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PRESS RELEASE

Narra celebrates earth day against proposed DMCI-coal power plant

By: Katala Foundation Inc.

NARRA, PALAWAN – An online petition against the coal-fired power plant in Narra is launched on April 22 in Narra for Earth Day celebration. *“Nagtayo kami ng petisyon at nakapagkalap na po kami ng signatures na sa ngayon po ay nasa dalawang libo na para tutulan ang coal-fired power plant na iyan sa Panacan” (We started the petition and we have more than 2000 signatures already who are against this coal-fired power plant in Panacan)*”, says lead petitioner Rolando “Landot” Esperancilla from Panacan.

Landot is joined by other petitioners from Panacan who believes this project poses too much risk in particular to their health and livelihood being parents and small-scale fisherfolks. *“Dahil talagang nakikita namin at naririnig sa TV kung saan meron pang mga Coal-fired power plant na nakatayo na ngayon ay talaga pong hindi maganda ang idudulot nito sa aming kabuhayan, sa aming hanap buhay, sa aming kalusugan at ganun din po sa aming kapaligiran”* (Because we have seen and heard on TV where there are coal-fired power plant operating currently that these plants do not bring benefit to our livelihood, health and also to the environment), refutes Landot. Aling Mila Sioco Tan says *“Ito’y magiging dahilan ng mga karamdaman, sakit sa balat, ubo, sipon at lagnat. Kung paano ang nangyari sa Naga Cebu ay away kong mangyari sa Palawan.”* (This will be cause of illnesses like skin diseases, coughing, fever. What happened to Naga Cebu will also happen to us in Palawan.)

This year’s Global Earth Day theme “The Face of Climate Change” is more than apt for Narra thus its theme “Mga Pagmumukha ng Nagbabagong Klima: Hindi Cool ang Coal” (Coal is not cool). Along with the online petition signing, lectures, contest on slogans against coal plant in Narra, face painting and coloring activities are outlined for kids and adults alike at the parkway in Narra.

The DMCI 15-megawatt coal-fired power plant proposed to be constructed in close proximity to Rasa Island Wildlife Sanctuary in Narra, the single-most important habitat of the critically endangered Philippine cockatoo is a *“threat and may cause serious, permanent, and irreversible impact to 25% of the global population of the species”*, says Indira Dayang Lacerna-Widmann, Program Manager of the Philippine Cockatoo Conservation Program.

DMCI was given conditional SEP clearance by the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development (PCSD) in February. Petitioners are calling on national government especially the honourable President of the Philippines, Secretary of DENR, PCSD and all involved agencies. *“Sana po ay pakinggan nila ang daing ng mga petitioners. Hinihiling ko po na gaya dito sa Sanguniang Bayan ng Narra na naging katulong namin na umaayaw at ganun din po ang Punong Ehekutibo nila na aming Mayor na umaayaw din, ay suportahan nila ang desisyon na e-reject ang proyektong ito”* (We hope they all will listen to us. I also ask that these involved agencies will reject this project just like the Municipal Council of Narra who supports our cause and the Chief Executive our Mayor who also opposes the project,), fights Landot.

The online petition is at www.change.org/HindiCoolAngCoal and supports the on going online petition initiated by the Katala Foundation at www.change.org/katala.

Your signature counts!

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Attachment: Program of activities

MGA PAGMUMUKHA NG NAGBABAGONG KLIMA:

Hindi cool ang coal!



EARTH DAY CELEBRATION
April 22, 2013 • Narra, Palawan



PROGRAM OF ACTIVITIES

1:00pm	OPENING
2:00pm	GROUP ACTIVITIES (slogan making, face painting, coloring, online petition signing up, and lecture)
4:00pm	POSTING OF SLOGAN (along Poblacion going Panacan)

- *Be counted*