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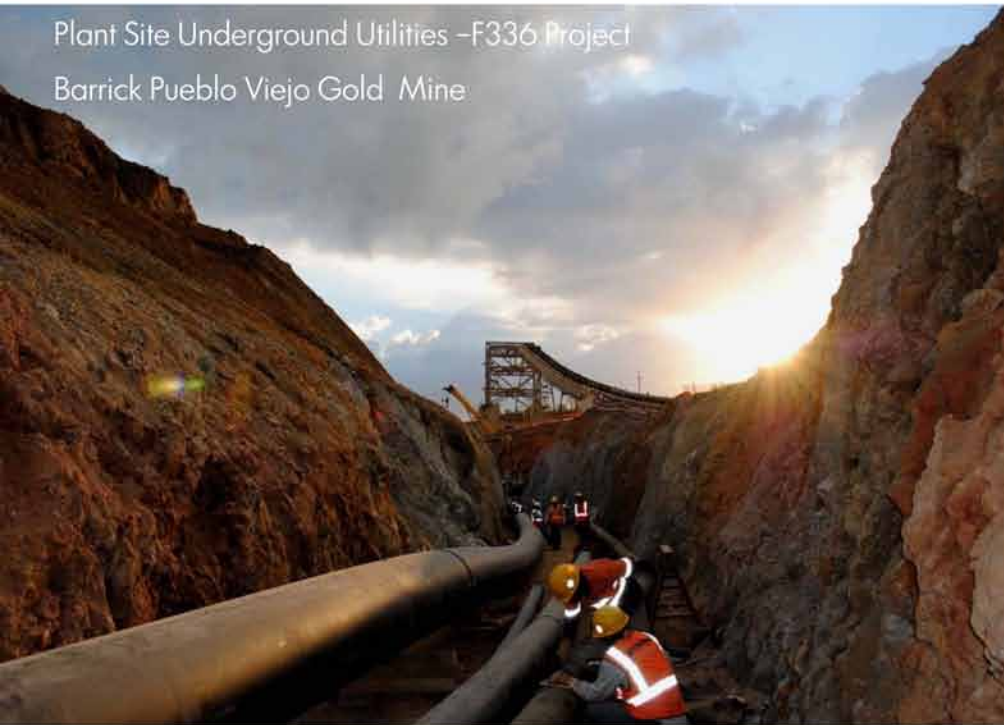
Manuel E. Bonilla, president of the Barrick Pueblo Viejo gold mining complex, talks to Jayne Alverca about the environmental, economic and social implications of the biggest single investment ever made in the history of the Dominican Republic

B

arrick is the world's largest gold producer and the Pueblo Viejo mine, in the Dominican Republic, represents one of its most significant investments to date. With declared reserves of 23.7 million ounces of gold, Pueblo Viejo, around 60 miles northwest of the capital Santo Domingo, holds by far the richest deposits of gold ever identified in the country. The site, which is a sulfidic refractory gold deposit, is currently being developed to a 24,000 tonne-per-day design capacity.



Plant Site Underground Utilities -F336 Project
Barrick Pueblo Viejo Gold Mine



General Framework

The project F-336 contract: Underground Utilities Work Access Roads and Main Gate Areas, SERVINCA is responsible for all Earths-Concrete works, Excavation, backfill, Compacting, Installation of HDPE pipes, Corrugated, PVC, Carbon Steel, which covers the entire Site and its facilities, conducting potable water supplies and systems: fire water, domestic water, storm water, acid water, fresh water and filtered water.

In addition we are in charge of accessories and facilities for the fittings assemblage and assembling the different types of pipes with their variety of diameters, for the operation of the effluent pipelines project across the PVDC.

In this project we will have installed about 22 km of pipes different diameters (2"-36") for different types of service, with their fixtures and fittings throughout the project.



General Framework

34.5 Kv and 4.16 kV Overhead Transmission Lines, SERVINCA is responsible for the supply and installation of PVDC plant site facility energy distribution, with over 640 galvanized steel poles and about 27 Kms of power lines through the plant site, including the surrounding areas of El Llagal, Hondo, Hatillo and other areas near Pueblo Viejo Project, PVDC.

SERVINCA has assigned to this project a highly qualified and experienced personnel to ensure on time delivery of the works with the highest quality and safety standards.

This turnkey contract also includes the testing of all electrical equipments supplied and/or installed by SERVINCA, which means a project completion and turn over to the client ready for operation.

