

## **PJV assists EPHA with COVID-19 test kits**

**PORT MORESBY, PAPUA NEW GUINEA – Sunday 26th September, 2021** – While it remains closed and under Care and Maintenance, the Porgera mine continues to show its commitment toward its long-standing partnerships in health support for both the district and provincial health services.

With COVID-19, being the current biggest health threat, PJV on Wednesday 22 September, donated 2000 COVID-19 test kits to the Enga Provincial Health Authority (EPHA) to assist in its COVID-19 virus detection efforts.

This week the National Pandemic Controller announced Enga as one of three provinces being closely monitored with increased COVID-19 virus detection rates.

The 1000 antigen and 1000 antibody rapid diagnostic kits were received on behalf of the EPHA by Porgera Urban Clinic Disease Control Manager Masi Mangan at the Porgera mine site.

PJV's Chief Medical Officer Dr Isaac Asa in handing over the donation said PJV has always taken a partnership approach toward supporting the health efforts of the district and province and as a member of the community is providing the support to help detect COVID-19 virus in the province.

"Porgera is only hours away from Wabag and the COVID-19 threat is just as real here as it is in Wabag right now. We have a social responsibility to our communities and we will support where and when it is possible," Dr Asa said.

Ms Mangan expressed appreciation to PJV on behalf of the EPHA and district health services.

She said PJV's previous support of COVID-19 test kits to the district has enabled them to do COVID-19 testing although a lot of awareness is still required around vaccination.

"Porgera health services has always felt privileged because of the support PJV has provided us over the past years and continues to do so.

"Obviously at this time, Governments need resources in the COVID-19 fight and we are thankful to PJV for the support to our provincial health authority with the COVID-19 test kits," Ms Mangan said.

She added there is a need for more COVID-19 awareness work stating that vaccination numbers remained low in the district.

In May this year, PJV also donated 1000 rapid antigen test kits, medical accessories and personal protective equipment (PPE) to the Paiam District Hospital.

<ENDS>



**Dr Asa (left) handing over the donations to Ms Mangan at the Porgera mine site, witnessed by PJV C&M employees and district clinic staff.**





Boxes containing the donated antigen and antibody diagnostic test kits.

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