



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

02 October, 2019

PRESS RELEASE

Porgera community told to take ownership of Paiam hospital

PORT MORESBY, 02 October 2019, 0900HRS: The people of Porgera have been challenged to take ownership of the Paiam hospital, which re-opened on 24 September this year under a new public service structure.

The hospital, now under the management of the Enga Provincial Health Authority (EPHA) has re-opened with a K2.5million assistance provided by the Porgera Joint Venture (PJV) in refurbishment supply and fitting of new hospital equipment.

On 23 September, a gathering was held in Paiam attended by stakeholders and community members to announce the reopening of the hospital after a three-year closure.

Stakeholders that attended were the Porgera Joint Venture (PJV), Mineral Resources Authority (MRA), Enga Provincial Health Authority (EPHA), Porgera Development Authority (PDA), local government representatives, women's groups and hospital staff led by Medical Superintendent Dr Solomon Kalit.

PJV Senior Manager Community and Social Responsibilities (CSR) Timothy Andambo said PJV had provided the hospital with a further K250,000 in July when the hospital was initially scheduled to open in August. He said PJV would provide an additional K250, 000 in October.

"We've also seconded one of our medical doctors and a nurse to supplement the hospital staff for the time being.

"I want to encourage the community to work with the relevant authorities to ensure the smooth operation of the hospital.

"If you have ideas, let's all work together with the authorities to maximise on benefits to a fully functioning hospital," Mr Andambo said.

The Porgera community happy with the hospital re-opening have also called on the relevant stakeholders to ensure it becomes fully operational immediately.

While the hospital has reopened, services are limited to the outpatient, emergency, maternity, radiology and referral services. The EPHA and PJV are working to get the hospital to full operation over the coming months.

Mr Andambo acknowledged the support of the Mineral Resources Authority (MRA), Porgera Women in Business (PWIB), Porgera District Women's Association (PDWA), Enga Provincial Health Authority and Enga Provincial Government toward getting the hospital re-opened.

Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the EPHA Aaron Luai commended the Porgera community for their patience but also emphasised that it wasn't an easy process getting people to come to work in Porgera.

"It's not easy to get people to come and work in the hospital. We cannot just get them off the street to work here. So I want your assurance that you will look after my workers because they are here to serve you," Mr Luai said.

Dr Kalit has re-emphasised that re-opening the hospital to full operation will take a lot more work as it is a big hospital.

"Today, we are standing here because we want to serve you, with what little services we can offer," Dr Kalit said.

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 3,300 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.



Mr Andambo getting his blood pressure checked at the Paiam hospital on the first day of operations.



Mr Aaron Luai



Dr Solomon Kalit

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