



BAHANDI

NEWSLETTER



A Tri-annual Publication of the
**PHILIPPINE MINING
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**
Creating Wealth. Enriching Lives.

MAY - AUGUST 2025
VOLUME 3, ISSUE 02

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**PHILIPPINE MINING
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MAY - AUGUST
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LAYOUT

Dianne Abigail Collado

PMDC MISSION

We serve as the government's mining arm to generate revenue and develop progressive, inclusive and resilient communities through responsible mining.

PMDC VISION

By 2029, PMDC is a sustainable mining firm generating bigger revenues for the State, embracing first-rate norms and international standards in responsible mining, espousing policies that protect the environment, and helping transform communities into healthy, progressive, inclusive, resilient and ecologically-sound settlements

BAHANDI

a Visayan term for **"treasure,"** is the official newsletter of the Philippine Mining Development Corporation. It provides updates and records accomplishments, highlights best practices in the mining industry, underscores initiatives designed to promote environmental awareness and advocacy, features social development undertakings, and promotes the company's mission and vision.



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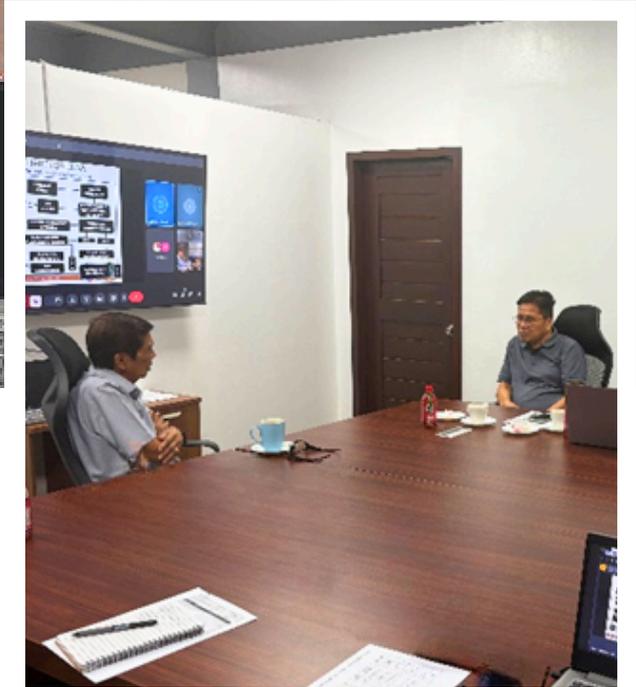
Clean-Up Drive at Mabatias Complex

August 19, 2025 at Sitio Depot, Upper Ulip, Monkayo





NCIP DAVAO DE ORO AND PMDC PLAN FOR THE COMMUNITY ASSEMBLY AS PART OF THE FPIC CERTIFICATION PRECONDITION (CP) APPLICATION PROCESS FOR THE PROPOSED DIWALWAL SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE PROJECT



▲ PMDC Chair, President, and CEO **Atty. Alberto B. Sipaco, Jr.** meets the NCIP FPIC Team led by Provincial Officer **Roger S. Lumbin** as they discussed the next steps and activities to be undertaken as part of the Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) Process relative to the Certification Precondition (CP) Application of the PMDC for its proposed Diwalwal Special Economic Zone and Jewelry Park Project

DAVAO CITY - The National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) Davao de Oro together with the PMDC Diwalwal Special Economic Zone Project Team conducted its planning last June 30, 2025 at the PMDC Davao Office Conference Room. The planning activity was initiated due to the request made by the PMDC to the NCIP Davao de Oro to identify the next steps to be undertaken by the FPIC Team in relation to the Certification Precondition (CP) Application of PMDC for the proposed Diwalwal Special Economic Zone Project, a 288-hectare mixed-use development project to be established in Sitio Depot, Barangay Upper Ulip, Municipality of Monkayo, Davao de Oro Province.

By Cathrine Tzaris Pagatpatan
Photography by Hazel Faith Batingal

Continued on Page 06



MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The NCIP Davao de Oro Team led by Provincial Officer Roger S. Lumbin and Engr. Nathaniel Deapera further elaborated and discussed the process flow and the specific guidelines of the FPIC Process, which the PMDC shall follow in relation to its CP application. Considering that the PMDC has already submitted its request for MR for the non-consent of the IPs during the previous consensus building, the NCIP recommended to conduct the Community Validation/Assembly in order to find out the decision of the IPs on the proposed establishment of the Diwalwal Special Economic Zone Project.

