



BARRICK (NIUGINI) LIMITED
(Manager of the Porgera Joint Venture)
PO Box 484
Mount Hagen 281, WHP
Papua New Guinea

Tel: (657) 547 8200 (Porgera)
(675) 547 8201
Fax: (675) 547 8132
Tel: (675) 545 1288 (Mt Hagen)
Fax: (675) 545 1514

PO Box 851
Port Moresby 121, NCD
Papua New Guinea

Tel: (675) 322 4800
Fax: (675) 322 4824
Telex: 23369

4 October, 2019

PRESS RELEASE

PJV presents HIV support material to district clinic

PORT MORESBY, 4 October 2019, 0900HRS: The Porgera Joint Venture (PJV) continues to provide preventative support to toward the HIV campaign in the Porgera district.

The Porgera Urban Clinic (PUC) Disease Control Manager Masi Mangan Pakyo revealed last month week that in a month, between 100 -150 patients visit the HIV Clinic, and out of those numbers between 5-10 are registered as new HIV positive cases.

In addition, since March this year alone, of the 999 patients that have undergone HIV testing at the PUC, 49 have been confirmed positive.

Mrs Pakyo highlighted this on 3 September during a presentation of HIV support materials by the Porgera Joint Venture (PJV) to the clinic.

“Right now we don’t have HIV medicines but we provide counselling and testing and we give people hope and we do what we can to help.”

“We must understand that PJV is a company and is here to do business but we are always grateful that the company always recognises our efforts to serve the wider Porgera community,” Mrs Pakyo said.

The HIV support material was delivered to the clinic by PJV Senior Manager Community and Social Responsibility (CSR) Timothy Andambo.

The materials included cartons of male and female condoms, pamphlets and posters and a projector totaling to over K38 800.

Mr Andambo stressed on the importance of safe sex and the need to use protection, emphasising on the safety standards applied at the mine operations and how the same principles apply to engaging in any sexual activity.

“Just like the hard hat serves as protection for a miner’s head, the condom is a safety barrier and prevents the spread of HIV/Aids.

“The donations are part of our community health support to provide preventative support for HIV. There is nothing wrong with sex – but 5 minutes of fun can destroy your life – always take precaution,” Mr Andambo said.

Porgera District Health Manager Jerry Maku said Porgera is a leading district in Aids statistics in the Enga province.

“There are currently over 1000 HIV clients in the Valley. Once you multiply that by 10, you have an estimated 10,000 people potentially spreading the virus. There are no medicines and people are dying. We have to change behavior as it is our own individual lives,” Mr Maku said.

He said PJV has always stepped in to assist the clinic in its efforts to serve the district and this was something of they were appreciate of.

PJV is also providing wider support toward the HIV campaign in the Valley targeted at the general population. These include branding of buses and billboards in public locations with HIV messaging and provision of support materials to the Porgera Urban Clinic.

In June this year, PJV also donated to the Porgera Urban Clinic, office equipment totaling over K6, 000 to support the clinic’s medical administrative and record keeping functions.

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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 Andambo (white hardhat) hands over the HIV material donation to Mr Maku as clinic staff look on displaying some of the HIV posters.



Masi Mangan Pakyo – Porgera Urban
Clinic Disease Control Manager



A PMV bus in Porgera with a HIV sticker
which is part of PJV’s HIV support in the
district.

PJV Media Contact Details:
Email: PJVMedia@porgerajv.com
Phone: (+675) 547 8200