

## "A SOCIALLY-RESPONSIBLE AND ENVIRONMENT-FRIENDLY COMPANY"

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF PHILSAGA MINING CORPORATION







**2023 EDITION** 



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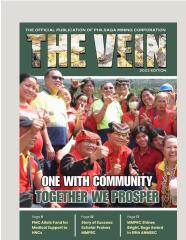
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#### The Cover

The cover portrays the bond of various sectors transcending regulatory confines. It exemplifies a robust and enduring partnership between a mining company, government, and the community, dedicated to fostering community development, education, healthcare, and sustainable employment opportunities while prioritizing social and environmental responsibility.

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## Embracing Innovation and Continuity: Linking the Future thru Digital Leap of "THE VEIN"

In the current era, where technological strides are redefining the landscape of industries, Philsaga Mining Corporation (PMC) emerges as a beacon of progress and environmental responsibility with the digital transformation of its newsletter, "The Vein."

Leading this milestone is President Atty. Raul C. Villanueva, whose visionary leadership has propelled PMC into a new chapter of innovation.

The decision to transition to a digital format is not merely a nod to contemporary trends but a deliberate effort to foster inclusive and real-time communication with the community it serves, bridging the gap between corporate initiatives and community engagement.

The digital shift marks a departure from traditional dissemination methods, enabling PMC to bridge the gap between corporate initiatives and community engagement. Real-time updates through digital channels ensure that the public is promptly informed about PMC's accomplishments, initiatives, and efforts.

This level of transparency fosters a stronger connection between the corporation and its community, reinforcing trust and understanding.

Pres. Villanueva's emphasis on reducing the corporation's carbon footprint through this transition aligns seamlessly with PMC's commitment to environmental stewardship,

contributing to a greener and more ecofriendly future.

PMC sets a commendable example for other organizations by showcasing that progress and environmental responsibility can go hand in hand.

At the heart of this transformative journey are the unsung heroes - the TIGERs team and various departments, including Information and Communication Technology (ICT), the Community Relations Office, and the PMC-MMPRC Foundation Inc. (PMFI) - whose collaborative efforts symbolize the power of teamwork and a shared vision for a sustainable and technologically advanced future.

The successful launch of the digital newsletter is not just a technological feat but a testament to the collective commitment of these individuals to propel PMC into the digital age. Their unwavering dedication ensures that PMC's story is not lost in the digital transition but rather immortalized in the ever-evolving digital realm.

As we witness "The Vein" go digital, we applaud PMC for setting an exemplary standard in embracing progress, fostering innovation, and championing environmental responsibility, positioning itself at the forefront of technological advancement and reinforcing its connection with the community it serves, creating a narrative of shared vision and a sustainable future. **RMD** 

MESSAGE MESSAGE



Unity amidst adversity and diversity.

Wars, socio-political conflicts, and religious and racial animosities have led to a serious decline of our country and world economic condition. During these troubled times, we in the Philsaga Group of Companies should stand united amidst our diverse cultures, religions, and socio-political orientations.

Mindful of the adversities around us, we aim to instill awareness that continued employment is vital so we can provide for our families. We encourage our fellows to work well to protect the company and our source of income.

With God's grace, we will have a new kind of future by the year 2025 and onwards. I see a brighter future for our companies that would benefit us, the communities, and those we are supporting. It is imperative that each one of us should continue to be a strong TIGER, and together be instruments of change by giving our utmost support to our various projects aimed at increasing the lifespan of our beloved companies, and at the same time continue the care and support to the communities, the environment and the government. Together, we can be better.

I wish everyone a better and healthier year in 2024.

Atty. Raul C. Villanueva
PMC & PMFI President



Dear PMC and MMPRC Family,

First and foremost, I would like to take this opportunity to extend my sincere gratitude to all those who have stood up for our company, especially those who supported our company president, Atty. Raul C. Villanueva. It is no doubt that your perseverance and loyalty have been the pillars that strengthened us during those difficult times. We have proven once again that nothing beats teamwork and integrity.

