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**SPONSOR TO SALKAYA EXCAVATIONS IN ELAZIG**

**Anatolia's cultural heritage comes to light with Eti Bakır**

**Eti Bakır continues to protect Türkiye’s important archaeological assets and carry them into the future. Having supported excavations at Samsun İkiztepe Mound and Çanakkale İnkaya Cave as part of the “We Excavate All the Gems Underground”, Eti Bakır is now sponsoring the excavations of another cultural heritage of Anatolia, the floor mosaic at Elazığ Salkaya estimated to date back to the Early Byzantine Period.**

Anatolia, the cradle of countless civilizations dating back to thousands of years, is home to an unmatched cultural heritage ranging from ancient cities to mosaics, mounds, and temples. Anatolian lands harbor innumerable heritage sites as old as the Paleolithic Age. Cengiz Holding group company Eti Bakır, which has been supporting efforts to unearth Anatolian cultural heritage within the scope of the 'We Excavate All the Gems Underground' project including the excavations at Samsun İkiztepe Mound and Çanakkale İnkaya Cave, is now sponsoring another excavation site – the floor mosaic at Elazığ Salkaya estimated to date back to the Early Byzantine Period.

**‘WE WILL PROVIDE INCREASING SUPPORT’**

**Eti Bakır General Manager Asım Akbaş** said: “As a company that extracts copper, an indispensable raw material for technology, sustainable energy, and modern life, and processes it into end product, we make significant contributions to our country’s economy while we bring also other gems into light. In addition to our industrial and production efforts, we are also aware of our responsibility in protecting our country’s cultural heritage and pass it on to future generations. The excavations in Salkaya Village host important findings that shed light on the history of the region. These discoveries are not only of archaeological value but hold great potential for regional development and cultural tourism. The support we give to this type of projects is an important step towards protecting Anatolia's rich cultural heritage and carrying it into the future. We will continue to do our part to protect Türkiye’s cultural heritage and bring the region’s historical richness to light. In the coming period, we will provide increasing support to these efforts.”

**THE FIRST MOSAIC SHEDDING LIGHT ON THE HISTORY OF ELAZIG**

The floor mosaic, which was discovered in 2023 in Salkaya Village, 14 kilometers from the city center of Elazığ, by a farmer who came across colorful and shiny stones while planting cherry trees in his orchard, after which excavation works started, draws attention as a significant finding that sheds light on the history of the region. The floor mosaic, laid on an area of approximately 84 square meters, is estimated to date back to the Early Byzantine period. Elazığ’da şimdiye kadar benzeri bulunmayan mozaik, bir ilk olma özelliği taşıyor. Mozaiğin üzerinde kurt, domuz, dağ keçisi, geyik, sülün, Anadolu Leoparı gibi hayvan figürlerinin yanı sıra bölgeye ait çeşitli bitkiler de dikkat çekiyor.

Taban mozaiği etrafında yapılan kazılarda, antik dönemde kullanılan kilise ve şarap imalathanesi olabileceği tahmin edilen kalıntılar da bulunuyor. Bu yapılar, bölgenin dini ve ticari faaliyetler açısından merkezi bir nokta olabileceğine işaret ediyor. Kazıların devam etmesiyle, bölgenin sosyal, dini ve ekonomik yapısına dair daha fazla bilgi edinilmesi bekleniyor.