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29 July, 2019

## PRESS RELEASE

### Porgera Family Sexual Violence Action Committee launched

**PORT MORESBY, 29 JULY, 2019, 0900HRS:** Porgera now has a nine-member Family and Sexual Violence Action Committee (PFSVAC) to support the work of the Porgera Police Family and Sexual Violence Unit (FSVU) in planning and execution of gender-based violence (GBV) awareness.

The committee was established on June 28, 2019.

It will assist to develop partnerships to assist to facilitate key projects which include the establishment of a Safe House for victims, bringing on board welfare, probation and juvenile officers, conducting awareness on key GBV legislations, and to create networking with national and overseas partners.

Porgera FSVAC was launched on 16 July, making Porgera-Lagaip the first district in Enga to not only have a police FSV Unit established in 2014, but a FSV Action Committee as well.

The nine-member committee represents women's groups, police, health, churches and village court. They are Chairlady Rose Epe (Porgera District Women's Council), Vice Chairlady Jenny Kopi (Porgera District Women's Association), Treasurer Rose Walen (Porgera District Women's Association), Secretary Mike Auso (Rural Community Care Foundations), Officer-in-Charge (OIC) of Porgera FSVU Police Woman Vero Gena (Police), Richard Tiviki (Health), Pastor Solomon Philkopal (Church), and Village Court Magistrate Rhonda Paso (Judiciary).

The establishment of the Porgera FSVAC was made possible through the work of the community-based organisation Restoring Justice Initiative Association (RJIA).

It was officially launched by Policewoman Chief Inspector Delilah Sandeka who is the Family and Sexual Violence Unit National Coordinator with the Royal PNG Constabulary (RPNGC).

Chief Inspector Sandeka said the establishment of the FSVAC would help to progress the work of helping victims as the number of sexual violence cases continued to increase, affecting mostly women and children. She said addressing FSV is difficult work for those working to find solutions to assist victims.

"FSVAC's role is very important. Its role is to bring all service providers together to ensure they support each other to deliver services to the people, especially mothers and children.

"The RPNGC had established the concept of FSVU in 2009 after seeing the need for police to do more to serve women and children so they can get justice and the perpetrators are punished for their crime," Chief Inspector Sandeka said.

RJIA Manager Pat Niuni said a number of action plans have been initiated, and include; a review of the roles and responsibilities of PFSVAC, drafting of PFSVAC bylaws, development of a 5-year Strategic Plan, training for PFSVAC executives and proposal for a new office space next to the Paiam Police Station to accommodate sections for juveniles, probation/welfare officer amongst others.

The PSFVUAC is part of the Consultative and Implementation Monitoring Committee (CIMC) initiated sectorial committees.

Its mandate and long term goal is to work towards reducing the occurrence and suffering caused by physical, sexual and psychological violence within families and extended families in the home environment and increasing access to support services and justice for survivors of family and sexual violence (<http://www.cimcpng.net/index.php/committees/fsvac>).

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**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

The Porgera Gold Mine in Enga Province, Papua New Guinea, is operated by Barrick (Niugini) Limited (“BNL”)– through an equal partnership between Barrick Gold Corporation and Zijin Mining Group Company Limited – which owns 95 percent participating interest in the Porgera Joint Venture (PJV). The remaining 5% in PJV is owned by Mineral Resource Enga (MRE) Limited – a consortium consisting of the Enga Provincial Government and the Porgera landowners.

The Porgera Mine employs over 3,300 Papua New Guineans, and over the life of the mine has produced more than 20 million ounces of gold and contributed approximately 10% of PNG’s total annual exports.



Chief Inspector Sandeka (middle) cuts a ribbon to mark the launch of the PFSVAC as committee members and other stakeholders look on.

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