As we look back on the challenges we have overcome this year, and as the shadows of the pandemic begin to recede, I am filled with optimism for the future. Let us channel the lessons learned and the strength gained into becoming not just better employees but evolving into improved versions of ourselves, embracing growth and excellence in every aspect of our lives.

The years ahead hold immense promise, and with your continued dedication, I am confident that PMC and MMPRC will not only endure, but will also thrive, and will prevail. I encourage each of you to be highly motivated individuals, deeply committed to upholding our corporate, social, and environmental responsibilities. Let us embark on this journey with a stronger vision, united in our commitment to becoming a highly sustainable mining company delivering excellent value to all its stakeholders. Thank you everyone, for being the driving force that propels us forward. May we all have a prosperous 2024 ahead of us and wish you a happy holiday season.

Engr. Ferdinand A. Cortes
PMC & PMFI Vice-President



#### PMFI DELIVERS MEDICAL SERBISYO CARAVAN TO BRGY. SAN MARCOS

By: Reygela M. Decalit

With the goal of improving the well-being of the people within the jurisdiction of the company, the Philsaga Mining Corporation (PMC) and PMC-MMPRC Foundation Inc. (PMFI), along with various partners, organized a Serbisyo Caravan and Medical Mission in Barangay San Marcos, Bunawan, Agusan del Sur on July 31, 2023.

Motivated by the sentiment, 'I cannot change the world, but I can make somebody's world better,' Atty. Raul C. Villanueva (RCV), serving as the president of both PMC and PMFI, personally attended the event to ensure its success and demonstrate his commitment to the community.

The event was supported by various stakeholders, including the Office of Senator Bong Go, the Local Government Unit of Bunawan, Philsaga Mining Hospital, the Department of Social Welfare and Development, the Philippine Red Cross, the Department of Agriculture (DA), PMC Press Corps, the Armed Forces of the Philippines, the Philippine National Police, and other organizations.

Over a thousand residents directly benefited from the essential services offered during the medical mission, including general check-ups, dental care, eye examinations, and bloodletting, provided by the medical team led by Jessa Go, R.N., Cristobal L. Bago, RN, and Lalaine P. Dumaquit, RN.

The community also received fruit-bearing tree seedlings from the DA, brand-new slippers for kids, and other essential supplies. Additionally, a raffle draw was conducted, adding a festive touch to the event and lifting spirits while fostering a sense of community among attendees.

Beyond business, the collaboration between various stakeholders to organize the medical mission not only strengthened ties between Barangay San Marcos and PMC but also highlighted how collective efforts from businesses, government units, and non-government organizations can create lasting positive change. The initiative proves that a simple act of giving and care can indeed make a tangible difference in people's lives.

#### PMC unveils new livelihood program for families

By: Ethel Grace P. Orlandez

In a bid to uplift financially challenged families and generate revenue, the Philsaga Mining Corporation - Social Development and Management Program (PMC-SDMP) initiated a new program in 2023 called the "Panginabuhian Family Enterprise Project," which aims to offer livelihood opportunities and expand existing businesses, such as stores, in the communities covered by the PMC.

The program was put into action on June 16, 2023, at Barangay Consuelo, Bunawan, Agusan del Sur, where seven families became the first beneficiaries, receiving a total of Php 500,000.00 worth of various commodities.

Judith Morano, one of the beneficiaries, expressed her gratitude to Philsaga Mining Corporation and the Social Development and Management Program for providing her family with a source of additional income.

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Girlie Cervaga (left) accepts the P80 000 00 worth

Girlie Cervaña (left) accepts the P80,000.00 worth of frozen goods and various beverages through the PMC-SDMP's Family Entreprise on June 17, 203.

"I will do everything in my power to cultivate this blessing you have given and make it sustainable for my family," she said.

Meanwhile, the PMC-SDMP Family Enterprise program serves as a glimmer of hope by prioritizing community empowerment, economic diversification, and sustainable development. The company aims not only to improve the lives of families but also to set an example for other corporations to follow. This heartening narrative showcases the potential for businesses to be catalysts for positive change, leaving a lasting legacy of empowerment and progress.

