



# THE INFORMER



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A MOTHER AND CHILD IS THE REASON WE EXIST

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WHPHA

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## HIV NEGATIVE CHILDREN RELEASED



**HIV negative children with their parents and health staff after their release**

Twenty babies born from HIV-positive parents and who have been cared for under the Prevention of Parents to Child Transmission (PPTCT) Program in the Western Highlands have been released from the Mt Hagen Provincial Hospital.

The children who come from various parts of the Highlands region including Western Highlands have tested negative after their parents had faithfully gone through the program over the last two years.

The children who are now over two years old were released during an emotional but happy

ceremony at the hospital last Friday in which they were all issued with Certificates of Release.

The Chief Executive Officer of the Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority (WHPHA), Dr. James Kintwa was happy to present certificates to 11 of the 20 children who were present, adding significance to the importance of the occasion.

The PPTCT program is run by the Western Highlands Provincial HIV/AIDS Services, set up jointly by WHPHA and Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI), a partner in the delivery of health services in the province to provide continued care and treatment for those living with HIV and AIDS.

When the mothers tested positive to HIV during maternal and child health and antenatal clinics, they were put on antiretrotherapy programs starting from the first month of pregnancy to delivery to prevent the unborn babies from being infected with the virus.

Upon delivery the babies were then tested three times for HIV - first at six weeks old, then at 18 months and the last at 24 months old. The 20 children tested negative to all three tests, resulting in their release as normal healthy children.

Provincial HIV/AIDS Services Coordinator, Petrus Kombea said many mothers do not go to MCH clinics and therefore do not know their HIV status until they go for delivery but the mothers of these children had visited the clinics from the first month of pregnancy and this had helped prevent the children from being

infected.

Highlands Regional HIV/AIDS Coordinator, Dr. Petronia Kaima thanked the parents and staff of CHAI and WHPHA for working in partnership and supporting each other, resulting in the positive outcomes.

She said the global aim for HIV/AIDS was to achieve zero new cases for new born babies by 2015 and what was happening in Western Highlands was promising and urged all partners to continue their good work and help reduce the spread of the disease.

A HIV-positive parent who was present for the occasion said he was thankful to God that his child was HIV-negative. "My child is healthy and I am very happy", he said.

"Health plays a very important role in the development of this country and I thank all the health workers for the important roles you play", he said.

The Deputy Chief Physician for the Highlands region, Dr. Wesong Boko said there was time for everything and this was a time where parents and health workers should rejoice for their hard work.

"We can now celebrate the fact that these children are medically and scientifically negative of HIV after three tests and can go home now. All your (parents and health workers) efforts have paid off and you can be happy", he said.

Chief Executive Officer, Dr. James Kintwa said delivering health services in the province was a big task and the Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority needed partners to help deliver these services.

He said to this end, when CHAI wanted to establish itself in Western Highlands and partner with WHPHA, he said they were welcome to come and the result was positive and he thanked the organization on behalf of the Board of Governance.

Dr. Kintwa said what was witnessed could become a role model for others to see and do and urged parents to look after these children well as it was their biggest investment.

"One of these children could be a doctor, or a lawyer or a politician and this investment by all, especially the parents into the future is important", he said.

"Our motto here is *no mother or child should die during pregnancy, childbirth or the post partum period* and the work of PPTCT is part of this", Dr. Kintwa said.

He said all health services should be left in the hands of God as God's life was the answer to many of the society's problems. He added that Mt Hagen Hospital would not be called "Hagen hausik" (pidgin for house sick) but would be declared Hagen haus orait (Hagen healing house or hospitale) as patients come in sick but go out healed.

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# MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

## Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority has a full Senior Executive Management Team to take the organization forward



**Dr. James Kintwa**

The long process of having a permanent Senior Executive Management Team in place is now complete with the appointment of three new directors and several deputies. These people joined us at different times in the last two months with the last of them joining us on 10th June 2013.

We now have a new director for Curative Health Services in Dr. John Kiap who has replaced Dr. Guapo Kiagi who had been acting in the position for the last two years or so.

