



Resource Development (Phils.) Inc.

## NEWS RELEASE


### Agata Conducts Rescue and Evacuation at the Height of Recent Caraga Floods

*Coordinates with PNP in extracting community members trapped in rising waters*



Agata ERT members are trained and experienced in responding to emergencies, especially in communities that are vulnerable to natural disasters. (In photo): Agata ERT and PNP personnel rescue a family in Barangay Magsaysay, Jabonga, Agusan del Norte during the recent typhoon.

**Tubay, Agusan del Norte/ March 2021** – The Agata Emergency Response Team (Agata ERT) has been on high alert even before Typhoon *Auring* made landfall in Caraga, standing by in order to ensure immediate

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response, especially in flood-prone areas of Agusan del Norte Province where the company operates its nickel laterite DSO project.

Historically, the Caraga and Surigao Regions have been prone to several natural disasters, including earthquakes, typhoons and extreme flooding. Agata's host municipalities are no exception.

The elite Agata ERT volunteers are specially-trained in rescue operations and have provided immediate response to its host and surrounding communities over the years. In coordination with local authorities, it continues to watch over its communities, particularly in times of uncertainty.

### **Manning the home front**

In its host municipality of Jabonga, Agata Safety Engineer Dexter Cabeza led six Agata ERT responders in rescuing a family of six (three adults and three children) who were trapped in flood waters, which rose quickly even prior to *Auring's* landfall. The family was brought to higher ground to join others who were evacuated upon the arrival of unprecedented heavy rains.

The rest of the 18-man team was deployed in the field to monitor both the water level and the conditions of surrounding communities that are prone to floods. Aside from deploying its ERT, the company also closely coordinated with its Barangay liaison officers in the affected areas for possible evacuation of residents.

The destruction brought by floods was also unexpected. This included public utilities that are vital to the communities. In response, Agata also extended the support of its General Services Department to the communities, particularly in fixing Barangay E. Morgado's fallen electric posts and water drainage – which were badly damaged.

### **The onset of the typhoon**

*Auring* made landfall over Batang Island in the town of Laoang, Northern Samar Province last February 22.

Due to incessant rains and strong winds associated with the typhoon, about 13,816 families or 53,236 persons in Regions 10, 11 and the Caraga Region were affected, according to a report by the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC).

No other casualty or incidents have been recorded in the communities near Agata, according to the report.

Public and private emergency organizations are now creating ways and alternatives to have better coordination, equipped responders and efficient emergency systems as the region is one of the areas most affected by the worst typhoons in the country.



It was devastated during Typhoon *Pablo* (Bopha) on December 2-10, 2012; Typhoon *Ruping* (Mike) on November 10-14, 1990; and Typhoon *Nitang* (Ike) on August 23–September 4, 1984.

### **An added safeguard**

Agata's team of emergency responders is borne 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 volunteer their time to be trained by the company's Safety Department.

Since its establishment in 2017, the Agata ERT has since received a number of recognitions, including the Provincial Champion in Fire Brigade Competition for three consecutive years (2017-2019) and a number of accolades during the Regional Firefighters Competition. It was also awarded Overall Champion in Fire Fighting in the 5th Caraga Mine Safety Competition.

On the national level, the team was recognized as the Fire Brigade Champion in the Field Safety Competition of the 2018 Annual National Mining Safety and Environment Conference (ANMSEC) in Baguio City.

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### **Press photos:**



- 1 *Agata ERT responders prepare their equipment to rescue the trapped family in one of the houses in Jabonga, Agusan del Norte. As of writing, there are now 33 active Agata ERT members of the Agata Emergency Response Team.*



- 2 *Agata takes the lead on rescuing the trapped family. Aside from being trained in rescuing, firefighting, and other emergency response, the team also trains community members to become emergency responders themselves.*




- 3 *Agata uses its equipment to clear Barangay E. Morgado's water drainage, which was affected by Typhoon Auring. The destruction brought by floods was also unexpected. This included public utilities that are vital to the communities.*

### **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.

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