



THE INFORMER



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A MOTHER AND CHILD IS THE REASON WE EXIST

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WHPHA

A monthly newsletter of the Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority

GOVERNMENT COMMITS K500 MILLION FOR REDEVELOPMENT OF MT HAGEN HOSPITAL

The National Government has committed K500 million for the redevelopment of Mt Hagen Provincial Hospital over the next 3-4 years.

It will make available an initial K50 million next year to start the ground work for the facility which will be upgraded to a major referral hospital for the Highlands region.

Prime Minister, Hon Peter O'Neil MP announced his government's assistance at Kotna in the Dei District of Western Highlands recently during a ground breaking ceremony for the upgrading of Kotna Health Centre to a District Hospital.

Member for Dei, Hon Wesley Nukundi MP has made available K5.8 million from his District Service Improvement Program (DSIP) funds to renovate existing buildings and construct new wards, staff houses and other facilities to upgrade the facility.

Prime Minister O'Neil said health, education, infrastructure development, law & order and economic growth were important for the country's development and the government would continue to give priority to these key areas.

He said districts received a lot of money in the form of the DSIP funds (K10 million each year) and everyone should work together to deliver essential services such as health which was an important infrastructure for the people.

Hon O'Neil was in Mt Hagen recently with some of his Cabinet Ministers including



Prime Minister, Hon Peter O'Neill MP (centre) with Western Highlands Governor, Rt Hon Paias Wingti (right) and Health Minister, Hon Michael Malabag MP (next to police officer) at the launching of Kotna district hospital.

Health Minister, Hon Michael Malabag MP and former Prime Ministers and current Governors, Sir Michael Somare MP, Sir Julius Chan MP, Mr. Paias Wingti MP and Sir Rabbie Namaliu for the launching of the Western Highlands Provincial Headquarters. Mr. Malabag said health was a very big priority area in the social sector along with education and urged the people to look after schools and health facilities that were provided for them.

He said health was allocated K1.4 billion in the national budget this year and big things would be happening to hospitals including the upgrading of referral hospitals such as Port Moresby General Hospital, Angau, Nonga, Boram and Mt Hagen.

He added that the Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority Board and Management had done a very fantastic job among the three pioneer provincial health authority provinces of Milne Bay and Eastern Highlands and this was reflected in the Government's recognition and funding of its new plans to develop Mt Hagen

Provincial Hospital to a major referral hospital.

Mr. Malabag said the Member for Dei had done a good job in helping to improve health services in the district and the Health Ministry and the Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority would ensure much needed health equipment for the new hospital were procured, adding that a fully equipped South Korean ambulance would be delivered to Kotna in October this year.

New Ireland Governor and former Prime Minister, Sir Julius Chan said before doing the ground breaking for the launching of Kotna District Hospital that free education was good but good health would help everyone to prosperity.

"We are on a new threshold to a new PNG. Now is the time for everyone to co-operate for service delivery, not to fight each other", he said adding that what was happening in Dei was in the right direction.

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Rural facilities to be upgraded to prevent overcrowding at Mt Hagen Hospital



Dr. James Kintwa

Work on upgrading rural facilities to keep our people back there to get treatment is currently in progress at some facilities while work will start in others shortly. This activity also includes procurement of essential medical equipment.

Major health centres such as Tabibuga, Kol, Nondugl and Kimil in Jiwaka and Togoba in

Western Highlands are to be maintained whilst Tambul and Kotna are planned to be upgraded to district hospitals starting this year. Tambul and Kotna will be upgraded to district hospital status and work has already started to tender publically for these new green field developments.

This is in line with my message to you all in the last issue of this newsletter that by August we do not want to see and treat patients from the rural areas at Mt Hagen Hospital unless they have been referred by the rural facilities.

The idea behind this is to stop overcrowding at the hospital and also to bring services closer to our people so that they do not waste time and money travelling to Mt Hagen for treatment. This means our staff will be required to remain in their rural facilities and serve our people.

Patient care as we all know is our number one priority and we must be seen to be doing our jobs and providing the services required of us. Our people will hold us accountable for everything we do so let us all commit ourselves to our jobs and help raise a healthy population in Western Highlands and Jiwaka Provinces.

Funding for the new Tambul district hospital has been made available by the Member for Tambul/ Nebilyer, Hon Benjamin Poponawa MP and so tenders for Tambul and Kotna will be called shortly as soon as tender documents or work specifications are ready. The Member for Dei, Hon Wesley Nukundi MP has made available K5.8 million towards the cost of upgrading existing facilities and constructing new buildings including staff houses at Kotna.

