



SAGITTARIUS MINES, INC.

NEWS RELEASE

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SMI and Columbio renew strong and genuine partnership

Mineral development firm Sagittarius Mines Incorporated (SMI) took recognition from the municipal government of Columbio in Sultan Kudarat, when the town declared August 5 of every year as SMI-Cumbio Partnership Day.

The declaration, as contained in Resolution 2009-37 of the Municipal Council, was done during the 49th Foundation Day Anniversary of Columbio.

Acting Mayor Amirh M. Musali said the resolution manifest the desire of the people of Columbio to continue the town's development partnership with SMI.

"Maraming naitulong sa amin ang SMI. Maraming development opportunities ang dumating sa mga taga-Cumbio dahil sa kanila," he said.

Continuous commitment

Since 2005, SMI has worked jointly with Columbio local government in creating opportunities for growth and progress of the people.

One of the company's most significant contributions is the Extended Education Support program. The company has been assisting the local government in its education campaigns which include scholarships and rehabilitation and building of classrooms

The SMI education support program originally catered to its host barangay only, in Datablao. Later, the company extended its scope of beneficiaries and expanded the program to address the education needs of the youth of Columbio.

In response, SMI vowed to pursue its commitment in supporting the education programs and other development programs of Columbio. The company gave P1-million financial assistance to assist the students' need for a quality education.

Lasting partnership

Mayor Musali and SMI Corporate Community Sustainability Manager Elvie Grace Gancho forged a declaration of strong and genuine partnership for the development of the Tampakan Copper Gold Project. The declaration recognized the common goal of both parties – development of the communities and upliftment of the quality of life of people.

"Ang tanging hangarin lang naman ng SMI ay development for the people. Makakaasa kayo na kami ay magiging tunay na kaagapay ninyo para sa kaunlaran," Gancho said.

- Ends -

Contact Person:

John B. Arnaldo

Communications Manager

Sagittarius Mines, Inc.

Mobile Number: (+63 928) 5503 847

Media Care Hotline: (+63 918) 8644 685

Head office: Yakal St. corner Talisay St., Poblacion Tampakan, South Cotabato 9507 Philippines **Tel** +63 83 2271040, **Fax** +63 83 2271045

GSC office: JPM Building, Bula Lagao Road Gen. Santos City 9500 Philippines **Tel** +63 83 5528407 **Fax** +63 83 5528405

Manila office: 12/F LKG Tower , 6801 Ayala Avenue, Makati City 1227 Philippines **Tel** +63 2 8563023 **Fax** +63 2 8563032



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Notes to editors:

Tampakan Project

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

The Tampakan deposit represents one of the largest undeveloped copper-gold deposits in Southeast 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 Project and assumed management control through its Philippines based affiliate Sagittarius Mines, Inc.

Xstrata Copper

Xstrata Copper is headquartered in Brisbane, Australia, with regional offices in Santiago and Antofagasta, Chile; Lima and Arequipa, Peru; Buenos Aires, Argentina; and Toronto, Canada, and is one of the commodity business units within the major global diversified mining group Xstrata plc.

Xstrata Copper's mining operations and projects span seven countries and include mines, mineral processing plants and port facilities in North Queensland, Australia; mining and processing operations and port facilities in Chile, Peru and Argentina in South America; and mining and processing plants in Canada. It also has a recycling business (Xstrata Recycling) with facilities in Canada, the United States and Asia.

Xstrata Copper is the fourth largest global copper producer, with annual attributable production capacity of over one million tonnes.

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