

Barrick (Niugini) Limited Reports Conflict Between Warring Factions of Illegal Miners

Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea – Friday 27th December, 2019 - Barrick (Niugini) Limited (“BNL”), operator of the Porgera Mine in Enga Province, has again called for urgent government intervention in Porgera after a protracted violent conflict between armed warring factions of illegal miners, believed to be from Tari, earlier this week on the Porgera Special Mining Lease. The clash occurred in the mine’s open pit area where numerous gun shots were discharged.

Bodies of three illegal miners were recovered from the scene of the conflict and conveyed to the local Paiam Hospital mortuary by the mine’s ambulance, while another suffering from gunshot wounds to the legs was taken to the mine medical centre for treatment.

There were also reports from community members that many other combatants with injuries from the gun battle were carried away from the area by their accomplices.

The gun battle came just 24 hours after mine security personnel and members of the PNG police recovered the body of a woman who had died of significant injuries, including gun-shot wounds, within the mine’s operations area. The woman was also believed to be from Tari.

“BNL is appalled by the level of lawlessness that is continuing to pervade the Porgera district, and is particularly concerned by the senseless killing and the use of firearms by warring groups of illegal miners who have invaded Porgera from other areas. The ongoing use of firearms by outside criminal elements continues to create fear among the community and local mine employees,” a company spokesman said.

“The company remains ready to support the government’s commitment to a long-term solution for Porgera’s law and order problems, following discussions between Police Minister Bryan Kramer and the community during the Minister’s recent visit to the district.”

>ENDS<

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The Porgera mine is a joint venture between Barrick and the Zijin Mining Group, which each owns 47.5%, with the remaining 5% interest held by Mineral Resources Enga (owned equally by Porgera Special Mining Lease landowners and the Enga Provincial Government). The mine is operated by Barrick Niugini Limited (BNL).

PJV Media Contact Details:

Email: PJVMedia@porgerajv.com

Phone: (+675) 547 8200