In order to address the denial and the non-consent forwarded by the IPs through a resolution during the last consensus building, the

NCIP proposed to PMDC to present its reply and answer all the issues raised by the IPs. Please see attached copy of the issues raised by Barangay Upper Ulip. Meanwhile, the PMDC agreed also to include its technical team during the Community Assembly in order to address all issues concerning its mining project in the DMRA.

Since the case has already been dismissed by the court and the Motion for Reconsideration (MR) was filed with the NCIP Davao Regional Office XI, the NCIP Davao de Oro will now proceed with the Community Assembly in order for the PMDC to present again the proposed Diwalwal Ecozone Project. If the IPs will give their Resolution of Consent (RoC), the NCIP informed PMDC that the IPs will now identify the

Terms and Conditions during the Consensus Building and shall also issue the corresponding Resolution from the FOTRADOMACO (Four Tribes Ancestral Domain Management Council) approving the proposed ecozone project. The IPs shall also issue a resolution authorizing their IP negotiator and the authorized signatory of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA). The PMDC has received a Certification from the NCIP Davao Regional Office XI recognizing the FOTRADOMACO as the duly authorized governing body, which is the confederation of leaders/ IP members composed of twenty-eight (28) council members coming from the clans of the four tribes of Monkayo, Davao de Oro Province.

AGREEMENTS

01

The NCIP and PMDC agreed to hold a meeting with the Four Tribes to discuss the following important matters before the Community Assembly:

- To finalize the date/ schedule of the Community Assembly
- To identify the number of ICC participants from the five (5) barangays covered by the CP application
- The meeting is tentatively scheduled on July 30, 2025 at the Office of the NCIP Davao de Oro Province

02

The Chair suggested for the PMDC together with the NCIP FPIC Team to develop a mechanism, plan or strategy in order to address all the concerns and possible issues that will be raised by the ICCs during the Community Assembly and to also ensure that the proposed ecozone project will be finally approved considering its economic, environmental and social benefits that will be provided to the IP community/ICCs.

03

The NCIP will provide the PMDC the indicative program during the meeting scheduled on July 30, 2025. Important matters will be discussed during the meeting with the Four Tribes, such as:

- a) Historical Background/Briefer on the PMDC's mining project in Diwalwal
- b) Briefer on the Proposed Diwalwal Special Economic Zone Project
- c) Status of the Case to be discussed by Atty. Amil Bagadi of the NCIP
- d) Location Map of the proposed ecozone project to be presented by Engr. Bianca Ugmad of the NCIP Davao de Oro Planning for the Community Assembly ❖

PMDC PAYS A COURTESY VISIT TO THE NCIP CENTRAL OFFICE

**A PIVOTAL
ENGAGEMENT FOR
INDIGENOUS RIGHTS
AND SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT**

By Cathrine Tzaris Pagatpatan

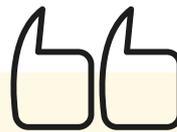
DAVAO CITY - The Philippine Mining Development Corporation (PMDC) recently undertook a significant courtesy call to the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) Central Office, an event laden with implications for both the nation's mining industry and the ancestral domains of its Indigenous Cultural Communities/ Indigenous Peoples (ICCs/IPs).

The courtesy visit happened last July 15, 2025 with PMDC's Business Development Department Manager Cathrine Tzaris J Pagatpatan, Legal Manager Atty. Marissa M. Torentera, Forester Ms. Marie Carl Rodriguez, and Comrel Officer Ms. Rona Sharmaine Belo as participants who shared and discussed some of the important mining projects of PMDC. The team was warmly received by the Ancestral Domains Office Director Atty. Arthur K. Herman and Atty. Adrienne Regine S. Dunuan, Attorney V of the NCIP Central Legal Affairs Office.

The courtesy meeting underscored the PMDC's intent to strengthen collaboration with the NCIP and adhere strictly to the provisions of the IPRA of 1997. The courtesy visit was not merely a bureaucratic formality- it represents a critical juncture in fostering dialogue, ensuring accountability, and potentially shaping the future of responsible resource extraction in the country.

The encounter provided the PMDC with a crucial platform to directly engage with the primary government agency mandated to protect and promote the rights of ICCs/IPs. For the NCIP, it was an opportunity to assert paramount importance of the Free and Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) as enshrined in the Indigenous Peoples' Rights Act (IPRA) of 1997, and to underscore the need for mining operations to not only adhere to environmental regulations but also respect the cultural heritage, traditional livelihoods, and self-determination of indigenous communities.

