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PRESS RELEASE

Barrick CEO concerned about law and order issues in Porgera

PORT MORESBY, 07 MARCH, 2019, 1300HRS: The new President and Chief Executive Officer of Barrick Gold Corporation, Mark Bristow, is concerned about the level of violence at Porgera in Enga.

“It’s disappointing to come here and see such conflict. We should be working to make sure that the community around this mine improves...to make this place a better place to come to work,” Mr Bristow said these during a ‘question and answer’ (Q&A) session with employees recently, at the Porgera Gold Mine.

On his maiden visit to Papua New Guinea, Mr Bristow led a Barrick delegation to Port Moresby and up to Porgera, from 15 to 18 February 2019.

He called on the national employees, particularly those from areas in the vicinity of the mine and the general Enga province, to look at ways within their families, clans and tribes, to deal with the ongoing tribal warfare that has resulted in the loss of many lives and destroyed properties, over the years.

“We’ve convinced other people to come and put their money here and my job today is to convince Barrick investors to continue to stay in Papua New Guinea and I can’t do that without your help.”

Mr Bristow, from South Africa, shared many of his experience on conflict resolution.

“So when is it that we stop and take the responsibility ourselves for our own future?

“I will point out to you that there’s not one example that a war has resulted in peace. Wars are always resolved in the conversation after the war. So why should we fight? Why don’t we just go straight to the conversation?”

The Q&A session gave employees an opportunity to ask questions on varying subjects.

“Every question that you highlighted is a critical question for us and they are valid. There’s nothing there that you shouldn’t ask about,” Mr Bristow told employees.

Barrick in a statement said Mr Bristow during his four-day visit to PNG, met with Deputy Prime Minister Charles Abel, representatives of the Porgera Landowners’ Association (PLOA), Enga Governor Sir Peter Ipatas, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade Rimbink Pato, Wabag Member of Parliament (MP) Dr Lino Tom, and Lagaip-Porgera MP Tomait Kapili.

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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.



Mr Bristow addressing employees at the Porgera Gold Mine.



Employee Gibson Frank (left) asking a question to Mr Bristow during the Q&A session at the Porgera Gold Mine.



Mr Bristow addressing employees at the Porgera Gold Mine.

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