

Porgera Remains Calm – Mine Operating Normally

PORT MORESBY, PAPUA NEW GUINEA (PNG) – Tuesday 31 MARCH, 2020: Barrick Niugini Limited (“BNL”) reports that the situation in the Porgera District remains calm, and that the Porgera Mine and surrounding communities are adhering to Government health and safety advice in relation to the COVID-19 Coronavirus situation.

Responding to recent Government advisories relating to a suspension of international and domestic movements of people, BNL Executive Managing Director, Mr Anthony Esplin, said that the mine is operating normally, and that mining and processing operations are continuing as planned.

“The situation in Porgera remains calm, and community leaders such as public health officials and the police are doing a very good job in keeping the community informed about the latest Government advice – it is heartening to see the community pulling together at this difficult time,” Mr Esplin said.

“Staff from the Porgera Mine have been liaising with public officials throughout this event, and we will provide any support we can to the community and public facilities over the coming weeks, and will continue to work closely with the Paiam District Hospital and locally-deployed police so that they can continue providing critical services to the community during this period.

“Importantly, we will also work with local authorities and supply and transport companies to ensure that the Highlands Highway remains open, and that vital supplies of food, fuel and medicines can continue to reach the remote communities in our area.

“While the movement of people within PNG has been temporarily suspended, mine management have been planning for this eventuality for some time, and last week we temporarily shifted to a long-roster format at the mine site so that operations at the mine can continue without interruption,” Mr Esplin said.

“The Porgera Mine is an important, and nationally strategic asset, and ongoing operations will ensure that much-needed public revenue in the form of taxes and royalties continues to flow to the National and Provincial Governments as they implement the national response to the unprecedented global Coronavirus outbreak.

“One of our highest priorities is ensuring that all our employees are safe, and that they continue to be paid – even when off-site – and those who are working longer rotations at the mine are being paid an additional allowance. We have also made an emergency payment to all of our PNG employees, which in turn helps them support family and friends at home who may be impacted by the COVID19 situation in the weeks to come.

“Our contractors and external service providers will also be able to continue to operate, providing important ongoing employment for their workforce.

“We will be working closely with the National Government over the coming days as they review arrangements for the movement of essential workers, and will be ready to resume commuting arrangements for our national employees when we are authorized to do so.

“In the interim, our current in-country management and operations divisions will continue to operate the mine safely during this period.

“These arrangements will be reviewed regularly as the situation requires over the coming weeks, to ensure that mining operations are being conducted safely and effectively,” Mr Esplin said.

“We have implemented a number of other precautionary health procedures for our employees at the mine site, as well as in our residential camps, to help detect and prevent any risk of local exposure to infection. These measures include regular temperature scanning of the workforce, and enhanced sanitation and hygiene practices in camps and across all work areas.

“If any suspected cases of the Coronavirus are detected, we have in place safe and secure medical facilities and procedures to ensure strict patient isolation rules are followed, to prevent any risk of the spread of infection, and will ensure compliance with measures enacted by the National Government.

“We are also continuing to liaise with Government leaders and public officials to determine if there are other ways we can assist in preparations for any possible outbreak of the disease in Papua New Guinea,” Mr Esplin said.

“It is important that we recognize everyone has a part to play in helping prevent the spread of the COVID19 virus, and the precautionary measures we have put in place at the Porgera Mine are one way in which our company can assist the community in tackling this disease,” he said.

“Together we will get through this time of uncertainty, and Barrick Niugini Limited stands ready to assist the State and our local communities as we work through the challenges to come,” Mr Esplin said.

>ENDS<

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The Porgera Mine is a joint venture between Barrick Gold and the Zijin Mining Group, which each owns 47.5%, with the remaining 5% interest held by Mineral Resources Enga (owned equally by Porgera Special Mining Lease landowners and the Enga Provincial Government). The Mine is operated by Barrick Niugini Limited (BNL).

Porgera Gold Mine – Part of the Community

Enquiries:

PJV Media - PJVMedia@porgerajv.com (+675) 547 8200

Website: www.porgerajv.com

