

The Honorable. Mr. Phillip Paulwell, MP
Minister of Science, Technology, Energy and Mining
36 Trafalgar Road
Kingston 10

21st September 2015



Dear Minister Paulwell:

We, the citizens of the front-line communities in western St Ann, write to air our concerns about bauxite mining by Noranda in these areas and the cockpit country as well as the granting of Special Exclusive Prospecting License number 578.

We write to advise you of our public meeting and press conference on September 23 2015 at the Petroleum Cooperation of Jamaica (PCJ) Auditorium, beginning at 2pm at which we would welcome you or your representative.

As you will know, Noranda recently extended mining activities beyond its Special Mining Lease number 165 boundary and is building a haul road into the area covered by SEPL number 578.

Members of our communities staged a peaceful demonstration on July 21, 2015 and as such Noranda has ceased operation for the moment.

Our concerns are many and varied. These include

1. 90% of the communities are farmers. If these communities were to be mined, our farmers will be displaced and this will affect the economic status, which is already bad: despite (or because of) 50 years of mining, St Ann is now (with St Thomas) the poorest parish in Jamaica.
2. Bauxite mining gives us little or no job and has been done with no consideration for the communities in that:
 - They mine extremely close to the road leaving steep drops into pits
 - Poor reclamation of the land is demonstrated on existing pits
 - Our historical buildings will be destroyed
 - Disintegration of families and communities will follow, as we have already witnessed in nearby communities of Lime Tree Garden and Caledonia.
 - 98% of water used for domestic and agricultural purposes is harvested; consequently, the dust from the mining pits contaminates the water. Additionally, water from the Cockpit Country is harnessed to provide pipe water in numerous communities.

We are therefore calling on your ministry and the Government to save these communities from the destructive consequences of bauxite mining by revoking the Special Exclusive Prospecting Licence (SEPL) number 578 and that there be no expansion of bauxite mining in Western St. Ann and the Cockpit Country.

Thanks in advance for your consideration.

For Endeavour and Gibraltar:

Bishop Robert Clarke
Gibraltar P.O.
Tel. 319 3635

For Bryan Castle and Madras:

Linsford Hamilton
Madras P.O.
Tel. 782 3655