

## Merdeka Group Strengthens the Education Ecosystem and Local Human Capital Development

**Jakarta, May 25, 2026** – PT Merdeka Copper Gold Tbk (“Merdeka” or the “Company”, IDX: MDKA) continues to strengthen its efforts to develop local human capital through the provision and enhancement of educational facilities, scholarships, teacher capacity-building programs, and workforce training initiatives in communities surrounding the Merdeka Group’s mining operations.

Albert Saputro, President Director of PT Merdeka Copper Gold Tbk, stated that improving the quality of education and skills training in communities around the Company’s mining operations is a key component of Merdeka’s social investment strategy.

“For Merdeka, education is an essential part of the Company’s social investment. We want communities surrounding our operations to have better access to education, skills development, and opportunities to grow alongside the Company’s progress,” he said.

Throughout 2025, Merdeka Group implemented Community Development and Empowerment Programs (PPM) in the field of education across its operational areas, including Banyuwangi, Gorontalo, Morowali, Konawe, and Southwest Maluku. These initiatives encompassed school mentoring, learning facility support, scholarships, skills-based vocational training, teacher capacity development, and industry exposure programs for students, university students, and local communities.

In Banyuwangi, PT Bumi Suksesindo (BSI) inaugurated the first *Rumah Pintar* (Smart Learning Center) in Silirbaru Hamlet, Sumberagung Village, Pesanggaran, in November 2025. The facility serves as a non-formal learning center for students living around the mining area and features six air-conditioned classrooms, a prayer room, kitchen, toilets, and a dedicated space for micro and small enterprises. Two flagship programs currently offered are free computer courses and free English courses for elementary and junior high school students.

In Southwest Maluku, the Wetar Copper Mine, operated by PT Batutua Kharisma Permai and PT Batutua Tembaga Raya (BKP-BTR), provided scholarships to 162 students from six villages surrounding the operation area: Lurang, Uhak, Naumatang, Esulit, Nabar, and Eray. Additional initiatives included training on the implementation of Indonesia’s Merdeka Curriculum for 33 teachers, educational facility support benefiting 800 students in Ring I and Ring II communities, and honorariums for six non-civil servant kindergarten teachers supporting the education of 109 preschool children.

Support for local workforce development is also carried out by PT Merdeka Battery Materials Tbk (IDX: MBMA) through its subsidiaries operating in the nickel sector, namely PT Sulawesi Cahaya Mineral (SCM) and PT Merdeka Tsingshan Indonesia (MTI). In Konawe, SCM organized Mine Tours for 90 teachers and healthcare workers, awarded higher education scholarships to 97 university students, provided incentives for 48 honorary teachers, and conducted basic dump truck operator training for 16 local youths. SCM also partnered with Lakidende University to provide scholarships and developed sports facilities for students living near its operational areas.

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In Morowali, MTI conducted excavator operator training and certification programs based on Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) standards for seven local residents, six of whom are now employed within the Indonesia Morowali Industrial Park (IMIP). MTI also implemented the *Merdeka Mengajar* (Freedom to Teach) Program in collaboration with its OHS Department, benefiting 225 participants, distributed educational equipment to 339 students and teachers at SDN Makarti Jaya, and provided learning supplies for 70 students at local Islamic learning centers (*TPA*).

In Gorontalo, the Pani Gold Mine, operated by PT Merdeka Gold Resources Tbk (IDX: EMAS), collaborated with Indonesia Mengajar and the Pohuwato Regency Government through the *Pengajar Merdeka Pohuwato* Program. Four educators were deployed for one year to four schools surrounding the mining area to support teachers, principals, and students in strengthening teaching methods, school management, and active learning cultures.

Educational initiatives at the Pani Gold Mine also reached more than 450 beneficiaries through the renovation of six schools, the provision of learning supplies, support for children affected by a fire in Hulawa Village, and collaboration with MGEI at Hasanuddin University to introduce the mining industry to students from Pohuwato.

Albert stated that the Merdeka Group will continue to strengthen education programs that are aligned with community needs and industry developments.

“We believe that improving the quality of human capital must be built sustainably. Through education, workforce training, and community capacity-building initiatives, we hope to see more local talent equipped with the skills, confidence, and readiness needed to contribute to regional development,” he said.

Through these various initiatives, the Merdeka Group reaffirms its commitment to building a stronger educational ecosystem across all of its operational areas. The Company hopes that this support will not only improve access to education but also create pathways for local communities to enhance their competencies and pursue broader opportunities in the future.

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### **About Merdeka Copper Gold**

PT Merdeka Copper Gold Tbk (IDX: MDKA) is a leading Indonesian mining and metals company focused on the exploration, extraction, and processing of valuable minerals, including copper, gold, and nickel. Established in 2012 and listed on the Indonesia Stock Exchange in 2015, Merdeka is owned by several prominent shareholders, including PT Saratoga Investama Sedaya Tbk and PT Provident Capital Indonesia (through PT Mitra Daya Mustika and PT Suwarna Arta Mandiri). The Company is committed to responsible resource development, environmental stewardship, and sustainable practices across all its operations.

Merdeka's diversified portfolio includes the following key assets:

- **Tujuh Bukit Gold Mine:** Located in Banyuwangi, East Java, this flagship asset is a conventional open-pit gold mine that has been in operation since 2016 using heap leach processing.
- **Wetar Copper Mine:** Located on Wetar Island, this open-pit mine utilizes heap leach and SX/EW processes to produce copper cathodes.
- **Pani Gold Mine:** Located in Gorontalo, Sulawesi, this open-pit gold mine commenced operations in October 2025 and began gold production in February 2026. Pani is one of Indonesia's largest primary gold mines, with Ore Reserves of 5.2 million ounces of gold derived from Mineral Resources totaling 7.0 million ounces of gold.
- **Tujuh Bukit Copper Project:** Located beneath the Tujuh Bukit Gold Mine, this project is one of the world's largest undeveloped copper-gold porphyry deposits, with estimated resources containing 8.2 million tonnes of copper and 27.9 million ounces of gold.
- **PT Merdeka Battery Materials Tbk (IDX: MBMA):** Operates integrated nickel mining and smelting facilities while developing a nickel industrial park in Sulawesi. MBMA aims to become a leading supplier of raw materials for the global electric vehicle industry.

Through these assets, Merdeka Copper Gold is strategically positioned to meet the growing global demand for critical minerals that support the clean energy transition.

The Company remains focused on operational excellence, community engagement, and creating long-term value for its stakeholders.

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