



THE INFORMER



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A MOTHER AND CHILD IS THE REASON WE EXIST

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WHPHA

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Second Group of HIV-Negative Children Released

A second group of babies born from HIV-positive mothers have been released from Mt Hagen Hospital free of the virus.

The 25 babies who had been cared for under the Prevention of Parents to Child Transmission (PPTCT) program in the Western Highlands over the last two years were released recently.

The children who come from various parts of the Highlands region including Western Highlands and Jiwaka provinces have tested negative after their parents had faithfully gone through the program.

The children who are now over two years old were released during an emotional but happy ceremony at the hospital chapel last week in which they were all issued with Certificates of Release. In June this year, another 20 children who had been cared for under the same program had been released.

The PPTCT program is run by the Western Highlands Provincial HIV/AIDS Services, set up jointly by the Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority (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 anti-retroviral therapy programs starting from the first month of pregnancy to delivery to



Parents and their HIV-negative children displaying their certificates after they were officially released.

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 children tested negative to all three tests, resulting in their release as normal healthy children.

"There is a lot of discrimination and stigma of people living with the virus but we must remember that there is always light at the end of the tunnel so we must not give up", Petrus Kombea, the Provincial HIV/AIDS Services Coordinator said.

He said PPTCT program workers were the main engineers of this positive result and thanked staff of Tininga clinic and the labour and paediatrics wards of Mt Hagen Hospital for working closely with CHAI to give new life to children.

The Hospital's Deputy Physician, Dr. Kipas Binga said there were more than 6,500 HIV-positive people living in Western Highlands and Jiwaka and there was a lot to be done to bring children born from such parents to this stage.

He said he wanted to see these children remain HIV-negative throughout their lives until they were old enough to get married and raise their own families, adding that parents had a responsibility

to take their medications faithfully and look after them well.

Highlands Regional Paediatrician, Dr. Magdalynn Kaupa commended staff of all the sections responsible for committing themselves to their work and ensuring these children remained HIV-negative up to their discharge.

She said the WHPHA's motto of "no mother or child should die during pregnancy, childbirth or the post partum period" had been upheld, resulting in the release of these children and all those involved should be happy.

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A mother and her child about to receive their certificate of release from Dr. Magdalynn Kaupa.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Achievements in 2013 and Plans for the New Year



Dr. James Kintwa

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all our staff. I said in my 2012 Christmas message that that year was the year of planning and that 2013 would be the year of implementation. The year 2013 is just about to end and as planned, many of our planned activities had been achieved during the year.

The Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority (WHPHA) Board of Governance recognizes the performances of all our staff in our various disciplines and fields of work and acknowledges our efforts during the year. We have achieved much in 2013 and credit goes to all our hardworking staff.

Membership of our new Executive Management Team was completed in June this year with permanent appointments made to all executive positions and the team went straight into work, implementing many of our planned activities.

Whilst this was going on, we had lost a number of our senior staff for which we extend our condolences to their families. We lost George Nanowa, Pamela Kali, Pung Kunjil, Tony Aska, Roselyn Kaweya and Dr. Peter Bamne who died whilst in the employ of another organization but had spent much of his time at Mt Hagen Hospital as a senior medical officer and administrator.

Our achievements during 2013 are quite numerous. Among them was the launching of the Corporate Plan, installation of the PGAS system, establishment and opening of five new community health posts, training of CHWs in midwifery skills, financial reform with planning for facility based budget, tender for external PAC administrator, planning and design works for Kotna and Tambul District Hospitals and for Lumusa Health Centre and Kagamuga Urban Clinic.

We had also extended our services to Jiwaka in the hope that health services in the new province would remain under our responsibility for the next two years or so but it seems this will not be the case. One of the things we did was call for Expressions of Interest for the renovation and construction of new buildings for Tabibuga, Kol, Nondugl, Kimil and Minj

Paia Wingti, had given us a lot of financial support for improved health services and this was supported by our Open MPs for Tambul/Nebilyer, Hon Benjamin Poponawa, Mul/Baiyer, Hon Koi Trape, Dei Open, Hon Wesley Nukundi, Hagen Open, Hon William Duma (Minister for Petroleum and Energy) and Anglimp/South Waghi, Hon Komun Joe Koim. The support of the Provincial Government and our elected leaders will see improved health services in the districts and will help improve our indicators.

As a result of the support from our MPs and donor agencies such as Australian Aid and Asia Development Bank (ADB), the WHPHA is one of the most improved health institutions in the country according to the 2013 Annual Health Sector Review.

The Review indicates that WHPHA had greatly improved its performance during the year, bringing itself up from about 15th or 16th place to one of the first five. It has also performed well that it is now the third most improved health organization in the country.

Health indicators show WHPHA is moving progressively forward and it would see many changes happening in 2014 and beyond.

I said before that Western Highlands Province will be number one in health service delivery and our dream is gaining momentum and we can all be happy. The establishment of community health posts is one of two health reforms, the other being the creation of provincial health authorities and Western Highlands is doing exceptionally well in both.

