



Operation Ipili the way to go

PORGERA is under a State of Emergency (SOE) now.

The members of the PNG Defence Force and Police moved into the mining town last Friday to a big welcome.

The peace loving people in the area and Barrick (PNG) Limited and its workforce were relieved for their ordeal were soon going to be over.

The State of Emergency (SOE) code named "Operation Ipili 09" is the Government's answer to the tribal fights, armed gang activities and illegal mining in the once flourishing and peaceful Porgera valley.

We agree, though, with Enga Governor Peter Ipatas that the SOE is a short-term measure but there is no other option.

The long-term solutions that Mr Ipatas talks about can still be implemented but surely he will need the peace and quiet to build more police houses and bring in more policemen.

Now that the SOE is on, there is going to be peace and order.

It is now up to him and the other MPs to get their act together, if they can, to start pooling their resources, including money, to plan and ensure the outcomes of the SOE is sustained.

The leaders must start the ball rolling for more police housing to be built to bring in more policemen and buy more vehicles so that Porgera is crime free after the SOE.

We all agree that Porgera mine is important to Enga.

For without the Porgera mine, where would Enga be now?

The Porgera mine has created millionaires out of some Engans, it has paid for the school fees for many Engan professionals, it has paid for more roads and other vital infrastructure over the years and will continue to do so as long as the mine exists.

It is important to PNG because the mine pays taxes.

The mine — ranked fourth in the world — is a world class operation and is in the eyes of the world.

What happens there is followed by resource companies all over the world and the signals that were going out were not good. Enough is enough!

PNG can lose a lot if it is not decisive in dealing with this ugly issue at all resource projects, like the class of Porgera.