The new director for Public Health Services is Norman Vakore, replacing Philip Talpa who had led this directorate in an acting capacity for more than two years. The new Director for Corporate Services is a female, Ms Julie Bengi and she takes over from Dr. Michael Dokup who had been acting in this capacity.

Dr. Dokup is now the Deputy Director Medical Services while Dr. Madison Dat has been appointed Deputy Director District Curative Health Services and Sr. Roslyn Kali continuing in her role as Deputy Director Nursing Services.

In the Public Health Directorate, Philip Talpa is now Deputy Director District Services while Benson Safi is Deputy Director Disease Control and Freda Pyanyo, Deputy Director Health Promotion.

In the Corporate Services Directorate, we have Jeffrey Napi who has been appointed Deputy Director Human Resources Management while Pius Goimba has taken up the position of Deputy Director Facilities & Operations. Yasi Anuma continues in his role as Deputy Director Finance and Administration.

This completes the appointment of our full Senior Executive Management Team except the Deputy Director Policy, Planning & Monitoring and I'd like to take this time on behalf of our Board to

congratulate these people on their appointment and also welcome them to the Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority. The Provincial Health Authority is a new concept and as the Chief Executive Officer I look forward to working with you all and gaining your support to make this concept to improve health outcomes a success.

I also take this opportunity to thank our outgoing acting directors, Dr. Dokup, Dr. Kiagi and Mr. Talpa for their support and input over the last two years in ensuring the WHPHA got off to a good start. Your input is much appreciated and I would like to assure you that I will continue to seek your assistance to help mould this organization into a successful health delivery institution and make it become a role model for others to follow.

I ask all the DHOs, the OICs or facility managers, sectional managers, specialist medical officers, clinical heads, unit supervisors and all other senior staff to work closely with the Senior Executive Management Team to help deliver an effective and efficient health service to our people for which we are paid to do.

Having said this I'd like to remind us all about our Vision which is to ensure the people of WHP and Jiwaka have a healthy society to engage meaningfully in life with appropriate understanding of health and the means to deal with any diseases should they arise.

On the same token let us not forget that our mission is to be accountable, engage all stakeholders, provide leadership in understanding health and making health a way of life and thereby provide safe, efficient, effective and appropriate health service for all people of the Western Highlands and Jiwaka Provinces.

I said in my 2012 Christmas message to you all in this newsletter and at our Christmas party last year that the year 2013 was to be the year of implementation and I want to see our Senior Executive Management Team and all our facility managers and sectional and clinical heads taking a lead in this.

We have plans to upgrade our rural facilities to

enable our people to receive medical treatment and other services in their respective areas to stop overcrowding at Mt Hagen

Provincial Hospital. The necessary services must be provided there so that they do not waste time and money travelling to Mt Hagen for treatment.

As a start we will upgrade some of our major health centres such as Kol, Tabibuga, Nondugl and Kimil in Jiwaka and Togoba, Tambul and Kotna in Western Highlands. In fact Kotna and Tambul are planned to be upgraded to district hospital status and work has already started on Tambul. We have support from AusAID to do these in their financial year which starts in July 2013.

When these facilities are improved, we expect our staff to remain in their respective posts and deliver services to our people. Our people will hold us accountable for everything we do so let us all commit ourselves to our jobs and deliver what is required of us in order to improve our health indicators.

We are in a position where all the stars are lined up. We have donors like AusAID and ADB supporting us, NDoH, Health Minister, two Governors of WHP and Jiwaka, most of the Open Members of Parliament and our NGOs supporting us.

I challenge our Senior Executive Management Team and all other managers and senior staff to improve our health indicators. Unless we see improvements in the indicators, we cannot say everything is okay and sit back. We must be held accountable for our actions.

I said at a development workshop for the new Senior Executive Management Team at Rondon Ridge Lodge recently in the presence of a number of our Board Members that by end of 2015 if we cannot deliver to our people and improve the health outcomes, I will put my hands up to resign because we just cannot deliver.

And I expect members of the Senior Executive Management Team and all you senior managers and sectional heads to follow me as well.

**Dr. James Kintwa AFCHSM**  
Chief Executive Officer

## Stationery Company donates chairs to Hospital

A company doing business in Mt Hagen City has donated a total of 30 chairs to the Mt Hagen Provincial Hospital to help with its furniture requirements.

