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PRESS RELEASE

SML community benefits from water project

PORT MORESBY, 26 DECEMBER, 2018, 0900HRS: The Porgera Joint Venture (PJV) has officially handed over the Top Yarik supplementary water project to the responsible village water committee (VWC) following the completion of installation of 44 tuffa water tanks at various locations.

On Tuesday 20th November, 21 VWC members from Top Yarik signed off on the project Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with Porgera JV.

Top Yarik is one seven Special Mine Lease (SML) communities that have benefited from Porgera JV's Supplementary Water Project which was initiated in 2016.

The tanks were installed at 27 locations enabling community members of Top Yarik to have access to clean drinking water.

The installed tank capacities were nine (9) 9000L, ten (10) 5000L and twenty-two (22)1000L water tanks.

Porgera JV's Community Development Senior Officer Max Piawen said the Top Yarik water project was planned in 2016 but several factors including the sinkholes and earthquakes had caused a delay to the project resulting in the community being the last to have completed the supplementary water project for the SML communities.

Community Development Manager Jacqueline Nen commended the VWC for enabling the project to see through completion without any related injuries.

She said what was important was that all the parties now close-off on the project MoA to mark its completion on the part of BNL and for the VWC to take on their responsibility of managing the project.

"It is now your project to manage for your communities. Under the water project MoA, there are other areas of assistance which we will also look at which includes agriculture projects and training," Mrs Nen said.

Representing the village water committee members from Upper Yarik Mathew Yapala thanked Porgera JV for the water project describing it as a real need for the community.

The Upper Yarik Supplementary Water Project MoA was signed between BNL and VWC on March 17th agreeing to have the water project undertaken.

A total of 114 water tanks had been installed in seven SML village communities since the start of the PJV supplementary water project in 2016.

Other villages that have benefited are Panadaka, Alipis, Apalaka, Timorope, Pakien and Mungulep.

For Porgera JVs community development section, the completion of Yarik water project means the section can now move into the next phase of the program – food security training and implementation across the communities that host water tanks.

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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.



Mrs Nen and Mr Yapala hold up the signed –off project MoA on the Yarik Supplementary water project surrounded by VWC members and PJV Community Development staff.



Some of the installed water tanks at Yarik.

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