

**PRESS INFORMATION  
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**Itogon-Suyoc Resources Remits Over P40M to Small Scale Mining Partner  
*Apex Mining subsidiary signs two new groups under Big Brother Small Brother  
program***



**Under its BBSB, ISRI provides continuous training to small-scale miners on mining safety and operations as well as proper gear and equipment necessary for safe, efficient and responsible underground mining activities.**

*APX, 03 April 2024.* From 2021 to 2023, Itogon-Suyoc Resources, Inc. (ISRI) remitted Php 40.5 million to the Dalicno Small Scale Miners' Association (DASSMA) under ISRI's Big Brother Small Brother program (BBSB). ISRI is a fully owned subsidiary of Apex Mining Co., Inc. which is listed in the Philippine Stock Exchange and the BBSB is among Apex Mining's initiatives to level up the mining practices of small-scale miners.



“Small-scale miners are our partners in growing the local economies of the areas where we operate,” says Apex Mining President and CEO Luis R. Sarmiento, ASEAN Eng. In 2023 alone, over Php17.9 M was remitted to DASSMA by ISRI.

More than a legitimate and sustainable source of livelihood, the BBSB provides continuous training to small-scale miners on mining safety and operations as well as proper gear and equipment necessary for safe, efficient and responsible underground mining activities.

ISRI is the first mining company to extend assistance to small-scale mining associations for the latter to be able to comply with the stringent guidelines governing their operations and for them to sustain their established source of livelihood while addressing various safety and environmental concerns. The company rolled out the BBSB program in Itogon (Benguet) over three years ago that enticed numerous small-scale mining groups to signify their intention to participate in the program for them to sustain their source of income for their families.

The two new partners of ISRI under its BBSB are the Demang Livelihood Association (DLA) and the Balingway Sangilo Small Scale Miners’ Association (BSSMA). Under their respective agreements, ISRI will outsource selected areas or narrow veins of economic values to both DLA and BSSMA for the small-scale miners groups to work on.

Apex Mining works with small scale miners in all the mine sites it operates as part of its commitment to sustainability. “We want to mainstream responsible mining practices, not just among the big mining companies but especially among the small-scale miners,” says Sarmiento.

In the same way that publicly listed companies are monitored by regulators to ensure compliance with government regulations, formalizing work agreements with organized small scale mining groups makes them more conscientious about following responsible mining practices, adds Sarmiento. (30)

***About Apex Mining: APX is a publicly listed mining company. It operates the Maco Gold Mine in Maco, Davao de Oro while its fully owned subsidiary, Itogon-Suyoc Resources, operates two mines in Benguet (Sangilo Mine in Itogon and Suyoc Mine in Mankayan). Another fully owned subsidiary, Monte Oro Resources, Inc. operates the other business interests of APX, both in the country and abroad.***