PMC, together with the beneficiaries and their communities, looks forward to the success of the Family Enterprise program and seeks to have a positive effect on the community by empowering families.



Melanie Cervaña (center) and her family, presents her proof as of the beneficiares of PMC's Panginabuhian Family Enterprise Project. She received six piglets, feeds, and vitamins worth P82,500.00 on June 16, 2023.

## Supplemental Feeding: An aid to Malnutrition

#### By: Ethel Grace P. Orlandez

Supplemental feeding programs play a pivotal role in addressing malnutrition in vulnerable communities. By tackling food insecurity, these programs contribute to improved health outcomes, increased social well-being, and overall community development.

The Philsaga Mining Corporation (PMC) recognizes the significance of supplemental feeding. As a result, it allocates sufficient resources to ensure the implementation and sustainability of such programs in 2023. It also actively supports feeding initiatives of various local governments with its host and neighboring communities to cultivate strong relationships.

One particular supplemental feeding program supported by the PMC through its Social Development & Management Program (SDMP) was conducted in Barangay Poblacion, Bunawan, Agusan del Sur from June to September 2023.

Over the course of this 4-month program, nutritious meals were provided to 15 malnourished children aged 0-5 years old within a span of 60 days, addressing their lack of access to a balanced diet.

At the end of the program parents of the beneficiaries expressed their gratitude to the PMC for its initiative that helped in the development of their children.

By addressing the critical needs of communities, PMC demonstrated its commitment to the well-being of the residents. This engagement also builds trust, improves the company's reputation, and strengthens community ties.

Through collective efforts, inclusive and prosperous societies can be built where no one goes hungry.



These two children in Poblacion, Bunawan, Agusan del Sur share nutritious food served during one of PMC's Feeding Programs.

"As one of the program's beneficiaries, I sincerely hope that the initiatives will continue in our barangay, particularly for the benefit of our children. God Bless and more power to the company!"

- Ailyn Ajeto of Bunawan



Barangay officials of Poblacion, Bunawan, Agusan del Sur, headed by Hon. Antonio Barrios, receive the medicines and vitamins donated by the PMC-SDMP on March 29, 2023.

## PMC ALLOTS FUND FOR MEDICAL SUPPORT TO HOST AND NEIGHBORING COMMUNITIES (HNCS)

By: Ethel Grace P. Orlandez and Kenneth L. Digal

With its commitment to the well-being of its Host and Neighboring Communities (HNC), Philsaga Mining Corporation (PMC) continues to exemplify its dedication to social responsibility through the extension of its health assistance program in 2023.

Embracing a proactive approach to community development, the company, through its Social Development and Management Program (SDMP), distributed essential medicines to six barangays in the municipality of Bunawan, Agusan del Sur, from March 29 to 31, 2023. The beneficiaries include Barangay Consuelo, Nueva Era, Mambalili, San Andres, Imelda, and Poblacion.

The formal turnover of donations was conducted by the Community Relations Office of PMC, led by Community Relations Manager Mr. Jose Zaldy Yu. This was accomplished through the signing of the Certification of Turnover and Acceptance by the Barangay Local Government Units (BLGUs) and the company representative.

This program brought a total of Php 601,863.40 worth of medicines to the residents of the beneficiary barangays. It was realized through the collaborative efforts of the Representatives of HNCs (RHNC), who incorporated the program into the Annual SDMP of the company, implemented in the 1st Quarter of 2023.

Philsaga Mining Corporation's initiative to implement this program once again demonstrates its unwavering commitment to elevating the overall health and well-being of the communities it serves.

### 13 PMC-ADOPTED SCHOOLS RECEIVE EARLY YULETIDE GIFTS

#### By: Angelyn L. Jamisola

As the "Ber" months kicked off in 2023, Philsaga Mining Company (PMC) also began its second implementation of the annual Adopt-A-School Program (AASP) by distributing school supplies to 13 Primary Schools in Agusan del Sur.

