

## We are abused neighbours who have shared the same fence with a mega industrial gold production operation

The National Government's decision rejecting BNL and Porgera Joint Ventures' application for the renewal of Special Mining Leases for the Porgera Gold Mine is based on problems with resettlement, environmental and many other legacy issues.

These grievances and legacy issues predates Barrick's acquisition of the mine in 2006. Hence, making the Porgera Gold Mine the most controversial mining operation in PNG. We realize that the State has gazetted its SML application refusal on the 27<sup>th</sup> of April 2020 and the decision cannot be easily reversed. Consequently, the State has commenced the transition phase of the Porgera Gold Mining Project.

Therefore, our call to the Prime Minister James Marape is that we the Human Rights Advocates of Porgera have voiced our cries for help starting in 2004 just two years before Barrick's acquisition of the Porgera Gold Mine. However, adverse environmental and social impacts on the Porgera Ipili community actually eventuated from way back in the construction phase of the Porgera Mine.

Successive governments and foreign investors have overlooked these malpractices, environmental damages and human rights infringements despite desperate community leaders' attempts for redress in 2004 and henceforward. This was the initial whistle blowing that got compiled in the report "**Shooting Fields of Porgera – A Case to Compensate**"<sup>1</sup> and all other documentations that followed to date, unfortunately, fell on deaf ears and the successive governments remained ignorant. Anyway, the crux of the matter is that the initial parties to the 1989 Mining Development Contract were unprepared for the inevitabilities (after effects) of their shallow resettlement scheme and worst of all, they were not even prepared to mitigate and manage the after effects in the short to medium term.

Thus, the Porgera Gross Human Rights Violations is the direct product of the misguided and short sighted resettlement and relocations schemes undertaken in the past thirty years. Simply, kids got drowned, women got raped, men got killed, old folks got run over by machinery and so forth because they are neighbours who actually shared the same fence with a mega industrial gold production operation dubbed as the world's second largest Gold Producer.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://miningwatch.ca/sites/default/files/ATA\\_Case\\_Documentation.pdf](https://miningwatch.ca/sites/default/files/ATA_Case_Documentation.pdf)

