



Ten Apex Mining ERTs (in orange uniforms) left on 02 April aboard a C-130 plane as part of the country's humanitarian mission to Myanmar following the earthquake that struck it on 28 March. The DENR-Apex Mining-EDC group will help in the urban search and rescue (USAR) component of the mission.

Apex Mining heeds DENR call for search & rescue aid to Myanmar
DENR-APX-EDC collab shows effective private-public partnership for disaster response

02 April 2025, Villamor Airbase – The team of highly trained emergency responders from Apex Mining Co., Inc. and Energy Development Corp. that left for Myanmar on 02 April 2025 as part of the country's humanitarian contingent to help the victims of the strong quake that hit Mandalay in Myanmar on 28 March is under the auspices of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

DENR's Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo Loyzaga considers this DENR-Apex Mining-EDC collaboration as a good example of private-public partnership for disaster management. She emphasizes that the mining industry's capabilities for search and rescue missions can be effectively mobilized to augment the government's

capabilities. The DENR official also thanked Apex Mining and EDC for immediately stepping up to the plate and hopes that more mining companies will follow.

According to Luis R. Sarmiento, ASEAN Eng., president and CEO of Apex Mining, “Apex Mining is honored to be part of this humanitarian mission. This is a difficult one, for sure, as the reports say that the current conditions in Myanmar are far from ideal following the earthquake. But part of our mission is to help in times of crisis.”

Loyzaga has been consistently espousing the practicality of a whole-of-society approach to disaster management, and climate change mitigation, in general. As mandated by law, mining companies are required to ensure the readiness of properly trained ERTs to ensure the safety of the mine sites and its surrounding communities at all times.

The Apex Mining ERTs, who are trained in urban search and rescue (USAR), will help search and extricate those still trapped under the debris and rubble of collapsed structures.

Joint mining sector and government disaster relief operations predates the institutionalization of risk reduction management. Sarmiento says that mining companies, through the Pusong Minero of the Philippine Mine Safety and Environment Association (PMSEA), have conducted rescue and relief operations alongside affected LGUs during such tragedies as the earthquake in 1991 in Baguio and in Negros in 2012, the Pantukan landslide in 2012, typhoon Yolanda and the Bohol earthquake in 2013 and typhoon Odette in 2021. Sarmiento recalls miners rescuing four survivors in Real (Quezon) after 11 days under the rubble of the Repador Bldg. which served as an evacuation area and collapsed due to incessant rains in 2004.

Sarmiento says, “DENR is the best conduit between us, the private companies, and the government. This ensures that we can extend the necessary assistance as determined by concerned government agencies.”

Aside from DENR, Apex Mining and EDC, the 90-man contingent to Myanmar also includes individuals from the Army and the Air Force, the Departments of Interior and Local Government and Health, the Office of Civil Defense and the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA). The contingent, headed by Lt Col Erwin Diploma, will be deployed to Myanmar for two weeks. (30)