

THE INFORMER

Volume 2, Issue 6

A MOTHER AND CHILD IS THE REASON WE EXIST

October 2013

WHPHA

A monthly newsletter of the Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority

Western Highlands performing well in health service delivery

The Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority (WHPHA) is a role model for health services in Papua New Guinea, according to a former Prime Minister.

Western Highlands Governor and former Prime Minister, Hon Paias Wingti declared this when officially launching the WHPHA's five-year Corporate Plan at the Highlander Hotel in Mt Hagen recently.

While addressing business executives, senior public servants, newly-appointed Members of the Western Highlands Provincial Executive Council and senior health staff, Mr. Wingti said he was proud to be part of an organization that he had helped to create.

He said when he was prime minister, he had realized that hospitals throughout the country were not being managed properly and his government had decided that Boards be appointed to run them.

Mr. Wingti said Western Highlands was doing well in the provision of health services under the Provincial Health Authority concept which he initiated when he was prime minister and he was proud of it.

"This is the beginning of many good things happening in health in Western Highlands and Jiwaka. I have trust and confidence in David Guinn (Board chairman) and Dr. Kintwa (CEO) to run our health services", he said.

Referring to the commitment of K500 million by the National Government for the redevelopment of Mt Hagen Hospital, Mr. Wingti said Mr. Guinn and Dr. Kintwa are smart men and their brief to the Prime



Mr Wingti (seated 3rd from right) with Chairman, Mr. David Guinn (next to him) and other executives of the WHPEC and WHPHA during the launching.

Minister, Hon Peter O'Neill was magic, resulting in the commitment.

Mr. Wingti said with the redevelopment taking place, people do not have to go to Lae or Port Moresby to be treated for major cases like heart and cancer problems. He said these can be treated in Mt Hagen except for brain surgery which can be done overseas.

Chairman of the Board, Mr. David Guinn said the aim of the WHPHA was to improve health services for our people and Governor Wingti's continued support has resulted in significant support coming from donor agencies such as AusAID and ADB.

"Governor, your support and your work with the other Members of Parliament from Western Highlands and Jiwaka has resulted in significant funds becoming available to the WHPHA for infrastructure development", he said.

Mr. Guinn said the support through DSIP and PSIP funds would see significant improvements in rural health facilities including district hospitals at Tambul, Kotna and Tinsley, a new health centre at Lumusa, new community health posts at various places and many new and improved houses for staff.

WHPHA Chief Executive Officer, Dr. James Kintwa said developing good partnerships with stakeholders who deliver health services such as churches, CHAI, Marie Stopes, Susu Mamas and others was important for effective health service delivery.

He said the WHPHA Corporate Plan reflected the determination of the management, staff and stakeholders to make a difference in delivering health services in a coordinated and streamlined way and he was happy for the political support.

Dr. Kintwa thanked Governor Wingti and Member for Mul/Baiyer, Hon Koi Trape, Member for Tambul/Nebilyer, Hon Benjamin Poponawa, Member for Dei. Hon Wesley Nukundi and Member for Anglimp/South Waghi, Hon Komun Joe Koim for their support and challenged other MPs from Western Highlands and Jiwaka to assist as well.

He said maternal and child health services would be key features throughout all facilities, adding that no mother or child should die during pregnancy, childbirth or the post partum period. He added that the WHPHA was prepared to spend thousands of kina if it meant saving a life.

In this issue:

Page

Western Highlands performing well in health service delivery	1
Message from the Chief Executive Officer	2
Launching of PGAS	2
First Community Health Post in PNG opened at Waknam	3
Up-skilling training for Community Health Workers	4
Paediatrics Training for Health Workers	4

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Infrastructure Developments and Hospital Redevelopment



Dr. James Kintwa
Project Management Unit (PMU) and our contracted architects, Frameworks, who are based in Goroka but who have an office in Port Moresby as well.

On the drawing board at the moment are new District Hospitals at Kotna and Tambul (Tambul is being designed by Tusitala Architects), a new Health Centre at Lumusa, extensions at Togoba, complete refurbishment and extension at Kagamuga and work at Kudjip, Kimil, Kol, Nondugul, Tinsley, Gia and Gomi. This work is under the Kina for Kina policy with Members of Parliament, the Western Highlands Provincial Government and our funding partners Australian Aid.

The Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority has embarked on a three year program to develop not only the Mt Hagen Provincial Hospital but also much of the rural infrastructure which has been so neglected for so long.

Design work is being done collaboratively with our

Other work has been done, is being done or planned at Pagli, Muka Peng, Nengil, Bukapena, Kwinga, Mitiku, Tipunga, Olna, Domil, Anglimp, Kuming, Minj, Guma, Trolga, Paglum and Atenga.

The Asia Development Bank is also investing in our rural health infrastructure with new Community Health Posts and staff housing.

Staff accommodation has not been forgotten and much of the planned health facility upgrades will have refurbished or new staff accommodation attached. We have also commenced construction of additional staff accommodation for the Mt Hagen Provincial Hospital.

Work on the Mt Hagen Provincial Hospital redevelopment is proceeding with Health Planner Kathy Roughan on site and Capworks representative Geoff Moore preparing the tender documents for the necessary design work. We should have a call for Expressions of Interest from Architects in the market place by around 10th December. We hope to have a design team in place in late January 2014.

