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PRESS RELEASE

PDWA executives to serve Association members

PORT MORESBY, 17 JANUARY 2018, 1300HRS: Executives of the Porgera District Women's Association (PDWA) have pledged to support the Association members in Porgera, Paiela, Hewa, Strickland and Mt Kare.

And already the Association led by President Serah Erasi has bigger plans to further move the Association, which has had care-taker executives for the last 12 months.

On 15 November 2017, the PDWA executives were sworn into office. They are: Vice President Susan Paraia representing the Tipinini, Kairik and Palipaka areas; Secretary Jenny Kopi representing the Yarik, Apalaka and Kewai areas; Treasurer Lucy Tindipa for Paiam, Lukale and Suyan; and members Pinama Vakal (Paiela, Hewa, Strickland and Mt Kare); Margaret Benny (Lower Porgera); and Wanoli Waiyape for the Special Mining Lease (SML) areas.

The ceremony was administered by Commissioner of Oath and Porgera District Court magistrate Michael Apie'e and witnessed by Rueben Tongole from the District Administration.

Mrs Erasi said the Association was for the womenfolk and her executives will work to serve the women.

She represents Porgera Station, Anawe, Kulapi, Panandaka and Mungulep areas.

Magistrate Apie'e told the PDWA executives that leadership was a big responsibility.

"Take responsibility and work for the common good. You swore not only before a Commissioner of Oath but before God.

"As Christians, we have this responsibility to make sure that our word is our voice. My encouragements are go out and faithfully execute your task without fear and favour."

In the short term, PDWA aims to construct women's houses or locally called Wanda Anda in each of the council wards.

Mrs Erasi said the pilot projects would be within the SML and Lease for Mining Purpose (LMP) areas.

"In the long term we are thinking about supporting schools, put small aid posts at each council ward."

PDWA is now working on its Five-Year Development Plan.

The election for the PDWA executives was held on 9 November last year in Porgera and was presided by Wabag-based Assistant Returning Officer Kone Clement and was witnessed by Provincial Coordinator-District and Local Level Government (LLG) Cleopas Roa.

Mr Roa spoke highly of the manner in which the PDWA conducted its election and encouraged the group to build network with the other districts in Enga and expand on their programs.

The incumbent executives have a five-year term in office.

PDWA membership is 5,350.

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.



PDWA executives with their declaration of office certificates and looking on a Messrs Tongole (left) and Mr Apie'e (back, second from right).



Mrs Erasi (right) takes her oath under the watchful eyes of Mr Apie'e.

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