The meeting also provided the opportunity to reinforce a direct channel for communication between the PMDC and NCIP. The courtesy visit is seen as a crucial first step in PMDC's broader strategy to align its operations with national and international standards for indigenous rights protection. It signals a move towards a more inclusive and responsible mining sector in the country, where economic progress is balanced with social justice and environmental stewardship.



The PMDC's active engagement with the NCIP is not merely a bureaucratic requirement- it is a fundamental, ethical, and legal imperative for respecting human rights, fostering sustainable development, and ensuring the **long-term viability and social acceptance** of PMDC's mining operations in the country. ❖





PMDC, NMRI CONDUCT VALIDATION OF BENEFICIARIES OF HEALTH-RELATED PROGRAMS UNDER CDP FUNDS IN DINAGAT ISLANDS

By Thelma S. Sinco

BARANGAY NEW NAZARETH, DINAGAT ISLANDS - The Philippine Mining Development Corporation in collaboration with the Napnapan Mineral Resources, Inc. (NMRI) has successfully conducted a validation of beneficiaries in Barangay New Nazareth for their health-related project under the Community Development Program.

The Community Development Officer explained the purpose of the validation activity for the beneficiaries to understand the process of receiving the funds under the Community Development Program.

20 out of the 32 beneficiaries were validated by the team because the 12 beneficiaries did not appear during the validation. According to the barangay officials some of the beneficiaries has transferred to another place for economic survival reasons. ❀

PMDC PROVIDED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ON GENDER SENSITIVITY TRAINING IN TWO MINING COMMUNITIES IN DMRA

by Thelma S. Sinco

MONKAYO, DAVAO DE ORO – The Philippine Mining Development Corporation through its Gender and Development Focal Point System (GFPS) provided technical assistance on Gender Sensitivity Training (GST) in two (2) mining communities in Barangay Naboc and Barangay Tubo- Tubo located in Diwalwal Mineral Reservation Area (DMRA), Monkayo, Davao de Oro Province.

The training was simultaneously conducted during the conduct of DENR - GAD Sectoral Baseline Data Gathering activity in partnership with the Ecosystem Research and Development Bureau (ERDB) last June 30 to July 5, 2025 in Barangay Naboc and Tubo-Tubo. It aimed to collect and determine the gender related concerns and issues present in Barangay Naboc and Barangay Tubo-Tubo and to achieve the CSR target required by GCG Scorecard on the number of GAD activities conducted in the community.

43 out of 50 target participants were able to participate in the training with a total number 27 females and 16 males attended and participated in the workshop and group dynamics conducted by the PMDC's GFPS members. ❀

Photos on Page 09



▲ PMDC GFPS and participants of the GST Training at Brgy. Naboc (Top) and Brgy Tubo-Tubo (Bottom)

PMDC PROVIDED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ON GENDER SENSITIVITY TRAINING IN TWO MINING COMMUNITIES IN DMRA (CONT.)



▲ Barangay Kagawad Eduardo Aglit from Barangay Naboc said that men and women have equal important role and responsibilities in the family and community work but the resource gave an emphasis on who does more work in the family.



▲ Barangay Captain Analyn Inungan presented their workshop output during GST Training.



▲ The participants were enjoyed on the group dynamics/exercise introduced by **Ms. Theima S. Sinco**, a member of the PMDC's GAD Focal Point System. The exercise was design to help the participants understand and improve the way they interact in the training topics on Sex and Gender.

◀ The participants were instructed to answer the workshop questions on the difference between men and women in terms of physical and biological characteristics. ❁

PMDC AND ERDB COMPLETE GAD SECTORAL B....

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PMDC AND ERDB COMPLETE GAD SECTORAL BASELINE DATA GATHERING IN BRGY. NABOC AND TUBO TUBO



By Rona Sharmaine E. Belo
Photography by Daryl Pagatpatan and Hazel Faith Batingal

MONKAYO, DAVAO DE ORO - The Philippine Mining Development Corporation (PMDC), in partnership with the Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau (ERDB), successfully conducted the Gender and Development (GAD) DENR Sectoral Baseline Data Gathering in Barangays Naboc and Tubo Tubo, Monkayo, Davao de Oro.

The four-day field activity commenced on June 30 with a courtesy visit to the Barangay Council of Naboc. Barangay officials, together with purok leaders and tanods, were instrumental in facilitating survey rollout by coordinating household participation and ensuring smooth logistics at the community level. A technical orientation was also conducted for ERDB personnel and field interviewers to review the survey

tool. This included refining selected questions, translating complex Visayan terms into English and Tagalog, and standardizing the informed consent process for respondents.

