



BARRICK (NIUGINI) LIMITED
(Manager of the Porgera Joint Venture)
PO Box 484
Mount Hagen 281, WHP
Papua New Guinea

Tel: (657) 547 8200 (Porgera)
(675) 547 8201
Fax: (675) 547 8132
Tel: (675) 545 1288 (Mt Hagen)
Fax: (675) 545 1514

PO Box 851
Port Moresby 121, NCD
Papua New Guinea

Tel: (675) 322 4800
Fax: (675) 322 4824
Telex: 23369

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PRESS RELEASE

Porgera Nuggets get PJV support

PORT MORESBY, 25 FEBRUARY, 2018, 1300HRS: The Porgera Nuggets rugby league team received some timely assistance from Porgera Joint Venture (PJV) prior to participating in the 2018 Coca Cola Ipatas Cup-Enga Challenge in Wapenamanda this month.

PJV's Corporate and Social Responsibility (CSR) Department made a donation of K5000 covering accommodation and food expenses for the team at Wabag for the 3 day challenge.

The Ipatas Cup-Enga Challenge was played from Friday 9-11 February in Wapenamanda.

Eight teams from within Enga competed.

Prior to travelling to Wapenamanda, the Nuggets were at the Porgera mine site on Thursday 8 February to receive PJV's assistance.

PJV through its Community Development (CD) department also made a presentation of rugby balls, whistle and pumps to assist the team with their training activities. The department had made a similar presentation to the Nuggets earlier in January.

PJV Community Relations and Engagement (CRE) Manager, John Liston, said sport was an area where youth and young men and women can take part in and enjoy themselves but most importantly act as social role models.

"Gentlemen, you are role models travelling out of Porgera today to attend a rugby event at Wapenamanda, this is a small contribution from our part but a big contribution on your part to truly be successful and be role models and influence men and women around you," Mr Liston said.

The Nuggets team members that were present to receive the assistance were Captain Randy Joseph, Vice-Captain Finchapen Andita, Coach Lewis Kuala, Manager Roya Yakari and Interim President Dominic Girima.

Mr Girima thanked PJV for its support.

"I truly believe that the avenue for change and a better community is through sports and church. We will be doing our best to promote good behaviors through our activities as the local representative rugby team," Mr Girima expressed.

The Nuggets lost two of the three games played. On Friday 9th February they played the Baiyer Rosters and lost 4-10, on Saturday they won the game against Lagaip Brothers 10-6 and then on Sunday lost their match to West Cowboys 0-8.

On completion of the Ipatas Cup-Enga Challenge, Mr Girima advised that four of the Nuggets players have been selected into the provincial Enga Mioks training squad. They are Randy Joseph, Mapi Win, Piriell Philip and Sangai George.

Local youth have revived Porgera Rugby League without a proper league administration and sponsors.

Mr Girima said their immediate plans would be to build up a proper league administration and start a competition of 8 teams.

“We would like to work closely with PJV and local community leaders to revive rugby league in the valley. I believe we have to be proactive to solve a lot of social issues. Rugby is a sport that brings together youth and keeps them active. It’s not easy to change one’s mindset, but if we collectively work together, anything is possible,” Mr Girima said.

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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 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.

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PJV Community Development Manager Jacqueline Nen (1st from right) and officials hand over rugby balls to Porgera Nuggets Captain Randy Joseph (4th from left) and Vice-Captain Finchapen Andita (3rd from left). From the left are Mr Girima (infront) and Mr Liston.

PJV Media Contact Details:
 Email: PJVMedia@porgerajv.com
 Phone: (+675) 547 8200