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PRESS RELEASE

MRA officers acquire new skill sets

Eight Mineral Resources Authority (MRA) staff, comprising mining engineers and geologists have completed a month's training program on how to use the Geovia Surpac software.

The staff members who have been awarded 'certificates of completion' are, Miriam Kuma, Angela Bokuik, Polio Tailao, Steven Samuel and Lloyd Singura, Boidie Akenale and Shekinah Pilamp.
Specific areas of training included 'Application of geostats to resource estimation using Geovia Surpac, mineral resource estimation using geovia surpac, drill hole data acquisition and Quality Assurances & Quality Control (QAQC), and drill hole database management.

Geovia Surpac is the most widely used software system of its kind in the world. It supports open pit and underground mining and exploration projects in more than 120 countries. The software enables mining practitioners to quantify and evaluate mineral deposits and to plan the efficient extraction of reserves. The software delivers efficiency and accuracy through ease-of-use, powerful 3D graphics and workflow automation, that can be aligned to company-specific processes and data flows.

Under the Regulatory Operations Division of the MRA, the application of the Surpac software will be as follows:

- Geological datasets provided via statutory reports can be verified and validated for compliance, for the purpose of technical assessment and appraisals.

- Properly validate geological datasets and proposed engineering designs submitted by advanced and existing mining projects via development proposals. This will allow the provision of sound technical advice to the Mining Advisory Council (MAC) and other concerned State Team Agencies for better deliberations.

- Allow improved monitoring and comparison of proposed designs against actual developments on project sites.

- Provide MAC members with visual illustration of development designs, ore bodies, structures, etc. of any requested projects to aid in deliberations.

The MRA's Acting Managing Director Jerry Garry when presenting the staff members with their certificates of completion, said the training had empowered his staff with skill-sets that had been missing. "Infact the tools that we need to undertake independent geological modelling, ore body modelling, resource estimation and mine designs had been lacking in this institution," said Mr Garry.

The AMD said the MRA regulates the largest industry in the country, that is complex, and comes with a lot of challenges. He said the PNG mining industry has different types of deposits and some of them are world-class

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deposits by any standard. He said to be the regulator of such an industry, the MRA had to have knowledge and skill-sets that are above the industry that it is regulating.

"If you don't have these skill-sets, it would become difficult and challenging when you want to regulate the industry." Mr Garry said gradually the MRA intends to build MRA's capacity so that its technical officers are educated on what is required of them in their line of work.

The MRA's Reporting Geologist Miriam Kuma, on behalf of the participants thanked MRA for making the training program possible. She said they acquired the software initially without knowing how to use it. She said the training they had received would allow them to properly and efficiently utilize the software.

The training program was delivered by Perth-based company Deka Dynamics.

The training program and certificates presentation in picture