From June 30 to July 3, five survey teams were deployed across eight puroks in Brgy. Naboc and 21 puroks in Brgy. Tubo Tubo. As the teams gained familiarity with the instruments and methodology, the pace and efficiency of data collection improved. By the end of the activity, the teams had successfully gathered responses from 250 households in Naboc and 288 households in Tubo Tubo, meeting the targets for both barangays.

ERDB professionals offered on-the-ground support throughout the activity, including both technical direction and practical ideas to improve data collection, such as prioritizing accessible regions to optimize field coverage.

This initiative is part of the DENR's ongoing commitment to mainstream gender in environmental and natural resource management. The data gathered will serve as a foundation for the development of gender-responsive programs and policies within the Diwalwal Mineral Reservation Area.

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PMDC AND ERDB COMPLETE GAD SECTORAL BASELINE DATA GATHERING IN BRGY. NABOC AND TUBO TUBO



▲ THE TEAM IN ACTION. PMDC and ERDB personnel interviewing the stakeholders of Barangay Naboc and Tubo-Tubo, Monkayo, Davao de Oro ❖

PMDC JOURNEY AT 22

Innovating for a stronger, more resilient future

SPEAKERS



**Atty. Jennife
Dumalag-Borong**

High Degree Researcher
La Trobe University
Melbourne, Australia



**Ms. Ma. Lourdes
Eudela**

Consultant, mondayERT
Ambassador Program -
Philippines



WEBINAR

01:00 PM - 04:00 PM
Thursday, 03 July 2025



SESSION 01

Green Transition: Sustainability
Challenges in Mining Industry



SESSION 02

DRR for a Resilient
Future

AN URGENT CALL TO ACTION: THE PMDC AT 22 – FORGING A SUSTAINABLE AND RESILIENT FUTURE

By Cathrine Tzaris Pagatpatan

DAVAO CITY - In celebration of the 22nd founding Anniversary of the Philippine Mining Development Corporation (PMDC), an impactful webinar was conducted which highlighted two (2) relevant topics on sustainability governance and disaster risk reduction and management (DRRM).

The webinar started with the Welcome Message from the Chair, President and CEO Atty. Alberto B. Sipaco, Jr. as the PMDC celebrated its over two decades of dedicated service to the nation, faced with unprecedented global challenges and opportunities. The PMDC together with other players in the mining industry, has delved into the very heart of these complexities, focusing on how the mining industry can not only adapt but thrive as a catalyst for sustainable development.

The webinar entitled the PMDC Journey @ 22 featured two (2) relevant topics and presented by two (2) powerful women speakers. Topic 1: Green Transition: Sustainability Challenges in Mining Industry was presented by Atty. Jennife Dumalag-Borong, High Degree Researcher from La Trobe University in Melbourne, Australia, while Topic 2: Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) for a Resilient Future was presented by Ms. Ma. Lourdes Eudela, Consultant, mondayERT Ambassador Program- Philippines.

The world is rapidly accelerating towards a Green Transition, a paradigm shift demanding sustainable practices across all sectors, none more so than mining. The mining industry, vital for providing the raw materials essential for renewable energy technologies and modern infrastructure, is simultaneously challenged to minimize its environmental footprint and uphold social responsibility. How does the mining industry navigate the intricate web of sustainability challenges- from carbon reduction and water management to biodiversity protection and community engagement- while still meeting the growing demands of a decarbonizing world?