The week-long distribution, led by the PMC-Mindanao Mineral Processing and Refining Corporation (MMPRC) Foundation Inc. (PMFI), was conducted in collaboration with the Department of Education (DepEd) and the Philippine Army's 26th and 67th Infantry Battalions.

Over 8,247 students from kindergarten to the sixth-grade levels in the municipalities of Bunawan and Rosario received school supplies, along with instructional materials for teachers amounting to 3.5 million pesos.

The beneficiary schools include:

- 1. Wasian Integrated School
- 2. Kalingayan Elementary School
- 3. San Andres Elementary School
- 4. Jose T. Cuyos Sr. I Elementary School
- 5. Jose T. Cuyos Sr. II Elementary School
- 6. Cabantao Elementary School
- 7. Brodecs Elementary School
- 8. Maligaya Elementary School
- 9. Dinagat Elementary School
- 10. Kilobidan Elementary School11. Caimpugan Elementary School
- 12. Sta. Ana Elementary School
- 13. Manuel Labindao Elementary School

"We are lucky to be chosen and given three years of opportunity.
This is a huge motivation to the

hope of our nation, the students."
-Cecil Galaraga, Kalingayan ES Teacher)

The program was initiated and funded by PMC under the leadership of Atty. Raul C. Villanueva as part of the company's advocacy for 'a community flourishing together with the company.'

Meanwhile, PMFI Executive Director Reygela M. Decalit stated that the education of young learners will be the foundation to implement the company's commitment to its host and neighboring communities.

Through initiatives like the AASP, the PMC continues to demonstrate its role as a responsible company, contributing to the sustainable development and growth of the areas it serves.



Agusan Marsh: Dinagat and San Marcos ES



Rosario, ADS - Kalingayan Elem. School



Ms. Apple Mae N. Osic, receives an incentive worth PhP 15,000.00 from the PMC-SDMP for graduating Magna Cum Laude during the DHNC-DMTG Scholars Meeting and Recognition on August 11, 2023.

#### PMC REWARDS SCHOLARS FOR ACAD SUCCESS

By: Kenneth L. Digal

The Philsaga Mining Corporation (PMC) recognizes the transformative power of education in creating better opportunities, particularly for underprivileged students in the communities it serves.

In line with this belief and a commitment to nurturing future leaders, the company, through its Social Development and Management Program (SDMP), has rewarded its Development of Mining Technology and Geosciences (DMTG) Scholars and Development of Host and Neighboring Community (DHNC) Student Assistance Program beneficiaries upon their completion of undergraduate studies in 2023.

Ms. Apple Mae N. Osic has received a PhP15,000.00 reward for graduating *Magna Cum Laude* with a degree in Bachelor of Early Childhood Education from the Philippine Normal University - Mindanao while nine beneficiaries of DHNC Student Assistance Program also received their respective incentives during the annual DHNC-DMTG Scholars Meeting and Recognition at the Brgy. Consuelo Gymnasium in Bunawan, Agusan del Sur, on Agust 11, 2023.

In her message, Ms. Osic expressed her appreciation to PMC for the opportunity to be one of its beneficiaries.

"I am very thankful to PMC for being one of the beneficiaries of the student assistance program. I will not waste this privilege given to me by the top management of PMC for initiating this program," she said.

The DHNC Student Assistance Program currently supports 103 students from different barangays, each receiving a monthly allowance of PhP 3,000.00.

Meanwhile, the DMTG Scholarship provides support to indigent and deserving college students pursuing mining-related courses, offering beneficiaries a monthly allowance of Php 4,000.00, a book allowance of Php 4,000.00/semester, Php 500.00 for boarding and lodging, and Php 1,000.00 for miscellaneous fees.



DHNC Student Assistance Program graduates receive their incentive during the DHNC-DMTG Scholars Recognition on August 11, 2023.

#### STORY OF SUCCESS: SCHOLAR PRAISES MMPRC

As one of the fortunate beneficiaries of the SDMP Scholarship Program, I serve as a living example of how education can change a person's life and the real benefits of MMPRC's charitable initiatives. The transition from uncertainty to empowerment has been nothing short of amazing, and I am extremely grateful of the chances that have changed my life.

