

A few examples how Meares Soputan Mining manipulates and forges

1. The much cited University survey which finds that “80 % of the coastal population supports MSM” (Archipelago Resources Invitation to Extraordinary General Meeting, May 23rd 2007, p.2 , POSKO 04 May 2007)

After insisting we finally managed to get hold of a copy (see pdf – file). The study which was published by Lembaga Penelitian UNSRAT in April 2007 was conducted under Ir. Bonie F.J. Sondakh MS, a member of the Sondakh clan around AJ Sondakh, the former provincial governor who allowed MSM in the province and just sacked University rector Prof Lucky Sondakh who protected MSM over the past two years, among others organizing a pseudo – scientific seminar in August 2007 in favor of MSM.

In the introduction the aim of the survey is cited as follows: “ To find out about the change of income and consumption patterns as well the knowledge, the perceptions and the aspiration of the people who live in the surroundings of the gold mine between 2005 and now. This is considered important in order to make the proper decisions in development. For this purpose the study combines empirical data on the socio-economic facts with qualitative data on the perceptions and aspirations.”

How the data were gained and on what criteria the respondents were found is nowhere mentioned though. Only on pages 1 - 3 it is roughly stated that the original baseline data survey in 2005 was based on 508 households or 15,3 % of the total of households in 11 villages around the goldmining site. For the 2007 survey which was conducted only during 30 days the team hand-selected 80 respondents in eight villages (or 15 – 20 %) of the original 508 household – heads.

The findings are then that from an original 82,8 % of respondents in 2005 who rejected the gold mining company’s plan to dispose the tailings into the sea, in 2007 77,7 % agree with the gold mine as a result of the changed AMDAL plans to dispose of the tailings on land, intensive community work of the company, and due to economic benefits the people gained from the mine.

From a scientific point of view the results of this “survey” can only be called ridiculous as they fall through all scientific measurements and survey principles. It is absolutely unscientific to generalize from a hand-picked sample of only 80 respondents to “80 % of the coastal people support the goldmine”.

2. The much cited “support by the village heads” of the villages in the surroundings of the mine (Archipelago Resources then GM Peter Brown in a Dow Jones Newswires Interview February 14th 2007 with Reuben Carder). After the peoples’ resistance movement AMMALTA managed to get hold of the letter of support for MSM signed by their respective village heads (see pdf file, February 9th 2007), more than 4000 people signed a declaration with their own blood which stated that their heads didn’t

represent the peoples' aspirations (collected to be handed over to the Provincial Governor by Ammalta April 24th 2008).

3. The much cited "decree by the Sulawesi government" (Dow Jones Newswires Document DJI0000020071207e3c7000f2, December 7th 2007, AFX Document AFXUK00020071207e3c7000r0, December 7th 2007) was pushed for by 13 legislators of the North Minahasa regency's cabinet, bypassing the chairlady who had already closed the meeting. The decree was immediately criticized and declared not in accordance to valid law as the prerogative right to decide upon accepting or rejecting a mine lies with the superior *provincial* government. And the provincial government officially denies its support for the gold mine (Indonesian National Newspaper Kompas April 9th 2008, 21:44 WIB).

All articles cited are archived and can be provided upon request to
Friends Of Lembeh – Pulisan – Bangka,
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