Continued on Page 13



Webinar Photos

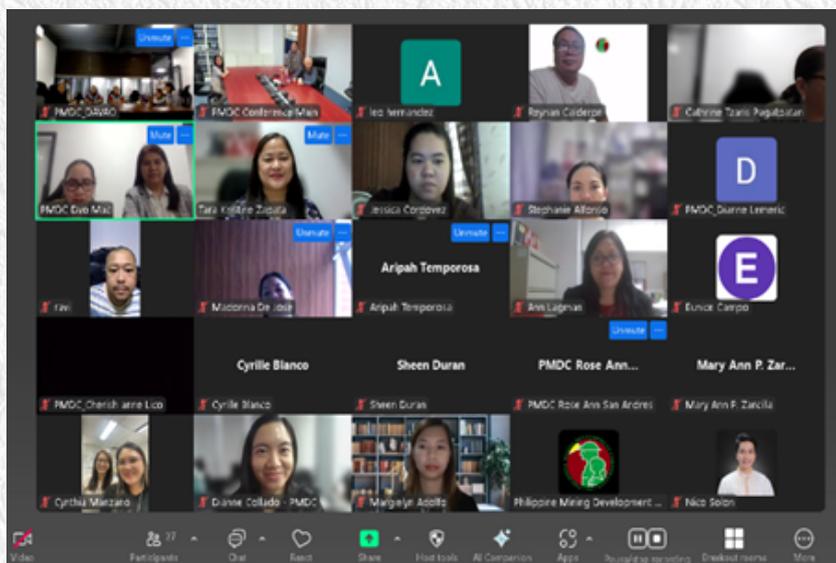
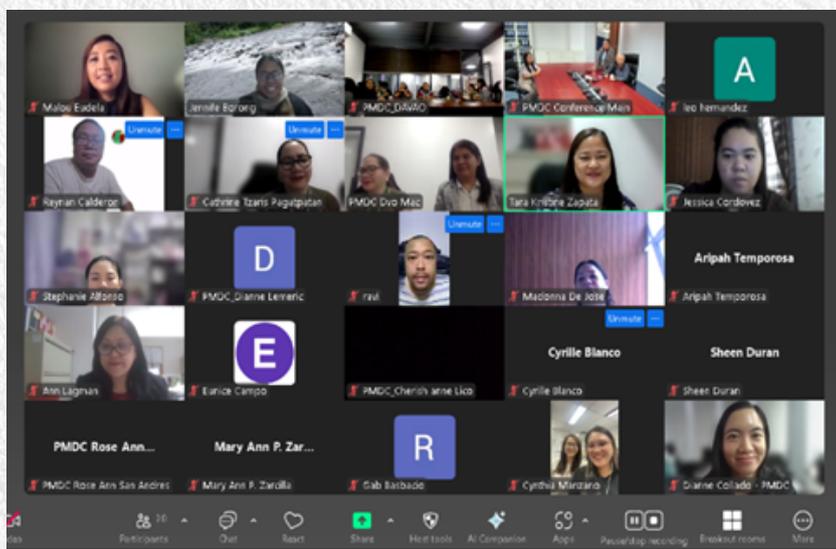
PMDC JOURNEY AT 22

Innovating for a stronger, more resilient future

Furthermore, as the Philippines confronts the increasing intensity and frequency of natural hazards, the imperative for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) for a Resilient Future has never been more urgent. For the mining sector, this means not only safeguarding operations and personnel but also actively contributing to the resilience of host communities, ensuring their safety, well-being, and capacity to recover from unforeseen events.

The webinar, celebrating PMDC's 22 years of commitment, brought together two distinguished speakers who illuminated these pressing topics. They shared invaluable insights, best practices, and innovative solutions, empowering the organization to collectively forge a path towards a more responsible, environmentally conscious, and disaster-resilient mining industry in the Philippines.

By proactively addressing the sustainability challenges and taking decisive steps, the PMDC can solidify its position as a champion of responsible resource development, contributing significantly to a greener, more resilient, and equitable future especially for its host mining communities. ❀



PMDC LAUNCHES BENCHMARKING ACTIVITY AT APEX MINING CO. INC.

A MODEL FOR RESPONSIBLE AND SUSTAINABLE MINING PRACTICES



Photos from Thelma Sinco and Cathrine Tzaris Paqatpatan

MACO, DAVAO DE ORO – PMDC successfully organized a benchmarking activity focused on responsible mining practices taking place at the Apex Mining Company, Inc. (AMCI) minesite in Maco, Davao de Oro. This initiative is part of PMDC's broader commitment to enhancing the Philippine mining industry's alignment with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and promoting responsible, inclusive, and environmentally sustainable mining operations.

The benchmarking activity, which was held last July 7, 2025, was a cornerstone of PMDC's advocacy to integrate best practices from industry leaders. Participants from PMDC's top management, technical personnel, and community relations team, gathered to gain firsthand insights into AMCI's responsible mining practices. AMCI's approach to mining operations emphasizes safety, environmental protection, and community development, positioning it as a leading model for the extractive industry.

The event kicked off with a safety induction session and a short overview of AMCI's Mine Operations. Additionally, participants were introduced to AMCI's stringent occupational safety and health (OSH) protocols, including mandatory health

examinations, PPE requirements, and emergency response preparedness prior to a visit to AMCI underground mine site, where participants observed various operational protocols in action.

