

## Porgera folks fed-up with crime and violence: ACP

THE recent surrender of weapons in Porgera shows that people are fed-up with crime and violence, and are determined to help the authorities restore law and order in the region.

Assistant Commissioner of Police (Public Safety) Jim Andrews, who was one of several key Government officers involved in brokering the May 13 arms surrender between the Pene and Anga tribes, said the ceremony marked the end of an era and the beginning of a new chapter.

The Pene and Anga

tribes agreed to give up their arms after being persuaded by a consultative Government team comprising representatives from police, PNGDF, Barrick Gold Corporation, Porgera development authority, Porgera district administration and the Porgera law and order committee.

ACP Andrews said: "By giving up their guns to the authorities, the people of Pene and Anga tribes have shown that they are ready and are willing to adopt and embrace changes in their lives."

Many people were reportedly killed over the past 10 years as a result of intermittent tribal fights.

Before the start of the special security operation, Porgera had reported an increase in armed robberies, rapes, property thefts and illegal mining activities.

ACP Andrews said the increase in such major crimes was directly attributed to the closure of the Paiam police station last year.

The station was closed after several gunmen attacked and ransacked the building.