

BARRICK NIUGINI LIMITED RESPONDS TO FALSE SOCIAL MEDIA CLAIMS

PORT MORESBY, PAPUA NEW GUINEA – Saturday November 14 2020 (Updated Monday November 16 2020) - Barrick Niugini Limited (BNL) notes a number of false and misleading statements on Facebook and other social media alleging BNL involvement in the actions of PNG parliamentarians to move from the government to the opposition in recent days, and attempts to draw a linkage between the political events and the recent visit of Barrick Gold CEO Mark Bristow to PNG.

BNL states that those statements are false, defamatory and the company will be taking civil and criminal action against the individuals who have made these irresponsible and false statements.

Mr Bristow and his team travelled to PNG in good faith under a joint agreement between Prime Minister Marape and Mr Bristow which committed to negotiations relating to the restart of the Porgera mine. Mr Bristow has visited PNG numerous times in the past two years to engage with the Government constructively and negotiate an agreement beneficial to all Porgera stakeholders.

During his recent visit, Mr Bristow and his team did not meet with anyone other than Prime Minister Marape, together with several of his ministerial colleagues, Enga Governor Ipatas, members of the State Negotiating Team, and the Porgera landowners and their team.

As the Prime Minister himself acknowledged in an interview broadcast on Sunday 15 November, investor partners of Papua New Guinea do not involve themselves in the nation's internal political affairs.

In contrast, the patently false statements on social media made by certain known individuals are designed solely to create a fictitious narrative about BNL's role to further their own political agenda. Those defamatory and entirely false posts have been reported to PNG authorities requesting appropriate action, and have also been reported to Facebook.

Barrick Niugini Limited has been operating in PNG since 2006 and remains a committed partner both to the people and State of Papua New Guinea.

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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").

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