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PRESS RELEASE

Mining Minister makes key announcements on Pogera

Mining Minister Honourable Sir Ano Pala yesterday (Thursday July 20th), announced important statutory activities that will be undertaken by the Mineral Resources Authority (MRA) which will lead to the re-opening of the Porgera Mine.

The statutory activities are:

1. Mining Warden's Hearing, which will be held on July 31 at Paiam Oval, Porgera, and on Aug 1 in Tari.
2. Technical Assessment on the Proposal for Development.

The Mining Development Forum will be held in parallel with the statutory activities and is scheduled to be held on Aug 7 in Wabag Town. Signing of the Special Mining Lease (SML 13) for the Porgera Mining Project is anticipated by end of August.

Hon. Sir Pala's announcements were witnessed by the Prime Minister Honourable James Marape, other Ministers, Heads of Government Departments and more importantly by Porgera mine landowners, project stakeholders and New Porgera Limited representatives.

The announcements were made during the security forum event held yesterday, at the Paiam Oval in Porgera.

During the occasion, Minister Pala acknowledged Prime Minister Marape, for successfully securing the 51 percent stake in the project. However, he said that 51 percent needs to be mined out of the land and translated into benefits. The Minister added that in order to realise the benefits of 51 percent, all stakeholders had to address law & order issues and restore peace in the valley.

"Without peace, we cannot have access to our gold in the ground," said Sir Pala.

The Minister's announcement of the date and the venue of the forum is consistent with the Mining Act, which requires a Mining Minister to make such an announcement to trigger the benefits sharing negotiation process that lead to Memorandum Of Agreements (MOAs).



Photo: Minister Pala making the announcements yesterday at Paiam Oval, Porgera