One of the key highlights was the Mine Refuge Chamber, pictured above. It is a secure, self-sustained emergency shelter capable of housing up to 20 people for 24 hours during a crisis. This innovative feature ensures the safety of personnel in hazardous situations, embodying AMCI's "Safety Comes First" philosophy. The team also witnessed the operation of boomer drill rigs, while preparing a tunnel face for blasting and excavation. Rock reinforcements were visible on the ceiling above the drill rig, another safety feature which ensures ground support.



Following the tour, AMCI presented additional best practices through audiovisual presentations and demonstrated their commitment to various aspects of responsible mining.

In 2023, the company's Labor Management Cooperation was recognized by the National Conciliation and Mediation Board (NCMB) for its outstanding Labor Management Cooperation and Grievance Machinery. Their AMCINERO Labor Management Cooperation Committee was lauded for fostering harmonious relationships, dialogue, and effective communication, rooted in the Filipino value of "malasakit."

AMCI is ISO 45001:2018 certified, an international standard for Occupational Health and Safety Management Systems. With over 3,800 employees, AMCI consistently emphasizes that "safety comes first before business," embodying the principle that "No task is so important and no service so urgent that it cannot be undertaken safely." Their comprehensive Safety and Health Plan, exceeding 50 million pesos, was detailed to the team.

In relation to AMCI's Disaster Risk Reduction Management, the safety department conducts daily weather monitoring due to the susceptibility of access roads and areas within the mine site to rockfalls, landslides, and flooding. Pertinent safety information, such as precipitation warnings and area restrictions, is immediately disseminated to personnel via centralized group chats in social media.

Another noteworthy innovation was AMCI's partnership with the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) to provide heavy equipment training on driving and operations. AMCI trainers use Epiroc simulators which enable trainees to gain hands-on experience in operating underground mining machinery in a risk-free environment.

Beyond technical innovations, AMCI's commitment to community development and environmental conservation stood out. The company operates reforestation programs and has invested heavily -- around 500 million pesos, as of 2025) -- in social development initiatives that prioritize the well-being of host and neighboring communities. These programs ensure that AMCI's mining operations benefit both the environment and local residents, preparing them for self-sufficiency after mining activities conclude.

The visit allowed the participants to see how the safety and health, environment, and social development plans, programs, and activities are integrated to form a cohesive and effective responsible mining framework, which PMDC can use as a blueprint for future implementation efforts in its tenurial properties.

As part of its continued commitment to improving mining operations across the country, PMDC is considering a follow-up visit to AMCI to dive deeper into their environmental enhancement and social development programs. Through these benchmarking initiative, PMDC aims to implement applicable best practices to ensure that in PMDC, mining operations not only meet regulatory standards but also foster economic, environmental, and social growth. ❀



FIRE SAFETY ORIENTATION, FIRST AID, AND BLS CPR AWARENESS SEMINAR

A 3-day Training in Building a Culture of Safety and Awareness

Date:
June 14-16, 2025

Venue:
PMDC Davao Office



BFP CONDUCTS FIRE SAFETY TRAINING, FIRST AID, AND BLS CPR AWARENESS TRAINING AT PMDC DAVAO

By Engr. Lowell L. Pelayo

BACKGROUNDER

With the approved activity design on 3 Day Fire Safety Orientation,, First Aid and BLS CPR last June 26, 2025 intended for 13 participants of PMDC Davao, the undersigned scheduled the training event to occur on July 14, 15 & 16 2025 as initially agreed schedule with Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) Talomo and with the venue at PMDC Davao office located at Juna Subdivision at Barangay Matina.

Basic Life Support (BLS) is an activity design for First Aid Training, which is a mandatory training a company must comply among to its selected workers and employees for them to be able to know how to do reaction in case of emergency situations that may arise in the workplace area.

Initial Fire Response (IFR) is an activity design for Fire Fighting Training , which is also a mandatory training a company must comply among to its selected workers and employees for them to be able to know how to do reaction in case of emergency cases such as fire incidents in the workplace area.

