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Community signs argeement with mine

January 16, 2017 The National National

Article Views: 19

A LOCAL community in South Fly can now see benefits such as compensation packages from the Ok Tedi Mine in Western following the sealing of an agreement last Friday.

Sepe/Auti was the final village in the Community Mine Continuation Agreement (CMCA) corridor to sign the CMCA Extension Agreement (CMCAEA) last Friday, bringing the total number of villages under the CMCA mine extension agreement to 158.

The Community Mine Continuation Agreement (CMCA) was signed in 2001 by many communities affected by the mine's operations allowing the mine to continue operating and dumping waste rock and mine tailings into the river following the exit of BHP Billiton.

Ok Tedi Mining Ltd's (OTML) deputy chief executive officer and general manager employee and external relations, Musje Werror urged the Sepe/ Auti villagers to focus on the future. "Today's signing marks a new beginning for the people of Sepe/ Auti and we are all delighted to welcome them to be part of the CMCA community.

"This agreement is powerful. It signifies the communities desire to be part of the CMCA family and to participate in development opportunities in the region," Werror said.

He said while Sepe/ Auti village was part of the initial CMCA consultations in early 2001, they and U'uwo village did not sign the CMCA Agreements. OTML and the Government respected their positions then.

U'uwo village eventually signed the agreement on March 9, 2011 followed by the CMCA Extension Agreement Nov 29 in 2012.

He added that the community must work with OTML, Ok Tedi Development Foundation and the provincial government if they wanted to see real change in the village.

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Woman: People failed to sign 2001 deal

January 16, 2017
The National
Main Stories

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A WOMAN from the South Fly district of Western has told people in her community not to blame Ok Tedi Mining Ltd (OTML) for them missing out on benefits over the years.

Sepe/Auti Women's representative Tuani Koda admitted that the people themselves failed to sign an agreement in 2001. Communities affected by Ok Tedi mine's operation signed the Community Mine Continuation Agreement (CMCA), allowing the mine to continue operating and dumping waste rock and mine tailings into the river following the exit of BHP Billiton. The agreements commit Ok Tedi Mining Ltd (OTML) to making annual payments as agreed to with the communities in cash, investments and for village and regional development projects through their respective trusts.

Koda said: "Women have missed out very badly in receiving Government services. "We only received one sewing machine from late South Fly MP Aide Ganasi and we are thankful for that. "We should not blame OTML for not assisting us under the CMCA programme because we did not sign the agreement. "I'm happy with the signing today (last Friday). Now it's possible for me to receive services for my women."

Ok Tedi Mining Ltd's deputy chief executive officer and general manager employee and external relations, Musje Werror said with the signing of the CMCA Agreement by the Sepe/Auti leaders last Friday, they would receive benefits in the form of village projects, education assistance and cash compensation which was something they have missed out on since 2001.

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More than K9.8b paid: OTML

January 16, 2017 The National National

Article Views: 23

Reports by GYNNIE KERO

OK Tedi Mining Ltd paid more than K9.8 billion in benefits to the people of Western since 1982, the company says. According to the miner almost 50 per cent of these funds were currently tied up in Court.

According to the miner, these billions of kina could be used to lift the sorry state of education in South Fly.

Addressing the people at Sepe/Auti village last Friday, Ok Tedi Mining Ltd's (OTML) deputy chief executive officer and general manager employee and external relations, Musje Werror noted that South Fly once produced highly qualified and educated people.

"This is a totally unacceptable situation which none of us should accept especially in a province that has received so significant benefits from OTML," he said.

He said a programme to improve education was approved by the Ok Tedi Development Foundation Board pending the outcome of a South Fly court case.

"With OTML's K32 million funding commitment to improve health services in the North Fly district, the 2015 Health Department sector report showed Western moved to fourth position from last compared to the other provinces.

"Through OTDF and with the support of the communities and the Fly River Provincial Government, we want to do the same with education," Werror said.

While providing insights on the firm and the foundation, Werror said: "OTML's subsidiary, Ok Tedi Development Foundation (OTDF) is fully funded by OTML at US\$8million (K24 million) per annum and not from the CMCA funds so since 2008 the total amount is \$64 million (under K200million).

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