34.5Kv & 4.16Kv Overhead Transmission Lines - K136 Project
Barrick Pueblo Viejo Gold Mine



"Project for water supply and drainage of storm water, sanitary, fire, filtered water, fresh water, acid water, throughout the Plant Site, being one of the most important services for the development and operation Mine and its facilities."

SERVINCA achieved 483,919 worked Hours without lost time by incident!



Celebration 21 Million Hours without lost-time incidents, PVDC Project



Daily Safety Orientation SERVINCA



Structures Assembly



Poles Installations



Cables Installed

"Transmission lines, electrical substations, erection of structures, low and high voltage power and communication lines are just some of the works within the Energy area that we have developed, always reflecting the quality of our work".



HDPE Piping Thermofusion



Catch Basin Installation



Mechanical Works -F336, PVDC Project



"Committed day by day to work with Efficiency, Quality, Safety and Environmental Vision"



Pulling Cable - K136, PVDC Project



Lifting Pole Maneuver



Civil Works

Panoramic view PVDC Project, Autoclave area, Dominican Republic.



Profile

We are a company dedicated to the construction, design and installation of projects covering various sectors of the Engineering and Construction.

SERVINCA was founded on December 29th, 1979, at its headquarters in the city of Santo Domingo; Dominican Republic, Caribbean Sea.

During 30 years of experience, Servinca has built and developed projects covering a wide range of disciplines such as Energy: Generation, Transmission and Distribution Lines; Metalworking and Structures, Hydraulic, as well as Industrial and Civil Constructions.

SERVINCA has obtained the best results derived from the application of the company policy, such as:
 -Constant motivation to employee development.
 -Continued growth of the company and its officials.
 -Continued improvement of its management practices.



Philosophy

SERVINCA has the philosophy to assign the resources required to ensure a high performance on the projects involved, with the highest standard level for Quality and Safety.

These resources, along with a specific organizational structure of management and specialized technical personnel for the different Engineering areas, compliment our company policy in project management, designing, documenting and controlling the project and its staff, to guarantee on time delivery and a competitive proposal.

List of Services we offer

- Engineering, Procurement, Management, Construction, and Commissioning in the followings Projects :
- 1. On Generation of Energy.** Fuel-Diesel-Gas-Cycle Combine Power Plants, Hydro Plants, Overhead-Underground Transmission and Distribution Electrical Lines, Substations.



Beer Manufacturing Plant, Dominican AMBEV

"Our extensive experience is supported by a group of highly qualified and experienced professionals as well as special consultants that ensures the constant improvement of our company vision. We have developed several joint venture projects with prestigious foreign companies, offering optimized solutions for different projects in which we have participated."



38 MW Diesel Power Plant & 40 MVA Substation - First Line Metro Santo Domingo City, Dominican Republic



Erection, Commissioning of Electrical, Mechanical Equipment & 50 MVA, Substation Hydro Plant Monción



Installation of Fire Protection System Dominican AMBEV Project

"The biggest commitment and goal of SERVINCA is the guarantee of high quality, safety and prompt delivery of the projects involved and fully respond to all technical, commercial and contractual deadlines."



Panoramic view PVDC Project, Barrick Gold Mine, Dominican Republic, Caribbean Sea.



First Line, Metro Project, Santo Domingo City

2. On Electro-Mechanical – Industrial Projects, of Beer-Plants, Airports, Water Treatment Plants. *Today, we are involved in a bid process at Important Expansion Cements Plants Projects in Dominican Republic.*

3. On Hydraulics Projects, Aqueduct, Water-Cooler Treatment Plants, Underground-Extraction Field Well Water Lines, Pump Stations, Underground-Aboveground Sanitary-Acid-Storm-Sewer-Fire Water Lines in different type of Pipes (HDPE, Corrugated, Carbon Steels, PVC, Victaulic, others).

4. On Civil, Mechanical, Electrical, Steel and Fabricate - Installations Projects :
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■ Underground-Above facilities Systems, Grounding-Lightings, Panels, Cable Trays, Instrumentations and Control Systems, Firefighting Systems, Air Compressor Systems.

