



SAGITTARIUS MINES, INC.

Media Release

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Catholic group visits Tampakan Copper-Gold Project

Twenty-three participants from the Local Government Unit – Kiblawan and the Diocese of Digos led by Bishop Guillermo Afable visited the SMI project area on 7 January 2010 to personally see and know the actual operations of the Tampakan Copper-Gold Project (TCGP) and verify the truth amid the different news they receive from different groups, both for and against the project.

Prior to the tour, SMI presented plans of the proposed mine which included, the mine layout, mine closure and rehabilitation plans for the Kiblawan Parish, benefits of the mine, and SMI policies. An open forum followed the presentation where issues, concerns and questions raised by the group were answered comprehensively and their suggestions were taken into consideration.

The visit included a tour of the SMI Basecamp, where Bishop Afable met with Barangay leaders and had a chance to talk and mingle with Bong Mal tribal leaders. The visit also included a tour of Liberty Corefarm where ores are stored and species of butterflies, worms and various trees are showcased as part of SMI's biodiversity program.

Welfare of the communities

The project visit concluded with a meeting between the visiting group and SMI Management led by General Manager Mark Williams at the SMI main office in General Santos City.

Bishop Afable stressed that their primary concern is the welfare of the community.

“We are very concerned about the welfare of the people. It is not about dollars and pesos. This is all about people engaging other people,” said Bishop Afable.

He also encouraged all parties to unite for the long term sustainability of the region.

“For the sake of peace and development, it is necessary for there to be an understanding between the church, SMI and the community.

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“This understanding will help to ensure the welfare and development of all stakeholders impacted by the Tampakan Project,” said Bishop Afable.

Stakeholder engagement

The project visit demonstrated SMI’s approach to Stakeholder Engagement which is guided by the company’s core values of open and transparent engagement.

“Bishop, we would like to ask your help, and your parish priests, to encourage others to come and visit our project to see for themselves what we are doing for the communities and the environment,” said Communications Manager John Arnaldo.

“I appreciate the direct engagement that SMI has had with its stakeholders. It clearly shows SMI to be open, frank and sincere.

“This approach to engagement needs to continue,” said Bishop Afable.

Commitment to responsible mining

Mark Williams assured Bishop Afable and the priests that SMI will continue its operation guided by the company’s core values and its commitment to responsible mining.

For further details please contact.

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