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PRESS RELEASE

Mining Minister Launches Porgera Project CDA Negotiations

Mining Minister Hon Muguwa Dilu yesterday, officially launched the long-awaited Community Development Agreement (CDA)-proper, for the Porgera Mining Project in Porgera, Enga Province.

The CDA process will begin on Monday May 20 in Wabag, and will take two-three weeks.

Minister Dilu said the CDA process was a government process that is catered for under the Mining Act 1992 and various other laws.

He said the negotiations would hence be guided by these laws, and urged stakeholders to negotiate within the ambits of these laws.

The Minister told the landowners that the Marape-Rosso Government was committed to the CDA process and would ensure that the relevant government agencies would avail the necessary resources towards the staging of the meeting.

“Marape-Rosso Gavman yupla save em gavman blong yupla ol pipol. Wanem ol bikpla disisin mipla mekim, mipla mas mekim in close consultation wantaim ol pipol na stakeholders,” said Minister Dilu.

He told the landowners that everyone involved in the process was equally important, as they all would sacrifice their resources so that the project could operate. He said for instance if the power line landowners of Hela did not avail their land for power lines to run through, there would not be power supply to the mine, hence the mine would not operate.

He gave credit to all landowners of the project, for their patience and commitment, over the last four years when the government and Barrick were in negotiations.

The MRA's Managing Director Jerry Garry, urged the people to stop fighting amongst each other and live peacefully, so that the project could operate without impediments.

James McTiernan General Manager of New Porgera Limited (NPL), said the NPL was pleased to witness the launch of the CDA negotiations, adding that the CDA was a good opportunity for landowners of porgera, to negotiate their benefits and that of their future generations. Mr McTiernan said that the NPL hoped that the launching is a step towards the general success of the mine's operations for the next 20 years and beyond. Mr McTiernan said NPL wished to see benefits distributed fairly and to ensure a long-term social license across the company's project footprint.

Treasurer of the Porgera Landowners Association Nickson Mangape, said his people had been waiting for the CDA process for the last 4 years. They were looking forward to benefiting from the project, especially in terms of business-spin offs and contracts.

CDA is the process where landowners and stakeholders of mining projects in the country, negotiate benefits

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deriving from their respective projects, in this case from the Porgera Project.

Yesterday's launching comes after months of a series of successful pre-CDA consultative meetings with all landowners and stakeholders of the project.

The occasion was witnessed by the Mr Garry, Secretaries for the Departments of Treasury Andrew Oaeko, and Provincial & Local Level Government (DPLLG), Philip Leo, Acting Executive Manager of the MRA's Development Coordination Division Jerry Naime, parties to the CDA and other tenements landowners.

The parties are the Enga Provincial Government, Special Mining Lease (SML) Landowners, New Porgera Limited (NPL), and Porgera Rural Local Level Government.

Other tenement landowners are Lease for Mining Purposes (LMP), Mining Easements (ME) and Mining Lease (ML) landowners.

Photos:



Photo: Minister Dilu addressing the Porgera Landowners



Photo: Mr McTiernan delivering his speech



Photo: Chief Mangape



Photo: Landowners



Photo: (R-L) Mr Garry, Minister Dilu, Mr Oaeke



Photo: LOs





Photo: Mr Garry speaking during the occasion