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## Press Statement

25<sup>th</sup> September 2018

**Subject: Impacted Communities of Wafi Golpu project wants EIS period extended.**

President for the Union of Watut River Communities Association Incorporated (UoWRCA Inc) Mr. Reuben Mete wants Environmental Impact Statement of the Wafi-Golpu Copper and Gold Mine to be extended to give ample time for proper community consultation and understanding of the Mining Impacts to the environment that the Mine will bring.

He said the Environmental Impact Statement or EIS has been prepared on behalf of Wafi Mining Limited and Newcrest PNG 2 Limited being the participants in the Wafi-Golpu Joint Venture (WGJV) as the registered holders of the exploration licenses EL 440 and EL1105, for the sole purpose of Permit Application for environmental approval under the Environment Act 2000 for the proposed construction, operation and closure.

The plan also covers permit application for the underground copper-gold mine associated ore processing, concentrate transport and handling, power generation, water and tailings management, and related support facilities and services along the Watut River Communities within Morobe Province and the Independent State of Papua New Guinea.

Mr. Mete said the EIS was prepared with input from consultants engaged by the WGJV Participants and their related bodies corporate Consultants thus not serve any interest whatsoever of the potential impacted communities.

The EIS was intended to be made available to CEPA, for review and other applicable agencies of the Government for the purpose of considering and assessing the permit application since June this year but Mr. Mete said CEPA has been sleeping with the EIS document in the glass office within Dynasty Tower in Port Moresby disclosing the EIS for general public including making it available.

“It is sad that the CEPA and MMJV want ordinary citizen to go to the MMJV website and download the entire volume of this document. How can a villager do that?”

“All we want now is an extension period of the EIS proper awareness carried out by CEPA not only focusing on the Land Owner group but also to the impacted communities of the Wafi-Golpu project so they too can understand the environmental impacts and potential impacts that this world class mining will bring.” Said Mr. Mete

The Union of Watut River Communities is also calling the Mining Department, CEPA, MRA and the Morobe Provincial Government to engage an Independent Auditor to review the EIA and give necessary simplified layman explanations to the Local Land Owners.

The UoWRCA Inc however said they have and will respect the National Court injunction taken by the Babuaf Land Owners on the Wafi – Golpu and calls on relevant government agencies working with the Wafi Golpu land owners not to take.

**End...//**

Approved for release.



**Reuben Mete (Mr.)**

PRESIDENT

*Union of Watut River Communities Association Incorporated*