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10 May, 2018

PRESS RELEASE

Porgera faced with serious law and order problems

PORT MORESBY, 10 MAY, 2018, 1300HRS: Porgera's deteriorating law and order situation has been described as very serious.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) and Chief of Administration Raphael Huafolo said this when he visited Porgera to assess the law and order situation in the valley.

"We have a very serious law and order problem here in Porgera," he told members of the Porgera police force.

Mr Huafolo addressed Porgera police and some members of the state-call-out operations during a combined morning parade on 3 May at the Paiam Police Station. He was accompanied by Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) Tony Duwang.

"We have been running operations after operations. And there is no change. There were times when we were having very serious law and order problems. People are not valuing the lives of other people here in Porgera. People are just being killed here in the valley. We actually lost lives of police men who were operating here," Mr Huafolo said at the parade.

He said one of the major contributing factors to the lawlessness in the valley was the consumption of illegal drugs and alcohol. These, he said, had created a chain of social issues in the community, resulting in killings that have developed into tribal fights where firearms have been used in recent times.

The visiting police hierarchy also met with Porgera Joint Venture (PJV) management to discuss law and order issues affecting the business.

He said sabotage of the Hides Tower Line (HTL) that supplies power to the Porgera gold mine from Hides in Hela Province, and illegal mining were increasing trends that affected mine operations.

He said Porgera had developed due to the mine operations, and people must realise its importance to the community.

Mr Huafolo said there was still more work to be done to restore law and order in the valley.

He said one way to deal with the issue was through community policing, as law and order issue is the responsibility of everyone.

This community policing strategy will be enforced through the established District Law and Order Committee.

The visiting police hierarchy were also taken on a brief tour of the Paiam Police Station and the courthouse.

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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 2,500 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.

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Mr Huafolo addressing the combined police parade at the Paiam Police Station.



ACP Duwang inspecting the combined parade.

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