■ All General Civil Works, Earthworks, Drillings Works, Lab Soils Test, Foundations, Concretes Drive Piles, General Construction Buildings Projects.



engineering

haug

Haug is present in Pueblo Viejo with the Fabrication and Erection of Tanks and Thickeners

Haug S.A. is a Peruvian company specialized in Engineering, Construction and Erection that is actively involved in the Pueblo Viejo Project (The Dominican Republic). Haug S.A. is executing contracts for the Engineering, Procurement, Fabrication and Erection of 84 tanks and 8 thickeners for Pueblo Viejo Dominicana Corporation (Barrick) through its agent Fluor Canada Ltd., and Outotec Perú SAC, the materials used for this project are ASTM A36, Duplex 2304 and AISI 316L steel. The equipment has been fabricated in its Callao and Lurin Shops (Lima) and erected in site.

For the execution of the Project Haug is employing qualified Peruvian professionals and technicians as well skilled workers, and it is complementing its labor force with staff from Dominican Republic in order to train them in the specialty. Haug stimulated and signed an International Agreement with The National Institute of Technical - Vocational Training (Infotep) from the Dominican Republic in order to establish a Welders and boilermakers School in Santo Domingo.

In addition to executing Works according to the strict technical specifications stated in the contract, Haug is fulfilling the highest safety and environmental standards; therefore it was awarded with the "Safety Excellence Award" given by Fluor Canada Ltd. Haug's participation in this world class mining project represents an important landmark in its internationalization process. Nowadays the company is working in Peru, Argentina, Chile and The Dominican Republic.

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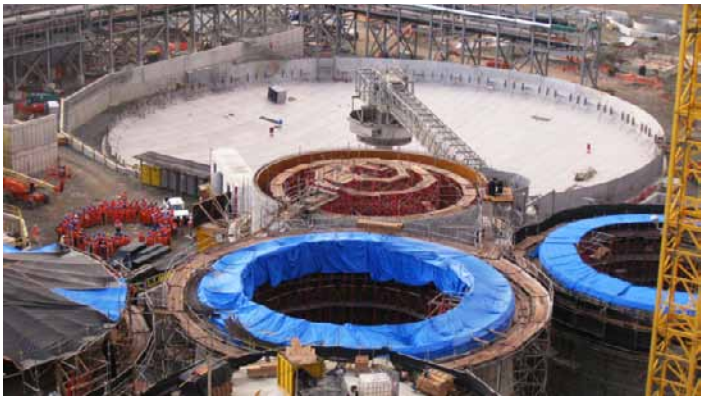
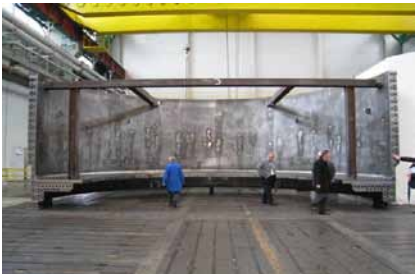


Haug

Haug S.A., leading Peruvian company in the metal-mechanical field with over 62 years of experience providing services to the mining, hydrocarbons, energy, construction, fishery, transport and industrial markets, offers its clients basic and detail engineering, metallic constructions such as: structures, storage and process tanks, clarifiers, metal fabrications in general, electromechanical erection, ducts and pipes, electromechanical and industrial installations, maintenance, special projects and turn-key projects.

Haug S.A. has the ISO 9001:2008 quality re-certification for the entire scope of its works as well as: ISO 14001:2004 and OHSAS 18001:2007. It is also re-certified by the American Petroleum Institute (API) and certified by the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME), as well as the Safety Excellence Award in Peru for nine consecutive years by MAPFRE.

Haug is entirely committed with its clients to keep the highest level of reliability, safety, quality and service.



In the first five years, it is projected that Pueblo Viejo will produce an average of 1.042 to 1.125 million ounces of gold per annum. Production will start in 2012, but first an investment estimated at between \$3.6 and \$3.8 billion is needed to put the necessary physical and technical infrastructure in place. This represents the single largest investment ever made in any sector of the country's economy.

Manuel Bonilla, president of Barrick Pueblo Viejo, explains that the Dominican Government first invited tenders for the project in 2001. One key aspect of the work required remediation of the site which had been badly damaged by earlier abandoned mining operations. The other centered on the development of new operations to extract and process the gold containing sulfurs of the mine.

