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PRESS RELEASE

NATTB conducts trade tests at Porgera

PORT MORESBY, 17 January 2018, 1300HRS: The National Apprenticeship and Trade Testing Board (NATTB) had conducted tests for Heavy Equipment Fitters (HEF) and Electrical at the Porgera gold mine.

The tests in HEF Level (3) Three and Electrical Level (2)Two were conducted from 13-19 November 2017, administered by William Tiru from NATTB's Quality Assurance and Accreditation office under the Department of Labour and Industrial Relations.

"We at NATTB work in partnership with Porgera Joint Venture to recognise and certify skilled workforce.

"The whole idea is to really test and find out the skills of PJV employees and to certify them according to each level, according to their skills and knowledge", Mr Tiru said.

According to Mr Tiru, the NATTB is a statutory body established under an Act of Parliament to certify trades personnel particularly in the technical areas within the country.

PJV Maintenance Specialist Trainer Ian Ritchie said from a company perspective, the training requirement that is put in place by the PNG government is not only beneficial to PNG nationals but is also very important for the company.

"We need trained staff and we put in a large committment to train those staff to ensure that we get the best possible outcome for both the employees as well as the company."

Mr Tiru added that the NATTB coordinates two systems. The first being the Apprenticeship System where employers recruit or engage apprentices for four years, and the second method is the Trade Testing system, such as the test conducted at PJV, which is for the informal sector.

"People may not have gone through any formal eeuctaion but they have the skills and the knowledge and they can provide quality outcomes that employers need.

"It is like a quality check on the skill level of employees" he said.

PJV ensures all candidates do however, receive the highest level of formal trade training for both the trade trainees and trade assistant candidates.

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 2,500 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 Tiru (left) and Ritchie (right) with the electrical trade test candidates.



A PJV electrical trade test candidate (right) prepares equipment for electrical installation, as trainer Tommy Aselai watches closely.

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