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### Mines bureau fails target of Rapu-Rapu ₱125M rehab project

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The Rapu-Rapu Polymetallic Project in Albay. PHOTO BY ANGEL AYALA / BICOLTODAY.COM

LEGAZPI CITY, Albay (BicolToday.com) – OIC regional director Engr. Guillermo A. Molina, Jr. of Mines and Geoscience Bureau RO 5 (MGB), admitted failure to achieve targets of rehabilitation project in mineral-rich Rapy-Rapu island after it had suffered environment damages from mining despite of ₱125 million rehab fund that was started last year.

Only 17 percent of the rehab project was attained.

According to knowledgeable sources, about 40 percent of the rehab project should have been implemented, not a measly 17 percent, after spending millions of pesos.

However, MGB refuses to accept responsibility over the failed rehabilitation project, but on record, MGB has a hand in authorizing release of funds from the bank.

Meanwhile, Albay governor Joey Salceda denied he has knowledge that the rehab project implementation in Rapu-Rapu has failed to attain substantial accomplishments.

At present, concerned Rapu-Rapu residents have organized themselves as a group to file cases.

The group is gathering data and documents to file complaints.

It accuses the national and local government for project failure. [Jobert Bercasio / BicolToday.com]

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