



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
MINES AND GEOSCIENCES BUREAU
MIMAROPA Region

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30 August 2022

MEMORANDUM

FOR : **THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR**
This Office

ATTENTION : **THE PLANNING OFFICER**
This Office

THRU : **THE CHIEFS**
Mine Management Division *Requesting for RP's notation.*
Mine Safety, Environment, and Social
Development Division

FROM : **THE UNDERSIGNED**
Administrative Officer IV (Information Officer II)

SUBJECT : **HIGHLIGHTS OF THE CAPACITY BUILDING FOR PENRO
AND PG-ENRO PERSONNEL IN THE PROVINCE OF
ROMBLON**

Pursuant to the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) MIMAROPA Region Special Order No. 71 Series of 2022, this Office spearheaded the Capacity Building for the Personnel of Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (ENRO) and Provincial Government - ENRO in the Province of Romblon, 24 August 2022, at the Haliwood Hotel in Odiongan, Romblon.

This hybrid activity, held in coordination with the DENR MIMAROPA Region, the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) MIMAROPA Region, PENRO Romblon, and PG-ENRO Romblon, sought to capacitate relevant stakeholders on laws, rules, and regulations on mineral resources development, and the protection and conservation of biological diversity and ecosystems.

It also aimed to address the issues and concerns on mining activities in Sibuyan Island in the Province of Romblon, among which is the renewal of the Exploration Period under Mineral Production Sharing Agreement No. 304-2009-IVB granted to Altai Philippines Mining Corporation (Altai).

**"MINING SHALL BE PRO-PEOPLE AND PRO-ENVIRONMENT
IN SUSTAINING WEALTH CREATION AND IMPROVED QUALITY OF LIFE."**

Lecture Proper

Technical personnel from this Office, the DENR MIMAROPA Region, PENRO Romblon, and EMB MIMAROPA Region tackled the major requirements and activities for every stage of mining pursuant to Republic Act No. 7942 or the Philippine Mining Act; the environmental laws on the protection and conservation of biological diversity and ecosystems; and environmental related measures for mining and quarry projects to help our local officials further understand and enforce pertinent laws, rules, and regulations.

Session 1: Mining 101

MGB MIMAROPA Region

- a. Mining 101
Engr. Ivan F. Macandog
Engineer III – Mine Management Division
- b. Environmental Management in Mining
Engr. Hanna Lee B. Arriesgado
Senior Science Research Specialist
Mine Safety, Environment, and Social Development Division
- c. Social Development Programs of Mining Projects
Ms. Joanne Michelle D. Bagasbas
Community Affairs Officer II
Mine Safety, Environment, and Social Development Division

Session 2: Environmental laws on the protection and conservation of biological diversity and ecosystems

Malvin R. Rocero
Protected Area Superintendent –
Mt. Guiting-Guiting Natural Park, Sibuyan

Session 3: Environmental management related measures for environmentally critical projects (mining and quarry projects)

EnP John Junico B. Udal
EIA Technical Staff
EMB MIMAROPA Region

Session 4: Presentation of the issues and concerns on mining in the Province of Romblon

Engr. Reshne Jay B. Gonzaga
Senior Science Research Specialist

OIC of the Mining Tenement Audit Section
Mining Tenements Management Division – MGB Central Office

Arnoldo A. Blaza, Jr.
OIC PENRO
PENRO - Romblon

Issues and Concerns

1. Concern regarding the DENR Secretary's signature in Altai's MPSA contract

Mr. Paulino Fabon III (PG-ENRO Romblon) raised his observation that then DENR Secretary Jose L. Atienza Jr. was not able to affix his signature in every page of the signed MPSA contract of Altai.

The MGB MIMAROPA Regional Director committed to raise this issue and seek a clarificatory statement from the DENR regarding this concern.

2. Request to revisit EMB Memorandum Circular (MC) No. 2020-27

ENRO Engr. Raynaldo Angel De Juan (PG-ENRO Romblon) raised the Provincial Governor's letter to EMB requesting to reconsider some of the requirements, such as CCTV installation and geological assessment, for Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) applicants under the EMB MC No. 2020-27 or the "Project Threshold for Extraction of Non-Metallic Resources Applying for ECC)." He cited that it would be costly for some proponents, especially those who are only applying for small areas, to hire technical consultants to comply to such conditions.

The Regional Executive Director said that the MGB's river assessment may suffice but emphasized that there should still be a geological study as basis. She recommended possible alternatives such as having a programmatic Environmental Impact Assessment study to be subsidized by the Provincial Government, or a master plan from the Department of Public Works and Highways in coordination with other pertinent agencies.

RED Claudio also committed to bring this concern to the attention of the EMB Central Office for reconsideration of some of the requirements.

Currently, the position paper of Romblon has been forwarded to the DENR Central Office.

3. PG-ENRO's Protected Area Management Board (PAMB) membership

ENRO De Juan asked how they can request for membership in PAMB, especially in cases where mining issues are being discussed.

The Regional Executive Director responded that the ENRO should request authorization to represent the Provincial Government during PAMB meetings, either as representative or the Governor's alternate.

4. Other updates/concerns

PENRO Blaza informed the body that they are scheduled to conduct a technical conference with Altai to discuss various concerns. He also requested the company to allow PENRO personnel to enter the area for monitoring purposes of reported illegal timber poaching and gathering of forest products.

Meanwhile, ENRO De Juan said that the joint resolution of the three municipalities in Sibuyan (Cajidiocan, Magdiwang, and San Fernando) is now on the Committee on Environment of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan.

Lastly, forest rangers from the DENR Sibuyan Substation requested to be copy furnished with documents, especially those related to mining.

The MGB MIMAROPA Regional Director also committed to provide DENR with Altai's MPSA map, for posting by the local government units for information purposes.

For the Regional Director's information and ready reference.


NHESLAINE C. EVAL

PHOTO DOCUMENTATION



