

Landfill project firmed up

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By Zaldy Comanda

Baguio City – The Benguet Corporation and its development partner, Goldrich Natural Resources Exploration and Development Inc., have entered into separate agreements with the Baguio City government and the municipal government of Itogon to convert its Antamok properties into an engineered sanitary landfill with a waste-to-energy compost.

Signing the memorandum of agreement in behalf of Benguet Corporation was Executive Director Isidro C. Alcantara, Jr. while Goldrich was represented by its president, Jaime A. Paredes Jr.

Baguio was represented by Mayor Mauricio G. Domogan and Itogon by Mayor Victorio Palangdan.

Under the agreement, Benguet Corporation will turn over its Antamok properties to Goldrich who will build the landfill and compost. Benguet retain ownership of the properties where it has mining facilities.

The agreement is good for 25 years and renewable for another 25 years, after which the properties shall revert back to the Benguet.

The mining firm will also secure approval from the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) as part of the mine rehabilitation program for Antamok.

Itogon will use the Antamok landfill to dispose of its municipal solid waste.

Itogon is mandated to encourage the maintenance of public assistance and support for the Antamok project and will intervene in community issues or opposition covering the project as well as assist Goldrich in securing, maintenance and renewal of local business permits, licenses, authorizations and clearances.

Goldrich will arrange financing for the Antamok project, plan, develop, design, build, test, and commission the project, implement the project and its related facilities after having complied with all material requirements.

The city government of Baguio will use Antamok to dispose of at least 300 tons of garbage and will pay the tipping fees to be agreed upon by both parties.

Benguet Corporation said that once it is implemented, the Atamok project will effectively and efficiently address the solid waste management of the Baguio-La Trinidad-Itogon-Sablan-Tuba-Tublay (BLISTT) area.

The proposed facilities for the project will cover a portion of Benguet Corporation's 60-hectare property.