

## **PJV observes International Women's Day**

**PORT MORESBY, PAPUA NEW GUINEA (PNG) – SATURDAY 14 MARCH, 2020:** The Porgera Joint Venture (PJV) also observed the International Women's Day on 8 March, where Mine executive described women in general as trailblazers.

Porgera Mine operator Barrick (Niugini) Limited ("BNL") Executive Managing Director Anthony Esplin acknowledged the role of women, not only at the professional level, but also as wage earners for their families.

"Economic empowerment means women are empowered to contribute economically to the family and raise children in a way that might have been impossible.

"Almost every one of us has felt the power of a woman able to make economic contribution to the family, that sometimes our fathers and brothers don't necessarily always do," Mr Esplin said.

He also said PJV wants to be a leader in providing a conducive work environment for its workforce, especially for its female employees.

At least 10 per cent of the Porgera workforce are fulltime female employees, and this percentage increases with the inclusion of female contract employees.

"We want to be a place where all of our employees can come to work and feel proud of what we're doing, and part of it means it's a place where women employees can come to work and be their best, and that they have opportunities they may not have elsewhere in society, particularly here in PNG.

"So women have the best opportunity whether they're in administrative or technical roles...to make use of their full capacity to have professional fulfilment, to have economic empowerment that arises from that, and they can feel proud of it," Mr Esplin added.

BNL Community Development Manager Jacqueline Nen was particularly appreciative of the Mine's management team in acknowledging the support of female employees.

"We are very privileged to have a leadership that celebrates us and values and appreciates our contribution to the mine as women and as employees.

Mrs Nen who is also a steering committee member at the Mine's Women in Mining (WiM) initiative, acknowledged that the mining industry was very inclusive.

"So we should be proud to be part of an industry that encourages women to participate."

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The Porgera Mine is a joint venture between Barrick Gold 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”).



Mr Esplin (centre) with the WiM initiative steering committee members Janethie Tinga (right) and Harriet McMicking, cut the cake to mark the Day, as others look on.



Mine employees Lucy Malingi (left) and Jerolyn Mark joined colleagues to mark the Day on 8 March, 2020.



Female employees are all smiles as they joined in to observe the Day on 8 March, 2020.

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