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**PRESS RELEASE**

**Porgera Mine CDA Consultative Meetings Commence**

The Porgera mining project Community Development Agreement (CDA – formerly MOA) consultations, commenced today (Sept 4, 2023) in Alotau Milne Bay Province.

The consultations follow on from the Development Forum, hosted by the Mining Minister Hon Sir Ano Pala, on August 22, 2023, in Wabag, Enga Province.

Minister Pala, Vice Minister for Mining, Hon James Donald, and the Vice Minister Assisting the Prime Minister (State Negotiating Team – SNT), Hon Jimmy Maladina, arrived at the meeting venue, to a rousing welcome by Tapioka dancers from the Trobriand Islands.

The ministers were accompanied by their Departmental heads including the Acting Managing Director for the Mineral Resources Authority (MRA), Jerry Garry, the Secretary for Department of Mineral Policy & Geohazards Management (DMPGM) Harry Kore, Chairman of the SNT Dairi Vele and the State Solicitor Daniel Rolpagarea.

About 200-250 landowners and impacted communities attended the opening ceremony.

New Porgera Limited (NPL) and Barrick Niugini were represented by Karo Lelai (Barrick Niugini's Country Manager), and NPL's General Manager Chad Coulin.

Hon Pala while officially opening the consultations, urged the landowners, impacted communities and the State Team, to have open, fair and sincere discussions.

He told the landowners that the consultations were an opportunity for them to openly discuss their development aspirations, with the government and the developer New Porgera Limited.



***Photo: Minister Pala welcomed by dancers at the first day of the meeting.***