

YEAR-END REVIEW

Region VI

Minerals serve as the backbone for economic and infrastructural development of the country. Out of about 200 known minerals, only less than 100 are of economic importance. These mineral deposits formed for a period of time were scattered all throughout the world and one of the largest mineral producing country is the Philippines. The country ranked top five in the world with mineral reserves such as gold, copper, nickel, aluminum and chromite. The abundance of mineral reserves is attributed to its location, being found in the Pacific Ring of Fire (Cañega, 2014).

Mining industry has its own unique way to contribute in the economic development of the country. In the Philippines, regional mining industries provide substantial income, employment and investment in pursuit of sustainable development. There have been around 2% of the mining permit applicants have received mining permits in Region VI. It is comprised of fifteen (15) approved 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 five (5) Mineral Processing Permits (MPPs) and three (3) Industrial Sand and Gravel (ISAG) permits existing in CY 2017 that were issued by this office. Presently, the region has recorded five mineral commodities being mined/extracted such as basalt, limestone, ordinary earth products, sand and gravel, and boulders in CY 2017.

Production of mineral commodities in 2017 in the region has a total volume of 109,494 metric tons of limestone products and boulders while 1,361,440 cubic meters of basalt, ordinary earth products and sand and gravel. These commodities accounted for a total of PhP 341,551,871.00 as an annual contribution to the mineral industry of the region. Basically, sand and gravel extracts has the biggest share accounting to about 76% followed by ordinary earth at sixteen percent (16%) and only eight percent (8%) comprise of limestone products, basalt products and boulders (Fig. 1).

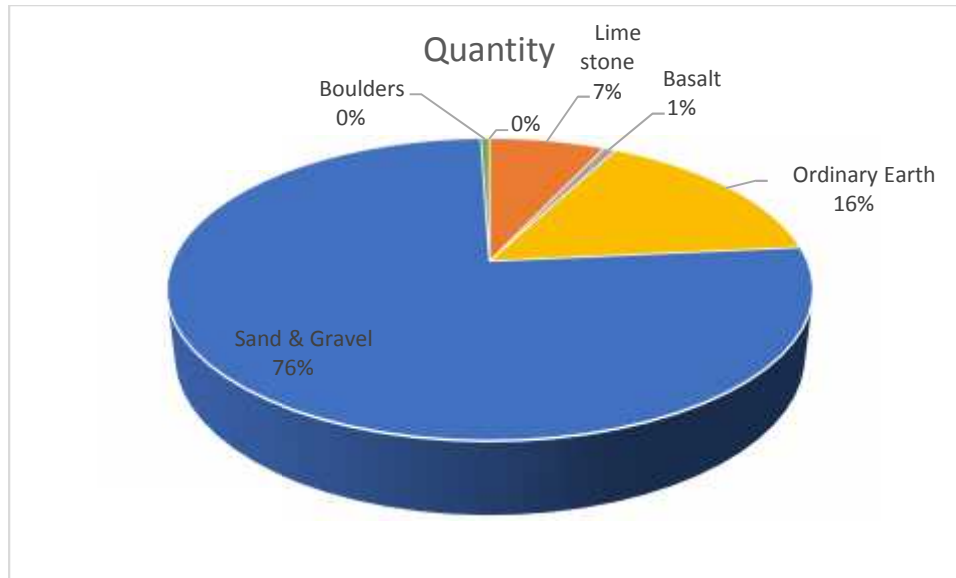


Figure 1. Volume of Production by Commodity in Region VI (in Cu.M)
Source: MGB Region VI

The mining and quarry operations in the region was able to employ 509 individuals that are either working as administrative personnel or technical personnel and fieldsmen. 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. Provinces of Negros Occidental and Guimaras have high price range for sand and gravel. While Guimaras has complete price watch for limestone commodities, although these prices are only for mine site transactions. Some mineral commodities do not have data for prices since they are not selling any of these products. According to the permit holders/contractors, prices of mineral commodities usually vary per consumer depending on the distance of delivery from the site. As the distance goes farther, the price of commodity per cubic meter also increases.

Table 1. Price of Mineral Commodities in Region 6 for CY 2017 in Philippine Peso

Province/ Mineral Commodity	Sand and Gravel	Limestone Products	Ordinary Earth Products	Boulders
Iloilo	300-740	150-300* 2400**	150-350	50-150
Guimaras	1,200-1450	200* 7,500** 2,000***	N/A	N/A

Negros Occidental	1,200	3000-7000**	N/A	150-250
Aklan	250-350	N/A	150-350	N/A
Capiz	250-350	N/A	N/A	N/A
Antique	400	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 6,289,145.50. 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.

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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