A huge amount of money is being spent on the upgrading of these facilities and procurement of medical equipment to bring services closer to our people and this means they will be visiting us to

seek treatment and therefore our staff will need to be present every day to serve them.

Death of Pamela Kali

On a sad note, we lost one of our most senior and long serving officers this month. Pamela Kali who served the Western Highlands health service for more than 30 years succumbed to her death on 19th July 2013 after battling a heart problem for some time.

Late Pamela joined the Western Highlands health service immediately after graduating from dental college and worked her way up to the position of senior dental therapist when she met her fate.

Late Pamela who came from KarKar Island in Madang Province collapsed and died whilst on sick leave in her home province. She leaves behind 6 children and several grandchildren.

As a sign of respect for her untiring services to health in this province, the Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority transferred her body from Modilon Hospital in Madang to the funeral home in Goroka where it was kept there for several days before being brought to Mt Hagen for family members, colleagues and friends to view and pay their last respects.

The body overnights at the family home in the hospital compound before a funeral service was held the next day after which it made the long journey back to Madang and onto its final resting place on KarKar Island, accompanied by several of our staff members.

On behalf of the Board, Management and staff of the Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority, I pass on our sincere and heartfelt condolences to her children and her immediate family members and relatives on the untimely death of a humble and dedicated employee. May Her Soul Rest In Eternal Peace.

Assault on doctor

The assault on one of our doctors by a local community and the subsequent stop work by our doctors this month was another major issue we had to deal with. This action by a Moge Akelka community member over the death of one of their relatives in the hospital was very unnecessary and something which all of us including the Board and Management of the Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority totally condemned.

This incident by a minority group sent a totally wrong message to the wider community, especially

the medical fraternity in the country. It showed that Mt Hagen Hospital is not a safe place to work and doctors would refuse to come here no matter how hard we try to convince them.

Assaulting and punching a doctor and any other health workers in a ward in front of other patients and guardians is not the way to solve problems. It creates many other problems such as staff leaving or working in fear and services closed or not available for other people in the province to benefit. I have said it many times before and will say it again that attracting doctors to Mt Hagen is not easy in light of the bad publicity that the city and the province receive due to security issues and I strongly urge everyone, especially the Moge, Jiga and Yamka clansmen living around Mt Hagen City to look after all health workers and stop assaulting them.

If doctors, nurses and other health workers leave because of such threats and assaults, where will our people get health services from? There are proper procedures to follow to address such issues and we must do the right thing by following them.

If the public has any concerns about the services we provide or the way our staff (health workers) treat them, they should see our Public Relations Officer who would then take up their concerns with the appropriate authorities for feedback and necessary action.

I am very sorry for what had happened to Dr. Kirau and I sincerely apologize to him for this unruly and unwarranted behavior of a few people. I said it publicly when the clan came to apologize and I will say it again here that I will not tolerate such behavior against my staff.

I know the clan returned and compensated Dr. Kirau for what they did to him, which is our Melanesian way of saying sorry but let this be the last because such actions will not attract important technical staff to Mt Hagen Hospital or even retain existing staff. When this happens and staff leave or do not come to work in WHP, it is the public who will suffer because they have to go to other provinces for health services at huge costs.

Our people must understand that big developments will be taking place at Mt Hagen Hospital soon and with such developments will come the need for more human resources, especially highly trained technical officers. However with this kind of perception that people have of Mt Hagen and Western Highlands Province, our efforts to recruit skilled manpower will not be that easy.

Dr. James Kintwa AFCHSM

Chief executive officer

Birth Registration and LPA Training

The Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority had piloted a multi-sectoral community outreach program this month through its Family Support Centre (FSC) at the Well Women's Clinic to raise awareness on child sexual abuse and exploitation.

The Family Support Centre had identified several communities in Hagen Central with high prevalence of child sexual abuse that required interventions and had spear headed a week-long workshop at Koge village to raise awareness on this issue among those communities.

Child sexual abuse and exploitation requires FSC partners to work together to address it and as such the training workshop was jointly conducted by the

Mt Hagen FSC, the Office of Civil Registry, the Office of Lukautim Pikinini and the National Department of Health.

The Mt Hagen FSC works closely with the Provincial and National FSC partners by taking a multi-sectoral approach aimed at reaching out to communities and sending messages to them that the government is serious about protecting children and any interventions would have to be holistic and integrated.

The Civil Registry Office and Office of Lukautim Pikinini committed themselves to training community leaders and others on the importance of birth registration and the Lukautim Pikinini Act (LPA).