More Stationery Ltd, a stationery supplies company which has been operating in the city for a few years has decided to make the donation in appreciation for doing business in the Western Highlands Province.

The plastic chairs worth more than K2,300.00 were delivered to the hospital today (Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> April) during a small but significant ceremony and received on behalf of the hospital by the Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority's acting Director Curative Health Services, Dr. Guapo Kiagi. The Company's Manageress, Evelyn Andrew in

presenting the chairs said her company helped community oriented organizations such as the hospital because it would benefit a lot of people.

This was the second time the company, formerly known as Morobe Stationery, had made such a donation. In 2009 it donated two wheelchairs to move disabled patients around.

Ms. Andrew said the company's other branches in Lae, Alotau, Madang, Wewak, Vanimo and Port Moresby also made similar donations to community oriented organizations to show their appreciation for doing business in those areas.

Dr. Kiagi in receiving the chairs thanked Ms. Andrew and the company, saying the donation had been timely as the hospital did not have enough chairs in the wards and the training and conference rooms. He said the hospital could not provide essential health services to the people with funding from the National Government alone and such assistance by kind hearted individuals, charity organizations and

business houses such as More Stationery was very much appreciated.



**Dr. Guapo Kiagi accepts the donation from Mrs. Evelyn Andrew witnessed by More Stationery employees.**



# PARTIALLY DEAF CAN NOW HEAR CLEARLY

**M**any people in Western Highlands and Jiwaka Provinces who have had problems hearing from one or both of their ears can now hear clearly, thanks to the Starkey Hearing Foundation of America.

The Foundation which provides free hearing aids to third world countries visited Mt Hagen on Sunday, 26<sup>th</sup> May 2013 and restored the hearing of about 300 people, both young and old. This was their first visit to Mt Hagen and the second to PNG. Last year they visited Goroka which was also included in this trip together with Port Moresby.

Founder of the Foundation, Bill Austin and wife Tani flew into Mt Hagen in their private jet at about 2pm with a contingent of more than 40 employees, sponsors, security personnel and media crew to give new hope to those with hearing problems.

Those with hearing problems from the two provinces had been screened and identified by Ear, Nose & Throat (ENT) specialists from Mt Hagen Provincial Hospital late last year and the team wasted no time, getting straight to work after a formal welcome ceremony at the hospital. Chief Executive Officer of Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority, Dr. James Kintwa with members of his executive management team and the Deputy Chief ENT specialist for Mt Hagen Provincial Hospital and the Highlands Region, Dr. Sam Endican were at Kagamuga airport to welcome the visitors.

On arrival at Mt Hagen Hospital, the visitors were given a rousing welcome by flower girls and a traditional singing group before the formalities began and the hearing devices fitted into the ears of those who waited eagerly to receive them.

Dr. James Kintwa when thanking the team on behalf of the people of Western Highlands and Jiwaka said no-one in the region wore hearing aids except maybe a few expatriates because nationals could not afford to buy them.

He said Mt Hagen Hospital was a referral hospital for the Highlands Region covering 40 percent of the total population of PNG and had a big task of delivering health services to its people.

Dr. Kintwa said Starkey Hearing Foundation's trip to PNG and especially to Mt Hagen was for a



**A man gets a hearing aid inserted in his ear by one of the many volunteers who accompanied Mr. Bill Austin while others wait for their aids to be inserted**

worthy cause and thanked the team on behalf of those with hearing defects for giving them a nother chance to hear properly.

He said those identified and present to receive hearing aids made up only about 25 percent of the population of the two provinces that need such hearing aids and he hoped a good relationship would be built between Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority and Starkey Hearing Foundation so that the team could return and help the other 75 percent of the population

Founder of Starkey Hearing Foundation, Bill Austin told the crowd that loss of hearing was like some-one was a prisoner and his team was here to help such people.

"We are here because we love that man from Galilee (referring to Jesus Christ). We've come here to meet the rest of our family we did not know before and we want to help" he said.

Mr. Austin said if there were people who needed to be checked and fitted with hearing devices, they should be brought in so that his team could return and help them.

He said he has been doing this with a team of dedicated people who could do other things but decide not to because "we want to help".