The financial assistance provided through the SDMP Scholarship Program has been a lifeline for students like me, who dreamt of pursuing higher education but faced difficulties in finances. From my first year up to my licensure review. I no longer have to worry about paying for school because of MMPRC's unwavering dedication to investing in education; instead, I can concentrate entirely on our academics and goals. Beyond the monetary support, the SDMP Scholarship Program has offered more than just a scholarship; it has provided us with a nurturing and supportive environment that nurtures growth and encourages excellence.

To MMPRC and the entire team of the Community Relations Office (COMREL) who are behind the SDMP Scholarship Program, I extend my deepest gratitude and appreciation. Your unwavering commitment to empowering minds and transforming lives is nothing short of commendable. The investment you have made in the future of young minds will undoubtedly ripple through generations, shaping a brighter and more promising tomorrow.

In closing, I stand here, not just as a grateful beneficiary, but as a beacon of the SDMP Scholarship Program's success, a testament to the profound impact that mindful and purposeful corporate social responsibility can make.



Engr. Gerlon A. Farillon
Licensed Geodetic Engineering
SDMP DMTG Scholar

#### DEBUNKING MINING PARADOX THRU IN-SCHOOL IEC DRIVE

By: Andilyn D. Caamic

With a steadfast commitment to the future generation, Philsaga Mining Corporation (PMC) and Mindanao Mineral Processing and Refining Corporation (MMPRC) launched an Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) campaign to promote responsible mining among 12 high schools in the municipalities of Bunawan and Rosario, Agusan del Sur.

In collaboration with the Mine Environmental Protection and Enhancement Office (MEPEO), Safety and Health Department, and Mine and Mill Operations, the Community Relations Office conducted the 8-day IEC campaign from September 7 to 15, and again on September 22, 2023.

The activity was designed to educate more than 1,500 junior and senior high school students on the PMC's dedication to environmentally safe operations, sustainable socio-economic initiatives, and community development and to debunk the mining fallacy.

Department representatives from PMC provided details on responsible mining and milling operations and showcased the Environmental Protection and Enhancement Program (EPEP), Safety and Health Program (SHP), and Social Development and

Representatives from the Mine and Mill Operations elaborate the company's operation in terms that are suitable for students.

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Management Program (SDMP) initiatives of the company.

The discussion also covered the Corporate Social Responsibility program under the PMC-MMPRC Foundation Inc. Interactive communication transpired through an open forum and to make learning an enjoyable and remarkable experience, the activity incorporated quizzes, games, and incentives for both students and teachers.

With this initiative, the PMC and MMPRC showcased its devotion to empowering and inspiring the next generation and instilling in them the values of responsible mining and sustainable development.





Forty department heads and representatives of the Philsaga Mining Corporation (PMC) attended the 2023 Basic Incident Command System (ICS) Training held at the Safety Training Hall, Brgy. Consuelo, Bunawan, Agusan del Sur, from October 19 to 21.

In compliance with the requirements of the Bureau of Mines and Geosciences, PMC organized the ICS Training to fully prepare and equip the heads for any emergency incidents, enabling them to serve as incident managers for their respective units.

The training was orchestrated by the Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction Management Office (PDRRMO) of Agusan del Sur, led by Engr. Dante D. Sayon, who served as the Instructor and Training Course Monitor.

Collaborating with his colleagues in the PDRRMO, the team guided the participants to acquire knowledge and skills essential for applying the basic concepts and principles of ICS in disaster situations.

The sessions covered various aspects, including the management of planned events and major incidents, determining essentials in resource management within ICS, understanding considerations for incident and event planning, and the use of transfer of command, demobilization, and close-out.

The training concluded with an actual planning session for the incident action plan, serving as the participants' final output.

Meanwhile, Engr. Clement M. Chiu, PMC Safety and Health Manager, emphasized in his closing remarks the significance of the training in the respective offices of the participants.

