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07 May, 2018

## PRESS RELEASE

### Local businessman supports Porgera police

**PORT MORESBY, 07 MAY, 2018, 1300HRS:** A local businessman and landowner Maso Karipe has come to the aid of the Porgera police with a donation of five (5) Bridgestone tyres valued at K5,000.

Mr Karipe is a landowner of the area where the Porgera gold mine lime quarry is situated.

On 2 May, Mr Karipe presented the tyres to Porgera Police Station Commander (PSC) Senior Sergeant Jack Kimala.

PSC Kimala acknowledged Mr Karipe for his initiative to assist policing in the district. He added that this showed Mr Karipe was aware of the policing functions in the district and had genuine concern as a local leader to help where he could for the sake of his community.

“The reality in Porgera is that police alone cannot fix the lawlessness and the only approach now is to work with community and look at the wider picture of where everybody can come in and help.

“On behalf of the Provincial Police Commander and local police – I thank Mr Karipe for this critical assistance and this gesture should be an example to others – to also take ownership and work in partnership with the police,” Mr Kimala said.

Mr Karipe had felt obliged to assist after he saw that the tyres on the PSC’s vehicle had worn out.

Mr Karipe said communities exist because of the presence of the government, and this was his way to show appreciation to the police for the work they are doing in the district.

“If there was no government, we wouldn’t eat or sleep well or go about trying to do our business properly. The government is security for all our lives and property and I am happy with the work they have done and are continuously doing.

Mr Karipe added that communities and leaders were willing to assist the work of police, and asked the police to also work with the community by engaging with the people in order to understand the problems they faced.

The presentation was witnessed by Manager, Restoring Justice Initiative Association (RJIA) Inc. Pat Niuni, Porgera District Law and Order Committee Chairman, Joe Kuala and members of the Porgera police.

RJIA is a community-based organisation which has worked in partnership with Porgera police in recent years.

Mr Kuala commended Mr Karipe and said the tyres would go a long way in assisting with mobility of local police to carry out their duties.

Mr Kimala also acknowledged RJIA for its support, and said Mr Karipe's gesture was a demonstration of RJIA's focus on building partnerships with law and order agencies and other stakeholders.

**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 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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PSC Kimala (third from left), Mr Karipe (second from right), Mr Kuala (left) and member of Porgera police with the tyres donated by Mr Karipe.

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