

Porgera Mine Convoy Unlawfully Restrained

PORT MORESBY, PAPUA NEW GUINEA – SUNDAY 02 AUGUST, 2020: Barrick Niugini Limited (BNL), majority owner and operator of the Porgera gold mine in Papua New Guinea (PNG), has confirmed that a convoy of vehicles travelling from the mine to the Port of Lae has been unlawfully prevented from leaving Porgera by police.

The company reports that a convoy of 15 trucks carrying 3rd-party-owned equipment that had been leased by the mine, but was now being repatriated to its owners following the cessation of mining at the Porgera mine earlier this year, was ordered by police at Maiap to return to the mine site on the afternoon of Saturday 1 August.

The equipment being transported included drilling equipment, and power generators and related power equipment owned by Aggreko Australia.

The company notes that neither the trucks or their cargo are assets owned by either the Porgera Joint Venture or Barrick Niugini Limited, and there is no legal basis for them to be prevented from being transported for the purpose of being returned to their owners.

The company further notes that a court order confirming that the assets carried by the convoy could be transported from the mine for the purpose of repatriation to their owners was issued by the National Court, and that the restraint on convoy movement appeared to have been done in direct contravention of that order.

The company calls for the convoy to be allowed to leave Porgera for the purpose of transporting the 3rd-party-owned equipment to Lae, and will urgently raise the issue of the contravention of the court order with relevant authorities, and take all steps necessary to protect its legal rights and obligations with respect to dealing with company assets, and the assets of its business suppliers.

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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”).

Porgera Gold Mine – Part of the Community

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