The tender was initially won by Placer Dome Inc., which was subsequently acquired by Barrick. By 2009 the complex negotiations

HEAVY HAUL TRANSPORTATION

"EPSA-LABCO was awarded the bid to engineer and manage the construction process of providing roadway clearances and adequate structural support over 125 kilometers and 27 bridges, four (4) autoclaves with 1050+ tons each, and 120+ equipment parts for industrial machinery of oversized dimension and weights"



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A heavy haul transportation of equipment and industrial parts for a large gold mine project in the Dominican Republic was recently successfully undertaken for Pueblo Viejo Dominicana Corporation, in which Barrick Gold Corporation, the operator, holds 60% and Goldcorp holds the remaining 40%.

EPSA-LABCO, Consulting Engineers, a local firm, was awarded the bid to engineer and manage the construction process of providing roadway clearances and adequate structural support over 125 kilometers

and 27 bridges, four (4) autoclaves with 1050+ tons each, and 120+ equipment parts for industrial machinery of oversized dimension and weights. Each transport exceeds by as much as 10 times the official country codes for standard vehicles loadings on bridges and roads. After completing the design, the Ministries of the Environment and Public Works issued the corresponding permit licenses.

The engineering design was based on the concept of "bridging the bridges". Steel ramps were placed on

metallic provisional supports which were constructed over different types of foundations depending on the soil strata found from detailed geotechnical investigations.

Design validation was verified by monitoring and controlling stresses and deformations using strain gauges placed at critical locations during the passing of each 1,050-ton autoclave. The measured values were below the values required by the maximum allowable official country codes.

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to develop Pueblo Viejo were complete and a 60/40 consortium with Goldcorp – the Pueblo Viejo Dominicana Corporation (PVDC) – in which Barrick holds the controlling interest, was busy constructing this multibillion dollar facility.

Production was due to begin early in 2012, but unprecedented and catastrophic amounts of rain fell in May 2011. This has necessitated costly and time-

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Structural, Equipment and Piping Installation at High Bay Building



South Utilities - Water Cooling Tank

High Bay Building - Tier 3

Autoclave Building

COSAPI THANKS THE TRUST RECEIVED BY PUEBLO VIEJO DOMINICANA CORPORATION / BARRICK GOLD

Cosapi República Dominicana is proud to be part of the Pueblo Viejo Project for PVDC/ Barrick Gold and to be in charge of the Structural, Mechanical and Piping Installation of the Pressure Oxidation Plant. The Pueblo Viejo Project uses the four largest and most efficient autoclaves in the world which are part of the pressure oxidation process, a pioneer environmental friendly technology, that is only used by a few top class mines around the globe, being Pueblo Viejo the first one to use it in the Dominican Republic.



consuming remediation of the starter tailings dam which is still ongoing. However, by summer 2011, overall construction is now more than 70 percent complete. About 90 percent of the planned concrete has been poured, with the same amount of steel erected and more than 4.8 million tonnes of ore have been stockpiled.

Roughly 9,000 people are now working to bring the mine to production and Bonilla is keen to talk about the responsibilities that come with a project on this scale. "The Dominican Republic is a developing nation with many unmet needs and social and economic problems," he says. "The scale and size alone of the project means that we have an enormous responsibility to ensure that these non-renewable resources can be translated into long-

Cosapi S.A.

We are a leading Peruvian contractor with more than 50 years of international experience in challenging projects and one of the largest contractors in Latin America.

Through our business units: Infrastructure, Industrial Plants and Engineering & EPC/CM Projects, we manage to serve the following sectors: mining, oil & gas, petrochemical, basic industries, energy, water & environmental facilities, buildings concessions and public-private partnerships.

We have operations in Peru, Venezuela (through GBC), Colombia, Dominican Republic, and soon in Chile, which allow us to serve the whole Latin American and Caribbean regions.

Our vision is to be the first choice for our clients.



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term sustainable economic gain for the country and its people. This responsibility is an integral part of the business and forms part of everything we do.”

Bonilla is a Dominican national and he believes his appointment was clearly intended to signal a commitment to the state of making this operation as locally run and operated as possible. By profession, he is an environmental engineer. “As such I care deeply about preserving the environment of my country for future generations to enjoy,” he declares. “Previous relations between the local communities and mining operations have not been positive because of the environmental legacy that was left behind. Now we have to live up to the promises we have made during recent years and prove it is possible to work in a very different way. We are totally committed to making this project a success in an ethical and sustainable manner and I have absolute confidence in the mining methodologies and techniques at our disposal. This is a state-of-the-art operation.”

The first challenge centered on leading one of the mining industry’s most ambitious environmental rehabilitation projects. Before the building phase could commence, the land had to be cleared and restored. A massive clean-up effort was required as a result of the improper closure of a former mine on the property in 1999.