"Ang kaning atong ICS system, dili ra man ni ma-apply sa safety ug emergency lang. I'm sure nga kani nga training ma-apply nato sa atong kaugalingon na mga departments," he said.



PMC employees pose for a group photo as they finished the Basic ICS Training for Managers and Supervisors on October 21, 2023.

## PMC SEG holds physical fitness program By: Maurice S. Blanca

To promote good health and physical wellness of its personnel, the Security and Enforcement Group (SEG) of the Philsaga Mining Corporation (PMC) started its physical fitness program last July 2023 inside PMC premises.

According to SEG Manager Maurito Licudine, security practitioners must be physically fit because they must be always alert, able to react to situations and endure long periods of duty.

The program has three phases: the conditioning phase, the combative phase, and the evaluation/testing phase.

The conditioning phase involves an "Honesty Run" where agency security guards (SG) and company guards (CG) are required to run or walk at their own pace and at a convenient time to complete a monthly target of 25 kilometers. The combative phase features the training of personnel in basic self-defense skills. They would be taught from the basic forms into more advanced and difficult moves in martial arts, including defensive and disarming techniques. The last phase is a periodic physical fitness test where they must each complete 2 minutes of pushups, 2-minute sit-ups, and a 3-kilometer run.

Recognizing the critical role of physical fitness in the demanding field of security, the three-phase program not only enhances and sustains the physical fitness of security personnel but also fosters a culture of discipline, resilience, and preparedness within the organization.

As the program continues to evolve, it is poised to contribute not only to the individual health of SEG members but also to the overall security and efficiency of PMC.



Security personnel of PMC energizes their day with an early morning 3-km run during the PFT Evaluation.



Security personnel of the PMC show off their powerful push-ups as part of the physical fitness program.

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### PMC acquires portable X-Ray Fluorescence analyser

By: John Augustin Escudero

PMC earlier this year acquired a portable X-Ray Fluorescence (pXRF) analyser through the Exploration Division in order to streamline acquisition of assay results.

In an effort to streamline the acquisition of assay results relevant to the prospectivity of areas being explored by the company, Philsaga Mining Company acquired a portable X-Ray Fluorescence (pXRF) analyzer through the Exploration Division earlier this year.

The device performs XRF analysis, a rapid, non-destructive method that produces assay results by utilizing the characteristic fluorescent radiation of an element when exposed to X-rays. The intensity of this radiation is proportional to its concentration. The production of assay results is reduced to a minimum three-day task, allowing for faster recognition of exploration targets and more cost-efficient decision-making.

Over the past few months, the PMC Exploration Division has utilized the device in its exploration activities, analyzing various samples such as drill cores, rock slabs, soil, and stream sediments.

The analyzer is configured to detect gold and silver, as well as essential pathfinder elements. The division minimizes costs by sending only those samples that initially detected gold to laboratories for confirmatory purposes.

The use of the device has been integrated into the division's standard procedures, conforming to the company's EMS. Measures have been implemented to ensure the safety of employees using the device and to prolong the service life of the unit. Additionally, a robust sampling and quality assurance program has been adopted to ensure the reliability of the geochemical data provided by the device.

The Exploration Division expresses its gratitude to PMC management for approving the acquisition of the XRF analyzer and for their support in initiatives promoting the cost-efficiency of its work.

Using the pXRF to analyse drill cores (left), directly on top of pulps (middle), and using the workstation setup (right).









Mr. Maurito Licudine (male right) and Engr. Edgar Sagario Jr. (center) holds the PMIEA Platinum Achievement Award after receiving it on behalf of the MMPRC during the 69th ANMSEC on November 17, 2023

The Mindanao Mineral Processing & Refining Corporation (MMPRC) was recognized for its outstanding contributions to environmental stewardship and sustainable mining practices at the 69th Annual National Mine Safety and Environment Conference (ANMSEC) in Baguio City on November 17, 2023.

The company received the PMIEA Platinum Achievement Award in the Mineral Processing Category, showcasing its dedication to environmental responsibility. Mr. Maurito Licudine and Engr. Edgar Sagario Jr. accepted the award on behalf of the company.

