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Crucitas Environmental Feasibility will Promote the Social Development of the Area

- Resolution # 3638-2005-SETENA granted the Environmental License to operate a gold mine.
- A new road, business options, and a cooperative organization have made Crucitas a real opportunity for development.

After a long process of review, the Costa Rican environmental authorities approved the operation of the Crucitas mine, which will pave the way for the development of five communities of Cutris and two of Pocosal that have been living in social deprivation for decades.

“This resolution of the past 12 of December confirms that Crucitas is going to be an environmentally secure and a socially responsible mine”, Jesús Carvajal, General Manager of Industrias Infinito S.A. (IISA), said. He explained that the company will collaborate with the communities so that people will reach higher levels of training and organization, while the mine is constructed.

Since June of the current year, IISA started an ambitious training program with the Instituto Nacional de Aprendizaje [Learning National Institute]. They are seeking to prepare the highest amount possible of qualified labor either to work directly at the mine or to develop small or medium-sized companies.

These companies will be able to either sell their products and services to the mine or sell them through a cooperative that the neighbors are currently creating with the assistance of a group of professionals organized by the company.

“The goal is to reach the highest levels of development and make the most out of the mine in order to consolidate an economical model that will last even after the mine’s useful life is exhausted”, Carvajal explained.

Corporate Commitment

The Corporate Social Responsibility policy that Industrias Infinito has developed derives from the social vision of its executives. They are 100% Costa Rican and it is also supported by the Canadian investor, Vanessa Ventures.

A pioneer plan will be executed for the Crucitas case. The plan will make the most out of the new residential zone construction and the mining complex, so that the inhabitants will gain experience and specialized training to create new industries that, in turn, will generate new employments beyond the mine's life.

The experience will be built on different areas related to products and services that the community may offer to the company, while a wider market including local, regional, and foreign clients is established through the cooperative.

The proposal includes the evolution from a traditional to an organic agricultural production that will be certified with internal consumption purposes (mainly for the mine) and exportation. An agricultural expert hired by IISA is now working with the regional farmers to jump into a new way of production.

The second component will be the manufacture of furniture, floors, and ceilings with the dovetail joint system, besides prefabricated cabins, using the wood of the area. While the inhabitants build up the company's new residencies they will be trained in high quality modular construction techniques according to Costa Rican and export standards.

Another component of the plan is the creation of a textile company which will be focused on the production of high quality items for exportation and local consumption. For example, the mine will buy uniforms, bed linen, curtains, towels, tablecloths, napkins, etc. from the people working in this industry.

Under this cooperative method, a packing plant will be installed in the zone. The plant will buy loose products, food, and liquids in order to pack them for local consumption or exportation through "Fair Trade". This Organization specializes on the exportation of certified products from cooperatives located in developing countries.

"Industrias Infinito S.A. supported by Vanessa Ventures, will help with the creation of a sustainable development in the zone. It will also give the necessary stability until the communities find their own supporting system and until they are capable of interacting with local and international institutions", the Manager concluded.