

# **Mr Philip Miriori Confirmed As Chairman of the Smlola with Formal Reconciliation Signed**

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Subiaco, Western Australia (FSCwire) - The Board of [RTG Mining Inc.](#) (&#8220;RTG&#8221;; &#8220;the Company&#8221;; ASX Code: RTG, ASX Code: RTG) is pleased to announce that Mr Philip Miriori has been confirmed as the Chairman of the Mining Lease Osikaiyang Landowners Association (&#8220;SMLOLA&#8221;) and all Court actions will now be withdrawn and come to an end. Mr Miriori has entered into and signed a formal written reconciliation agreement with Mr Lawrence Daveona following a customary reconciliation process.

Both men have agreed to work together co-operatively, to progress the plans for the proposed redevelopment of the old Panguna Copper-Gold Project at Panguna. Both the Chairman and Mr Daveona have also pledged support for RTG as the preferred development partner. Attached is a copy of the Press Release by the SMLOLA.

This is an historic and important step for the landowners, with RTG being the first mining company that has been endorsed by the SMLOLA in 30 years. RTG is pleased to have been afforded the opportunity to play a constructive role in this important reconciliation process.

As previously announced, the SMLOLA members are the owners of the minerals at the old Panguna Mine, being the owners of the customary land under which the minerals lie. The SMLOLA are the only landowner association whose consent is required for the issue of an exploration licence. The SMLOLA has entered into a joint venture agreement, under which they have nominated RTG as the preferred developer for any reopening of the Panguna Mine. Once again, RTG would like to thank the SMLOLA for the unwavering support they have shown to RTG and we look forward to working with the team, including Mr Daveona, to progress the Exploration Licence application currently before the Autonomous Bougainville Government (&#8220;ABG&#8221;). We understand and respect the importance of both a social licence and world&#8217;s best practices on all environmental matters and believe that those matters can be handled sensitively and professionally, so that all Bougainvilleans are both protected and treated fairly in any redevelopment of Panguna.

As many would be aware, [Bougainville Copper Ltd.](#) (&#8220;BCL&#8221;) was the holder of the previous exploration licence which was to expire in September last year, subject to any valid renewal application by the company. Our legal advice is that BCL does not have a first right of refusal over the Project or the grant of an exploration licence, but it is recognised that BCL must first determine its position on any apparent renewal application of BCL, before considering the application of the SMLOLA consortium.

Despite legal advice that the renewal application by BCL did not satisfy the requirements of the Mining Act, should the company wish to continue with the planned Warden&#8217;s Hearing on 11 December 2017, both Mr Miriori and Mr Daveona have indicated that they will recommend strongly to their members to deny their consent. In line with this position, there has been a petition with 112 supporters and at least 112 formal written objections lodged with the Warden, including one by the SMLOLA setting out concerns with any consideration of an extension of BCL&#8217;s previous exploration licence. In Bougainville, a Mining Warden&#8217;s Hearing is required in the issue of an exploration licence to assess whether it has the necessary support of the landowners in the exploration licence boundary area i.e. the SMLOLA members.

The SMLOLA consortium has been advised that they were the first and to date, only new application for an exploration licence on the old EL1 ground.

We believe the proposal presented by the SMLOLA consortium represents a unique and once in a generational opportunity to responsibly re-open the Panguna Mine for the benefit of all Bougainvilleans. RTG has always suggested that this is best achieved by discussion and negotiation with all relevant parties, including the ABG.

## ABOUT RTG MINING INC

[RTG Mining Inc.](#) is a mining and exploration company listed on the main board of the Toronto Stock Exchange and Australian Securities Exchange Limited. RTG is focused on a proposal with a landowner lead consortium to secure an exploration licence for the high tonnage copper-gold Panguna Project in Bougainville PNG and the high grade copper/gold/magnetite Mabilo Project in the Philippines, while also identifying major new projects which will allow the Company to move quickly and safely to produce gold.

RTG has an experienced management team which has to date developed seven mines in five different countries, including being responsible for the development of the Masbate Gold Mine in the Philippines through [CGA Mining Ltd.](#), and has B2Gold as one of its major shareholders in the Company. B2Gold is a member of both the S&P/TSX Global Gold and Global Mining Indices.

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CAUTIONARY NOTE STATEMENT

This announcement includes certain &#8220;forward-looking statements&#8221; within the meaning of Canadian and securities legislation. Statement regarding interpretation of exploration results, plans for further exploration and accurate resource and mineral reserve estimates and related assumptions and inherent operating risks, are forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements involve various risks and uncertainties and are based on certain factors and assumptions. There can be no assurance that such statements will prove to be accurate, and actual results and future events could differ materially from those anticipated in such statements. Important factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from RTG&#8217;s expectations include uncertainties related to fluctuations in gold and other commodity prices and currency exchange rates; uncertainties relating to interpretation of drill results and the geology, continuity and grade of mineral deposits; uncertainties relating to estimates of capital and operating costs, recovery rates, production estimates and estimated economic return; the need for cooperation of government agencies in the development of RTG&#8217;s mineral projects; the need to obtain additional approvals to develop RTG&#8217;s mineral projects; the possibility of delay in development programs or in construction projects; the uncertainty of meeting anticipated program milestones for RTG&#8217;s mineral projects and other risks and uncertainties disclosed under the heading &#8220;Risk Factors&#8221; in RTG&#8217;s Annual Information Form for the year ended December 2016 filed with the Canadian securities regulatory authorities on the SEDAR website at [sedar.com](http://sedar.com). The forward &#8211;looking statements made in this announcement relate only to events as of the date on which the statements are made. RTG will not release publicly any revisions or updates to these forward &#8211;looking statements to reflect events, circumstances or unanticipated events occurring after the date of this announcement except as required by law or by any appropriate regulatory authority.

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