

DMRA IDENTIFIED AS POTENTIAL TOURISM DESTINATION



(Davao City, 18 July 2017) One of the major concerns in the Diwalwal Mineral Reservation Area Development Plan (DMRADP), 2012-2032 is the underdeveloped and untapped ecological and industrial tourism sites, which is also reflected in the Compostela Valley Province Provincial Development and Physical Framework Plan, 2008-2027.

Aside from being a rich mineral-resource area, Diwalwal also has nature and cultural attributes that may be developed and packaged into tourism destinations.

Some of the tourism sites identified are the Mt. Diwata Mountain Ranges, Paraiso Falls, Mandaya-Manobo Cultural Heritage site, caves and tunnels, among others. Different species of flora and fauna also abound in the area.

To boost the tourism activities, as incorporated in the plan, the much needed support facilities, such as access roads, tourist accommodations, and other basic services need to be provided and developed.

In the meeting of the National Task Force Diwalwal-Program Monitoring and Coordination Center (NTFD-PMCC) conducted last 31 May 2017, the Philippine Mining Development Corporation (PMDC), in-charge of managing areas in Diwalwal, presented to its members, activities such as rehabilitation of roads, construction of the Mabatás Mineral Processing Zone and Tailings Dam, and the possible establishment of an economic zone. It was also mentioned that PMDC is currently coordinating with the Department of Tourism for a possible establishment of eco-tourism activities in the area.

In another development, during the recently concluded “Kapehan sa Dabaw” conducted at SM City Annex on July 10, 2017, Davao City, Atty. Felix S. Alicer, DENR XI Project Coordinator for the PMCC, mentioned that mining production has declined because the extraction of minerals are getting deeper and that only 729 hectares is operational exclusively for small-scale miners. He added that the Joint Operating Agreement (JOA) between the Natural Resources Development Corporation (NRDC) and small-scale mining companies have expired, suspending the mining operations which resulted in the further decline of mineral production from the area. With this development, Atty. Alicer proposed the review of the institutional arrangements for the management of the area.

Noting this, a recent communication of the Regional Development Council (RDC) XI was sent to PMDC strongly recommending to the latter to consider incorporating the strategies identified in the DMRADP into their company’s plans and programs.

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(Jaime P. Mallare, NEDA XI).