

20 December 2013

**African Barrick Gold plc (the “Company” or “ABG”)**

**Update on the North Mara sexual assault allegations**

As has been previously disclosed in 2011, following highly disturbing allegations, ABG launched an independent investigation by external experts into potential sexual assaults by police and site security personnel at the North Mara mine. The investigation involved more than 200 interviews. Information and evidence was shared with the police to facilitate law enforcement inquiries. Following the conclusion of that investigation, the site instituted numerous changes, including in relation to policies and procedures, personnel actions, training, and in other ways previously discussed on ABG's website. <http://www.africanbarrickgold.com/media/press-releases/2011/2011-09-29.aspx>

In addition, the international NGO Search for Common Ground interviewed the victims who had been identified during the investigation, and provided recommendations on appropriate individualized remedy packages. A retired judge from the High Court of Tanzania also provided advice to the women about the packages and their rights. Fourteen women are presently receiving remediation packages as part of a two year program. Although the exact components of each package depends on the individual situation of each woman, packages have included cash compensation, sponsored employment to learn new skills, financial and entrepreneurial training, education expenses for dependents, relocation expenses, home improvements, health insurance for the women and their families, and counseling services. To coordinate the delivery of these packages, North Mara retained a development specialist as a full time employee.

ABG and the mine have not previously publicized the remediation program at the request of, and to physically protect, the women themselves. During the investigation the women expressed concerns about their safety in their communities. During the remedy evaluation stage, community members began making statements to Search for Common Ground that created heightened concerns about abuse and re-victimization of the women. The mine and the women themselves have continued to see similar troubling signs from some members of the community in relation to the remedy program. Because of those very real, tangible, and live concerns, and to respect the clear wishes of the women, it should not be anticipated that additional details about the program will be forthcoming from ABG or the mine.

**ENQUIRIES**

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