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PRESS RELEASE

PJV donates new desks for SML students

PORT MORESBY, 28 October 2019, 1300HRS: Local students are benefitting from ongoing investment in local education under the Porgera Joint Venture (PJV) Better Schools Program.

Twenty (20) twin-seat school desks, manufactured by local carpenters, were recently donated to Alipis Elementary School by PJV.

The desks are a first for the school, with students previously required to sit on the floor during classes.

The 20 desks add to an initial 20 that were donated to Aumbi school last month.

Together, these are part of PJV's aim to have 200 locally made twin-seat desks in schools within the Special Mining Lease (SML) area by the end of 2019.

PJV Executive Managing Director, Tony Esplin, said education was an important focus for the company.

"Education is the cornerstone of society – it opens up opportunity and lifts people out of disadvantage," Mr Esplin said.

"PJV is proud to partner on this initiative with the local community which will provide youth with better educational outcomes.

"Any investment in education is an investment in the future, whether you are student committing to attend school, a parent encouraging your child or a company providing resources and assistance.

"These desks are having quite a local impact. They have been manufactured locally, providing jobs for local carpenters and income for hardware stores and they are providing a better learning environment for Porgera's students."

Teacher-in-Charge of Alipis Elementary School, Mr Jeffery Mark, said the donation was a great show of support from PJV.

"Before this, children were sitting on the floor," said Mr Mark.

"PJV responded quickly with desks and I am very happy. If I had a tail, I would take it out and wag it right now – PJV heard us."

Other assistance provided by PJV to the school under the Better Schools Program in 2019 includes library books, curriculum materials, stationery, chairs and homework lap desks.

Alipis school has three classes comprised of Elementary Preparatory, Elementary One (E1) and Elementary Two (E2) and 194 students.

It is one of the nine schools participating in PJV's Better School Program alongside Aumbi, Kulapi, Yarik and Mungulep.

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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 4,500 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.



PJV staff with Aumbi staff and students with the new desks.



Some of the students busy on their new desks at the Alipis school.



Students busy on their new desks under the watchful eyes of Teacher Josam Nickolas at the Alipis school.

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