These kind of trainings, including Artificial Respiration (AR) Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), Bandaging of Wounds and Carry System of the Patient/Victim in case of emergency situations are all the lectures and actual demonstration undertaken by four (4) Resource Speakers of BFP Talomo on the training event on a three (3) day affair from July 14, 15, & 16, 2025



FACTS AND FINDINGS

01

The four (4) Resource Speakers of BFP Talomo namely, NUP Eduardo C. Baba, SFO1 Jeremias Gayo, FO1 Shiela Vanessa Rose B. Biaje and FO1 Rebelyn Camporedondo take turns on doing the lecture and physical simulation/demonstration to the participants for them to grasp the mechanics of the training event. The lectures were conducted at the PMDC Conference Room and at the Staffs Room while the simulation also conducted at the Staffs Room. These were the activities undertaken by BFP Talomo on the three (3) days training event which started on July 14 2025.

02

On Day 2, July 15, 2025, the lectures and simulation continued. The undersigned was impressed by the persuasion of the Resource Speakers to diligently coached the participants to learn the facets of the training. On Day 2 also, the two units of CO2 Fire Extinguisher (10 lbs.) along with other medical supplies to be used on the training were also delivered.

03

On Day 3, July 16, 2025, a practical examination was given to each participants as to how each perform the AR, CPR , Bandaging and Protocols on an Emergency situation. Likewise, they also grouped into three (3) groups to perform the Fire Extinguisher Use, Bandaging of Wounds on a Patient Victim, and Simulation of Rescue Techniques on a Patient/ Victim using a spine board and simple hand carry methods.

04

Out of thirteen (13) participants on the training event , twelve (12) participants perform the practical examination and qualified for the passing mark , thus they will be given Certificate of Completion by BFP Talomo. Only James Prudente, who has attended the two (2) days lecture and simulation but was absent on Day 3 and has not able to take the practical examination. BFP said he will still be given a certificate, but a Certificate of Attendance only.

Generally, the training event was a successful affair and PMDC Davao has earmarked skills training of its twelve (12) participants who are now equipped to perform care and responsibility in any emergency situation that may arise in the workplace, their family and to the community. ❖



▲ The members of the PMDC Emergency Response Team with BFP Talomo **NUP Eduardo C. Baba** and **FO1 Shiela Vanessa Rose B. Biaje**.

More photos on Page 18







PMDC AND NCIP CONDUCT FIRST COMMUNITY ASSEMBLIES IN THE BARANGAYS OF OPOL AND CAGAYAN DE ORO



By Rona Sharmaine Belo
Photography by Hazel Faith Batingal,
Daryl Pagatpatan, and Alexander Madera

▲ Tribal leaders conducting their ritual to culminate the Community Assembly at Brgy. Pigsagan, Cagayan de Oro City.

DAVAO CITY - In line with its commitment to transparency and responsible mining, the Philippine Mining Development Corporation (PMDC), in partnership with the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP), conducted a series of community assemblies for Indigenous Peoples (IPs) in Opol, Cagayan de Oro from June 23 to 27, 2025. These assemblies held in the barangays of Tingalan, Pigsagan, Tuburan, and Taglimao, covering the proposed tenement area of PMDC's CDO Opol Gold Project.

The activity aimed to provide accurate and timely information to host communities about the project's background, the Free and Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) process, and the results of the recently concluded Field-Based Investigation (FBI). The

PMDC Community Relations Team and Technical participated in the assemblies in coordination with the NCIP Regional Office X, Tribal Councils, and Barangay Local Government Units.

Each assembly began with a traditional ritual led by Tribal Chieftains, followed by the national anthem and opening messages from NCIP Provincial Officer Ms. Meriam Mahomadali. Atty. Jirie Ragsac of NCIP gave an orientation on the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act (IPRA) and the FPIC process.

The PMDC then delivered a series of presentations on the company profile, the CDO Opol Gold Project's Exploration Work Program, Environmental Work, Program,

Continued on Page 20





Responsible Mining, and Corporate Social Responsibility initiatives. These were designed to give a clear and comprehensive understanding of the project and the safeguards in place to protect both the environment and the communities.

The open forum was an important part of each assembly, which encouraged residents to raise questions, express concerns, and clarify any misconceptions. Common inquiries revolved around trenching and drilling procedures, landowner rights, compensation mechanisms, environmental safeguards, and the project's effect on small-scale

miners. PMDC and NCIP representatives addressed each concern thoroughly, supporting that exploration activities will only proceed upon obtaining proper consent and permits. To evaluate the effectiveness of the IEC activities, PMDC conducted post-assembly feedback surveys among willing participants. The insights gathered will help improve the delivery of future community engagements.

