



**AGATA**  
MINING VENTURES INC.  
A TVIRD-MRL JOINT VENTURE

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AMVI-FOR-SM-035

Final Revision

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Resource Development (Phils.) Inc.

## NEWS RELEASE


### We Can Be Heroes for the Rest of Our Days

*The Agata Emergency Response Team (ERT) captures Caraga Fire Brigade Champion Title*



***The community's first line of defense.*** While Agata instills risk prevention and disaster preparedness for its community's protection, the company's ERT members who are from the communities themselves have become the immediate responders in times of emergency.

**Surigao City, Philippines / October 2019** – Held every two years in the country's mining capital, Surigao City, the 5<sup>th</sup> Caraga Mining Symposium and Field Safety Competition this year hosted more than 25 mining companies who proved their mettle on the ground for the chance to emerge as the region's best. Battling among 16 teams – and after months of rigorous training and winning provincial competitions – the Agata Emergency Response Team emerged as the Caraga Fire Brigade Champion, seizing first place in the Fire Extinguishment Event (new record set: 29 seconds) and second place in Busted Hose and Up-the-Ladder Challenge (record set: 54.21 seconds).

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Aside from capturing the overall Fire Brigade Championship for the entire Caraga Region, the team likewise took home the Most Disciplined Award and Best in Uniform.

During the symposium proper, Environment Manager Jesalyn Guingging also delivered a presentation on Agata's Ridge-to-Reef Community-Based Environmental Programs while Agata-supported *Hugis Dance Project* from Libertad National High School also won the interpretative dance competition.

**A responder's challenge**

Agata's team of emergency responders is bourne from the company's commitment to ensure a safe and healthy work environment as well as communities that are resilient to natural disasters. The members are its employees from the communities themselves: maintenance personnel, electricians, statisticians, encoders, mine checkers and aides who volunteered their time to be trained by the company's Safety Department and be part of its elite team.


They undergo regular screening and lead the company's Annual Safety Olympics, which engages all employees, contractors and stakeholders from the community in various competitions. Aside from their daily functions in their respective departments, these volunteer-responders are given further physical tests - which is a rigorous process that continues until the scheduled competitions.

"It adds self-confidence knowing that you are trained to save lives. It also inspires my children that their mother can do (such) things," shared Agata admin personnel Merlisa P. Elmeta, a resident of host Barangay E. Morgado.

Mine Statisticians Sherly Fe A. Labadan and Willie Morales agree that: "It is not easy to undergo training and balance work. But knowing that we can be better and help other people makes it all worth it."

In the case of Agata electrician, Jelord Jumamil, fire fighting and first-aid rescue trainings help a lot since the nature of his work involves certain risks that need to be mitigated. "If I can save other peoples' lives, I know I can also save mine," he said.

The 22-strong Agata ERT is led by Safety and Health Superintendent Aldrin Arieta. Together they hold three consecutive championship titles from the Provincial Safety Olympics initiated by the Bureau of Fire Protection and Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction Management Office. The team will likewise defend its National Fire Brigade Championship title at the 2019 Annual National Mine Safety Environment Conference this November in Bagiuo City.

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### Higher standards, safer workplace

Agata's top-to-bottom approach in delivering its commitment includes everyone's involvement in attaining its Integrated Management System Certification, which includes Quality Management Standards (ISO 9001) and Safety and Health Standards (ISO 45001).

As of late, three of its key officers have become TÜV Rheinland Certified Lead Auditors: Assistant General Manager Anthony B. Quijano, Environment Manager Jesalyn Guingging and Human Relations Superintendent Joey C. Cameros.

With both quality standards as well as health and safety standards in place, Agata currently expands its 17 million safe man hours with no loss time due to accidents since its operations came on-stream in 2014.

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### Press photos:



- 1 **The right gear.** Apart from the skills competition, the Agata ERT won Best in Uniform and Most Disciplined Award. Part of their training is to provide every employee with standard issue Personal Protective Equipment.



- 2 **Safety Department Staff Jhuneil Cuma (Left) tandems with Mines Department Staff Willie Morales during the Busted Hose and Up-the-Ladder Drill.**




- 3 **Fire's out!** Agata sets a new record of 29 seconds in the Fire Extinguishment Drill, grabbing first place.



- 4 **Busted Hose and Up-the-Ladder Drill** is one of the most challenging competitions, whether for regular personnel or elite firefighters. Agata clocked-in at 54.21 seconds to win second place.



- 5 The Ridge-to-Reef Community-Based Environmental Programs of Agata and its communities was presented by Environment Manager Jesalyn Guingging as a legacy-building program for the company's stakeholders and the region as a whole.

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- 6 The Agata-supported Hugis Dance Project from Libertad National High School won the interpretative dance competition where the young performers expressed the theme: Life in Responsible Mining.

### **About TVI in the Philippines**

TVI Resource Development Philippines Inc. (“TVIRD”), is the local affiliate of TVI Pacific Inc. (TSX: TVI), a publicly-listed Canadian mining company focused on the exploration, development and production of precious and base metals from district-scale, large-system, high-margin projects located in the Philippines. Concurrent ownership of ventures is shared with partner company, Prime Resource Holdings Inc.

The commercial operations of Agata Mining Ventures Inc. (AMVI) mark the third successful mining project that TVIRD brought on-stream in a period of 10 years. The company is committed to exploration and mining practices that promote transparency, responsible stewardship of the environment, and the inalienable rights to life, dignity, and sustainable development of its host communities.

[www.tvird.com.ph](http://www.tvird.com.ph)

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