



REGIONAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Mines and Geosciences Bureau – Regional Office No. I is proud to present the 2015 Accomplishment Report. It reflects the collaborative effort of the men and women of MGB and the all-out support from our partners in the minerals industry in the implementation of our core missions: “Responsible Mining towards poverty alleviation, environmental protection and economic recovery and Geosciences Applications for risk reduction and safety of the people”.

Year 2015 marked another milestone in MGB – Regional Office No. I. The much awaited hiring of employees as per EO 366 or the Rationalization Plan of the government is now in full implementation. Ten (10) MGB-I employees were promoted while six (6) new employees were hired. Likewise, there was a change of guards of the Office where the undersigned assumed Office last October 28, 2015. Likewise, new Division Chiefs for Geosciences and Mine Management Divisions were sworn into Office. With the able support of the men and women of MGB Region I, all major programs and activities were accomplished accordingly.

The year was indeed not easy because of numerous complaints received and issues that needed to be addressed. The Office stood ground on its mandate and we said “NO TO ILLEGAL MINING”. Periodic monitoring on hotspot areas was conducted and likewise one-on-one dialogues with the Heads of Local Government Units were carried-out to help us abate this persisting issue.

Promotion of Responsible Mining is always our advocacy. For the year, the Office was able to monitor seventy eight (78) permits/contracts/agreements to verify their compliances with the terms and



conditions stipulated in the mining permits/contracts and work programs. Likewise, seventy eight (78) permittees were audited under the Integrated Safety, Health, Environment and Social Programs (I-SHES). Companies who have violated for non-compliance in the implementation of these programs were issued Cease and Desist Orders (CDOs) and were penalized accordingly.

Guided by the Principles of the DAO 2015-03 issued on March 16, 2015 on the Revised Implementing Rules and Regulations of the RA 7076 otherwise known as the “People’s Small Scale Mining Act of 1991”, the Office endorsed a Minahang Bayan with Feldspar deposit in Agaga, Burgos, Ilocos Norte for clearance from the DENR Secretary prior to the approval by the PMRB of Ilocos Norte.

Strategic and intensified Information and Education Campaign was carried out to enhance level of awareness on Mining and Geosciences and to address issues and concerns affecting the minerals industry in the region. Seventeen (17) Stakeholder’s Forum were conducted which included dialogue/meeting with the Provincial Governors and other government agencies, Sangguniang Panlalawigan Committee Hearings, Orientation on Mining Laws, Rules and Regulations among the Local Government Units, Academe, Private Sector and Clergy, and Media Forum in the Provinces of Ilocos Sur and Ilocos Norte. Small Scale Mining Forum was also conducted to present the Implementing Rules and Regulations of RA 7076.

On the application of Geosciences, Vulnerability and Risk Assessment was introduced for the year. This is a more detailed approach to mitigate the ill impacts of geohazards. Its main objective is to develop flood and landslide risk information by evaluating conditions of vulnerability that could potentially harm the people, critical infrastructures and the environment. For the period in



review, Laoag City in Ilocos Norte and Dagupan City in Pangasinan were the pilot areas assessed for the vulnerability and risk assessment. Laoag City was also updated for the 1:10,000 scale geohazard mapping which was assessed last 2012. Similarly, Coastal Geohazard Mapping and Assessment with a scale of 1:10,000 is another program that was launched on this year. This project primarily aims to identify the extent and cause of coastal erosion in all coastal municipalities in the region and recommends mitigating measures to address this problem. For the year, one (1) city and six (6) coastal municipalities in the Province of La Union were assessed and mapped, namely: San Fernando City, Sto. Tomas, Agoo, Aringay, Caba, Bauang and San Juan.

As part of our assistance to the LGUs to address their water needs and problems on finding viable sources of water and deteriorating water quality, groundwater resource and vulnerability assessment was also conducted in Cabugao, Ilocos Sur. Result of the assessment shall be the baseline data that will be used as basis for the georesistivity survey prior to the actual drilling.

As we look back for the year with considerable satisfaction, we enter the New Year with confidence and high expectations. As the mining industry is soaring high and with the usual support from our partners in development, we can achieve our goals and commitment. MGB- Regional Office No. I is always ever to take challenges as we envision a brighter future for the minerals industry.

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