

# PMDC Conducts Two-Day Capacity-Building FGD

## Training Focuses on Responsible Mining and Sustainable Development

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Davao City, Philippines—In realizing its mission of generating revenues and developing communities through responsible mining and sustainable development, PMDC has initiated the Capacity-Building and Training Program on Responsible Mining and Sustainable Development, which will be implemented in two (2) phases.

The Phase 1 will be participated by the PMDC's Board of Directors, top management and technical staff, and included lectures, seminars and mine observation tours in identified mining companies that promote and practice responsible mining through sustainable development.

As an initial activity under the Phase 1, the PMDC conducted an FGD (focus group discussion) and planning session last June 10-11, 2019 at Seda Abreeza Hotel, Davao City.

The objectives of the two-day activity were to gather additional comments on the proposed Phase 1; consolidate all inputs to be included in the Training Program Guidelines; review the initial sample thematic modules and topics to be included in the training; identify other important topics to be included in the training program; identify the resource speakers/consultants from relevant government agencies and private mining companies/organizations (local and international) who may handle the module/topics and identification of strategies on how to actively engage the consultants.

The activity was facilitated by Dr. Christine S. Diaz, Director of Social Research Training and Development Office of the Ateneo de Davao University. On the other hand, PMDC also tapped Ms. Katherine D. Firmeza, a consultant of the Climate Change Commission.

The FGD and planning session proved to be a very successful undertaking as valuable inputs were gathered during the two-day activity. Based on the inputs provided by both the facilitator and consultant, it was concluded that responsible mining has to be viewed not simply as an extractive activity since it entails accountability, moral obligation and intergenerational responsibility that create positive impact, improved well-being of communities, and assurance towards environmental protection.

Indeed, PMDC has a big role to play in promoting responsible mining in the Philippine mining industry. The nexus of responsible mining and sustainable development poses a challenge of doing a balancing act where wealth creation is realized, improvement of the quality of life of the people is achieved, and environment protected.