

POST-COURIER: TUESDAY, 03 NOV, 2009

50 in for major crimes

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FIFTY people were arrested and detained for committing a series of major crimes in Porgera in the Enga Province since police operations aimed at curbing the region's rampant crime problems was enforced on April 17.

Twenty-eight murder suspects were among those arrested, shockingly indicating that murders were committed wantonly due to the absence of law and order in this part of the country.

Eight of these detainees are facing attempted murder charges. Most of these cases are called follow ups in the police terminology that refers to investigations into outstanding or unattended cases. Acting Deputy Police Commissioner and Chief of Operations Raphael Huafolo said yesterday: "Since the commencement of Operation Ipili, detectives began probing a series of unattended

cases and the result so far is shocking. "Our findings indicate that people have mercilessly killed other fellow human beings in Porgera, and drastic measures should be taken by police and other law enforcement agencies to deter such heinous crimes from reoccurring.

"Operation Ipili was aimed at reducing such crimes and other social problems such as prostitution, illegal mining, bootlegging, drug peddling and illegal firearms."

The chief of police said: "Crime and other social ills are prevalent in the region because of the mining operations at the giant Porgera gold mine." Scarcity of resources coupled with the enormity of Porgera's rugged topography hindered police from pursuing many of these outstanding major crimes until the Government opted to impose a special police operation, in the province to clamp down on the escalating crime.