



STAKEHOLDERS EXPRESS STRONG SUPPORT TO PMDC TO IMPLEMENT RESPONSIBLE MINING IN DMRA



Mt. Diwata Barangay Captain Pedro Samillano (standing extreme left) conveys the PMDC's call for all small-scale mining operators, ball mill owners and CIP Plant operators to immediately transfer to the Mabatas Processing and Storage Facility to solve the environmental degradation and pollution of the Naboc River during the advocacy campaign in Barangay Mt. Diwata on May 22, 2018.

Leading the PMDC Advocacy Team is Atty. Alberto B. Sipaco, Jr, Chairman, President and CEO (seated 2nd from right). Also, in photo are Engr. Alex Y. Madera (seated extreme left), PMDC-Project Management Department Manager, Atty. Virgil C. Adan, PMDC-Legal Department Manager (seated 2nd from left) and LTC Oscar B. Balignasay, Jr., INF (GSC) PA (seated extreme right), Commander 25 IB, 101D, PA who actively participated during the advocacy campaign in Barangay Mt. Diwata.



Participants of the Advocacy Campaign, barangay functionaries and residents of Barangay Naboc show their support by signing the pledge/declaration to implement responsible mining practices and sustainable development in the DMRA through the projects and programs initiated by the PMDC.

Monkayo, Compostela Valley- Major stakeholders especially the affected communities including the Officials of Barangays Mt. Diwata, Naboc, Tubo-Tubo, Upper Ulip, representatives of the Indigenous Peoples (IPs) together with concerned government agencies such as the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB), National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP), Commission on Human Rights (CHR), Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB), Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the PNP have expressed strong support to implement responsible mining practices and sustainable development in the Diwalwal Mineral Reservation Area (DMRA) and to finally address the problems that cause the environmental damage, degradation and continuing pollution of the Naboc River.

During the 4-day Advocacy Campaign organized by the Philippine Mining Development Corporation (PMDC), recommendations were also presented by relevant stakeholders to properly enforce RA 9003 or Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000, Code Sanitation of the Philippines (PD 856), Clean-up of the Naboc River and the transfer of the Ball Mills and CIP Plants to the Mabatas Processing and Tailings Storage Facility to solve the environmental degradation in the DMRA.

The PMDC through its Project Management Department Manager, Engr. Alex Y. Madera emphasized during the advocacy campaign that the Mabatas Processing and Tailings Storage Facility is now ready to accommodate the transfer of the small-scale mining operators including the ball mill owners and CIP Plants' operation in the designated mineral processing facility provided by the government.

The extensive small-scale gold mining activities in the Diwalwal area of Barangay Mt. Diwata generated widespread pollution and heavy siltation at the low land agricultural areas in the Municipality of Monkayo. The mine tailings and mine-related wastes were discharged into Naboc River ever since the gold rush started in 1983. Mercury contamination of downstream river systems aggravated the effect of pollution.

The situation reached such a critical level that the Government intervened in year 2002. President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo signed Proclamation No. 297 on November 25, 2002, declaring the environmentally critical Diwalwal gold-rush area as a mineral reservation. The DENR Administrative Order 2002-35 was subsequently issued on December 5, 2002 stipulating the guidelines governing of the Diwalwal Mineral Reservation and the organization of the Natural Resources Mining Development Corporation (NRMDC) now Philippine Mining Development Corporation (PMDC).

NRMDC recommended in year 2002, the transfer of the small-scale gold processing plants and the construction of Mabatás Tailings Storage Facility as an immediate measure to address the existing environmental degradation and associated health problems within the Diwalwal small-scale mining area. On the second State of the Nation Address (SONA) on July 24, 2017 President Rodrigo Duterte expound the situation in Diwalwal.

The cease and desist order (CDO) was issued by PMDC on June 29, 2017 in response to the clamor for immediate action in stopping the problem of extensive pollution. The CDO covers the stoppage and relocation of the Motor-mills and CIP plants at Mt. Diwata to the Mabatás Mineral Processing Area. The PMCC (Project Monitoring Coordinating Council) during the special meeting for Task Force Diwalwal on August 2, 2017 endorsed the enforcement of the Cease and Desist Order (CDO) and immediate relocation.

PMDC started the construction of the relocation site on August 30, 2017. Governor Uy and Mayor Gentugaya provided the bulldozers in the development of access road and relocation plots for BM & CIP plants.

Meanwhile, PMDC also constructed the needed water supply pipelines from about 3.4kms of plastic hose from the spring in Lunod Creek. Intake water tanks and distribution tanks at the Mabatás area were fully completed on April 6, 2018.

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