

PMDC Obtains Consent from ICC of Monkayo, Compostela Valley Province for Water System Project

Monkayo, Compostela Valley, Philippines – Representatives of United Tribal Council of Elders and Leaders (UTCEL), Barangay Tribal Council, Indigenous Cultural Community (ICC) of Upper Ulip, Barangay Local Government Unit of Upper Ulip, Philippine Mining Development Corporation (PMDC), and National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) convened at UTCEL's office in Monkayo, Compostela Valley Province on February 13, 2019 to finalize the terms of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for PMDC to source-out water for its water system project from Lunod Creek, which is located inside the Ancestral Domain.

The ICC representatives comprising the leaders and elders of UTCEL and Barangay Upper Ulip, and three clans of Barangay Upper Ulip finally gave their consent to PMDC to source-out water from Lunod Creek. The consent is evidenced by the signing of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between PMDC, ICCs, and NCIP by the ICC representatives. In exchange of the consent, PMDC will provide the royalty fee to UTCEL and Barangay Tribal Council of Upper Ulip amounting to Php1 per cubic meter, while paying Php1 per cubic meter to each of the three clans of Barangay Upper Ulip. The clans include the Gubaton, Latiban, and Castro. The payment of the water fees shall be taken from the collected water fees from the current consumers and from the operators of Carbon-In-Pulps and ball mills who are currently transferring their plants to the Mabatas Relocation Site. Further, another condition for the grant of consent is for PMDC to consider members of the ICC, specifically, those coming from Barangay Upper Ulip as potential workers for future projects in the site.

The consent granted by the IPs allows PMDC to source-out water from Lunod Creek for a period of 25 years and maybe renewed for another 25 years at the option of the ICCs subject to the Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) process. Both parties agreed to review all the economic provisions embodied in the MOA every after five years. The water system shall be temporarily managed by PMDC until such time that PMDC will be able to identify a legitimate and organized water system association that will manage the water system.



ICC representatives headed by Maniguon Paulino T. Sebio (fifth from right), Matikadong Balbin S. Gubaton (sixth from right), and Oligario Latiban (second from left), signing the Memorandum of Agreement between the ICCs, PMDC, and NCIP. Engr. Ryan A. Medina and Estrella B. Jesuro of PMDC, and Mr. Eric O. Marteja of NCIP-ComVal, witnessing to the signing of the MOA