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## PRESS RELEASE

### PJV supports SML girls Empowerment Program

**PORT MORESBY, 9 September, 2018, 1300HRS:** The Porgera District Women's Association (PDWA) with the support of Porgera Joint Venture (PJV) has introduced an intervention and empowerment program for young girls from the Special Mine Lease (SML) communities.

Introduced in July this year, it aims to equip young school aged girls on being responsible and productive members of society in future.

From 4-6 July, 65 young girls from the villages of Kulapi, Yarik, Panadaka, Mungulep, Apalaka and Anawe attended the inaugural three-day Empowerment Workshop at Suyan in Porgera.

PDWA president Sarah Erasi said the association realised that there is a vacuum in educated leadership in women in Porgera and SML communities and this is an area they wish to address under the PDWA five-year development plan.

The workshop was facilitated by Imelda Griffin of Viucomms Limited, a Madang-based PNG company that specialises in communication services for clients in the telecommunications and oil and gas sectors.

PJV Community Development Manager Jacqueline Nen said the program also aims to address three key challenges for young girls in the SML identified through a Community Needs Assessment Survey conducted in 2017.

These challenges were a high number of school drop-outs, teenage marriages and a lack in general sex education among the young female population.

"This is a start and we are thankful PDWA has the foresight to continue this program. Our efforts to address these challenges can only be successful when the SML communities recognise their own role in ensuring retention of girls in schools and supporting them to greater inspirations," Mrs Nen said.

The workshop involved group activities and discussions centered on concepts such as the importance of setting goals, maintaining self-esteem and self-respect, being responsible and being self-independent.

The participants mostly primary and high school students were awarded certificates on completion of the three-day workshop on 6 July.

The program will run for 12 months and will be delivered in four stages.

PJV through its Community Development section will continue to monitor progress through monthly report meetings with trained PDWA mentors from each SML clan.

The SML girls will return for a two-day program during the term three school holidays. This will mark the second phase of the program. Another new batch of girls will then participate in the next three-day empowerment workshop.

**Ends//**

#### **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 2,500 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.



Year 10 high school student from Anawe Natasha Erasi (right with microphone) reads out a presentation assisted by Ms Griffin (left).



**Caption:** PJV Senior Manager Community and Social Responsibility Timothy Andambo chats with an SML participant with Mrs Nen looking on from the side.

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