



**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

26 April, 2019

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **PJV Assay Lab awarded ISO 17025 Re-certification**

**PORT MORESBY, 26 APRIL, 2019, 1300HRS:** The Porgera mine Assay Laboratory within the Mine Processing Department has achieved ISO 17025 re-certification under the Papua New Guinea Laboratory Accreditation Scheme (PNGLAS) to conduct Chemical Testing related to gold and sulphur assay processes.

This comes as a result of two years of hard work and persistence as the team led by Assay Lab Superintendent Jacob Eko worked on improving systems, procedures and training used in the laboratory after PJV's previous certification expired in 2014.

The two-year accreditation was awarded by the National Institute of Standards & Industrial Technology (NISIT)-administered PNGLAS on 1 March, 2019 after the Assay Lab was able to demonstrate its technical competence to operate in accordance with the PNG ISO/IEC 17025 (2005).

The re-certification was awarded after PNGLAS conducted a Surveillance Audit on 22 November 2018 following an application for an accreditation lodged by PJV Assay Lab.

PJV Processing Manager Ben Burger said the team was able to achieve an internationally recognised quality and production management system.

"It's really important for an assay laboratory that is actually doing significant assays for big operations like this...and also doing a lot of assays for our Exploration team to make sure that the results are of high quality and they comply with international standards," Mr Burger said.

The accreditation provides the framework for building quality and capacity of output from the laboratory which is essential for both geology, mining and processing to have accurate and timely data to make good business decisions for operational control and long-term growth of the operation."

Mr Burger said with the lab's recertification comes the challenge for the Assay lab team and the other supporting sections to make sure they follow all procedures.

"...we have a system in place, that really just creates the framework, the foundation for all of our procedures, the methods and the activities that each of you perform in the lab every day, using the equipment, the assays, checking the quality control, the Maintenance team with your support in ensuring the equipment is functional, calibrated.

“So all of us have a key part to play here...if we don’t follow those procedures, then we’re not compliant with the accreditation. Which means the results that are produced from the Assay Lab could be questionable. That has a big impact on both Process operations, on the Geology team, who are trying to define where more gold is for the future operation, and also making sure that we’re able to operate the plant efficiently so that we have a robust...very strong business here,” Mr Burger said.

PJV Senior Geologist Bruce Robertson acknowledged Mr Eko for his ‘perseverance and passion to push the team forward’, and said the Assay Lab was a critical part of the day-to-day business.

The Assay Lab accreditation will expire on 1 March, 2021, prior to which PJV will be required to undertake a similar process to request for a Surveillance Audit by PNGLAS to maintain continuity of accreditation.

PNGLAS is the national accreditation body that assesses and accredits testing and calibration laboratories. The current accreditation system that PNGLAS have adopted is equivalent to that developed by the National Association of Testing Authority, Australia (NATA) ([www.nisit.gov.pg](http://www.nisit.gov.pg)).

NISIT is a measurement standards government agency of PNG’s Department of Commerce & Industry, tasked to promote innovation and industrial competitiveness. It ensures that industries and organisations in the country adhere to domestic and international standards in their operations

**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.



Mr Burger (right) presents the certificate to Mr Eko.



Some members of the PJV assay lab team.

**PJV Media Contact Details:**

Email: [PJVMedia@porgerajv.com](mailto:PJVMedia@porgerajv.com)

Phone: (+675) 547 8200