



SAGITTARIUS MINES, INC.

Media Release (as of 10:00 am)

Tampakan, South Cotabato, 22 December 2008 –

Sagittarius Mines, Incorporated (SMI) confirms that a vehicle of their drilling contractor was fired upon in *Crossing Datal Mangisi*, Barangay Tablu, Tampakan, by an unidentified person at around 11:30 pm yesterday.

Regrettably, one (1) of the occupants in the vehicle was killed and two (2) others were injured. The contractor is in the process of informing the next of kin. The injured were immediately brought to a hospital and are in stable condition.

We have notified the local authorities and the police are investigating the incident.

SMI remains committed to the safety of its employees and contractors and will continue to monitor its security arrangements in the project area following this incident.

A follow-up statement will be issued as further details become available.

-End-

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Notes to editors:

About the Tampakan copper project

The Tampakan copper project is located on the southern Philippine island of Mindanao, approximately 65 kilometres north of General Santos City. The current project is situated on the boundary of three Provinces – South Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat and Davao Del Sur. The Tampakan copper gold deposit is located in the province of South Cotabato, municipality of Tampakan.

The Tampakan mineral resource is the largest undeveloped copper-gold deposit in South East Asia. The latest mineral resource estimate confirmed 2.2 billion tonnes containing 12.8 million tonnes of copper and 15.2 million ounces of gold at a 0.3% copper cut-off grade.

On 30 March 2007, Xstrata Copper acquired 62.5% of the controlling interest in the Tampakan copper project and assumed management control through its Philippines based affiliate Sagittarius Mines, Inc. www.smi.com.ph

About Xstrata Copper

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Headquartered in Brisbane, Xstrata Copper is one of the commodity business units within the major global diversified mining group Xstrata plc. Its operations and projects span eight countries: Australia, Argentina, Chile, Peru, Canada, the USA, the Philippines and Papua New Guinea. Its operations are administered by five separate divisions, based close to the mining operations, namely the North Queensland, Minera Alumbraera, North Chile, Southern Peru and Canada divisions. It also has a recycling business (Xstrata Recycling) with plants in the United States and offices in Canada and Asia.

Xstrata Copper's world-leading portfolio of growth projects includes Las Bambas in Peru, Tampakan in the Philippines, El Morro in Chile, El Pachón in Argentina and Frieda River in Papua New Guinea.

Xstrata Copper is the fourth largest global copper producer with annual attributable production capacity of over one million tonnes. It employs over 15,000 people, including contractors.