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MEDIA RELEASE

AXIOM WELCOMES MINING CONSULTATIONS

The country's leading mining company Axiom Mining Limited has welcomed the Solomon Islands Government's consultations on the National Mineral Policy, Minerals Bill and the Minerals Advisory Centre in Isabel Province.

CEO Ryan Mount said the policy, bill and advisory centre show the government's commitment to modernise arrangements currently governing the regulation and development of mineral resources in the country.

On taxation of mining, the CEO said "this is important to ensure responsible mining operations that guarantee appropriate returns to the government, landowners and surrounding communities.

"The new mining bill is the way forward for Solomon Islands Government to ensure that mining companies operating in the country pay their dues to the government and the people. It is wrong for companies to come and pillage the resources without returning to the government and people what is due to them."

"But more important is ensuring that the policies and laws are implemented fairly and effectively to advance the industry and the country" the CEO said.

"It is my earnest hope that the consultation will properly capture the views of the people on the National Minerals Policy and Minerals Resources Bill and their implications. It is also my earnest hope that constructive or rational views expressed during the consultations are taken aboard."

"Mining, like any natural resources extractive operation, has its pros and cons and it is crucial that the government ensures strict compliance by mining companies so that their operations minimise adverse effects on the environment and the community and moreover enhance a win-win situation for investors, resource owners and the government on behalf of the entire Solomon Islands," Mr Mount added.

Mr Mount said understandably the mining bill aims to remove the need for the government to negotiate fiscal deals on one-on-one basis with mining companies and introduce a taxation arrangement that is not only fair but competitive, simple and reasonable to mining investors.

He said Axiom is supporting the government in its efforts in Sepi and Talise villages and looks forward to receiving them to their San Jorge mine.

“We are happy to be able to host the SIG team at our site and look forward to more productive engagements in the future.”

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