



Members of the Pene clan handing over their firearms to Porgera special police operations commander Chief Insp David Manning (from right), Deputy Police Commissioner Raphael Huafolo and Enga police commander Supt Michael Chare in Porgera on Tuesday during an arms surrender ceremony.

Porgera leaders surrender arms

Story and picture
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LOCAL leaders in Porgera, Enga province, said the firearms their people have used in various tribal fights were imported from other Highlands provinces.

They said using firearms in tribal fights was not part of their culture, and they were now determined to remove guns from their communities.

The leaders gave the undertaking during an arms surrender ceremony by the warring Anga and Pene clans in Porgera town on Tuesday.

The ceremony was witnessed by

Deputy Police Commissioner Raphael Huafolo, special police operations commanders Chief Insp David Manning, Enga Governor Peter Ipatas, Enga police commander Supt Michael Chare and acting Enga administrator Dr Samson Amean.

An estimated 5,000 people attended the event.

The Porgera leaders also appealed to each other to control their villagers and let law enforcing agencies deal with any problems in the community.

They also thanked the national and Enga provincial governments

to allow a special police operation to work with the local authorities to address law and order problems.

About 200 police personnel are currently deployed in the gold-rich valley.

Porgera district administration officials said they were working towards getting two other clans in Paiala for a reconciliation ceremony next week.

The first such ceremony was conducted between two clans last week in Porgera.

Mr Huafollo said police were aiming to restore long-lasting peace in the community within six weeks.