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### **Social development efforts in Guiuan Eastern Samar pursued by mining firms**

The host and neighboring communities of mining companies in Guiuan, Eastern Samar are enjoying the benefits of responsible mining through the programs and initiatives extended to them in coordination with the concerned Local Government Units (LGUs).

Based on submitted report to the Mines and Geosciences Bureau, Cambayas Mining Corporation, Mt. Sinai Mining Exploration and Development Corporation, all operating in Homonhon Island and Hinatuan Mining Corporation in

Manicani Island, will be spending PhP 4.8 million for its Social Development and Management Program (SDMP) this year to host and neighboring communities.

Various projects will be covered by the program which consists of livelihood development and income augmentation ventures, construction of infrastructure facilities and services, assistance to education and health services and community and human resource empowerment activities.

Pursuant to R.A. 7942, otherwise known as the Philippine Mining Act of 1995 and Section 134 of DENR Administrative Order No. 2010-01, Contractors and Permit Holders are mandated to allot annually one and a half percent (1.5%) of their operating costs to assist in the development of mining communities.

CMC General Manager Engr. Francisco Arañes stressed that they always see to it that there is proper coordination between them and the LGUs when it comes to planning and carrying out SDMP activities in the communities to ensure success and fruition of their endeavors.

### **Social development**

“We hope to bring about positive change and poverty alleviation to the mining communities where we operate,” stressed Engr. Arañes.

Among the significant projects CMC vowed to complete within the year are the construction of a covered court in Brgy. Cagusuan, timber warf in Brgy. Casuguran and the extension of pier in Brgy. Pagbabangnan.

The mining firm has also given cash donations to LGU-Guiuan, Eastern Samar for its small lighthouse construction.

The municipal government of Guiuan, Eastern Samar through Mr. Felipe Padual acknowledges that the mining firms have assisted them in many significant projects in the municipality.

“We are beyond grateful that these mining companies operating within the municipality of Guiuan continue to extend whatever help and assistance they can when needed,” said Mr. Padual.

Meanwhile, EMIR Minerals Corporation, is currently fast-tracking its garment factory operation for the livelihood of non-working women in the community. The construction of its mini-garments factory is now completed and will soon let its trained personnel re-echo training and eventually, handle the garments production and completion of the sewing machines.

“We hope to provide livelihood suitable in the community and help uplift the economic status of the people,” stressed Community Relation Officer Joseph Galeon.

Likewise, Hinatuan Mining Corporation though still on its care and maintenance phase in Manicani Island continues to optimize the impact of the company’s community development programs. Its social projects include provision of electricity and water reservoir for the numerous households in the island, provision of educational equipment like chairs, and employment of Manicani residents. Also after supertyphoon Yolanda, HMC embarked on a herculean endeavor involving its Manicani Rehabilitation Project, turning over 429 newly constructed houses last November 5, 2014 covering its four (4) barangays, namely: Buenavista, San Jose, Hamorawon and Banaag.

To date, the company also caters to additional requests for “pabahay” of about 70 households.

Engr. Nonita Caguioa of the Mines and Geosciences Bureau said that the accomplishments gained by the company and the benefits attained by the communities are results from a supportive and dedicated stakeholders.

“The solidarity and support among all stakeholders is important to attain development,” said Engr. Caguioa. She added that mining companies are encouraged to formulate long-term social growth strategies and to practice sustainable development.