



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Southern Alliance Mining Signs MoU with Universiti Malaya to Advance Rare-Earths Research and Innovation in Malaysia**

**Singapore, 12 August 2025** – Southern Alliance Mining Ltd. (“SAM” or the “Group”), a leading high-grade iron ore producer with expanding interest in critical minerals, is pleased to announce that its wholly owned subsidiary, **SAM Advance Minerals Holdings Sdn. Bhd.**, has entered into a non-binding Memorandum of Understanding (“**MoU**”) with **Universiti Malaya (“UM”)** and **MCRE Resources Sdn. Bhd.** (the “**Parties**” and each a “**Party**”) to explore joint collaboration in the rare-earths sector in Malaysia.

This MoU marks a significant milestone in SAM’s strategic diversification into rare earth elements (REEs), aligning with the Group’s long-term vision of contributing to the sustainable and responsible development of Malaysia’s mineral resources. The collaboration seeks to foster academic-industry partnerships in the areas of research, development, training and knowledge exchange.

Under the MoU, the parties will explore opportunities to:

- Co-develop sustainable leaching techniques for ionic clay-based REEs extraction
- Map and mitigate supply chain risks related to chemical inputs in in-situ leaching
- Enhance Malaysia’s rare-earths ecosystem through joint research and resource-sharing initiatives

The Centre of Excellence for Rare Earth Elements at UM will serve as the academic anchor for this initiative, with project coordination from SAM Advance Minerals Holdings Sdn. Bhd. and MCRE Resources Sdn. Bhd. Each party will appoint representatives to jointly supervise programmes and explore targeted research applications in rare-earths supply chain management and environmentally responsible mining technologies.

Dato’ Sri Pek Kok Sam, Director of SAM Advance Minerals Holdings Sdn. Bhd., commented: *“We are honoured to partner with Malaysia’s premier research university to accelerate sustainable advancements in the rare-earths sector. This collaboration reflects our commitment to science-led mining practices and long-term ESG value creation.”*

Lim Wei Hung, Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer of SAM, who played a key role in initiating this collaboration, shared his enthusiasm: *“This MoU represents an important step forward in bridging academia and industry. We are excited to see one of Malaysia’s most established universities taking a proactive role in developing the nation’s mining sector. The signing also builds on the recent engagement of UPUM Sdn. Bhd., a wholly owned entity of Universiti Malaya, to carry out geotechnical studies at our Chaah Mine.”*

The MoU will be effective for five years from the date of execution, providing a flexible and non-binding framework for parties to initiate research and training programmes through separate



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agreements where required. The specific terms of the definitive agreement shall be agreed upon after further discussions between the Parties.

This collaboration complements SAM's ongoing REEs diversification strategy and aligns with national goals to build a resilient, innovation-driven mineral economy in Malaysia.

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**About Southern Alliance Mining Ltd.**

Southern Alliance Mining Ltd. (SGX: QNS) is a Malaysia-based producer of high-grade iron ore, with an expanding focus on rare earth elements and other critical minerals. The Group is focused on long-term value creation through underground mining innovation, resource diversification and sustainable operations. For more information, please visit: [www.samining.com](http://www.samining.com)

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