Aside from the MMPRC also secured the 2nd Runner-up position in the Mining Forest Program's Best Mining Forest Contest in the Mineral Processing Plant Category highlighting the company's commitment to sustainable mining practices and environmental conservation. The award was accepted by Ms. Gladess Dianne Buot and Mr. Alvin Castaños.

In the same event, the company was awarded as Runner-up in the Safest Mineral Processing - Extraction Category, emphasizing the company's focus on safety measures in mining operations. Ms. Mary

Jean Barrios and Engr. John Paul Navarro received the accolade.

Meanwhile, Mr. Kenneth Dave B. Borja was recognized as the Best Mine Supervisor - Plant Awardee, underscoring his exemplary leadership in overseeing mining operations.

These accolades collectively demonstrate Mindanao Mineral Processing & Refining Corporation's excellence in its operations, solidifying its position as an industry leader committed to environmental sustainability, safety, and exceptional leadership.

The ANMSEC is a yearly event dedicated to the country's mining industry. It is organized by the Philippine Mine Safety and Environment Association (PMSEA) in cooperation with the Department of **Environment and Natural** Resources (DENR) and various organizations, including the Philippine Society of Mining Engineers (PSME) and the Chamber of Mines of the Philippines.



# FOR THE 3RD TIME: MMPRC GETS AWARD FOR 'SAFEST MINERAL PROCESSING'

By: Mary Jean B. Montejo

The Mindanao Mineral Processing & Refining Corporation (MMPRC) received its third plaque as the Runner-Up in the Safest Mineral Processing - Extraction Category during the 69th Annual National Mine Safety and Environment Conference in Baguio City on November 17, 2023.

The award was presented to Engr. John Paul Navarro, Tiger Way Project Manager, and Ms. Mary Jean Montejo, Safety Assistant Section Head, by Engr. Louie Sarmento, the current President of the Philippine Mine Safety and Environment Association (PMSEA).

The said recognition proves the company's efforts in maintaining workplace safety and places the MMPRC alongside the best and largest mineral processing companies in the country, such as Coral Bay Nickel Corporation and Oceana Gold.

Although MMPRC did not secure the top award, the company takes pride in the achievement, considering the challenges faced along the way.

The meticulous evaluation process was conducted by the Mines and Geosciences Bureau.

The awarding ceremony was part of the week-long celebration of the ANMSEC, held annually at Camp John Hay, Baguio City.







SMILE: Safety Milestone Recognition awarded to MMPRC for reaching 4,000,000 safe manhours.

## Celebrating Safety: Journey of MMPRC to the Safety Milestones Award

By: Mary Jean B. Montejo

On September 8, 2023, the Mindanao Mineral Processing & Refining Corporation (MMPRC) was invited to the 1st Caraga Regional Tripartite Congress 2023, during which labor-related issues and concerns were brought to light and discussed.

During this prestigious event, individuals and private sectors were recognized for their commitment to ensuring a safe and hazard-free working environment. MMPRC was among the private sector members honored with the Safety Milestones Award for achieving 4,000,000 safe man-hours.

Safety is a top priority for MMPRC, aiming not only for the well-being of everyone involved but also for contributing to a more positive and productive atmosphere. The award reflects the hard work, diligence, and dedication of the team, emphasizing that every small action, from equipment maintenance to fostering safety awareness, makes a significant impact.

Receiving this award motivates MMPRC to continue promoting safety as an ongoing journey rather than a destination. The company believes in making daily choices that prioritize everyone's well-being, hoping to inspire others to take safety seriously.

For MMPRC, safety is more than following rules; it's about caring for each other, being vigilant, and consciously creating a safer environment.

This accomplishment would not have been possible without the support and collaboration of both the management and the employees. Together, they have worked, learned, and grown throughout their safety journey. This experience serves as a reminder that developing a safety-conscious culture may be a gradual process, but the effort invested is undoubtedly worthwhile.

In conclusion, the Safety Milestones Award is not just an accolade but a reminder of the shared responsibility they all hold. Here's to a safer future for all.

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