

## **Ipatas praises leadership**

ENGA Governor Peter Ipatas has praised the leadership of the special police operation in Porgera, Enga Province.

Mr Ipatas said during a visit to the Paiala area last week that the operation led by Chief Inspector David Manning deserved to be praised, particularly for his outstanding role in working with local leaders to restore law and order in the gold rich area.

"Mr Manning and his senior police officers in Porgera need to be praised for the wonderful job they are doing. Their approach on working with local leaders is producing results and we all should be happy about them," he said. According to government authorities in the valley, more than a hundred high powered guns had already been handed over to police by warring clans during various arms surrender ceremonies. More than 200 mobile squad members from Port Moresby and Enga Province were deployed there about six weeks ago in light of an upsurge in crimes including illegal mining and tribal fighting in the area. Porgera district authorities said many of the illegal miners had fled the area days before the special operation started while peace was being restored in almost all the tribal fighting zones. It is understood the cabinet has extended the special police operation indefinitely.