

## YEAR-END REVIEW Region VI

Philippines ranked top five in the world for overall mineral reserves. The largest mineral commodity produced in the country are gold, copper, nickel, aluminum and chromite despite the fact that less than 2% of the mining permit applicants have received mining permits. The country has a huge potential in terms of its mineral reserves which plays an important role in the country's economic development (Chavez, 2012)).

Region VI, in particular has approved fifteen (15) Mineral Processing Sharing Agreement (MPSA) which constitutes to 38% of the MPSA applicants including those who have converted their application to exploration permit. However, all the approved are not operating. Two MPSAs are under care and maintenance after the suspension of operation in the early 2000. Likewise, there were eleven (11) Mineral Processing Permits (MPPs) and seven (7) Industrial Sand and Gravel (ISAG) permits existing in CY 2016 that were issued by this office. Presently, the region has recorded four mineral commodities being mined/extracted, all non-metallic such as limestone, ordinary earth products, sand and gravel, and boulders in CY 2016.

The region has produced a total volume of 81,668 metric tons of limestone products and boulders while 292,211 cubic meters of ordinary earth products and sand and gravel. These commodities accounted for a total of PhP 801,653,806.00 as an annual contribution to the mineral industry of the region. It can be seen that a big portion of the sand and gravel (95%) are extracted in the region and only five percent (5%) comprise of limestone products, ordinary earth products and boulders (Fig. 1).

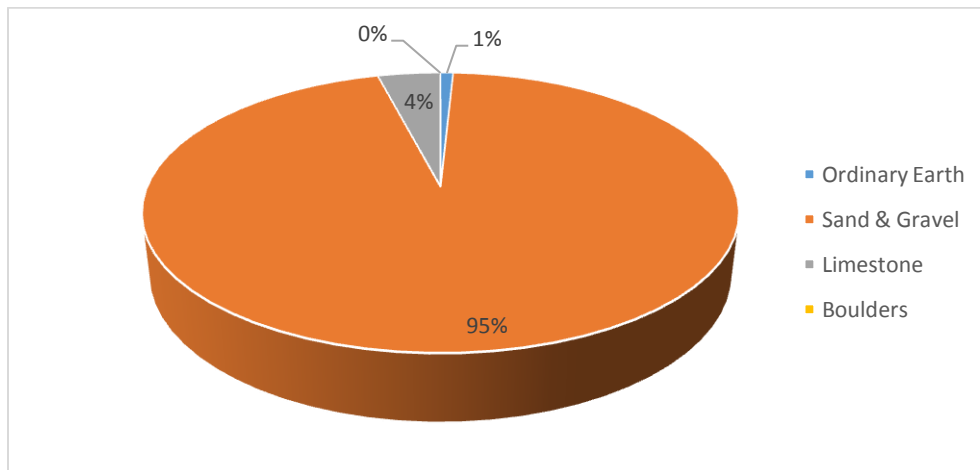


Figure 1. Value of Production by Commodity in Region VI (in PhP)

Source: MGB Region VI

In terms of the labor force, about 263 individuals have been employed for mineral industry from MPP and ISAG permit holders only. These people are either working for administrative work or technical personnel and field workers. The permit holders do not only create jobs to the localities but also provide other related assistance to the community.

Meanwhile, prices of mineral commodities vary in each province in Region VI as shown in the table below. It can be seen that provinces of Aklan and Capiz have the same price range for sand and gravel while Negros Occidental sells the same commodity for a higher price range. For limestone products, the price varies from PhP 3,000.00 to PhP 7,000.00 in the provinces of Iloilo and Guimaras depending on manufactured products. Same case for ordinary earth and boulders, the prices per province also varies.

Table 1. Price of Mineral Commodities in Region 6 for CY 2016 in Philippine Peso

<b>Province/ Mineral Commodity</b>	<b>Sand and Gravel</b>	<b>Limestone Products</b>	<b>Ordinary Earth Products</b>	<b>Boulders</b>
Iloilo	250-500	150-300* 2400**	150-350	50-150
Guimaras	250-400	50-150* 5500-6500***	50-100	N/A
Negros Occidental	600-750	3000-7000**	50-300	150-250
Aklan	250-350	N/A	N/A	N/A
Capiz	250-350	N/A	N/A	N/A

Note: \*raw lime; \*\*hydrated/industrial lime; \*\*\*agricultural lime

Source: MGB Region VI

This year's total collection of fees recorded by the MGB-RO6 amounted to PhP 22,914,510.50 compared to an amount of only PhP 6,301,020.00 for CY 2015. An increase of 263% within a 2-year period has been observed. A bulk of payment was received in CY 2016 which came from the unpaid occupation fees of the contractors for the past years including surcharge fees. Fees generated include mining rights fees, geological/mining investigation and verification and other related services, and payments made to LGUs such as occupation fees for MPSA & EP holders and extraction fees for ISAG permit holders.

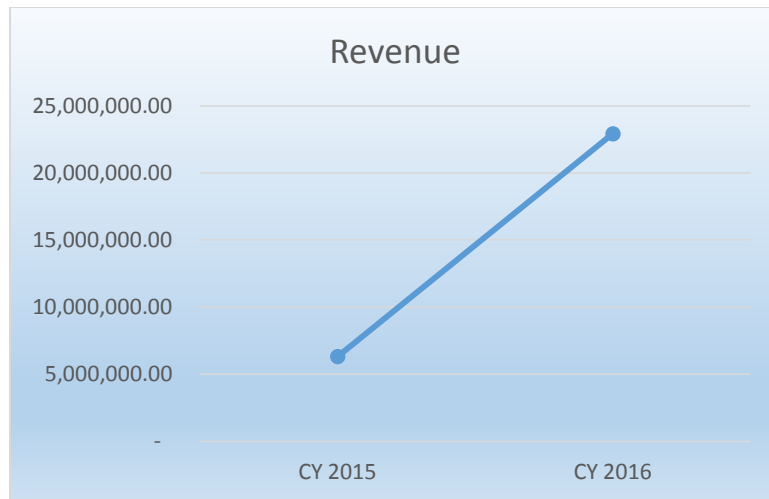


Figure 2. Graph showing the Revenues collected from Mining Tenements in CY 2015-2016

Source: MGB Region VI

Since there are no large scale mining companies operation in the region, it only contributes a little for the Regional GDP. However, these non-metallic minerals that the region is producing constitutes to the demand for construction when the region is paving its way to economic progress. Road constructions and high rise buildings benefit from the production of mineral contractors/permit holders in the region.

#### References:

Chavez, L. (September 7, 2017). Fast Facts: Mining in the Philippines. Retrieved from <https://www.rappler.com/business/special-report/whymining/whymining-latest-stories/11983-fast-facts-mining-philippines>

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