



(PMDC team consists of; Atty Alberto B. Sipaco, Jr – Chairman, President and CEO, Atty. Lucas R. Vidad – VP on Operations, Atty. Bernadette Laza – Acting Legal Manager, Engr. Marites Reutotar – Tenements Manager, Catherin Tzaris Pagatpatan – Business Development Manager, Geol. Alex Y. Madera – Project Management Department Manager, Rachel Ann C. Bersamera – Human Resources and Administration Manager, Jomark Anthony M. Ayala – Community Relations Officer, with the PMDC Drivers and 1 Utility.)

# PMDC IN ACTION: PMDC Visits Eastern Samar Mining Site

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Tacloban City, Leyte and Hernani, Eastern Samar—Philippine Mining Development Corporation, represented by its executives, officers and technical employees made courtesy calls in various government offices in Tacloban City last July 15-19, 2019. The series of visits was arrived to align with the agency’s plans to operate one of its tenements, the Hernani Chromite Project.

PMDC first visited its partner agency in ensuring that responsible mining will be the company’s topmost priority in its operations and other endeavors. The DENR Regional Office VIII is headed by Atty. Crizaldy M. Barcelo but in his absence, the team was welcomed by Dr. Eugenia N. Bautista, appointed as the officer-in-charge. The discussion with DENR lasted several hours where relevant matters concerning responsible and environment-friendly operations and legalities that the company must undertake were tackled. She suggested that the team visit its affiliate Offices – Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) and Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) - which were already part of the company’s original itinerary.

The team also visited the EMB Regional Office VIII and was warmly accommodated by Regional Director Letecia R. Maceda. The discussion focused on the requirements and legal documents the PMDC must secure before the operation in Hernani Chromite Project commences, one of which is the Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC). Both parties agreed that processing such requirement will be done in the EMB Central Office provided that PMDC's tenement covers over 50-hectares.

The team also went to MGB where they conferred with the division chiefs Engr. Dante A. Operador and Engr. Windell S. Gador on behalf of the regional director, Engr. Leo Van. V. Juguan, who was on official travel. The team and the MGB representatives were able to discuss about tenement concerns and mining activity and regulations and matters related to the Hernani Chromite Project. PMDC and MGB agreed to work together in achieving the company's goals.

The first day of visit was concluded with an established linkage with the national line agencies in promoting responsible mining and the development of the mining industry.

The second day focused primarily on the municipal local government units of Hernani and Gen. MacArthur, where the Hernani Chromite Project is located, to acknowledge their local governance and jurisdiction of the area.

The municipality of Gen. MacArthur which covers the largest land area of PMDC tenements was the first to be visited by the team. On behalf of Mayor May Flora C. Ty and Vice Mayor Joel D. Baldo, who were on official travel, the team was attended by the municipal administrator, Anselmo "Jun" Ty, Sr. He assured to convey the visit and respect paid by the PMDC team to the town head and the legislators.

Subsequent to the visit is the neighboring town which constitutes the second largest land area in the tenement area. Municipal mayor Armado D. Candido personally met the team. PMDC and MLGU-Hernani initially discussed the programs and activities for preservation of the environment and development of communities. MLGU-Hernani's thrust is to be a premier tourist destination in Eastern Samar and PMDC envisions a responsible mining operation in the Hernani Chromite Project. Both parties commit to work hand in hand in achieving each vision for the benefit of the local constituent of the municipality where mining, tourism and agriculture coexist.

To promote responsible mining in the locality, the municipal mayor suggested to conduct public scoping and information drive in line with the thrust and programs of the PMDC, emphasizing that local constituents should be informed of these undertakings.

PMDC's President, Chairman and CEO, Atty. Alberto B. Sipaco, Jr. committed to send a team of PMDC Personnel to conduct an Information, Education and Communication (IEC) Campaign to inform and educate the public on the mandate and drive of PMDC.

The series of agency meetings and courtesy visits will positively pave the way for PMDC's delivery of its mandate in the utilization and development of the country's mineral resources through responsible mining. This will be made possible through the partnership with these institutions that shall affect in the preservation of the environment and natural resources, and in the development of sustainable communities in the locality.