



## IN RETROSPECT:

Gado's quest for the rich ore

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From finding the love of his life, raising his own family, conquering foreign jungles in search of minerals, and serving the community, Edgardo “Gado” Requina Paglinawan marked his 51 years in the mining industry. Through the many ups and downs in his career, he remains strong and resilient. Like the mining industry which is beset with challenges, Gado may be bent in the face of adversity, but never broken.

Gado started his career as a junior mining engineer with Atlas Mining in 1964. For 13 years (1964-1977), he climbed up the ladder from a shift boss at the Biga Pit until he became a general tunnel foreman at the mine underground. It was during these years that he first learned the rudiments and intricacies of his job. It was also during these years that he experienced two near-miss accidents which almost cost him his dear life.

The inherent dangers of his job, harsh environment, and isolation from his family, have tested Gado’s mettle. But, the rigors of a miner’s life did not deter him from pursuing his passion. He cannot think of any other career that will give him fulfillment aside from mining.

His career took him as far as Malaysia where he worked at SARAWAK Development and Mining SDN., BHD as a Chief Mining Engineer for four years in 1988. This was when the mining industry in the country was at its lowest.

“When I went abroad, there was no available job for a mining engineer in the country. It was against my will to go, but my kids are all in college. It was not really part of my plan, but at least the four and a half years I worked in the jungles of Sarawak, Malaysia resulted to the graduation from college of my four children.”

There were lean years too in his career. During the collapse of the mining industry in the 1980’s, job offer was scarce for a miner like him. Unemployed for a year, Gado did not bury his head in the sand, instead he took the opportunity to spend quality time with his family. Through the help of his colleagues, he weathered the storm and was able to get back on his feet.

Resilient like the bamboo, Gado always bounce back from his life’s challenges that stretch the limits of his capabilities. He has worked with several other mining companies until his search for greener pasture took him back to where his career started.

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On May 12, 2008, Gado was called to help in the rehabilitation of Carmen Copper. He knew that a formidable task awaits him as the Assistant Vice President for Mining Operations – that of the revival of the old Atlas mine. But he was undaunted. He believes that with persistence, resilience, and good management, Atlas will resume its operations and will regain its foothold as one of the pillars in the mining industry.

In 2010, Gado reached the peak of his career when he was conferred as a Fellow by the Philippine Society of Mining Engineers.

As he looks back, Gado feels a deep sense of gratitude to Atlas for molding him to be the kind of mining engineer that he has become. After his arduous quest for the rich ore, he finally found the mother lode in Atlas. Now, he wanted to give back to the industry and to the Company in his capacity as the Consultant on Safety, Health, Environment and Community Relations.

At 74, still robust as a bull and unfazed by life’s challenges, Gado is far from riding it easy into the sunset. He is hopeful, that he will still be able to contribute productively to the Company and to the mining industry in the ensuing years.

