

October 2015

As made clear in MiningWatch Canada's letter dated 23 September, the settlement terms involving the 11 women represented by Earth Rights International are confidential. Therefore, Barrick is unable to offer anything in the way of comment on this matter.

What we can say is that the Porgera Remedy Framework was established as a supplement to the formal justice sector and distinct from the existing site grievance mechanism already in place at the Porgera Joint Venture in Papua New Guinea. The Framework was overseen by independent senior Papua New Guineans, including Dame Carol Kidu, Ms. Ume Wainetti and former Chief Magistrate John Numapo, and was in operation for several years. It was implemented by Cardno Emerging Markets, an experienced international consultancy.

Over the course of these years, 120 women lodged eligible claims and received remedy packages under the Framework, which included a range of benefits including financial payments as well as additional benefits in the form of medical services, counseling, training, payment of school fees and financial assistance for business opportunities.

Earlier this year, it was determined that each claimant who had resolved their claims through the Framework would receive an additional 30,000 Kina in financial compensation. The additional amount was determined in conjunction with the independent experts that oversaw the implementation of the Framework. This was intended to broadly bring claimants who resolved claims under the Framework into line with the second set of claimants who settled their claims outside of the remediation framework. The women who settled their claims within the Framework were also able to qualify for the additional support services and benefits referred to above, which were not available to the non-Framework claimants. The Framework claimants also had the benefit of the low threshold for qualification for benefits under the Framework.

These additional payments were therefore made in the interests of fairness and equality for all claimants.

While we cannot conclude that it was without flaw, and have heard the concerns expressed around its implementation, the Porgera Remedy Framework was designed to be a sensitive, expeditious, and culturally appropriate non-judicial mechanism to seek remedy. At the heart of this work was a sincere desire to be responsive to the victims and the terrible harms they suffered. We condemn any form of violence against women and will not tolerate such behavior by any of our employees or affiliates. Please [click here](#) for additional information about the Framework.