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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **PJV introduces Agrikids Program**

PORT MORESBY, 30 AUGUST 2017, 1500HRS: Porgera Joint Venture (PJV) in efforts to continue promotion of food security within the Porgera mine communities has introduced the Agrikids project.

The project aims to develop an interest in agriculture amongst the younger people particularly the school-aged children.

Agrikids is a component of the PJV Food Security Program initiated in 2010, which aims to prepare local communities to sustain themselves through agriculture after mine closure.

On 29 August this year, PJV conducted training on compost with students from the Aumbi Elementary School, a pilot school for the project.

Compost training is an improved farming method which PJV demonstrates to local communities within the valley to increase the soil fertility for higher and quality food yields.

According to PJV Community Development Senior Officer Peter Tumun, agriculture is a sustainable venture and its important that relevant agricultural skills are delivered to young children at an early age when they are active in learning.

"With agrikids, we want to teach and pass on the agriculture skills to children while they are in school so they can grow up with knowledge and skills about agriculture.

"Some of the children will make it to tertiary institutions and find jobs but for those who might not make it further, they can be able to utilise such skills and earn a living," Mr Tumun said.

Teacher in Charge David Isara and the school board chairman Pastor Wanpis Kawi were grateful that PJV was promoting such vital skills to the younger population.

"I've been teaching for 16 years but I've never seen such training before. I am happy that such activity is being taught here at the elementary school. If the same skills are being taught to schools throughout the valley, the young children will be able to prepare themselves for the future," Mr Isara said.

PJV will also assist the Aumbi elementary school with building materials for a temporary nursery, seedling trays, blue drums for water and seeds.

There will also be regular visits by PJV staffs to provide technical advice and support as it moves to engage other elementary schools within the Special Mine Lease (SML) communities.

#### 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.



Students are shown the plant materials for compost by Mr Tumun.



PJV Village Agriculture Extension Officer Rose-benami Alua demonstrates the mixing of plant materials for compost as Mr Tumun, Ps. Kawi (front left) and students watch closely.

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