

PRESS RELEASE

Volunteers lead clean-up drive along Macajalar Bay clean-up

Villanueva, Misamis Oriental – More than 50 youth volunteers, DENR workers and employees of STEAG State Power Inc (SPI) have teamed-up for the 2nd Annual Coastal Clean-Up Drive held recently in Brgy. Katipunan, Villanueva, Misamis Oriental.

Jointly organized by SPI, the Provincial and Community Environment and Natural Resource Office (PENRO/CENRO) and the Sanguniang Kabataan (SK) of Villanueva, the activity is part of the month-long commemoration of June as environment month. Brgy. Katipunan is also the site of an on-going mangrove rehabilitation project initiated by SPI.

CENRO Officer Ronald Gadot cited the significance of the activity in the light of government's call on various sectors to participate in the campaign to protect the coastal resources of the country. *"This effort necessitates the support not just of government and the private sector, but more importantly the concerned communities themselves"* Gadot pointed out.

Meanwhile, Villanueva SK Federation President Kayreen Zayas thanked SPI for taking bold steps in coastal and marine resource protection program and by involving the youth in undertakings that will help enhance awareness on the importance of environmental conservation. *"We thank the company for involving us in these initiatives and by providing us the opportunity to participate in laudable undertakings for the environment"* Zayas said.

The clean-up drive is an environmental awareness strategy that forms part of SPIs Coastal Resource Management Program. Components of the program include mangrove rehabilitation, riverbank stabilization, urban forestry and upland reforestation.

SPI President Andreas Rubin said the company is not just committed to provide safe and reliable source of electricity for Mindanao, but is also committed to help protect the environment and attain sustainable development.

The company is putting-up Mindanao's first Coal-Fired Power Plant at the PHIVIDEC Industrial Estate in Villanueva, Misamis Oriental. Expected to operate by end of this year, the power plant will augment Mindanao's energy requirement representing 15% of the island's total power demand.

