



BenguetCorp

19 December 2009

**PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE, INC.**

PSE Center, Exchange Road  
Ortigas Center, Pasig City

Attention: **Ms. Janet A. Encarnacion**  
Head, Disclosure Department

Gentlemen:

In compliance with the mandatory disclosure rules of the PSE, we would like to inform you that Benguet Corporation ("BC") entered into simultaneous agreements today with Hunter Dickinson Acquisitions, Inc. ("HD") of Canada and Balatok Sub-Tribe of Kalinga ("Tribe") as duly certified by the National Commission on Indigenous People to be represented by the Balatok-Kalinga Tribe, Inc. ("BKTI") and its mining arm, the Balatok Tribe Exploration & Mining Corporation ("BTEMC").

The Agreements provide for the exploration and development of the Batong Buhay Mine. Batong Buhay is a copper-gold property comprising some 492 hectares in Bgy. Balatok, Pasil, Kalinga Province. The mine contains one of the best gold-rich porphyry copper deposits in the Philippines.

Batong Buhay mines was previously mined by Philex Mining in 1985 for 2 years. The project stopped due to peace and order concerns. At the cessation of its mining and milling operations, Philex accounted for about 1.5M tons of ore milled with an average grade of 1.1% copper and 1.9 grams per ton gold. The Dickson deposit, which is 1 of 5 major veins of Batong Buhay, was drilled by Nippon Mining Corporation of Japan and was estimated to contain an initial 87 M tons at 0.6% copper.

In December 2008, the tribe caused the bidding for the re-opening of the Batong Buhay Mines where BC was selected as the winning and most advantageous bidder.

The priority rights of the tribe through BKTI/BTEMC over the Batong Buhay area and mine has since been recognized and affirmed by the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples. Likewise the Philippine Mineral Development Corporation ("PMDC"), a government corporation under the Department of Environment and Natural Resources has approved a Joint Operating Agreement with the Tribe and its partner, Benguet.

The agreement reached between the tribe and PMDC, and between the tribe and BC mark a milestone in multi-party agreements that involve tribal interests. This contract with the government and the tribe is another highlight in Benguet's commitment to corporate social responsibility and nation building.

In a related previous disclosure, BC has identified Crosby Capital as a financial backer in Batong Buhay. However, Crosby has since conveyed its decision not to pursue an interest in the project.

Hunter Dickinson is a major mining company whose head office is located in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. It manages publicly traded companies which are active around the world in all phases of mineral exploration and development. It has mining subsidiaries in South Africa, China, Mexico, Alaska and Ireland, which are into gold, copper, aluminum, diamonds, zinc, molybdenum and base metals. The investment into Batong Buhay was helped and facilitated by the Financial Risk Resolution Advisory, Inc. (FRRA).

This disclosure is made for the guidance of the investing public.

Very truly yours,

BENGUET CORPORATION

By:



REYNALDO P. MENDOZA  
SVP-Legal and Asst. Corporate Secretary