

Statement on Seabed Mining

5th April 2017

We the church leaders gathered for an information workshop on “Seabed Mining” in Pacific Theological College (PTC), Suva, Fiji 3-8 April 2017, acknowledge the development in the Seabed Mining and the steps taken by the various governments in the Pacific, especially the Government of Papua New Guinea for issuing mining licence.

We also acknowledge the campaigns against Seabed Mining by local communities in PNG. We are aware of the destruction by Seabed Mining.

Therefore:

1. We call on the PNG Government and other Pacific countries to put a stop to testing of Seabed technology on PNG Land or Seas.
2. We call on the civil society to stand with the churches and the Alliance of Solwara Warriors to say “NO” to any development regarding Seabed Mining in their area.
3. We call on the Governments and the people of the Pacific to stand together to preserve our common home for the unborn and the future generations.
4. Our Mandate is from God: “God put man in the Garden of Eden to dress it and keep it” (Gen 2:15). The world was here before we came on the scene. Who are we to destroy it?
5. We call on all the people and the governments of the Pacific to stand together in solidarity to **“Ban Seabed Mining” in PNG and the Pacific.**

Present:

- 5.1 Cardinal John Ribat (Catholic Church, PNG)
 - 5.2 Pastor Roger Joseph (General Secretary, PNG Council of Churches)
 - 5.3 Pastor Kinim Siloi (Evangelical Lutheran Church, PNG)
 - 5.4 Fr.Rozario Menezes (President of Federation of Religious, PNG/SI)
 - 5.5 Fr.Victor Roche (General Secretary, Catholic Bishops Conference of PNG/SI)
 - 5.6 Rev.A’ate (United Church, Kiribati)
 - 5.7 Pastor Shem Tema (Vanuatu Christian Council)
 - 5.8 Cromwell Quopoto (United Church, Solomon Islands)
 - 5.9 Rev.Tevita Banivanua (Methodist Church, Fiji)
 - 5.10 Abp.Peter Chong (Catholic Church, Fiji)
 - 5.11 Frances Namounamou (Pacific Council of Churches)
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