How a Local Boy Became Agata's Marine Custodian

Community engagement becomes lasting stewardship



Ryan (left) once a kid who believed in Agata's advocacies, today leads the marine biodiversity protection of the company's ridge-to-reef program. (Agata file photo)

Agusan del Norte / November 2026 – The true mark of responsible mining extends far beyond compliance logs and restored landscapes. At its best, responsible resource management transforms lives, empowering local community members to become lifelong champions of conserving the natural environment.

For Ryan Pagal, Master Self-Contained Underwater Breathing Apparatus (SCUBA) Diver at Agata Mining Ventures, Inc. (AMVI), guarding the coastal waters of Agusan del Norte is more than a profession—it is a personal transformation nurtured by Agata's long-standing commitment to community engagement.

Early encounters

Ryan's introduction to environmental work began informally in 2005. As a young boy, he routinely tagged along with his mother to Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) sessions conducted by the company across its host barangays. At the time, discussions on ecological protection meant little to him.

"That's where I first realized how important nature is to our world, because I was always there whenever the company held its IEC sessions," recalls Ryan, who is now Agata's Marine Biodiversity Protection Officer.

Like many young kids growing up in rural coastal areas, he lacked the understanding of resource conservation and occasionally witnessed community practices that harmed the local environment. Over time, however, sitting through continuous community discussions and observing Agata's operational practices began to reshape how he viewed his surroundings.

"What matters most to me now is how I transformed from a kid who didn't care about nature and did things that harmed our environment into one of the people who now care deeply for it," he shares.

Safeguarding ridge-to-reef

Today, Ryan puts those foundational values into practice every day. As Agata carries out its progressive mine rehabilitation and decommissioning plan across its former nickel mine – from upload forestry, down to the pristine shores of Tubay – Ryan dives into the coastal waters to monitor marine biodiversity, track reef health, and implement protective measures against environmental degradation.

"My role as a Dive Master has been significant. I'm able to monitor the condition of marine life and take steps to make sure it isn't abused," he explains, adding that his responsibilities also extend above the surface.

Serving concurrently as a safety and health focal person, Ryan helps maintain a culture of safety across operations, embodying Agata's holistic approach to protecting both nature and people. "My role is to protect the environment from ridge to reef and also protect all members of the Agata family/community," Ryan adds.

Planning for the Transition

As Agata advances through the final phase of its mining operations, the focus on site management is increasingly tied to the future of its host barangays in Jabonga, Santiago, and Tubay.

For Ryan, working on site has given him a broader view of what mine closure entails. He emphasizes that environmental monitoring must go hand-in-hand with the continuity of enterprise, ensuring that residents have reliable, non-mining sources of income once operations wrap up.

"My only hope is that the company fulfills its true aspiration of giving our communities a brighter future, such as providing sustainable livelihood in the host barangays, so that people in our area will still have a way to earn a living even after mining rehabilitation ends," he says.

A Measure of Continuity

Ryan Pagal's path—from a child listening in barangay halls in 2005 to a Master Diver monitoring marine ecosystems today—reflects how sustained community engagement can instill a lasting impression on the youth.

His journey offers a realistic snapshot of responsible mining in practice: one where managing environmental and social commitments is as much about enabling the next generation to carry the work forward and share in the same advocacy.

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Press Photos



1 *Marine Biodiversity Protection Officer Ryan Pagal was professionally trained in open water scuba diving – a special course sponsored by Agata.*



2 *Ryan, the kid who believed in Agata, today proudly represents the advocacies that the company has espoused over the years.*

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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