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PRESS RELEASE

Porgera students invited to take up Chinese scholarships

PORT MORESBY, 20 JUNE, 2019, 0900HRS: Porgera Secondary School students have been given an open invitation to pass their exams and be eligible to apply for education scholarships provided by the Chinese Government through its Embassy in Papua New Guinea (PNG).

The school was privileged to have the Chinese Ambassador to PNG, Mr Xue Bing visit last week as part of his familiarisation tour to the Porgera gold mine.

The Ambassador, accompanied by his wife Madame Zhao Jun and Attaché He Miao after a tour of the Porgera mine operation on Thursday 13 June, visited the school together with members of the Porgera management.

They included Managing Director Shaoyang Shen, Senior Manager Community and Social Responsibilities Timothy Andambo, Manager Community and Social Responsibility John Liston and Manager Operations and Governance Graeme Nielsen.

Addressing an assembly ground full of students, Ambassador Xue said it was a privilege to visit Porgera and that he was overwhelmed by the hospitality shown.

He told the students, PNG and China established diplomatic relations in 1976 after PNG gained its independence and China has always been a friend to PNG.

He said every year the Chinese Embassy provides 30 scholarships for PNG students to study in China and invited students of the Porgera Secondary School to participate in the opportunity provided.

“The process begins in February for applications and every student who passes the local exam is eligible to apply. We will choose the best students to go and study in China. We have many subjects that students can take up in fields like Engineering, Civil Aviation, and Medical. There are currently 600 PNG students studying in different parts of China,” Ambassador Xue said.

Supporting the Ambassadors’ remarks, Mr Shen told the students that PNG’s future lies in its human resource.

“You are the future resources of PNG, young and dedicated. You are the hope of this country. Through the contribution of every citizen, PNG will progress. This country is full of devoted young people who want to have a good life through their own hard work and you are the hope of this country,” Mr Shen said.

Reflecting on his own career success as a local Porgeran and a senior member of the Porgera Leadership Team, Mr Andambo encouraged and challenged the students to study hard and be resourceful members of the community.

“We believe in you to be successful. Your job is to stay strong and get over the line. PJV supports and promotes schools in the valley and every year the company provides 60 scholarships to school students in Porgera. You have the best resources to succeed so do your best,” Mr Andambo said.

The Chinese Ambassador also presented the school with gifts and later visited the Paiam Hospital, to which some medicines were donated. The hospital is set to re-open in July this year.

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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.



Ambassador Xue being welcomed by students and staff of the Porgera Secondary school on his arrival.



Ambassador Xue addressing students of the Porgera Secondary School.



Mr Shen introduces the Chinese Ambassador to the Paiam hospital Medical Superintendent Dr Solomon Kalit (2nd from left) and Paiam hospital Deputy Administrator Elizah Parapu.

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