

PJV team visits Maramuni road and happy with progress

PORT MORESBY, PAPUA NEW GUINEA – SUNDAY 09 FEBRUARY, 2020 – There is now some hope for the remote Maramuni people of Enga Province, thanks to the progress of the civil works on the Wabag-Maramuni Road.

Porgera Joint Venture (PJV) Community Relations and Engagement (CRE) Manager Meck Minnala spoke on progress, when he led a PJV team to see firsthand the progress on the roadworks on 7 February, 2020.

Under a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed 15 October, 2019, PJV is assisting the Wabag District Development Authority (DDA) with 40 drums of fuel (200 litre each) per month for a six-month period.

And since October, PJV has provided a total of 160 drums at an estimated cost of K30,000 per month.

The fuel assistance to Wabag DDA is for machinery being engaged to upgrade and properly establish the Wabag-Maramuni road, as well as constructing and expanding other important roads in the district.

“It’s good to come and see what the team here on the ground is doing, and we are impressed by the great work and professionalism shown by the construction team,” Mr Minnala said. He added that as a corporate citizen, PJV is assisting the Wabag DDA to ensure that the people of Maramuni are able to have a proper road link.

“It’s about connecting people to people...the people of Maramuni are also part of Enga and so must access basic services as well,” he said.

The PJV team visit was in the company of State Minister for Fisheries and Marine Resources, and the Wabag Member of Parliament (MP), Dr Lino Tom.

According to Dr Tom, about 40 per cent of the works is complete, and DDA hopes to deliver the project by July this year.

“We’re very happy that PJV has come in to assist us, as we are also working on six other roads in Wabag and are very much stressed with funding.

“But PJV came on board and started assisting us with fuel especially for the Maramuni road and it has really helped us a lot,” a very appreciative Minister Tom said.

He also said the people of Maramuni are very happy as they will have road access leading into the Maramuni government station for the very first time since PNG gained independence in 1975.

It is hoped that the road link will bring about basic services to the people who have had to walk several days in order to get goods and services.

Currently, the only mode of transport in and out of the area is by air, something that is out of reach for the ordinary villagers.

Dr Tom also said funding was the main challenge in completing the road works on time, adding that the District Services Improvement Program (DSIP) funding of K10 million was insufficient, as only K3 million was allocated for infrastructure development.

The almost all-year-round wet weather condition in the area and a couple of landowner issues are among the challenges for DDA, especially for the Wabag-Maramuni road as it goes through the Lagaip-Porgera area to reach the government station.

“...because it involves going into another area to build this road, so we have a bit of landowner issues to deal with as well,” Minister Tom said.

>ENDS<

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The Porgera mine is a joint venture between Barrick 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



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Caption: A vehicle driving through the newly constructed Maramuni road.



PJV team visits Maramuni road and happy with progress 2

Caption: Mr Minnala (left) speaking with Dr Tom at a section of the Maramuni road.



PJV team visits Maramuni road and happy with progress 3

Caption: A vehicle passes an excavator, one of the equipment being used to construct the Maramuni road.



PJV team visits Maramuni road and happy with progress 4

Caption: A vehicle driving along a section of the newly constructed Maramuni road.



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Caption: Dr Tom (right), speaks to community members, PJV staffs, and the roadworks team at a section of the Maramuni road.

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