

**Media Update**

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## Freeport Realizes Access For Remote Communities

Infrastructure development has real impacts on communities' access and quality of life. The effect is immense, in particular in remote areas such as the Papua highlands with their challenging geography. Extra effort is required compared with other regional development, in the arduous and costly building of land transport infrastructure. Construction of a pioneering airfield or airstrip is the choice in order to open up access, as was the case in the village of Aroanop, Mimika Regency, Papua.

**Aroanop Village Head Deteminus Beanal** voiced his appreciation over construction by PT Freeport Indonesia (PTFI) of the airstrip that has been in active use since 2017. "Residents have been greatly assisted by the presence of the airstrip, as previously they had undergone much hardship to gain access to basic necessities such as healthcare, food, and so on," **Deteminus said**. Before, villagers had to trek on foot for 2 days across mountains, cliffs, and rivers in order to reach the nearest village, let alone Timika city.

PTFI has undertaken a number of community infrastructure projects in contribution to development in Mimika Regency, Papua. The community infrastructure projects contributed by PTFI are aimed at improving the quality of life of communities near the company's operating area. The projects are located in highland and lowland areas surrounding the company's operating area, towards supporting economic, health-related and education activities of the communities.

**PTFI Director & EVP for Community Affairs, Claus Wamafma** says construction of the airstrip in the village of Aroanop was an inseparable part of the Three Villages Program conducted since 2000. PTFI had earlier built an airstrip in the village of Tsinga, Tembagapura that began operating in 2011. "From the time the Three Villages Program was initiated, PTFI has invested more than US\$ 100 million. Through these projects, PTFI provides funding, equipment, materials, transportation, and manpower to build infrastructure grids with a coverage of 300 homes, 3 schools, 10 teachers' residences, 3 clinics, 3 traditional markets, 13 churches, 21 bridges, and 2 airstrips," **Claus** disclosed.

Investing in community infrastructure has benefited around 7,500 Amungme tribespeople inhabiting the remote highlands in Mimika Regency, Papua. In 2021, PTFI invested approximately US\$ 2.5 million to carry out the Three Villages Program.

PTFI continues to coordinate with the local government and community leaders to provide added value for nearby communities and stakeholders, through economic, education, healthcare, and sociocultural contributions that are aligned with, and support achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

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Photos	Captions

	<p>The Aroanop airstrip built by Freeport Indonesia with a runway 461 meters long and 18 meters wide, located at an elevation of 2,200 meters above sea level.</p>
	<p>A Pilatus Porter aircraft at Aroanop Airstrip in Tembagapura District, Mimika, Papua. The airstrip has been in active use since 2017.</p>
	<p>Children crossing the bridge at the village of Banti 1, Tembagapura District, Mimika, Papua. Through the Three Villages Program, Freeport Indonesia builds infrastructure grids serving hundreds of homes, along with schools, teachers' residences, clinics, traditional markets, churches, bridges, and airstrips in the highlands of Mimika Regency, Papua.</p>
	<p>PTFI built a dam to contain clean water supplied to residents' homes in the Opitogong area in the village of Waa Banti, Tembagapura District, Mimika Regency.</p>

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