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PRESS RELEASE

SMEC impressed with Carlton's green fingers

PORT MORESBY, 04 MARCH, 2019, 1300HRS: The Small Medium Enterprise Corporation (SMEC) has been impressed with Porgera's youngest agriculture enthusiast, Calton Samuel after visiting his home at the Porgera Station in January this year.

Members of the Port Moresby based SMEC were in Porgera in January to participate in a forum organized by the Porgera Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI).

As part of their engagement, the group visited PCCI member project sites from Surunki to Porgera including young Carlton who has progressed from the Porgera Joint Venture (PJV) initiated Agrikids program.

Carlton's parents are members of the PCCI.

PJV Senior Officer Community Development Peter Tumun introduced Carlton's project to the SMEC team and said PJV has been monitoring Calton's project with the support of training and said the Agrikids Program has also extended to other Porgera communities.

Women's Entrepreneurship Coordinator with SMEC Maria Kalap said for Carlton to be inspired and to go home and convince his parents to help him to do up a garden to produce vegetables, that is what the SME is all about – it starts at home.

"He already thinks business when he goes to school. The formal sector will not cater for every one and Carlton's story is a very good start and I commend his parents for supporting young Carlton's ambitions," Mrs Kalap said

She said the SME Corporation goes throughout the country delivering training, coaching and business advise and they have been very impressed with Carlton Samuel's progress.

"I commend PCCI for working to promote SME in Porgera. Mining is here but it has a lifespan and agriculture will sustain your livelihoods after the mine is gone.

"We appreciate the invitation to be in Porgera. We see there is a lot of interest and we are ready to stand with and support the aspirations of the PCCI," Mrs Kalap said.

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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.



Carlton (left) shows SMEC and PJV visitors his vegetable garden at Porgera Station.



Mrs Kalap and SMEC’s Small Enterprise Development Coordinator Yole Kapili.

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