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Media release:

MMG helps bring electricity to more than 900 families in Vilabouly

MMG LXML Sepon has provided US\$300,000 towards the cost of connecting eight villages in Vilabouly District, Savannakhet Province to the electricity network.

The power line construction project, a government initiative, will cost US\$ 1 million in total and is expected to take 18 months to complete.

An official opening ceremony for the construction project was held on March 5th 2011 in Namkip village.

The ceremony was presided over by Minister of Planning and Investment, H.E. Dr. Sinlavong Khoutphaythoun. Also in attendance were Savannakhet Provincial Vice Governor Dr. Souphan Keomixay, Vilabouly District Chief Bouasone Mahavong, together with representatives of MMG LXML Sepon, local officials, village elders and community members.

At the ceremony, H.E. Dr. Sinlavong Khoutphaythoun expressed thanks to MMG LXML Sepon for its financial contribution to the project. The Minister described the power line as recognition for the local people who had contributed to the war effort in the area.

Speaking after the event, Mr Saman Aneka, Director of MMG LXML Sepon, said that in this case the company was supporting infrastructure development in communities which are not directly affected by mining activities. "This is an expression of the company's commitment to supporting the development of Vilabouly, one of the 47 poorest districts in the country," he said.

The eight villages to benefit from the new project all lie along the road between Kateb and Phadang, approximately 20-30 kilometres from current mining operations. The villages in the project are Pongpor - Nahang, Dong Yang, Naphadane (Phonesavang – Naphilang), Kateb, Somesanouk, Nonesumlane, Namleap and Nammalou.

Between 2005 and 2010, MMG LXML Sepon funded a power line which brought electricity to 22 villages in the district, at a cost of US\$ 420,000.

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Participants at the opening ceremony, including (from left to right) Savannakhet Province Vice Governor Dr. Souphan Keomixay, Minister of Planning and Investment Ministry H.E. Dr. Sinlavong Khoutphaythoun, MMG LXML Sepon General Manager (Vientiane) Andrew Patterson, MMG LXML Sepon Director Saman Aneka

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