

2019 has been a good year with strong growth and remarkable achievements. Though challenges were faced along the way, substantial improvements were made in many facets of the programs and services of the Mines and Geosciences Bureau Regional Office No I. We contemplate and reflect on these challenges, discern on our experiences and learn from them, guided by a renewed hope, fresh start, and new vision. We believe that innovation is the key that will drive our nation on achieving inclusive growth and development. This, implemented while providing an effective innovation governance system, and harmonizing and aligning government innovation efforts toward a common goal.



MGB 1 is proud to present its accomplishments while staying true to our mission, vision and core values anchored on Responsible Mining to address poverty alleviation, environmental protection and inclusive economic growth

We began the year with successfully passing the Integrated Management System (IMS) ISO Surveillance Audit conducted by the certifying body, National Quality Assurance (NQA). The surveillance audit ensures that the quality management system, Environmental Management System, and the Occupational Health and Safety Assessment remains suitable, adequate and effective. On December 2017, we have attained our ISO certification on for the Quality Management System (ISO 9001:2015), Environmental Management System, (ISO 14001:2015) and Occupational Health and Safety Assessment (ISO 18001:2007). The audit proved that the implementation of the quality, environmental and health & safety management systems were in accordance to the requirements of the standards.

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> week of March, we conducted a series of Orientation Seminar of P/CENR Officers and Staff on the Mining Laws, Rules and Regulations including the application of Geosciences for the field offices of DENR Region 1.

This is in pursuant to the establishment DENR Administrative Order 2018-18 (DAO 2018-18) which provides a centralized and balanced management of regional operations (DENR-1, EMB-1 & MGB-1). We have conducted orientation for PENRO La Union, PENRO Pangasinan, PENRO Ilocos Sur, PENRO Ilocos Norte and the various CENR Offices.

Major programs and services of the MGB were discussed and presented to P/CENR Officers and their staff. This entails the commitment of the MGB to the promotion of sustainable mineral resources development, aware to its contribution to national economic growth and countryside community development.

The DAO strengthens the coordination of the said offices at the provincial and community level, the PENROs and CENROs shall act as field commanders in their respective area of jurisdiction and are deputized to enforce mining laws and provide technical support to the MGB Regional Office. Also, this shall empower PENROs and CENROs to police mining sectors and be given authority to issue orders to remedy practices that are not in accordance with the laws, to suspend operations that are life threatening, to arrest offenders and seize illegally-sourced products, tools, equipment and conveyance used in the commission of anything illegal in mining and the environment.

Continued efforts are done through strong coordination for the efficient and effective operations of DENR to promulgate rules, regulations and other issuances necessary in carrying out its mandate, objectives, policies and plans and programs and projects.

On the 32nd anniversary celebration of the DENR, DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu conferred the top performing field officials as the **"Environmental Awards for Governance and Leadership Excellence"** or **EAGLE Award**. Sec. Cimatu mentioned that the said award aimed to honor field officers, who are the frontliners in delivering services to the public and implementing the mandate, as well as to promote a culture of excellence in the organization and its leadership. MGB 1 was qualified to for the Eagle Award as we were one of the top performing regions amongst the regional offices of MGB.

On July, we supported the Gawad Parangal para sa Kalikasan 2019. Notable efforts of our environmental partners and stakeholders were recognized and appreciated. Again, we would like to commend all the awardees and encourage them to keep doing what is best for the environment. Our actions, no matter how small or big shall take a step in our mission of protecting and conserving the very reason what keeps us alive and breathing.

A Project Benefit Monitoring on the IEC on Geohazard and Vulnerability and Risk Assessment Maps was also conducted by the Regional Development Council -Ilocos Region on August 16 and August 20, 2019. This activity was done to assess the success of the IEC project in achieving

its desired objective. Results of the said monitoring showed that the LGUs were using the results of the activity in their planning and preparation of their CDRA as mandated by the DILG. The results of their CDRA were subsequently incorporated in their Comprehensive Development Plans (CDPs), Disaster Risk Reduction Management (DRRM) Plans and CLUPs. Other benefits of the IEC on VRA Maps were also provided.