"I don't want to talk about it, I want to do it and help people. If you have some-one with hearing problem, bring them. You find them and we will come and help them", Mr. Austin said.

## SPECIALIST SURGEONS VISIT MT HAGEN

**A** team of specialist surgical and dental officers has brought tears of joy to the eyes of many people in the Western Highlands who suffer from oro-maxillo-facial (OMF), head and neck diseases.

The team which was drawn from Port Moresby General Hospital, Goroka and Mt Hagen was at Mt Hagen Hospital from 20 – 24<sup>th</sup> May 2013 and screened more than 30 patients with such diseases and operated on 19 of them.

The team led by Papua New Guinea's chief OMF and Dental Surgeon, Dr. Matupi Apaio initially selected 26 patients to operate but had to drop four of them due to insufficient time and three for lack of blood.

The full team included the Deputy Chief ENT and Head and Neck Surgeon for Southern

Region, Dr. Paki Molumi, Dr. Larry Lagatiana, ENT, Neck and Head Surgeon from Mendi, Dr. William Mol, Plastic and Reconstruction Surgeon from Goroka and three

second year resident dental officers from Goroka. They were joined by Deputy Chief ENT specialist for the Highlands, Dr. Sam Endican and ENT Registrar, Dr. Laiam Kirau, both based in Mt Hagen.

The types of cases operated on included tongue cancers, maxilla and mandible cancers, mandible fractures, nasal angiofibroma, cleft lip and palate and cosmetic defects.

Dr. Matupi Apaio said the involvement of different fields of ENT, dental, plastic and reconstruction in one team to attend to the neck and head region pathologies was an excellent idea and needed to be supported by the National Health Department for our population. This could be similar to specialist visits brought in from Australia.

Dr. Sam Endican said the outcome of the visit was a success with most patients requiring surgery for oro-maxillo-facial and head and neck cancers being operated on successfully.

He added that these patients would now require chemotherapy and radiotherapy for the cancers to be treated successfully.

Dr. James Kintwa, the Chief Executive Officer of the Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority said that Mt Hagen Provincial Hospital as the Highlands referral hospital was the central location where such teams could come so that access to such services could be easy for all the people of the highlands region when it was costly to send such teams to all the hospitals in our provinces.

Dr. Endican thanked his colleagues for making time available to visit Mt Hagen and giving new hope to these people who would otherwise have had no hope of survival.



# BE IMMUNIZED AND STAY SAFE AND HEALTHY



**Coordinator of the program, Kuk Gola (left) introducing the awareness program on radio, supported by Jiwaka Health Adviser, Jenny Walep (next to him) while broadcast officers Jacob Kaka, Shirley Basanue and Alfred Mek ensure the live broadcast is on.**

All mothers and young girls of child-bearing age from 15 – 45 years from Jiwaka Province have been urged to get tetanus toxoid injection to avoid developing tetanus in their lives which can also affect their unborn babies.

A senior officer from the National Department of Health in Port Moresby, Mr. Johnny Arawa told a huge crowd at Banz town in Jiwaka Province last Friday that tetanus was a killer disease among women of child bearing age and preventative measures must be taken to avoid the disease.

He reminded the people, especially mothers and young girls about this while speaking live on radio about safe motherhood and the need for immunization against tetanus during an "outside broadcast" show on Radio Western Highlands.

The radio show which was the second of its kind on safe motherhood and the first on the immunization program was held for two hours from 11am at the main bus stop at Banz town and attracted a huge crowd.

Representatives on the panel for the outside broadcast included Mr. Arawa, Dr. Magdalyn Kaupa, Regional Paediatric Specialist for the Highlands region, Sr. Jenny Walep, Provincial Health Advisor for Jiwaka, Sr. Giagao Kipa, Health Promotion Coordinator and Mr. John Nia, Disease Control & Prevention Coordinator, both from the

Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority.

Mr. Arawa was invited to officially launch the 3<sup>rd</sup> round of the nation-wide Tetanus Toxoid Immunization Program in Jiwaka Province. The program started on 17<sup>th</sup> June and would end on 26<sup>th</sup> July 2013.

