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## PRESS RELEASE

### Porgera UG mine tribe to foster team spirit and drive production

**PORT MORESBY, 11 September, 2019, 0900HRS:** Fostering team spirit is vital for any business in order to boost production or output.

In Porgera, the PJV Underground (UG) Mining team have gone a step further and have developed a theme – the *UG Mining Tribe* which has helped build a strong group of miners focused on *Wok Wantaim Save na Seifti* (Work using knowledge and skills and safety) and *Wok I Mas Igo Yet* (Work must continue).

This theme was cemented with the arrival of two new Caterpillar R2900G underground loaders on 22 August with the decal of the UG Mining Tribe logo.

PJV UG Trainer Gideon Embolome who was instrumental in the development of the theme and its logo, said Porgera brings together employees of different backgrounds, locals, nationals and expatriates who become part of a family during their working shift onsite.

The theme hopes to embrace this idea of a family who work together to meet set production targets, in a safe and responsible manner, regardless of issues one may face in their homes or communities.

“When we leave our homes to come to work here, our focus is on our daily tasks, on safety, that’s why we came up with the name UG Mining Tribe.”

“Whatever issues we are facing outside of work, this should not affect our work and PJV operations – work must go ahead.

“Whether you’re performing a minor or major task, you must have relevant training to perform the task, and you must also follow safety procedures in place,” Mr Embolome said.

PJV UG Manager Tom Paton said the entire UG team have enthusiastically embraced the UG Mining Tribe concept.

“There’s regular reference to our motto ‘*Wok Wantaim Save and Wok Mas Igo Yet*’ in our crew meetings, and in the workplace, and now on our equipment,” he said.

Mr Paton said the new loaders will replace old fleet, with the oldest loader having been operated for the last 12 years.

The new Caterpillar R2900G loaders were purchased from Australia at a cost of USD1.7million (PGK5.8mil) each.

The loaders with the buckets were shipped separately and the PJV UG Mobile Maintenance team of Heavy Equipment Fitters had the job of fitting the buckets to the loaders. The new equipment also had to undergo the normal equipment inspection which was carried out on 22-23 August.

Mr Paton said he expected an immediate benefit to the underground production.

“The new loaders are reliable frontline machines capable of efficiently moving large volumes of underground ore from both development and stop sources.”

“...an increase in current available operating hours across the loader fleet as well as by lifting the overall standard of the loaders for both operations and maintenance personnel,” he said.

There are now 8 loaders operating in the Porgera underground mine, with mining at a rate of 1.65 million tonnes (Mt) of ore per year, increasing to 1.8Mt of ore per year by 2021.

**Ends//**

**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.



PJV mine UG employees with Manager Tom Paton (standing 3<sup>rd</sup> from left) in front of one of the new caterpillar R2900G loaders.



Part of the Porgera UG mining team with the two new loaders in the background.

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