

Thirty-six (36) Former Porgera Mine Employees Receive Trade Certificates

PORT MORESBY, PAPUA NEW GUINEA – TUESDAY 22 SEPTEMBER, 2020 – Thirty-six former employees of the Porgera Gold Mine in Enga recently received their competency-based Level Three certificates from the National Apprenticeship and Trade Testing Board (NATTB), following which the operator of the Porgera Mine, Barrick (Niugini) Limited (“BNL”), issued trade certificates confirming them as practicing tradespersons.

The Porgera Mine is a national training provider under the PNG National Training Council (NTC-178), and also has a NATTB-accredited maintenance training facility, allowing trade testing and assessments to be conducted on site for all competency-based training levels in 2019 and early 2020.

Over its years of operation, the Porgera mine has recruited and trained locals with qualifications from as low as Grade 10, through the mine’s Job Ready Program (JRP). These people were then placed in various roles in different divisions of the mine for further skill development.

In March and April 2020, NATTB had conducted trade testing and student assessments in Heavy Equipment Fitting (HEF), Electrical, Maintenance Fitting and Machining (MFM), Auto Electrical and Motor Vehicle Mechanic (MVM).

In July and August 2020, as the Mine entered a Care and Maintenance phase, BNL Employee Development Traineeships Superintendent, Tommy Aselai, ensured that NATTB and mine-based certification continued.

On 10 August, while presenting certificates to some recipients, Aselai said he was satisfied that they had achieved their certificates, and encouraged them to use their new qualifications to explore further employment opportunities.

“We have a limited number of skilled people in the country. You are going to add to the number of skilled people in the country with on-the-job experience, and I am sure these qualifications will help you do well in your future employment.”

Aselai also said it was unfortunate that other trainees could not complete their trades training programs, due to the current Care and Maintenance status of the Mine.

HEF David Tapus, a local from Porgera, who was a Trade Assistant (TA) for eight years, said despite attending a previous technical institution, he did not receive a certificate.

“Now that I have attained this certificate, I’ve been recognised by a statutory body as a tradesperson and I appreciate PJV’s effort to assist me into attaining the certificate.”

HEFs Nenga Mange and Mathew Aiyu also thanked PJV trainers and the program management team for their achievements.

These tradespersons were part of the 2,650 PNG nationals that were made redundant at the end of July.

Ends..



Some of the tradespersons with certificates flanked by Aselai (left) and Fixed Plant Maintenance Superintendent, Ian Kaisom (right).



Tapus (right) and fellow HEF Steven Wambun (centre) proudly displaying their certificates as Aselai looks on.

Porgera Gold Mine – Part of the Community

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