MGB I also conducted the Deputation/Orientation of Stakeholders for effective enforcement of ENR Laws and Regulations on October at the Provincial Capitol in Laoag City, Ilocos Norte. This aimed at further strengthening the enforcement of laws, rules, and regulations; and promote inclusivity and empower the stakeholders to actively participate in environmental-related initiatives. They were capacitated with lectures on the MGB's role towards the promotion of sustainable mining such as the apprehension, seizure, confiscation and disposition. While the Environmental Management Bureau presented the terms and conditions of the Environmental Compliance Certificate with regards to quarrying.

On November, the MGB Central Office led the launching of the nationwide campaign to ensure responsible mining in the country at the Elements at Eton Centris in Quezon City. The IEC campaign takes on the title, hashtag Mine Responsibility, or #MineResponsibility. It focuses on giving information on responsible mining as a shared responsibility. It aims as well to heighten awareness on the role of the MGB, its directives, and the importance of its existence in the government in achieving responsible mining in the country. It enjoins everyone to take part in ensuring that mining in our country remains technically feasible, environmentally compliant, socially acceptable, and financially viable. Further, this information drive encourages responsibility among its stakeholders, mining firms, other government agencies, as well as the Filipino people. Responsible mining talks about temporary use of land area to get valuable materials that can help in progress and economic growth, and rehabilitating the land mined areas afterwards. This inclusive approach ensures the mining industry's commitment to the protection of people and environment.

We also have sustained our partnerships with different sectors in our society through our dialogues, forums and consultations. Definitely, we are exerting effort in reaching out to more people especially those in the grassroots. MGB-I has intensified its Information, Education and Communication (IEC) campaign which heightens awareness and promotes the advocacy and thrusts and programs of the bureau as well as to address mining-related activities in the Ilocos Region.

The existing Ilocos Norte Feldspar Mineral Reservation was also monitored and the office, together with personnel from MGB Central Office

conducted a geological mapping, geochemical sampling, and spot geophysical survey of feldspar and other prospects within Reservation.

Pursuant to Section 9 DENR Administrative Order No. 2010-12 and DMO No. 2007-06, as one of the requirements for the declaration of mineral reservation area, the office also conducted semi-detailed geological mapping of the proposed extension of Ilocos Norte Feldspar Mineral Reservation located in Barangay Tadao, Pasuquin, Ilocos Norte.

Vulnerability Risk Assessment was conducted in eleven (11) municipalities in the region while 11 1:10,000 geohazard maps were updated. Twenty-three (23) geohazard reports and one hundred eleven (111) geohazard maps were prepared. Twenty-one (21) lectures were conducted and twenty-three (23) advisories were issued and eighty seven (87) re-issued to different local government units. Four (4) quadrangles were assessed and surveyed and one (1) Provincial Resource maps was updated and submitted to the Central Office.

For our Mining Regulation Services, our office has issued six (6) permits, one hundred four (104) Ore Transport Permits/Certifications, fifteen (15) certificates of accreditations/cemcrr/coe and sixty-three (63) Mineral Ore Export Permits. Fifty-three (53) mining permits/contracts reviewed/cancelled/endorsed for cancellation as well.

On our approval of SHES Program, we have accomplished six (6) Environmental Protection and Enhancement Program (EPEP) with FMRDP and or FMRDP with final action. We also have approved fifty (50) annual EPEP or CMP. While eight (8) approved SDMP/CDP and forty-eight (48) annual SDMP and forty-eight (48) annual SHP were approved.

Four (4) P/CMRBs were maintained/operationalized/reconstituted. And twenty-four (24) P/CMRB meetings were conducted and participated. Minahang Bayan was also identified and endorsed.

As of December 31, 2019, Budget Utilization Rate (BUR 1) (Obligation/Allotment) for MOOE have reached 100%, Obligations of P57,447,816.82. Budget Utilization Rate (BUR 2) (Disbursement/Obligation) reached 99%, Disbursements of P56,949,016.82. Budget Utilization Rate (BUR 3) (Disbursement/Cash Allocation) reached 98% for the year ending 2019.

Much to what we have achieved and accomplished this year, we are thankful to the mighty men and women of the Mines and Geosciences Bureau Region I for their strong will, commitment and dedication.

As we close the year and move forward to another, we shall carry on the knowledge and learnings that we gained and remain steadfast in our commitment to building a more resilient and sustainable environment through urgent action.

Moreover, let us lead the way towards meaningful change, go forth and make a difference for the environment and for humanity.