The aim of the training workshop was mainly to raise awareness among community leaders,

pastors, youth and women's groups on sexual and other forms of child abuse so that they could assist in identifying the causes of child abuse in their respective communities.

It was also aimed at equipping the community members with knowledge on the rights of children, the importance of birth registration and gender based violence as well as identifying vulnerable children in the community and protecting them from being abused.

A total of 38 people representing various groups within Hagen Central District including Mt Hagen Provincial Hospital, Susu Mamas, the Provincial Community Development Office, youths and teachers attended the week-long workshop which ended on 5th July.

Kintwa meets with facility managers, DHOs and NGOs



Some of the facility managers, Church Health Workers, NGOs and DHOs listening attentively to Dr. Kintwa.

Chief Executive Officer of the Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority, Dr. James Kintwa recently met with facility managers, DHOs, church health workers, NGOs and other senior staff and spelt out the way forward for the organization.

Dr. Kintwa who addressed the staff and partners at Hotel Kimininga in Mt Hagen also used the occasion to introduce the new Senior Executive Management Team which included Dr. John Kiap – Director Curative Health Services, Ms. Julie Bengi – Director Corporate Services and Mr. Norman Vakore – Director Public Health Services.

Dr. Kintwa told the staff that most of the work that had been done in the last two years had been mostly top level planning, putting our Corporate Plan together and planning for infrastructure development in all the seven districts of Western

(KRA 7), Maternal Health (KRA 5), Child Health (KRA 4), Partnership (KRA 2) and Health Systems Strengthening (KRA 3).

Dr. Kintwa said the organization's performance in the last five years had not been good, especially in the areas of supervised deliveries in districts, antenatal services, malnutrition indicators and malaria incidents although there had been a reduction in its levels which was probably because of the distribution of mosquito nets.

"I ask you all to do routine work and not wait for special programs such as Supplementary Immunization to take place. I ask DHOs especially to prioritize your efforts in the areas that we have not performed well in and see that changes occur", he said.

The CEO said financial support had been received from the Western Highlands and Jiwaka Provincial

Highlands and Jiwaka Provinces.

He said churches had played a key role in delivering health services to our people along with our other partners such as CHAI, Susu Mamas, Marie Stopes and Anglicare and added that with God, WHPHA would move and deliver health services in a transparent and honest manner.

He told the staff that WHPHA's key priority areas were Healthy Lifestyle, Health Promotion and Disease Prevention

Governments as well as local MPs and donor agencies such as AusAID and there was more than K30 million available for infrastructure development in the two provinces.

He said basic medical equipment worth more than K1.3 million had also been procured and would arrive soon to be delivered to the rural facilities so staff must get down to serious business and deliver services to our people.

Dr. Kintwa said by end of August people from the rural areas would only be treated at Mt Hagen Hospital if they are referred by a rural facility. He said a toksave would go out on radio that if they come to Mt Hagen without a referral they would not be treated.

"It is also hoped that by August the Digicel Call Centre initiative will come into operation and you will explain why you are not there at your facility if people call in and complain. Cases of malaria, pneumonia and common colds should not be referred to Mt Hagen - they should be treated in the rural facilities.

"We want to see our province become number one in health service delivery so let's do it. Our motto is "no mother or child should die during pregnancy, childbirth and the post partum period" so be passionate about what you do and take ownership of it", he said.

Dr. Kintwa said the Health Minister and the National Department of Health as well as the two Governors, local MPs and AusAID were supporting the WHPHA so staff must do their part by delivering services to the people.

"If no good results are produced, the CEO and the senior executive management team and other managers must be held accountable and if we still see no changes, I will resign and I expect you to follow", he said.

PMU Office and hospital ward toilets opened



The new Project Management Unit office (White House) and vehicle

The Project Management Unit of the Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority (WHPHA) is now operating out of a new office.

The new office complex, built from 20-foot dry containers and situated near the WHPHA headquarters was officially opened on 15th July 2013 together with two new toilets – one for the disabled & TB ward and the other, a females' toilet at the medical ward.

The PMU office which has been appropriately named "White House" because of its color was opened by the Chief Executive Officer of the Authority, Dr. James Kintwa. It was funded by AusAID at a cost of K175,000.

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Dr. Kintwa indicated at the opening that given the color and name it matches, what we want is our processes to be as clear and white and transparent with no nepotism and under the table deals. Our contractors and the public can expect that from the WHPHA.

The toilets at the disabled & TB ward and the medical ward were funded by the Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority at a total cost of approximately K140,000. They were opened by Director Curative Health, Dr. John Kiap and Director Corporate Services, Ms. Julie Bengi respectively.