Whilst the crowd listened to the speakers live, many more received the messages in the comfort of their homes and villages through their radios as a major awareness had been carried out throughout the province the previous day about the immunization program and the live broadcast.

Mr. Arawa said tetanus would spread easily through unsafe deliveries in villages and the use of improper tools such as bamboo and razor blade to cut umbilical cords of new born babies and strongly urged mothers to be immunized against it and go to the nearest health facility to deliver babies.

Dr. Magdalyn Kaupa said tetanus caused paralysis of the muscles and if mothers and young girls were not immunized against it, their new born

babies could be affected.

She told the public that due to the supplementary immunization activities that had been carried out in 2012, the paediatrics reports from 10 hospitals in the country had shown that only eight children had contracted tetanus with two cases in Mt Hagen which had been treated and released.

Dr. Kaupa said all immunization and other health programs carried out in PNG were endorsed by the World Health Organization (WHO) and UNICEF and any vaccines used were pre-qualified.

Health Promotion Coordinator for WHPHA, Sr. Giagao Kipa told the people that eating good nutritious foods every day would help keep themselves fit, strong and healthy.

She said there were three groups of food which people must eat to keep themselves healthy and these included protein foods, protective foods and energy foods. She said these foods were especially good for pregnant mothers as it would help their unborn babies to be born healthy.

Sr. Kipa warned however that babies should only be fed with food after they had reached 4-6 months as their intestines were not mature enough to handle stronger food if fed earlier.

The "outside broadcast" presented an ideal opportunity for people to ask and know more about health issues as it brought doctors, nurses and other health workers close to their doorstep instead of them visiting health facilities to seek such information.



**Disease control and prevention officer, John Nia (left) talking live on radio, assisted by broadcast officers Elizabeth Kopunye and Shirley Basanue.**

## New Ambulance for Mun Health Sub-Centre

Mothers, children and critically-ill patients from Mun and the surrounding villages in the Dei District of Western Highlands will now benefit from the services of a brand new ambulance.

The Toyota Landcruiser 10-seater ambulance was presented to Catholic Church-run Mun Health Sub-Centre recently by the District Administrator for Dei, Mr. Steven Korowa on behalf of the local Member of Parliament, Hon. Wesley Nukundi.

Mr. Korowa said the vehicle had been bought by the former Member for Dei, Mr. Puri Ruig for the Health Sub-Centre however due to various reasons the vehicle was not given to the facility and Mr. Nukundi had decided to honor this commitment and hand it over.

He said Mr. Nukundi had committed himself to assisting the Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority to improve health services in his electorate and as a start he had committed K1 million to help upgrade Kotna Health Centre to a district hospital.

were given to the Catholic Church to have it registered under its name and allow the Mun Health Sub-Centre to use it to conduct routine maternal and child health clinics and other important immunization programs in and around Mun as well as take critically-ill patients and difficult obstetric delivering mothers to Mt Hagen Provincial Hospital for specialist care.

Chief Executive Officer of Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority (WHPHA), Dr. James Kintwa who received the ambulance keys and handed them over to the Catholic Church thanked and acknowledged the work of Members of Parliament (MPs) from the province.

He said the Members of Parliament for Tambul/ Nebilyer, Mul/Baiyer, Dei and Anglimp/South Waghi had given a lot of support to the WHPHA and there would be more work taking place in those districts soon including the upgrading of Kotna Health Centre to a district hospital.

Dr. Kintwa said in some places people were just

talking about doing work but in Western Highlands actual work had commenced in some of the rural facilities due to the support of the MPs as well as donor agencies and other stakeholders and he was grateful for such support.

He said churches supported the province's health services in a big way, providing 60 percent of the services in the rural areas and the WHPHA admired them all, especially the Catholic Church which ran 11 health facilities including health centres and health sub-centres.

Dr. Kintwa said the WHPHA's priority was healthy lifestyle, disease prevention and health promotion and has a motto of "no mother or child should die during pregnancy, childbirth or the post-partum period" and it aims to renovate birthing places in the rural facilities and asked mothers to deliver in health facilities and stop giving births in villages which was risky.

He said in the event that there were complications during delivery of a pregnant mother, the vehicle would be used to transport these complicated cases to Mt Hagen Hospital.