



Republic of the Philippines
Province of South Cotabato
PROVINCIAL ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT OFFICE
City of Koronadal

**Title: South Cotabato
Minahang Bayanihan:
Small Scale Mining Program**

I. Executive Summary

South Cotabato is situated in the southern part of Mindanao and rich in mineral resources particularly in the Municipality of T'boli. There are two (2) declared minahang bayan areas where small scale mining tunnels operate. All mineral processing plants are within the declared mineral processing zone of the municipality.

The "Minahang Bayanihan" or People's Small Scale Mining Areas program addressed the mining issues with the help of the affected communities.

II. Project Description

The Minahang Bayanihan Program is now being recognized as one of the most innovative and one of the best practices in small scale mining regulation by various NGOs and LGUs all over the Philippines. The program surmounted the provincial mineral tax income aside from its environmental protection. Occupational health and safety of mine workers are regularly monitored as the priority.

III. Implementation Procedures/Strategies

- All the mining associations and cooperatives were organized into one federation, with a representative in the Provincial Mining Regulatory Board to ensure that issues are efficiently addressed by the mining regulatory and policy making body.
- The LGU used new technologies like Global Positioning Systems for geo-hazard assessment and installed CCTV cameras in strategic areas to ensure 24-hour surveillance and monitoring.
- There are regular mining inspectors in the area.
- A Minahang Bayan Center was also put up within the municipality for easy access to permits processing and as a center for small scale mining affairs and various trainings.
- The provincial government also strictly prohibited the registration of minors.
- NGOs were tapped to conduct seminars on Environmental Management and Alternative Environment Friendly Technology in mining.
- In the ladderized system of resolving conflicts, tribal leaders and other key figures in the mining community were tapped and involved in resolving issues before it is elevated to the barangay level.

IV. Project Result/Impact

- By installing new scientific surveillance in mining areas, small scale mining tunnels and mineral processing plants complied to operate legally. Illegal mining activities have been drastically reduced
- The LGU gained better compliance to mining regulations.
- Enhanced the knowledge of the mining operators on the management and preservation of the environment in small-scale mining areas.
- Miners were able to understand current mining issues, and started to initiate their own corporate social responsibility, programs and environmental protection activities like tree planting and clean-up drives.
- Strengthened the capacity of the community to resolve conflicts and issues among themselves.
- The provincial government has been able to put in place a program that addresses all the various small scale mining issues.

Submitted by:

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