Initial findings showed heavy metal concentrations, acidity and sediment in local waterways. The primary sources of soil and water contamination

Hermanos Yarull T & Co CxA

With 39 years in the construction market Hermanos Yarull T & Co CxA has become one of the oldest and largest construction companies in the Dominican Republic. We have developed over our history, countless projects in all sectors of construction: infrastructure, energy, building, mining, highways, bridges and dams, sometimes associated with major construction companies in the world: Impregillo, Grupo ICA, Biwater, Fluor, SNC Lavalin.

We provide our clients with a team of professionals, highly skilled and experienced technicians and a heavy equipment fleet, managed with the highest standards of maintenance. We certify the compliance of all projects with the quality and reliability our customers require while maintaining the highest safety and environmental (HSE) standards.

AMJ Campbell International

AMJ Campbell International is one of Canada’s leading providers of international moving, specializing in expat assignments for multinational corporations such as Barrick Gold. Our focus is to simplify the international moving process, educating the expat and family while providing a stress-free experience. Regardless of the origin or destination of the move, our sophisticated approach to each element of the relocation allows us the flexibility to meet our clients’ needs and to exceed their expectations.

were the historic open mine pits, waste rock piles, the abandoned plant facilities and tailings storage areas. The Margajita River that passes through the hills near the site had been dubbed the “Coca-Cola river” by locals because of its dark color—the result of having absorbed so much acid rock drainage from the former mine.

The final team consisted of Barrick Gold



STEEL STRUCTURES

Acero ESTRELLA is a dominican company that provides detailing, fabrication, and erection of steel structures for all types of buildings.

As a domestic leading innovator in the field of steel structures, Acero ESTRELLA boasts in its 9,118 m² facilities a production plant with a monthly capacity of three million pounds of steel, equipped with automated production systems that use state-of-the art design technology.

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employees, hazardous materials experts and new employees hired locally and specially trained for the operation. One of the first tasks was to take over a thousand samples to define soil in the area into different categories and determine future treatment and landfill options. Buildings on the property also contained different types of hazardous waste that had to be categorized and disposed of in a safe manner.

Approximately 130,000 cubic meters of soil were removed to rid the ground of contaminants. Bioremediation, a process that relies on microorganisms to return altered land to the natural environment, was successfully used to treat almost 100,000 cubic meters of hydrocarbon contaminated soil. Today, the site is unrecognizable and Bonilla is confident that the operation has been performed in accordance to the highest international environmental quality standards.

In addition to the clean-up of hazardous substances within the mining areas, it was proposed that the clean-up of the surrounding areas would cost the Dominican Government an additional \$75 million and the company would contribute \$37.5 million with the other half coming from state funds. In the end, Barrick offered to take on the full estimated cost of remediation of the surrounding areas to help improve local living conditions.

To complement the clean-up, Barrick will also sponsor a significant reforestation project in the area. "We want to do everything possible to offset our future activities and enormous areas of new forested land will become available for the region's species. This move will also further improve the quality of water in the streams and we are working on a bio-diversity project in the area to protect the four species of tiny frogs that live here which are on the protected species list," he adds.

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Future contamination at the site will be avoided through high-tech innovation in the form of four giant autoclave machines, manufactured by Hatch Autoclave Technology Group. The autoclaves are essentially giant pressure-cookers which are used to process sulfurous refractory ore in an environmentally responsible manner. Hatch has been working on the project since 2006 and holds the engineering, procurement and construction management contract for this core part of the refractory process, as well as the supporting oxygen plant.

“We are only the fifth mine in the world to apply this type of solution and these are the largest autoclaves ever manufactured,” states Bonilla. “This process removes the No 1 contaminant produced by gold mining and it takes place in a fully controlled environment with no possibility that fluids or gases can be emitted. Left untreated, naturally-occurring sulfurous ores interact with rain water to create

toxic sulfuric acid and are a major source of pollution. At Pueblo Viejo, we believe we have addressed this problem in the most comprehensive way possible.”

The process, which was developed in partnership with Barrick in Nevada, utilizes heat and high pressure to liberate gold particles trapped in sulfide to extract the sulfurous material. In the autoclaves, all sulfides are oxidized, producing sulfuric acid as a by-product. The iron, copper and zinc dissolve into the solution; then the acid is washed out in a counter-current decantation (CCD) circuit leaving free microscopic gold to allow for leaching in cyanide. The underflow slurry is pushed to a carbon-in-leach circuit. The autoclaves also tackle the carbon contained in the sedimentary materials, which is oxidized with the combination of oxygen and high

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temperatures.

