



JUSTICE FOUNDATION FOR PORGERA LIMITED

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MEDIA RELEASE

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PORGERA LANDOWNERS: WE TOOK BACK PORGERA, WHY GIVING IT BACK??

The landowners of the Porgera Special Mining Lease Area are calling on the Prime Minister Hon James Marape to stop his plan to give Porgera Mine back to Barrick.

We say this in response to Prime Minister's recent announcement that the State and Barrick are set to sign a purported agreement to reopen the Porgera Gold mine this month.

We note that the announcement by the Prime Minister comes after a lengthy negotiation between the State and Barrick at the exclusion of the landowners.

We have given several notices to the State and Kumul Mineral Holdings Ltd (KMHL) to consult the landowners but they have miserably failed to consult the landowners and now we hear of an agreement to be executed, the terms of which were negotiated behind closed doors in isolation from us.

We are aware of certain former and current politicians are mounting pressure and pushing the government to bring back Barrick to continue to operate the mine. We are aware that these politicians are alleged to have interests, especially contracts with the mine. One specific case in point is the Enga Provincial Government (EPG) who hires out vehicles to the mine to be used for the security operation of the mine.

We have also been aware of the allegations of certain former prime ministers and government ministers who have had contracts in the mine, through their companies registered offshore, especially in Australia, since the operation of the mine in 1989. We ask the Prime Minister to liaise with the Australian government to cause a joint investigation into the conduct of these former and current politicians who have corrupted this nation by such practices.

We ask the PM to refrain from listening to these corrupt former and current politicians, and continue to pursue your Take Back PNG policy by allowing Porgera to be owned and operated by KMHL, the provincial government, the landowners and a third party who is willing to participate on our terms.

We are at this point very concerned that the State intends to execute an agreement that was negotiated without the consultation and participation of the landowners. The State is in breach of the *Constitution* and the *Mining Act 1992* (as amended).

We have written to the State Solicitor to refrain from giving legal clearance to the State to execute any agreement with Barrick, because KMHL and the State have breached the law in not consulting the landowners.

We finally call upon our Prime Minister to at least be responsible and give some regard to our demands we have been communicating to you on several occasions, one of which is that "Barrick Must Not Return to Porgera."

Ends///...

Approved for Release by Justice Foundation for Porgera Ltd.