

Statement on Policing Activities in the Porgera Region

March 27, 2017 — Barrick is aware of concerning allegations following a police operation conducted on March 25 in the Wangima area, located in the Porgera District of Enga, Papua New Guinea, near the Porgera Joint Venture mine.

The Porgera Joint Venture has been advised that the police operation targeted illegal activities and was conducted under warrants issued by the Porgera District Court. Police also report that persons residing unlawfully in the area were advised that they would be subject to eviction.

Aerial observations of the area undertaken on March 26 suggest that approximately 18 structures were removed.

Mine management have requested further information from the Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary (“RPNGC”) regarding the operation and the resulting allegations, and have asked Ila Geno, former Chief Ombudsman of PNG and now Independent Observer of Porgera police operations, to investigate the reports. Mr. Geno has now commenced an investigation on site.

The Porgera Joint Venture will consider any requests for humanitarian assistance that may arise from the police operation.

The Papua New Guinea government has previously acknowledged that it will investigate any complaints related to policing activities in the Porgera region in accordance with established government and police procedures. Barrick urges the government and the police to investigate any such complaints arising from this incident.

At the request of community leaders and the government, the Porgera Joint Venture provides limited assistance for police activities in the region on the condition that participating law enforcement officers receive appropriate training in community engagement and human rights and adhere at all times to domestic and international obligations for law enforcement officers.

Mine management confirms that mine personnel had no involvement in or prior knowledge of the police operation.

Images captured March 25, 2017, at about 12:05-12:09 PGT (Papua New Guinea Time)



The red boxes indicate the area of police operation.