The technology was specially modified to address the unique geology of Pueblo Viejo which contains a double refractory gold ore, associated with two difficult mineralogical issues. The first was the presence of sulfides, in the form of pyrite and minor base metals such as silver, copper and zinc, which prevented the traditional cyanidation process from directly recovering the gold. The second was a natural carbon component to the ore, which caused recovery issues under a conventional system. The incorporation of autoclaving within the processing of the ore has provided a new solution to these challenges.

During design of the autoclaves, Hatch also included a heat recovery circuit that, combined with

the nature of the exothermic reactions that produce heat within the autoclaves, makes the heat autogenous by design. This heat recovery system means that energy needs will be minimal, reducing impact on the local electricity grid.

The Pueblo Viejo autoclaves are the largest, by weight, refractory-lined autoclaves built to date, with an on-hook weight of 780 tonnes when shipped lead lined. The massive structures are each 5.6 meters by 34.8 meters, and will nominally operate at 230 degrees Celsius. There are four in total and it is the first time such technology has been applied in the Dominican Republic. Three of

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the four autoclaves have already been brick-lined—each machine requires a lining that is four bricks deep needing a total of 98,000 bricks for each machine—and the remaining autoclave is nearing completion.

Transporting the autoclaves to the project site by road required a heroic effort to upgrade the existing infrastructure and preparations took over a year. As part of this work, Barrick also had to fortify the foundations of 27 bridges on the route as well as construct three entirely new bridges. Every road between the port and the mine was stabilized and paved and Bonilla believes that these spin-off improvements will benefit local communities for years to come.

In another spin-off benefit, Barrick also has a longer-term plan to build a dual-fuelled power plant at a capital cost of about \$0.3 billion. The new plant is expected to provide lower cost, long term power to the project, but will also meet the future energy needs of communities in the area.

Bonilla has worked tirelessly to cultivate relationships with the municipalities in the area of the mine's operations. "Municipalities in the area will receive five percent of total revenues when the mine finally goes into production next year," he says. "This represents an enormous sum as traditionally they have had to provide services from a very small revenue stream. We see it as imperative to strengthen and support these municipal agencies so they have the technical capacity to use this money to best effect."

In 2006, laws were enacted in the Dominican Republic to enable municipalities to hold referendums to decide on local priorities. "Although this legal right has existed for some time, the law was never really implemented, but we have funded the referendums so that local people can make their voice heard, declare their priorities and have a say in how these funds are spent," Bonilla explains.

"Municipalities must know how to manage these funds in an open and transparent way. At present we are funding projects on transparency and how to invite and manage open tenders. In future, we





Schrader Camargo also present in the Mining Industry

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feel that the municipal authorities will be in a much stronger position to manage these funds effectively and for the benefit of the whole community.”

As a result of the referendum process, a five-year development plan has been developed by the people of Cotuí, Maimón, and Fantino, the largest settlements in the area. Months of meetings involving thousands of people have culminated in agreement and approval for a long-term plan on how to trigger development and economic prosperity in a region which is still grappling with high rates of unemployment and poverty. Every resident was invited to vote yes or no to the custom-designed plan and it has achieved resounding support. The plan has legally binding powers and the vote, which was monitored by the same Central Electoral Board that coordinates the country's presidential and congressional elections, was credible.

Schrader Camargo

Over 5 decades of experience in construction of industrial projects, Schrader Camargo has been consolidated in the national and international market as one of the companies in the sector with great experience and reliability.

Schrader Camargo develops integrated projects (engineering, procurement, construction) as well as project management in the oil & gas, energy, mining and industrial sectors in Latin America and in the Caribbean.

Schrader Camargo, is providing services for Pueblo Viejo Mine Project such as architectural construction, steel structure assembly and installation, mechanical erection and piping installation at the Process Plant south and the Lime Kilns at the Pueblo Viejo's Mine Project.





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It is the first time that such a plan has been developed anywhere in the Dominican Republic. To make it successful, Barrick Pueblo Viejo worked alongside central and municipal governments, the Canadian Embassy, civil society and development organizations.

Faby Manzano, corporate social responsibility manager at Pueblo Viejo mining project, worked for over a year to make the plan a reality. "While Barrick was the facilitator of these meetings, the goal was to create a public-private partnership where our company is one partner in a much wider network of organizations all working towards the creation of a single plan for the community," she says.

