



Resource Development (Phils.) Inc.

NEWS RELEASE

TVIRD's Holistic Environmental Management Program Includes Adoption of Dipili and Depore Rivers

Water quality for sustainable farming communities



Water quality. Daily, weekly and quarterly monitoring of tributaries, including the Sibugay River, is performed by TVIRD, the DENR's Environmental Management Bureau (EMB), the Bayog community and the local government unit of Bayog. The community is represented by respected Subanen chiefs Lucenio Manda and Casiano Edal while the LGU is represented by its Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Officer.

Bayog, Zamboanga del Sur / October 2021 – It has barely started its commercial mining operation. Yet, TVI Resource Development Philippines Inc. (TVIRD) has already asked the government's permission to adopt two of the town's vital bodies of water.

In his letter addressed to the Zamboanga Peninsula OIC and regional director of the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB), TVIRD Vice President for Government Relations and Social Commitments Edsel Abrasaldo expressed the company's intent to adopt Dipili and Depore Rivers to help the government in its campaign to protect the environment and improve the physical condition of the country's rivers and waterways.

The executive informed the highest official of the EMB that TVIRD wants to adopt a one kilometer stretch of Dipili and Depore Rivers that traverse Bayog – the host town of the company's gold and silver mining operation. Both are tributaries on Sibugay River, which at approximately 58 kilometers, is the longest river in the Zamboanga Peninsula.

Meantime, Company Environment Superintendent Jonathan Bangloy said that once the company receives the green light from the EMB, his department will immediately start to implement projects that will help stabilize the riverbanks of both rivers and to regularly clean its waters.

This is not the first time the company has adopted a critical body of water in order to help preserve it. TVIRD's Agata Nickel Project previously adopted a stretch of Kalinawan River – which is the cleanest inland body of water in the Caraga Region, as possibly the entire Province of Agusan del Norte.

A healthy river system

According to Bangloy, his department will plant bamboos along the riverbanks once it gets approval.

"Bamboo prevents the massive soil erosion of riverbanks. It is the 'bulwark' that prevents erosion and one of the mitigating measures that we'll make to secure the river system because if soil erosion is not prevented, it will lead to the deterioration of the quality of water and will soon damage our aquatic habitat. Fresh water fishes, crabs and even frogs will soon die," he added.

He also disclosed that planting bamboo will be implemented within the last quarter of the year. "For this project, we've coordinated our Community Relations Office (CRO) to prepare affected barangays. If plans push through, a memorandum of agreement (MOA) will be signed between the company and landowners, and barangay officials will be prepared," he added.

Water quality monitoring

The company also regularly monitors the water quality of the two rivers and built siltation ponds to prevent the flow of debris from the mining site. It also established 33 sampling stations for daily, weekly and quarterly water quality monitoring.

Parallel to this, the community also performs monitoring activities through the Multi-partite Monitoring Team (MMT) – a group created by the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) mandated by the Mining Act of 1995.

“These water sampling stations include parts of the Sibugay River in the towns of Siay and Imelda in the neighboring province of Zamboanga Sibugay,” added Bangloy.

Sibugay River is the catch basin of Zamboanga del Sur. The river is the source of irrigation for Bayog’s rice production, including those of other towns in the province. It also irrigates the rice-producing municipalities of Sibugay itself: Imelda, Siay, Bugar and Diplahan. Fishponds in Sibugay Province also depend on the river. Other towns, like Kabasalan and Imelda depend largely on the river for its rice lands, fishponds and mangrove habitat.

Community participation

TVIRD Community Relations Officer Lope Dizon said communities along Dipili and Depore Rivers are already eager to start the project.

“They are excited with the project, not only because some community members will earn money during the planting of bamboo propagules, but the people are also concerned with the quality of waters in these rivers. In fact, the Subanen tribe is represented in the MMT through Timuays (chieftains) Lucenio Manda and Casiano Edal, while the local government unit (LGU) of Bayog town is sending its Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Officer (MENRO) during meetings and monitoring activities conducted by the MMT,” Dizon said.

Dizon believes that in its almost two decades in Bayog town, the company has found allies for the environment – the people of Bayog, including the Subanen tribe and the town’s LGU.

“During MMT meetings, one can see the active participation of the community and LGU in helping the company fulfill its obligations to the town, environment and government. I think with people and government participation, TVIRD will be more effective in securing the environment,” Dizon said.

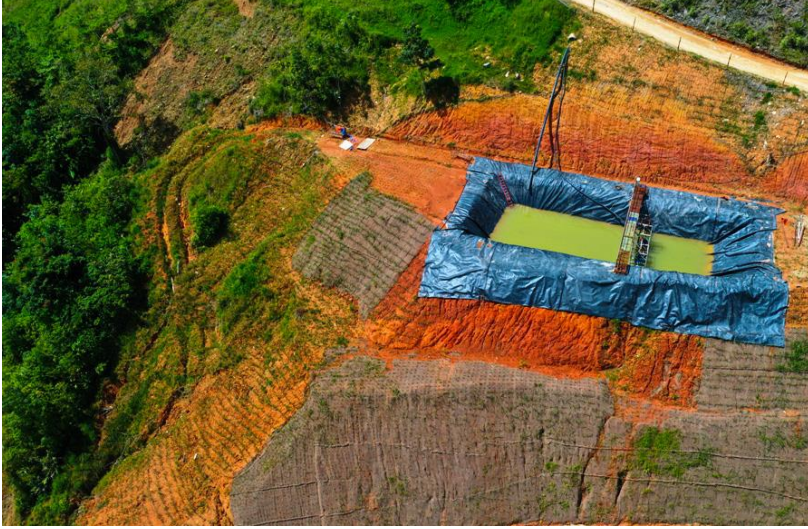
Press photos:



- 1 The company's environmental crew is clearing one of its silt ponds constructed at Unao-Unao Creek. TVIRD regularly desilts the ponds, especially during the rainy season.*



- 2 The company's Genaro Silt pond was constructed to naturally filter sediments before these reach a clean body of water. The company's Environment Department constructed, maintains and regularly desilts all silt ponds located within the company's MPSA area,*



- 3** *TVIRD's Event Pond constructed within its mine site can accommodate 2,000 cubic meters of water, according to Engr. Hilario Gingo, Jr. It was built as a mitigating measure in case the bund wall at the Mill Plant could not contain the contents of the tanks. The bund wall was built around the storage where potential polluting substances are handled, processed and stored.*



- 4** *TVIRD has been planting trees within and around its MPSA area to revegetate Bayog town, which was heavily devastated by illegal small-scale miners during the mid-90's until 2012. Shown here is Mill Manager Germidas Las Piñas who led TVIRD employees in a recent tree-planting activity within the company's MPSA.*



5 Different species of plants for rehabilitation are cared for by professional foresters and locals at TVIRD's Nursery.



6 A slope protection mechanism is maintained at the mine site to prevent soil erosion and potential landslides.

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. With its Balabag Gold-Silver Project coming online, the company remains 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

Contacts:

Kaycee Crisostomo

Corporate Communications Director

TVI Resource Development Philippines Inc.

Email: kaycee.crisostomo@tvird.com.ph

Phone: +63 2 8728-8491

Mobile: +63 917 579-1528

Fax: +63 2 8728-8515