of the indigenous people living in the area individually or through the community ownership. But getting this into reality is still a big task on us, because the Philippine Government did not provide funds for titling and much more for the development of our ancestral domain.

In our case, we have 22,400 hectares that include the Mt. Pinatubo volcano. This land is a partly plateau and rolling. It is very good in agriculture, livestock, forestry development and also there are indications of several minerals in selected areas. If this given attention by interested entities this will provide a new life to almost 3000 Aeta families displaced during Mt. Pinatubo eruption in 1991.

It is a humble gesture that we participate in this significant session, to share our experiences and visions, so that our indigenous brothers in the world would be able to know what we are now and what we are ought to be.

Thank you and have a good day.

Chito B. Balintay

WCIP 99 / SEA. PHL/2