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## PRESS RELEASE

### RJIA Donates to Baisu in Western Highlands

**PORT MORESBY, 12 OCTOBER, 2018, 1000HRS:** The basic need to eat from a plate and drink from a cup got community-based organisation Restoring Justice Initiative Association (RJIA) down to Western Highlands.

RJIA Manager Pat Niuni first visited the Correction Service (CS) institute in August this year, and saw for himself the conditions of the dining hall and even the lack of basic eating utensils for inmates.

“In my last visit I saw the way prisoners were cooking, the environment of the cooking place, the dining place had no plates and cups, and I was worried.

“...for RJIA to engage, I’d like to first of all look at making sure the remandees and prisoners have a plate so they can eat from and have a cup so they can have a cup of coffee nicely,” he said of the inaugural RJIA donation to Baisu on 7 September this year.

Apart from the basic utensils and cutleries, RJIA also donated blankets and sporting goods to the CS institute which is located about 170km from Porgera.

The total donation was valued at K8,500.

Pat was accompanied by PJV Agency Liaison-Governance and Risk Manager Henry Nangu, and the Paiam Police Station Commander Senior Sergeant Jack Kimala.

Baisu Commanding Officer Superintendent Timbi Kaugala, said the institute had never received such visitors in the past and it was an exceptional visit that the team from Porgera had gone to donate the items.

“What we try to do is establish partnership so we can work out things that we can use and work together.”

An inmate serving time spoke on behalf of the inmates, that it was the first time for anyone to visit the institute, and thanked RJIA for the eating utensil and the sporting gear, among others.

Snr Sgt Kimala said he was accompanying RJIA to work with RJIA because most of the prisoners were from Enga and they were under his responsibility through the Porgera Police, in order to ensure they adapt well back into the community.

“I was concerned when I heard that the jail was full. So I requested Pat to come with me in the first visit. So RJIA has taken the initiative to assist.”

RJIA is a community- based organisation that works in partnership with the law and justice sector agencies, as well as the local level government and communities that include churches, women and youth groups, among others, in facilitating support for law and justice sector programs and initiatives within the Porgera valley.

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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 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 Niuni (right), Mr Kaugala (left) and two inmate representatives with some of the sporting gear that were also donated.

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