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**PRESS RELEASE**

**Awareness on the Alluvial Mining Sector**

The Mineral Resources Authority (MRA) Managing Director Jerry Garry, has appealed to alluvial gold miners, leaseholders and tribute agreement partners in the Wau-Waria District, to respect each other, observe the law, and resolve issues amicably.

The MD made the appeal on Monday August 12, 2024, during a meeting at the MRA's Wau Small Scale Mining Training Center (SSMTC), when addressing stakeholders in the alluvial mining business in the district. The meeting was held light of the recent killing of a Chinese employed by MI-DO Mining Company Limited.

He urged all stakeholders to resolve their issues peacefully and not to take law into their own hands, adding that any issue relating to mining should be brought to the attention of the SSMTC officers. He said mining was an international business and that companies from around the world could come and do business in the country, provided they meet all requirements and follow processes under the Mining Act 1992.

The MD explained that part of the MRA's mandate was to promote and market PNG's mining sector at international conferences overseas, with a view to attracting investors into the country. He said incidences such as the killing of the mine employee, painted a bad image of the country's investment profile especially internationally, which could discourage investors from coming into the country.

He said all applications for licenses go through a stringent screening process before decisions on whether to grant or not grant are made by the Minister for Mining.

"We make sure applicants have the financial and technical capacity to conduct mining. There are no short cuts," said Mr Garry. He added that the process starts with the conducting of Warden Hearings to get consent and views of landowners on the applications. The MD said there was a dedicated team that assesses Tribute Agreements (TA) to ensure that agreements are fair and favourable to leaseholders.

The meeting was attended by the Member of Parliament for Wau-Waria Hon Marsh Narawec, Gold buyer/Exporter Justine Parker, Morobe Gold Field Small Scale Miners Association President Banzi Zimanga, 2000 miners, leaseholders landowners, and a few TA partners.

Hon Narawec told Mr Garry that his people's major issue was to have old mining leases converted to new leases so that the leases are aligned with the Mining Act 1992. This sentiments were also shared by President Zimanga. Both leaders said there was a lack of manpower at the MRA's Wau office to service their miners. They appealed to the MRA to recruit additional Mine Development

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engineers and geologists to be based at the agency's Wau office so that their miners could be adequately serviced. In response Mr Garry undertook to recruit the relevant officers.

Photo:



***Photo: Mr Garry speaking to miners, leaseholders and Tribute Agreement Joint Venture partners on Monday.***

















***Photo: Hon Marsh Narawec delivering his speech during the meeting.***