



Resource Development (Phils.) Inc.

## NEWS RELEASE

### An Environmental Program that is Both Transformative and ‘Instagrammable’

*Agata’s eco-tourism hub of the future*



*A close-up on life after mining. Agata’s Bae Lawanen Garden features breath-taking and photogenic sunsets every day from its newly installed view deck that is shaped like a marine vessel.*

**Tubay, Agusan del Norte / November 2021** — Agata continues to implement effective and sustainable rehabilitation programs that highlights its “Mining and Ecotourism” concept through the successful conversion of its mined-out areas into eco-tourism sites.

Agata may not be the biggest nickel project in the country. But whatever it lacks in size is compensated through innovations, environmental programs and socio-cultural projects replicated by other companies.

## **Reforestation and rehabilitation**

Agata designed its rehabilitation programs to give equal importance to replanting mined-out areas and protecting existing forests in order to conserve its natural environment. The balance between production and protection is essential in sustaining the community's livelihood and protecting local resources.

Since 2020, Agata has planted about 423,807 seedlings of forest and fruit-bearing trees as well as endemic plant species. And since the time it commenced exploration, Agata's reforestation activities have covered a total area of over 440 hectares. The careful selection of trees and plants was curated by the company as a means to ensure the community's livelihood at the end of Agata's mine life.

Nurseries were constructed to house and propagate endemic and bird-feeding tree species as part of the company's Land Resource Management Program to increase the productivity of mined-out areas. Its Ligaya Central Nursery has a capacity of 600,000 seedlings while its satellite nursery has a capacity of 25,000 seedlings and is maintained by its partner community – the Lawigan Farmers and Fisher-folks Association (LAFFA).

Agata also planted some 2,948 Giant Bamboo trees (*Kawayan Kiling* species) across seven hectares as part of its final rehabilitation and reforestation. Agata Forester Jesnar Villareal said that bamboo absorbs more carbon dioxide than trees, generates a vast amount of oxygen and can strongly root itself in the ground – which makes the soil more stable.

## **Thematic landscapes**

Achieving a sustainable environment after mining is the focus of Agata's vision for the future. It was the first mining company to adapt thematic landscaping, which is a method of land use management where rehabilitation or revegetation is designed to beautify the area.

These “Instagrammable” landscapes also showcase the company's best practices on solid waste management as the ornaments used are made from recycled materials. One such photo hotspots is the Bae Lawanen Garden found within the admin camp, which has been frequented by visitors prior to the pandemic.

## **Green innovations**

Agata produces its own organic soil fertilizers by using livestock wastes from the company's own Mabakas Techno Demo Farm. These organic fertilizers – mixed with kitchen food waste from the company's mess hall – are recognized as a “soil builder” because of its property to improve soil quality. Agata also trained local farmers on the production of the organic fertilizers for their own use.

In addition, the company implements a strong solid waste recycling program that has reprocessed 60% of all collected solid wastes in this year alone. It also created its own rain-fed irrigation system using plastic water bottles as rain catchment and storage to keep a steady supply of water for its growing plants and trees.

These environmental projects not only reduce the company's carbon footprint but also helps in its reduction of ecological waste.

With the collective support across its ranks and host barangays, Agata cultivates a better and healthier environment for its communities; an enduring testament that – beyond a doubt – there is life after mining.

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**Press photos:**



**1** *Agata's environment staff plants Sagimsim seedlings as part of the rehabilitation near its main gate. Sagimsim, is one of the trees being reproduced and grown in the company's Agroland – the main nursery of Agata.*



- 2 *Agata personnel monitor and cultivate seedlings daily in its Agroland nursery, which can hold up to 600,000 seedlings used for rehabilitation and reforestation projects.*



- 3 **Production and protection.** *Agata maintains the critical balance between business and ecology in order to conserve resources and protect traditional local livelihood like fishing.*



- 4 The sun sets on the ocean horizon while radiating a spectrum of colors on the Agata view deck adjacent to its admin building.

#### **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.

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