



AGATA
MINING VENTURES INC.
A TVIRD-MRL JOINT VENTURE

NEWS RELEASE

The Philippines' First Agrotourism and Eco Hub Developed from a Nickel Mine Site

The unveiling of the Agata Mines Nature Farm marks a significant first in the Philippines



Barangay Lawigan's booth at the Agata Mines Nature Farm launch showcases natural and organic farm produce that the company has supported through its SDMP during its mining operations.

Tubay, Agusan del Norte / November 2024 — What began as a dream now thrives in Caraga – a significant first in the country's mining industry. TVIRD's Agata Mining Ventures, Inc. proudly unveiled the Agata Mines Nature Farm, marking a historic milestone as the pioneering agrotourism and ecology hub developed from the company's Final Mine Rehabilitation and Decommissioning Plan for its former mine site. This groundbreaking development not only sets a precedent for sustainable land use but is also testament that there is life after mining.

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The overwhelming support of the community has been a cornerstone of the project's success. Agata's years of collaboration with the townsfolk helped transform the area from a responsibly managed mine site to a thriving ecological and agricultural destination. Moreover, the community's cooperation helped the company to transition the local economy from mining back to agriculture.

The Agata Nickel Laterite Project was operated by TVI Resource Development Philippines Inc. (TVIRD) from 2014 to 2023. During this time, it successfully delivered 382 shipments of nickel DSO to its direct markets in Asia and Oceania, bringing its 9-year production volume to over 20 million wet metric tons (WMT) of nickel laterite ore.

A strong partnership

The unveiling was marked by the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Tourism (DOT) and received strong support from various government agencies: the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB), National Commission on Indigenous People (NCIP), Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Caraga State University (CSU), Department of Agriculture (DA) and the Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA).

The event also received the solid endorsement of local government unit executives and Barangay captains of the host municipalities Jabonga, Santiago and Tubay in Agusan del Norte.

"We are humbled by the outpouring of support from our community and partners. Their involvement has been essential to the success of our mining operations as well as the legacy that Agata is building for its beneficiary communities," said TVIRD Tenement Management and Environmental Compliance Director Jesalyn Guinguing, who concurrently heads Agata's Final Mine Rehabilitation and Decommissioning Plan.

Mining and environmental stewardship go hand in hand

After years of progressive rehabilitation efforts, the once-industrial site is now an oasis for biodiversity, sustainable agriculture and eco-friendly tourism. With the active participation of the local community, including the children of Agata employees, the farm is evolving into a biodiversity tourism enterprise that showcases the region's natural beauty, rich cultural heritage and innovative farming techniques.

Local communities staged an agricultural showcase that included fruits, vegetables and marine products like fish and shells during the market booth contest "*Tabo-an o Tiangge sa Agata*" (Marketplace in Agata). A group of young entrepreneurs who are children of Agata employees also presented Agata Mines Nature Farm souvenirs called *Agata Nit Bags*. In addition, a groundbreaking ceremony was held for the historical Gazebo, which was once the exploration campsite of TVIRD partner company, MRL Nickel Philippines.

As Agata breathes new life into its former mine site, it likewise marks a new chapter on sustainability in the Philippine mining industry with its host communities – most notably, the indigenous Mamanwa Tribe with whom it shares a common development roadmap.

The farm will not only offer opportunities for agro-education and eco-tourism but will also provide a sustainable livelihood for its residents. Agata's collaboration with TESDA has facilitated skills development for the community, ensuring they are equipped to take full advantage of the economic benefits this new phase brings.

Press Photos



1 Honored guests participated in an arm-in-arm pose in support of the groundbreaking ceremony of Agata Mines Nature Farm.



2 (From L to R): PCA OIC and Caraga Regional Manager Manolito Casapao, MGB Region XIII Mines Safety, Environment, and Social Development Division Chief Engr. Francis Glenn Suante, and Surigao del Norte Provincial Administrator Atty. Rise Faith Recabo enjoy the sweet Lanzones fruit harvested from Agata's communities.



- 3** *TVIRD Director Jesalyn Guinguing (center) signs the Memorandum of Understanding for Agata Mines Nature Farm, along with (From L to R) Engr. Francis Glenn Suante, DOT Caraga Regional Director Ivonnie Dumadag, Caraga State University President Dr. Rolyn Daquil, and DTI Agusan del Norte Provincial Director Lorie Jane Sacote (far right).*



- 4** *Datu Rogelio Bebe of Agata's Coro Indigenous People sector proudly signs the Memorandum of Understanding, signifying his full support for Agata Mines Nature Farm.*



- 5** *The Agata Nit Bags, a group of young entrepreneurs who are children of Agata employees, presented and sold souvenirs from the Agata Mines Nature Farm.*

Agata wishes to thank its partners

The Department of Tourism (DOT), Mines and Geosciences Bureau Regional Office (MGB-RO-XIII) Regional MSESDD Chief Engineer Glenn Suante; Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Region XIII Legal Division Chief Atty. Redemptor Oja; National Commission on Indigenous People (NCIP) Acting Agusan del Norte Provincial Director Cierona Cutar; Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) Administrator II of the Northern Mindanao School of Fisheries Nancy del Guzman; Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) Agusan del Norte Provincial Director Lorie Jane Sacote; Caraga State University (CSU) President Dr. Rolyn Daquil; Department of Agriculture (DA) Regional Technical Director for Research and Regulation Abel Wagas; Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) Acting Regional Manager Manolito Casapo; and the local government unit executives and Barangay captains of the host and neighboring municipalities of Jabonga, Santiago and Tubay in Agusan del Norte Province.

About TVI in the Philippines

TVI Resource Development Philippines Inc. ("TVIRD"), is owned in part by 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 Agata Nickel Laterite Mine is the third successful mining project that TVIRD brought on stream in a period of 10 years while its Balabag Gold-Silver Mine further cements its position as a steady producer of precious metals in the country. With the commercial operations of its Siana Gold Mine, 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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