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PRESS RELEASE

Chinese Ambassador visits Porgera mine

PORT MORESBY, 20 JUNE, 2019, 0900HRS: The Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Papua New Guinea (PNG), Mr Xue Bing made an official visit to the Porgera gold mine in Enga last week.

Ambassador Xue arrived in Porgera on Thursday 13 June for the one-day visit accompanied by his wife Madame Zhao Jun and Attaché He Miao.

The delegation from the Chinese Embassy met with PJV's senior management led by Executive Managing Director (EMD) Anthony Esplin, Managing Director (MD) Shaoyang Shen, and Senior Manager, Community and Social Responsibilities (CSR) Timothy Andambo.

Mr Esplin welcomed the delegation to the Porgera mine site and delivered an overview of the mine operation and challenges, acknowledging Chinese company Zijin and its equal partnership with Barrick in the Porgera JV operation.

"Over 30 years, PJV has made enormous contributions to the national purse and local economy and we are proud of the record we've had over that period.

"Certainly we acknowledge room for improvement, but we see a long term very strong asset that can continue to operate for the benefit of the community and the government of PNG and off course the shareholders," Mr Esplin said.

The visitors were also delivered presentations into PJV's Community and Social Responsibilities (CSR) Department, the Asset Protection Department (APD) and the Environment department by various department leads.

Ambassador Xue said his visit was to get a better understanding of the operations and its impact in the communities.

He said the China-PNG relations has been quite good and described the PJV operation as a very important investment that has brought benefits to both the country and local communities.

The Ambassador acknowledged that the operation was going through a critical phase with the SML license renewal pending and reviews to the Mining Act.

"I acknowledge that the operation is going through a critical phase of seeking extension on the Special Mine Lease (SML) license, and the Mining Act review. I believe that Porgera will work closely with the PNG government and parties concerned to resolve the issues satisfactorily. The recent years have seen rapid development of relations between China and PNG. We are comprehensive strategic partners and over the years, China has provided assistance within its capacity to PNG, which has brought many tangible benefits to both sides, and we will continue to do so in the future", Ambassador Xue said.

The delegation was given a tour of the mine open pit, the Anawe processing plant and the environment rehabilitation site at Kogai. They also had community engagements visiting staff and students of the Porgera Secondary School as well as the Paiam Hospital where Ambassador Xue presented gifts at both locations.

The delegation departed on Friday 14 June.

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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.



Ambassador Xue and his delegation are met on arrival at the Porgera gold mine by Mr Shen while Mr Andambo (1st from left) and Mr Esplin (2nd from left) look on.



At the mine open pit lookout are from left to right; Shane King, PJV Mine Superintendent, Mr Esplin, Ambassador Xue, Madam Zhao, Mr Shen and Mr Andambo.

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