

*January 12, 2019*

## **The Wafi-Golpu Joint Venture suspended activity in the project area following an illegal protest**

As of Saturday the 12th of January 2019, activities at the Wafi-Golpu project area remain suspended following an illegal protest by around 100 people. The protestors threatened to enter the exploration camp unless it was evacuated and all work activities were immediately stopped.

The WGJV Executive Project Director, Bryan Bailie stressed that “the safety of our personnel is paramount and that we will not put them at risk. As such, all non-essential personnel were evacuated as a precautionary measure.”

Activities at the exploration site are currently suspended pending assurance that law and order has been re-established.

Mr. Bailie noted that “The WGJV does not condone behaviours by individuals or groups of people who threaten, make demands, or intimidate WGJV employees. These activities do great damage to investor confidence. It is hoped that, with the assistance of the State and the Provincial Government, this unfortunate event will be rapidly addressed, so that we can resume activities at the Wafi-Golpu project area in the best interests of all project host communities”

Mr Bailie further acknowledged the cooperative support of the police, provincial administration and the three SML Landowner groups following this incident. The WGJV will be working closely with the Mineral Resources Authority and other key stakeholders in coming days to help resolve this situation.

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**ENDS//**

**Picture Captions**



1. First Development Forum meeting July 2018. The Development Forum is the main opportunity for Provincial and landowner aspirations to be discussed, and will feed into the MOA which is yet to be negotiated.



2. Hengambu Landowners Association President Paul Yanam presenting the Hegambu position paper at a Development Forum meeting in August 2018



3. Women in the Wafi-Golpu Project area have already benefitted from agricultural skills training such as food preparation and conservation techniques.

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