Dr Kintwa said health was to do with looking after sick people which was the core business of the Provincial Health Authority and this was its priority area.

He said the opening of the PMU office was a small but significant occasion because this office would be responsible for designing and carrying out projects worth K30,440,000 in both the Western Highlands and Jiwaka Provinces. Dr. Kintwa said this was a huge amount of money and it would be spent as transparently as possible to gain maximum benefits for our people.

Local Contractor, Kaim Builders built the white house while Bador Construction and Corner Builders, also Mt Hagen-based companies built the two toilets. The builders took about two months to

complete their respective projects.

Owner of Kaim Builders, Mr. Nelson Watai said Mt Hagen Hospital was experiencing a lot of physical changes because of good leadership and co-operation between key partners such as the builders and donor agencies like AusAID.

He urged the public and staff of the hospital and the Provincial Health Authority to take ownership of what was being provided and look after them well to benefit everyone.

He also called on the public not to harass doctors, nurses and other health workers but look after and protect them as they were not running their own business but looking after and treating sick people to become well and return home.



DCS, Julie Bengi about to open the medical ward toilet witnessed by the CEO, Dr. James Kintwa.

Upgrading of Kotna Health Centre to District Hospital



WHPHA CEO, Dr. James Kintwa (right) about to thank Hon Wesley Nukundi MP for making available K5.8 million for Kotna District Hospital.

Kotna Health Centre in the Dei District of Western Highlands will now be upgraded to a District Hospital as part of plans by the Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority to improve health services in the rural areas.

The upgrading of the facility will cost about K8.5 million and the Member for Dei, Hon Wesley Nukundi MP has taken the lead by making available K5.8 million from his District Service Improvement Program (DSIP) funds towards the cost of renovating existing buildings and constructing new wards, staff houses and other facilities.

Hon Nukundi presented a dummy cheque during a ground breaking ceremony at Kotna recently to

and Mr. Paias Wingti had left their political differences aside to work with Prime Minister O'Neil to develop this country and the people of Dei must do the same.

Kotna Health Centre is run by the Evangelical Lutheran Church under a partnership between the Church Health Services and the Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority.

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of the DSIP funds (K10 million each year) and everyone should work together to deliver essential services such as health which was an important infrastructure for the people.

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Probationary staff inducted into Public Service

More than 100 probationary staff of the Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority (WHPHA) and the Area Medical Store were recently inducted into the National Public Service system.

The staff spent the last two weeks of July going through all facets of the PNG Government and Public Service systems as part of their training to know the system they are in before they could be made permanent public servants.

Two senior training officers from the National Health Department in Port Moresby, Mr. Carmen Yakopa and Mrs. Julianne Aihl were in Mt Hagen to conduct the induction course. They spent the first week with 49 staff and the second with 56, putting them through theory as well as group discussions and practical sessions.

It was the first time for an induction course to be conducted in a PHA province and the National Department of Health which honored the request shared the cost of the training with the Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority.

A graduation ceremony and pledging of oath was held at the WHPHA Chapel on the last day of the course on 26th July in which all inductees pledged to serve the Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority and the Public Service with loyalty and commitment.

Executive Manager Corporate Services with NDoH, Mr. Paul Dopsie was the guest speaker at the ceremony. He said Health Minister, Hon Michael Malabag MP and Health Secretary, Mr. Pascoe Kase would have loved to join him on this occasion but because they were attending another big program in town - the launching of the Western

Highlands Provincial Headquarters - they could not make it.

Mr. Dopsie told the staff that the introduction of the Provincial Health Authority concept in the Western Highlands Province was not a mistake - it was done through God's divine plan, adding "you are doing very well and you are going way ahead and that's because you put God first".

"When your heart is right you are morally connected to God. When a sick person sees a health worker, whether you are a senior specialist medical officer or a nurse or CHW, you are very special and you are in God's divine plan to make that person feel he or she will be alright", he said.

Mr. Dopsie said the WHPHA was the face of health in Western Highlands Province and the Health Minister and Secretary wanted to meet with

everyone from the senior specialist medical officers down to the cleaners but could not and had sent their apologies.

"Western Highlands Province health is miles and miles away - you are the face of health in PNG. It is God's divine plan to run this program (PHA) here and you are doing very well", he said.

Mr. Dopsie told the staff that the WHPHA was doing well because it had good leadership as well as a good Board and Management to steer it in the right direction.

He also added that WHPHA was the first organization to have the Alesco concept payroll machine installed and soon it would have the PGAS accounting system transferred to Mt Hagen, enabling it to connect direct to Treasury at Waigani.



The second group of inductees pose for a picture with their trainers