Cotuí was one of three municipalities near the Pueblo

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Viejo project site to be selected as a pilot community for this new approach. The other two, Maimón and Fantino, have had similar high rates of participation and a positive vote. “At first the communities were skeptical of the process because there has been a history here of development plans that were developed without public participation and later forgotten,” Manzano adds. “But as we moved forward in this process and were joined by other partners and held open meetings, the support increased.”

She hopes that the process involved in this private-public sector approach to community development will be adopted by other companies working in the Dominican Republic and used as a model for municipalities across the country to create their own development plans and assume responsibility for their own social development. Three new municipalities have now joined, and a total of 31 communities are now actively involved. A commonwealth has now been formed by these municipalities to try to promote a better future for the citizens of their region.

Efforts to improve the health status of the area have already been targeted through a community-based approach to partnership with local agencies. Cholera and dengue fever are endemic in the locality and in 2009 and 2010 Barrick funded a health prevention educational program that reached over 22,000 people. Two hundred Dominicans, mainly young people, were trained to work with the local municipalities of Cotuí, Fantino and Maimón. The teams visited households



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with the goal of educating residents on hygiene, family, and environmental health.

The importance of this program has been recognized as a significant factor in reducing the presence of dengue fever in the province, according to the local Health Department. Since the completion of the second phase of the program, which was sponsored by the Ministries of Labor and Public Health, Barrick and the local municipalities of Cotuí, Fantino and Maimón, there have been no reports of cholera or dengue fever cases in the region.

During this critical pre-production phase of the project, wherever possible, Barrick has sought to stimulate the local economy. Most of the site's management team are also Dominican nationals, although the highly specialized nature of the work and equipment employed

at the site inevitably requires input from foreign employees, contractors, and suppliers.

Bonilla explains that in total, 22 different nationalities are represented on the site. Fluor is a global specialist in large-scale engineering installations; an Indonesian company is installing the high tech instrumentation and a Peruvian contractor is working on the piping, but there are still many opportunities for local contractors.

"We have found much more scope for local subcontractors than we originally anticipated," he continues. "Many of the steel and concrete structures required for the site infrastructure, offices, stores and medical and leisure facilities have been built by local contractors. The improvements that were necessary to the road

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infrastructure and to a number of bridges have also been carried out by local companies. Then there are the site's catering facilities which serve up 27,000 meals a day on the complex. Almost everything here is procured locally and has been a tremendous boost to food producers in the area. We have looked carefully at alternative ways to meet our needs using small local suppliers whom we have found more than willing to bring up their quality standards to meet our specifications."

An example he is keen to cite is the company's procurement of reflective jackets that all site personnel must wear as a standard safety precaution to ensure their visibility at all times. "We started to buy them from our usual supplier and then realized that women's groups in the area could manufacture them just as well with a little support. Just meeting our own requirements got the business off to a great start and now other mines are starting to buy from them.

"Another enterprise we have nurtured involved supporting groups of families weaving coconut mats which are a local response to the problem of soil

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erosion. Although the work was originally dependent on our operations, the mats are now being sold to third parties in Haiti to control erosion there.”

Bonilla recognizes that the mine has a finite life – although the production phase should last for at least 25 years. There is therefore a strong emphasis on planning for a sustainable and diverse future. Barrick has just provided seed capital for a business incubation bureau in Cotuí to assist the start-up of new businesses in the area that are non-mining related.

When the mine finally closes, significant reserves will have already been placed in trust with the Dominican government to deal with the eventuality. Meanwhile, Bonilla believes the mine’s lifespan is likely to be significantly longer than current projections suggest.

“We know there is additional gold at Pueblo Viejo, but the declaration process is very complex and it is extremely common in this industry for mines to have

undeclared reserves. Also, the steady rise in the price of gold allows us to mine ever smaller concentrations of gold and if this trend continues it is likely to extend the life of the mine still further.

“One thing we are absolutely certain of is that we will be leaving this site in a much better condition than we found it. When the mining operation closes it will be done in a proper manner to international standards. At Pueblo Viejo we intend to bring to bear all the know-how and experience gleaned from mining operations across the globe and leave behind a vibrant and dynamic local community and economy. We want this mine and its operations to be a benchmark and a model for others in the industry,” he concludes. www.barrick.com ■

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