Our plans for 2014 include the construction of Kotna and Tambul District Hospitals and the construction of Lumusa and Kagamuga Health Centres. We will also continue with the design phase of Mt Hagen Hospital redevelopment and renovation of Jiwaka health centres if given the opportunity to do so. Tinsley Hospital renovation is another job to be carried out.

As of February 2014, patients from the rural facilities will not be treated at Mt Hagen Hospital unless they are referred by these facilities. This is to stop overcrowding at the Out-patients Department as well as to prevent people from risking their lives travelling to Mt Hagen which is also a costly and time-consuming exercise.

Certain tertiary services need to be decentralized to the rural health centres and other facilities so that

Health Centres.

The Western Highlands Provincial Government through Governor, Rt Hon

basic medical and surgical services can be accessed by the rural people. As a start, we have carried out basic maintenance on most of our facilities and stocked them with medical equipment and drugs to enable our people to get the best treatment.

More medical equipment will arrive in the New Year for the rural facilities and I would like to ask all our staff in those facilities to remain in your respective places and provide the necessary services so that the people can benefit from them.

Another thing I would like all of us to know is that we have budgeted for separate funding for all our rural facilities in the 2014 budget and I urge the facility managers to be responsible and accountable for how these funds are spent. If the allocated funds are spent before the end of the financial year, there will be no more additional funds so make wise financial decisions and spend within your budgets.

On the issue of health services in Jiwaka, the Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority will no longer be responsible for these services as of 1st January next year.

This is because there is no formal agreement in place between Jiwaka Provincial Government and WHPHA for us to continue to manage health services in Jiwaka until such time Jiwaka is ready to take over the running of these services.

Prior to Jiwaka becoming a separate province, health services had been part of Western Highlands and verbal agreement had been reached for WHPHA to continue to manage health in Jiwaka with resources (financial and human resources) provided by WHPHA. We have up until now (end of 2013) carried out a number of initiatives in Jiwaka including renovating buildings in five health centres using financial resources meant for Western Highlands without being reimbursed through the Health Functional Grants given to Jiwaka.

It is regrettable that the decision by the Jiwaka Provincial Government not to honour previously agreed arrangements through a formal Agreement has effectively cut off our responsibility for health services in Jiwaka.

WHPHA has not left Jiwaka yet but if the Jiwaka Provincial Government does not sign an Agreement for WHPHA to continue to be responsible for health services in Jiwaka, we will leave and this is very unfortunate.

Dr. James Kintwa
Chief Executive Officer

No more visits by rural patients to Hagen

Patients from the rural areas of Western Highlands will not be treated at Mt Hagen Provincial Hospital starting February 2014 unless they are referred by rural health facilities.

This is to stop overcrowding at the Out-patients Department of the Hospital as well as to prevent people from risking their lives travelling to Mt Hagen which is also a costly and time-consuming exercise. Chief Executive Officer of the Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority (WHPHA), Dr. James Kintwa when addressing his staff during Christmas revealed this among other changes that will take place during the New Year.

He said certain tertiary services needed to be decentralized to the rural health centres and other facilities so that basic medical and surgical services could be accessed by the rural people.

Dr. Kintwa said as a start, basic maintenance had been carried out on most of the facilities and stocked with medical equipment and drugs to enable our people to get the best treatment.

He said more medical equipment would arrive in the New Year for the rural facilities and urged all staff in those facilities to remain in their respective places and provide the necessary services so that the people could benefit from them.

He also announced that all rural facilities would have funding in the 2014 budget and urged the facility managers to be responsible and accountable for how these funds are spent.

Dr. Kintwa told the managers to make wise financial decisions for expenditures so that there is no over-commitment of funds.



Chief Executive Officer, Dr. James Kintwa
addressing his staff during the Christmas party.

Australian AID donates vehicles to Kudjip Nazarene College of Nursing



Nazarene Hospital to help deliver vital health services to his people.

In presenting the cheque, Mr. Koim told the hospital executives that many people, especially mothers and children were dying in the rural areas because basic health services were not reaching them.

He said this was why he made the donation so that the hospital could use it to procure a mobile clinic unit that would attend to patients, especially sick women in the rural areas.

"Mobile clinics are an effective way of carrying out health programs in the district. They will

reach the sick at their doorsteps", he said.

Mr. Koim said Jiwaka was a new province with not much infrastructure in place but he believed many programs could be achieved in collaboration with important development partners like Australian Aid.

He said he was prompted to fund mobile clinics in his district after seeing many mothers dying from diseases such as cervical cancer and breast cancer. He added that most women do not openly disclose their illnesses to doctors because of shame.

HHISP Program Director, Dr. Geoff Clark praised Mr. Koim for his commitment towards the health sector and added that Australian Aid would equally match the Member's donation with another K500,000 under its kina for kina policy.

Kudjip Nazarene College of Nursing in Jiwaka Province is the proud recipient of two brand new vehicles – thanks to Australian Aid.

Australian Aid recently donated a Toyota 25-seater coaster bus and a 10-seater Land cruiser to the College to assist staff and students with their daily transport needs.

The vehicles which are worth a total of about K300,000 were presented to the College by Health and HIV Implementation Services Provider (HHISP) Program Director, Dr. Geoff Clark during a small ceremony at Mt Hagen Hospital.