The successful conduct of these community assemblies reflects PMDC's dedication to inclusive and transparent project development, anchored on mutual respect and meaningful partnership with Indigenous Cultural Communities. ❖

PMDC JOINS THE BRIGADA ESKWELA 2025 SUPPORTING EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT IN DMRA

By Rona Sharmaine Belo

MONKAYO, DAVAO DE ORO - Philippine Mining Development Corporation (PMDC) once again took part in the annual Brigada Eskwela of the Department of Education. This year's theme, "Sama-Sama para sa Bayang Bumabasa," emphasizes the importance of collaboration in creating a conducive learning environment, an advocacy PMDC continues to uphold.

Held on July 04, 2025, the activity reached four public high schools within the Diwalwal Mineral Reservation Area (DMRA) in Monkayo, Davao de Oro, namely Ulip National High School, Depot Ancestral Domain National High School, Union National High School – Mt. Diwata Annex, and Tubo Tubo National High School.

A total of **1,922** students and teachers benefited from the initiative. As part of PMDC's HERO Program – Education, the activity provided essential cleaning and minor repair materials such as paint, brushes, brooms, and dustpans.

A major highlight of this year's Brigada Eskwela was the deep well rehabilitation project at Ulip National High School. Responding to the school's urgent call for safe water access, identified during last year's GAD survey and key informant interviews.

PMDC counterpart, donated a jetmatic manual water pump unit to contribute on the materials for the construction of the deep well. This is to support hygiene and sanitation efforts within the campus.

Short turnover ceremonies were held at each school, with teachers and administrators expressing their continued appreciation for PMDC's consistent support over the years. Community Relations Officers also engaged with teachers to discuss current school needs and encouraged the submission of formal requests for future assistance.

This activity reflects PMDC's broader mission of promoting inclusive development in its host communities, not just through infrastructure or livelihood, but through meaningful investments in education and community partnerships.

As PMDC continues to respond to the needs of its stakeholders, activities like Brigada Eskwela remain a valuable platform to strengthen connections and demonstrate shared responsibility in nation-building, one classroom at a time. ❖



▲ Beneficiaries of the initiative from top to bottom: Depot Ancestral Domain National High School, Union National High School - Mt. Diwata Annex, Tubo Tubo National High School, Tubo Tubo National High School.



CLEAN-UP DRIVE AT MABATAS COMPLEX

By Rona Sharmaine Belo

UPPER ULIP, MONKAYO - In a strong show of commitment to environmental sustainability and community engagement, PMDC, in coordination with local stakeholders, successfully conducted a Clean-Up Drive Activity last August 19, 2025, at the Mabatias Complex in Upper Ulip, Monkayo.

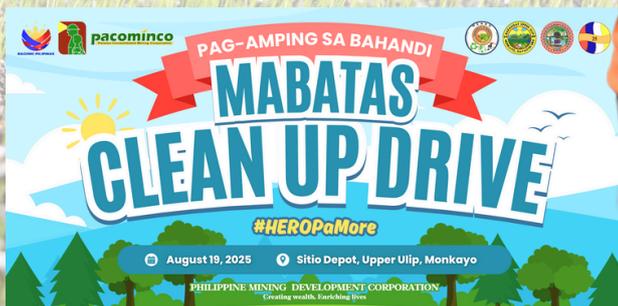
The event aimed to raise environmental awareness, reduce waste, promote public health, and reinforce partnerships among PMDC, local government units, and the community. Over 86 participants actively joined the initiative, showing their support for responsible environmental practices in the Diwalwal Mineral Reservation Area (DMRA).

ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

Orientation on Environmental Laws

Held at the PMDC Depot Office, an educational session led by guest speaker Ms. Marie Judy L. Damasas from the Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Office (MENRO). Participants were briefed on waste management laws, proper segregation practices, and the need of compliance.

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Clean-Up Drive at Mabatás Complex

Participants were divided into three groups and assigned to different zones (Phase 1, 2, and 3 of the Mabatás Complex). Teams cleaned the area thoroughly, collected waste, and disposed of it properly, which helped to reduce environmental dangers and enhance sanitation in the region.

WHAT'S NEXT?

PMDC encourages the continued support of everyone in keeping the Mabatás Complex clean. To make future activities even better, we plan to:

- Invite more people to join future clean-up drives
- Set up garbage drop-off points in key areas
- Hold regular meetings and short seminars to share more about proper waste management
- Support stronger rules to stop improper waste disposal

The Clean-Up Drive is part of PMDC's ongoing efforts to support sustainable, eco-friendly communities in line with its mission and vision. By increasing teamwork and awareness, PMDC continues to empower residents to take an active role in caring for their environment. ❀





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