



## ACA Peru Mining News Watch Report #5 April 14 – May 5, 2014

- As scheduled, the formalization process ended on April 19<sup>th</sup> and the “saneamiento” process began the following day on April 20<sup>th</sup>. Saneamiento lacks a direct translation in English, but implies legal ordering and restructuring.
- On the 19<sup>th</sup>, the Peruvian government approved the official saneamiento strategy (Estrategia de Saneamiento de la Pequeña Minería y de la Minería Artesanal), which details this long-awaited new phase<sup>1</sup>. The centerpiece of the strategy is that within 120 days the government will finalize the legislation and regulations needed to improve the flawed formalization process (e.g. how to deal with miners operating in areas with conflicting land use designations)<sup>2</sup>. Environment Minister Manuel Pulgar-Vidal has indicated that there will be at least 17 new regulations approved during this 120 day period<sup>3</sup>.
- Mining expert Cesar Ipenza has labeled the saneamiento process as merely an extension of the formalization process in disguise<sup>4</sup>. However, one key difference is that, as of April 20<sup>th</sup>, no new miners can enroll in the process. Furthermore, of the nearly 73,000 miners that entered the formalization process before the deadline, around 20,000 have already been eliminated due to irregularities, leaving around 52,000 miners now eligible<sup>5</sup>.
- The deadly strike in Madre de Dios ended after new legislation clarifying that the imposed fuel restrictions were linked to the fight against illegal mining and not illegal drugs was introduced in Congress<sup>6</sup>. Congress approved the legislation on April 29<sup>th</sup><sup>7</sup>. Also as part of agreement to end the strike, the high-level Ministers Council (Consejo de Ministros) agreed to hold their June meeting in Madre de Dios and discuss an economic package aimed at promoting regional tourism, commerce, and agriculture<sup>8</sup>. Finally, President Humala announced a new government initiative to invest 100 million soles (around US\$37 million) for the development of Madre de Dios<sup>9</sup>.
- On April 28<sup>th</sup>, over 1500 members of the Peruvian military and police carried out one of the largest illegal mining raids to date<sup>10</sup>. The raid took place in the Huepetuhe zone of Madre de Dios and destroyed over 100 pieces of equipment used in the mining operations<sup>11</sup>. The Federation of Miners of Madre de Dios (Fedemin) denounced the raid as an abuse of power and alleged that those targeted were miners engaged in the formalization process<sup>12</sup>. Peruvian authorities have denied these claims.
- Peru, Ecuador, and Colombia met in Quito for a tri-national meeting on small-scale mining and committed to cooperation in the development of artisanal mining and the fight against illegal mining<sup>13</sup>. High Commissioner of the Formalization Process in Peru, Daniel Urresti, noted that neighbors Ecuador, Colombia and Bolivia are starting to use Peru as a model of how to combat illegal mining.<sup>14</sup>



## References:

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- <sup>3</sup> <http://semanaeconomica.com/article/extractivos/136033-manuel-pulgar-vidal-mineria-ilegal-no-ampliacion-plazo-proceso-formalizacion/>
- <sup>4</sup> <http://elcomercio.pe/peru/pais/ejecutivo-establece-nuevos-plazos-formalizacion-minera-noticia-1723894>
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- <sup>12</sup> <http://www.actualidadambiental.pe/?p=22534>
- <sup>13</sup> [http://www.rpp.com.pe/2014-04-25-ecuador-colombia-y-peru-se-comprometen-a-combatir-mineria-ilegal-noticia\\_687420.html](http://www.rpp.com.pe/2014-04-25-ecuador-colombia-y-peru-se-comprometen-a-combatir-mineria-ilegal-noticia_687420.html)
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