



Mining Haus, Poreporena Highway
PO Box 1906
Port Moresby 121, NCD
Papua New Guinea

Corporate Services Division

Tel: +675 321 3511

Fax: +675 321 5711

Email: info@mra.gov.pg

22 July 2023

PRESS RELEASE

PM addresses security forum in Pogera

Prime Minister Honourable James Marape has appealed to the people of Pogera Valley in the Enga Province, to stop fighting so that the Pogera Mine could restart operations.

Hon Marape flanked by Mining Minister Hon Sir Ano Pala, Enga Governor Hon Sir Peter Ipatas, Member for Pogera Paiela Hon Maso Karipe, and other leaders, addressed the people of Pogera yesterday (Thursday July 20th), at the Paiam Oval during a Security Forum.

PM Marape said the mine is expected to resume operations around Sept-Oct of this year, and that the government would ensure lawlessness in the valley is addressed.

He warned law breakers that the government would come down hard on them, and that it (govt) had already taken measures to improve the situation in the valley. He said the Police Commissioner had appointed a senior ranking police officer, Chief Inspector Martin Kelly, as the Pogera Station Commander (PSC), who would over-see policing in the valley. Hon Marape said the government would resource Pogera police with the necessary resources, and also ensure courts and the justice systems return to the valley, to ensure offenders are dealt with accordingly.

The security forum organized by the Mineral Resources Authority (MRA), was held purposely to demonstrate the government's commitment in addressing the breakdown in law & order in the valley. The forum was a pre-cursor of MRA's regulatory/statutory license permitting processes that need to take place, following the lodgment of application of a Special Mining Lease (SML) for the Pogera Mine by New Pogera Limited (NPL).

These statutory processes are the Warden's Hearing and the Development Forum. The warden's hearing is scheduled for July 31 at Paiam Oval in Pogera, and on 01 August in Tari. The Development Forum is scheduled for August 7 and will be held in Wabag.

The Security Forum was attended by the Pogera Land Owners Association (PLOA) Executives, SML clan agents, Lease for Mining Purpose (LMP) landowners and Riverine/mine impacted communities from the Western and West Sepik Provinces. Representatives of these landowner groups shared similar sentiments adding that they would stand with the government to address the issues in the valley. Others who attended were government Heads of Departments including the MRA's Acting Managing Director Jerry Garry, the Managing Director of Kumul Minerals Holdings Limited Sarimu Kanu, Secretary Harry Kore of Department of Mining and Police Commissioner, David Manning.



Photo: PM James Marape talking to the people of Pogera Valley