

# Confirmation statement from Philex's Audit Committee:

March 11, 2019

The Audit and Risk Management Committee First Pacific Company Limited 24<sup>th</sup> Floor, Two Exchange Square 8 Connaught Place Hong Kong

Dear Committee Members,

This is to inform you that the Audit Committee of Philex Mining Corporation ("Philex") has conducted a review of the effectiveness of the Philex Group's (including its subsidiaries, except PXP Energy) internal control systems for the six-month period ended December 31, 2018. The review covered all material controls, including financial, operational and compliance controls.

Please refer to the attached summary report for the six-month period ended December 31, 2018 highlighting the major internal control issues and the remedial actions taken.

Based on our review of the internal audit reports, and discussion with the internal and external auditors and with the Management, we would like to confirm that the internal controls (including financial, operational and compliance controls) of the Philex Group are adequate and effective.

We have not noticed any material deviation from local as well as Hong Kong Listing Rules requirements, including Inside Information.

We hope that this letter is sufficient for your requirements.

Sincerely yours,

Oscar J. Hilado

Chairman of the Audit Committee

Philex Mining Corporation

Geraldine B. Ateo-an

Chief Audit Executive

Philex Mining Corporation



# Appendix A

# PHILEX MINING CORPORATION

# STATEMENT OF INTERNAL CONTROL AND MANAGEMENT OF THE TOP ENTERPRISE RISKS

Corporate Governance Certificate of Confirmation to First Pacific Company

- 1. During the 2nd half of 2018, the internal audit department has not identified any major internal control issues based on its review of the business processes and system of internal control. The results of the business processes review were regularly reported to the Audit and Board Risk Oversight Committees. For its part, the Management implemented the internal auditors' recommendations on operational control issues and process improvements.
- The Group's external auditors, SGV & Co., did not find any major internal control issues that
  may materially impact the Company's financial report for the period ended December 31,
  2018.
- 3. The top enterprise risks identified in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of 2018 and corresponding mitigation measures were as follows:

# A. Regulatory

1. Current ban on open-pit mining; Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Department Administrative Order 2017-10)

#### Mitigants:

- Complete Preliminary and Definitive Feasibility Studies of full underground mining method
- Active participation in Greening Program as suggested by DENR Secretary Cimatu
  to demonstrate support and genuine care for environment during operations and
  rehabilitation
- Adoption of globally-recognized best practices such as the Sustainable Mining Initiative of the Mining Association of Canada
- On-going discussions with all concerned parties to accelerate Silangan project development
- Coordination with various industry leaders and groups to develop a unified stand on responsible mining
- 2. Non-conversion of MOA to Special Use Agreement for Protected Areas (SAPA) for TSF3.

#### Mitigants:

- Strengthen position that a FPIC for SAPA is not required since it is not a renewal or issuance of a concession, license or lease but a conversion
- Secure opinion from DENR National Office on validity of our position



- Lobby with the regulators and Protected Area Management Bureau 9PAMBI -CAR to support our position
- B. <u>Strategic</u> Higher project cost of Silangan and lack of interest from prospective strategic partners and investors due to:
  - a. Adverse and recalcitrant regulatory environment
  - b. Pending legislative tax measures on mining industry
  - c. Low investor confidence level attributed to weak operating performance of Padcal despite extension of mine life until 2022

# Mitigants:

- Communicate massive business potential of Silangan expansion project to prospective investors supported by results of Definitive Feasibility Studies
- Secure guaranteed extension of Silangan Mineral Production Sharing Agreement (MPSA) beyond 2024
- Aggressively complete key project requirements for pre-development of Silangan

# C. Operational

- 1. Failure to meet 2018 production target due to:
  - a. Declining ore-grade quality in active mining levels
  - b. Unavailability of operating equipment due to damage, repair and periodic maintenance
  - c. Increased surging slimes affecting milling and flotation efficiency
  - d. Reduced operating days owing to weather disturbances leading to occasional power disruptions

# Mitigants:

- On-going exploration of alternative sub-mining levels to address ore-grade quality
- Regular assessment of equipment conditions to decrease incidents of failure
- Deadlock in negotiations with the Damstream Indigenous Group (DIG) due to unreasonable demands

#### Mitigants:

- Steer negotiations between both parties towards amicable resolution
- Pursue and expedite cases versus DIG to serve as leverage in negotiations
- Consider applying for a Certificate of Precondition to cover the whole operations of the TSF-3 and MPSA 156
- D. <u>Financial</u> Pending legislation on extractive industries (i.e. alternative mining bills, legislative franchise, proposed DOS ban and TRAIN Package 5)

### Mitigants:

 Constant monitoring of recent developments and dialogue with industry associations and concerned government agencies