



LETTER TO THE HON MEMBER OF EIVO TORAU MELCHIOR DARE

From

MICHAEL AITE - SENIOR CHIEF of EIVO TORAU

August 5, 2014

As a youth of 19 years old, when I was attending Tunuru Mission School, a group of elders came across from Paru Paru and asked me to come home to help plan to stop CRAE from doing exploration along the Crown Price Range of Mainoki, Karato and Atamo up to Maras Water/Korovi River. They did not understand what was happening on their lands and they wanted it to stop.

CRAE continued exploration drilling the mountain range, with the helicopter picking up the samples every day. After they had been drilling for 3 years during which period we had by then fully mobilised over the Eivo and Ioro areas, CRAE in July 1965 sent a party led by Phillip's temporary replacement, Chris Warriio a Kiap, Max Dehehy the Assistant District Commissioner together with a riot squad by helicopter to Mainoki Village.

The riot squad got out of the helicopter, lined up and marched across the playing field with their rifles towards our people who had gathered, throwing a smoke bomb in front of them as they approached.

A tense meeting took place for most of the day and finally I took two small babies from women in the crowd and held them up each by one leg and offered them to Chris Warriio and told them "killim twopla pikinini em ground blong twopla pikinini yu laik бага rapim".

The meeting ended and CRAE left, removing their equipment and camps the next day never to return to this day.

Our actions were on behalf of all the Eivo people. The monument at the top of this page was dedicated on January 1, 1967 with the promise to keep out any person or company that tries to come on our Eivo lands until we have ownership of our minerals and only at the invitation of our

people. This monument stands today 47 years later as a witness to that promise that is periodically renewed for new generations.

I plead with you as someone from Paora to please read carefully the contents of the Mining Bill that you have endorsed as a Minister in the BEC.

As our member for Eivo Torau in the ABG Parliament, I can suggest to you on behalf of the senior chiefs throughout our proud Eivo Torau and on behalf of the people in the villages who are aware of the current situation, that you will bring great pain and mourning on our people if you choose to vote to pass the current Bill. This Bill would put us back into the position we were before 1989 from which we honestly believed we were freed.

You would also bring great shame on yourself as one of our family members and our elected Member if you help to sell back to RioTinto/BCL the mineral resources of our Eivo area and the rest of Bougainville.

I am now 73 years old and I and our people have dreamed of the day that we have the dark cloud that hangs over heads go away. It is up to you to help grant your people that dream or have them suffer the nightmare for another 100 years.

Hon. Melchior Dare it is up to you.



Michael Aite - Chief