College Principal, Wallace White and Kudjip Hospital Administrator, Dr. Scott Dooley received the vehicles on behalf of the College, witnessed by the Chief Executive Officer of the Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority, Dr. James Kintwa.

During the same ceremony the Member for Anglimp/South Waghi, Hon Komun Joe Koim presented a cheque of K500,000 to Kudjip



Above, representatives of Australian Aid, Kudjip Nazarene College of Nursing and WHPHA pose for a picture in front of the two vehicles and top left, College Principal, Wallace White (left) receiving the keys from HHISP Program Director, Dr. Geoff Clark.

Trukai donates rice to Mt Hagen Hospital



Trukai Rice Industries has come good again by donating more rice to Mt Hagen Hospital.

The company recently donated half a ton of rice as a Christmas present to the hospital to feed its in-patients.

The donation is part of a commitment the company has made to deliver a certain amount of rice to the hospital each Christmas starting with last Christmas when it donated one ton of rice.

Trukai Rice Industries' Sales Manager for the Highlands, Mr. Jacob Oreke said the company was happy to make the donation to such an institution where there was a need to feed the in-patients.

"We give where there is a need and certainly Hagen Hospital has a need to feed the patients so this is why we have selected it for this donation", Mr. Oreke said.

In receiving the donation on behalf of the hospital, Acting Chief Executive Officer of the Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority, Ms. Julie Bengi said she appreciated the kind gesture and thanked the company for helping to feed the in-patients.

She said as a government institution, the hospital was financially stretched to the limit and such donation was much appreciated.

"This is a good sign of how partners can work together for a common good and our doors are open for partners willing to help care for our people to make similar donations", Ms. Bengi said.

Left - Acting CEO of WHPHA, Ms. Julie Bengi taking delivery of the rice from Trukai's Highlands Regional Sales Manager, Mr. Jacob Oreke as other hospital staff look on.

First CHP to be opened in Dei District

The people of Muka Peng and nearby villages in the Dei District of Western Highlands will now have health services delivered at their doorstep.

This follows the establishment of a new Community Health Post (CHP) at Muka Peng, about 10kms from Kotna Health Centre and Kitip Lutheran Secondary School.

The new CHP is the first to be opened in Dei District and the fifth in the Western Highlands and Papua New Guinea. The others are in the Mul/Baiyer District.

Muka Peng CHP has a permanent clinical building and a staff house, both funded through contributions by the people, the Lutheran Health Services and the Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority (WHPHA).

The CHP which was officially opened by the Member for Dei, Hon Wesley Nukundi, will provide services such as out-patients, supervised delivery and health promotion and disease prevention.

It will have three staff – a nursing officer and two Community Health Workers with one of them a trained midwife to assist mothers to deliver safely.

Chief Executive Officer of Christian Health Services (CHS) PNG, Mr. Joseph Sika said the establishment of the CHP had come about because of the partnership arrangement between the WHPHA and CHS.

Mr. Sika said he was happy for the partnership which produced good results and added that he would work towards strengthening this partnership for a healthy population.

He also told the people that because there was only one house for the three staff members, CHS would build one more.

Chief Executive Officer of WHPHA, Dr. James Kintwa said partnership was important for effective health service delivery and he was pleased such partnership worked strongly and successfully with churches.

"We need to work together with all churches to see health services go forward, especially in the remote areas where they serve", he said.

Dr. Kintwa said Western Highlands was the first and only province in the country to build CHPs and people should be proud of it as it brought health services closer to them.

He also thanked Members of Parliament and the



National Government for agreeing to pay church health services staff equal pay as government health workers.

Member for Dei, Hon Wesley Nukundi when opening the new CHP said the National Government's priority areas were health, education, infrastructure development, law and order and economic development and he was happy to see health leading the way in service delivery in the province.

Hon Nukundi said he wanted to assist with education, health and infrastructure development in Dei but he needed to consult the right authorities in these areas first before doing anything.

He said the WHPHA was responsible for health in the province and any assistance he may wish to give his people in the area of health would have to be in line with the WHPHA's health plan for Dei.

"We will follow the health plan of WHPHA to provide health services in Dei. I want to do something for the health of our people but this is a health function so I will leave it with WHPHA.

"I will put money into health infrastructure and I will continue to put more in the next few years so that before the next elections in 2017, Dei will be self-sufficient with health facilities", he said.

Mr. Nukundi also told the huge crowd that gathered at Muka Peng Primay School that what he said did not mean that he would forget

about other services.

He said whether the people of Muka Peng voted for him or not did not matter, adding that he was now the Member for Dei and pledged to fund a permanent double classroom for the local school to which he received a big round of applause from the happy parents and children.



Top - A church pastor prepares to bless the building before its official opening by Dei MP, Hon Wesley Nukundi (standing left with cowboy hat). **Above** - Chief Executive Officer of WHPHA, Dr. James Kintwa is about to cut the ribbon to officially open the staff house. **Left** - These women had reason to celebrate because they do not have to go far to seek medical treatment.