



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

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PUBLIC STATEMENT

Hides Transmission Line Repairs Restore Power to Porgera

PORT MORESBY, 27 APRIL, 2019, 0900HRS: Barrick (Niugini) Limited (“BNL”), the operator of the Porgera Mine in Enga, confirms that the Hides electrical transmission line, that links the Porgera mine and surrounding communities to the Hides Power Facility, had been repaired.

Vandalism to the line had cut off power to the Porgera Mine and surrounding communities, for the third time in the month of April.

Mine management reports that a high voltage pylon, located in a remote area along the transmission line, was sabotaged by unknown persons, cutting off electricity supply from Hides to the Porgera District for the third time in three weeks.

Operations at the Porgera Mine were temporarily impacted by this event, with the mine operating on back-up power provided by on-site diesel generators while the transmission line was repaired.

The Executive Managing Director of Barrick (Niugini) Limited, Mr Tony Esplin, said that some processing and production operations at the Mine were scaled back as a consequence of the loss of electricity supply, which impacted both the mine and the local community.

“Every time someone causes criminal damage to the Hides transmission line, our ability to operate at full capacity is impacted, causing an economic loss to the mine operators, to the community, the National Government of PNG through loss of tax and royalty revenues, and to the Enga Provincial Government the loss of revenue distributions. The economy of the region relies on the Porgera operation to drive the local economy and social services, and we remain resilient in the face of senseless destruction of property” Mr Esplin said.

“Important public services and local businesses are also impacted by these irresponsible and criminal acts of sabotage, as many of these local services and businesses cannot operate without power,” he said.

Mr Esplin stated that urgent repairs had again been made to the transmission line, and the company confirms that full power had now been restored to the Porgera Mine and surrounding communities.

“A Police Mobile Squad has deployed to the area and are investigating those responsible, and we trust that they will bring these criminals to justice – whether those who committed these acts of sabotage, or those who may have supported them or encouraged them to break the law,” Mr Esplin said.

The company has raised the issue of continued damage to the transmission line with Government representatives, and notes its disappointment that a small number of individuals are prepared to engage in criminal acts that impact on so many in the community.

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Barrick (Niugini) Limited ("BNL") is a company incorporated in Papua New Guinea, and operates the Porgera Gold Mine in Enga Province on behalf of the Porgera Joint Venture partners. BNL is an independently managed company and is jointly owned through an equal partnership between Barrick Gold and Zijin Mining Group. The Porgera Gold Mine employs over 3,300 Papua New Guineans, and over the life of the mine it has contributed approximately 10% of Papua New Guinea's total annual exports.



PJV Linesmen working on a new 25 metre transmission tower. Similar towers and transmission lines have been affected by vandalism.

PJV Media Contact Details:
Email: PJVMedia@porgerajv.com
Phone: (+675) 547 8200