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PRESS RELEASE

Porgera Project CDA in May: Minister Dilu

Mining Minister Honourable Muguwa Dilu MP, yesterday announced that the Community Development Agreement (CDA) for the Porgera project, would be held on May 15-30 at a venue to be announced soon. The Minister made this announcement in Mt Hagen, when addressing the Riverine communities from Enga, Western, West Sepik and Hela Provinces, who will be impacted by the operations of the Porgera Mine. The impacted communities are in Hagen this week to attend the pre-CDA meeting with the State Team.

Hon Dilu assured the communities, Special Mining Lease (SML) landowners, Provincial Governments, New Porgera Limited (NPL) and all stakeholders of the project, that the Marape-Rosso Government was committed and supportive of project and their development aspirations associated with the project. He said the government would ensure that the CDA would be fast tracked and completed within a reasonable time frame.

Hon Dilu urged all government departments involved in the CDA process particularly the Mineral Resources Authority (MRA), and the Conservation Environment Protection Authority (CEPA) to perform their duties so that the CDA could be completed sooner. He said CEPA was a critical player in the process because any delay in their process in terms of their regulatory assessments had the potential to delay the CDA process as far as riverine communities were concerned.

He reminded all stakeholders of the project that the CDA negotiations would be governed by the various laws of the country, adding that stakeholders must to be mindful of the relevant laws when negotiating benefits. The Minister was accompanied by the Member for Telefomin and Minister for Works & Implementation, Hon Solan Mirisim, whose people will be impacted by the mine's operations. Hon Mirisim presented his people's position paper at the occasion. Present at the meeting also were the Governor for Western Highlands Province, Hon Wai Rapa, Governor for West Sepik Province Hon Tony Wouwou and the Managing Director for the MRA, Mr Jerry Garry.

Meanwhile the State Team working on the Community Development Agreement (CDA), is in the final stages of conducting the pre-CDA meetings with the different landowner groups and stakeholders, before the CDA proper in May as announced by the Minister yesterday.

The final lot of pre-CDA meetings will be with the landowners of Hides-Porgera Power Line, which is scheduled for next week in Tari. The aim of pre-CDA meetings is to create awareness, clarify issues, prepare landowners and respond to specific pre-dominant agendas presented in position papers submitted by landowners and stakeholders. The idea is to address queries relating to these agendas including equity, royalty and Business Development Grant. This is so that come CDA proper negotiations, the stakeholders would already be aware of how the State would treat these agendas. It is expected that having these pre-CDA meetings will allow the CDA proper negotiations run smoothly without major hinderances to the process.

So far the State has met with the Special Mining Lease (SML) landowners, Lease for Mining Purposes (LMP)

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landowners, the Enga Provincial Government and the Porgera Rural Local Level Government.

The State Team which has been involved in these meetings comprise the Departments of Prime Minister & National Executive Council (PMNEC), Commerce & Industry, Lands & Physical Planning, Conservation Environment Protection Authority (CEPA), State Negotiating Team (SNT), National Planning & Monitoring, Treasury, Mineral Policy & Geohazards Management (DMPGM), and the Mineral Resources Authority (MRA).

Project operator New Porgera Limited (NPL) and Kumul Minerals Holdings Limited (KMHL) have also been attending the meetings to respond to specific queries where necessary.

The Porgera Mine hosts 11 million ounces gold reserves, produces 500,000 ounces dori and 5% gold as concentrate per annum.

The project is jointly owned by the PNG Government and Barrick Niugini Limited (BNL). The PNG Government and its partners own 51% equity while BNL owns 49%. The 51% owned by PNG, comprises 36% - Kumul Minerals Holdings Limited (KMHL), 10% - SML Landowners and 5% Enga Provincial Government (EPG).



Photo: Minister Dilu announcing the CDA dates yesterday. He is flanked by Hon Mirisim (left) and Mr Garry



Photo: Hon Mirisim delivering his speech during the meeting



Photo: Part of the Riverine impacted community



Photo: The stakeholders



Photo: Hon Mirisim presenting Riverine communities' position papers to Minister Dilu



Photo: Hon Mirisim presenting a copy of the position paper to the Country Manager for New Porgera and Barrick Niugini Limited, Ms Karo Lelai. They are with Governor Wouwou, Minister Dilu, Mr Garry and Ben Ketengu of Kumul Minerals Holdings Limited



Photo: The State Team