Given the scope of this work, it is going to be challenging to complete the job by the end of 2017 but we are confident of putting together a world class team comprising both overseas and local experts. The development will closely follow the

Master Plan developed by Hassells and their local partner Frameworks Architects of Goroka.

Staff are now being extensively consulted and other stakeholders are also being consulted so we ensure that we have a facility which will be able to service the needs of the Highlands not only in the near future but for the next 20, 30 or 40 years.

Of course none of this would be possible without the continued support of our Governor and our Members, the Government and our donor and service partners.

Most people do not realise the significant amount of work involved in delivering good, durable infrastructure and we are fortunate that we have a good team in place able to assist us achieve our infrastructure aims.

Of course all this infrastructure work needs to be supported by well trained staff in sufficient numbers to provide the quality care which our people not only need but to which they have a right.

We are determined that no mother or child should die during pregnancy, childbirth or the post-partum.

Achieving that and a healthy lifestyle for all will be facilitated by our staff and the journey we have commenced to infrastructure and staff housing.

Dr. James Kintwa
Chief Executive Officer

Launching of PGAS

A new Provincial Government Accounting System (PGAS) for the Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority was launched in Mt Hagen recently.

The Deputy Secretary for Finance Operations, Mr. Samuel Penias officially launched it during a ceremony witnessed by WHPHA Board Chairman, Mr. David Guinn, Western Highlands Provincial Administrator, Mr. Joseph Neng, senior executives of the Finance and Health Departments and WHPHA Chief Executive Officer, Dr. James Kintwa and his executive management team.

Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority is the third health organization in the country to have PGAS installed after Port Moresby General Hospital and Alotau Hospital.

Mr. Penias said PGAS is being introduced in government departments and statutory organizations to ensure all accounting and reporting systems in the government are done properly.

He thanked the Board and Management for allowing PGAS to be introduced into the organization and assured them that the new system would work better for WHPHA in its management of funds and expenditures.

Mr. Penias said the Department of Western Highlands is already using the system with no problems and he was sure the WHPHA would find it a good system to use as well.

"We want accounting and reporting of accounts in government to be done properly and the reports sent to Waigani in one system", he said.

Provincial Administrator, Mr. Joseph Neng said

PGAS is a recognized system across the country and he was happy to see WHPHA hooking up to the system.

He thanked the Finance Department for setting up the system, adding that both the Department of Western Highlands and WHPHA depended on the functional grants from the National Government to operate and he was confident PGAS would allow proper accountability for all monies used.

Mr. Neng also said that the Provincial Health Authority concept is working very well in the Western Highlands and the Provincial Government is supportive of it.

He said the Board headed by Chairman, Mr. David Guinn and the executive management team led by the Chief Executive Officer, Dr. James Kintwa are doing a good job in delivering health services in the province.

He added that positive comments had also been received from other provinces that Western Highlands was doing well in health under the PHA concept and is a role model for others to follow.

Mr. Guinn said the launch of PGAS as the accounting system for WHPHA was yet another milestone for the organization.

He said the Board, management and staff would now have access to a system which allows greater control, greater accountability and better reporting and thanked the Secretaries for Finance and Health



Finance Deputy Secretary Operations, Samuel Penias (right) and Board Chairman, David Guinn listen as WHPHA CEO, Dr. James Kintwa raises a point during the launching.

for supporting it and providing training for the staff. "This work is preparing the WHPHA for the next step forward and that is when we contract out the financial administration using PGAS to procure, account and report on our expenditures.

"AusAID has assisted us develop a chart of accounts with facility based budgeting which will eventually allow us to make financial resources available and accountable at facility level", he said. He added that PGAS would also allow the WHPHA to better manage risk including the printing of cheques which are now written manually.

FIRST COMMUNITY HEALTH POST IN PNG OPENED AT WAKNAM

Waknam in the Mul Council area of the Mul/Baiyer District of Western Highlands has made history by becoming the first area in the country to have a Community Health Post (CHP) built.

The CHP which was officially opened on 5th October 2013 is one of four new ones to be built, all in the Mul Council area. The others are Pae, Nengil and Kwinka.

The former Member for Mul/Baiyer, Mr. Sani Rambai had made available funding through the District Services Improvement Program for the four CHPs at a cost of about K500,000 each whilst medical supplies and equipment worth another K100,000 each was funded by the Asia Development Bank (ADB) through the Rural Primary Health Services Support Program.

The creation of CHPs and Provincial Health Authorities is stipulated under the 2010 – 2020 National Health Plan and the Western Highlands is the first province to implement both – the PHA concept in March 2011 and the CHP initiative in 2012.

Health Department allocated only K3 million for Western Highlands Health Services this year and this is not enough to extend its services throughout the province, let alone continue its existing services.

He said the WHPHA needs partners like donor agencies, churches, government, NGOs and Members of Parliament to deliver an effective and efficient health service to its people and urged the province's MPs to assist.

Western Highlands Provincial Executive Council Finance Chairman, Mr. Nathan Wantepe who officially opened the new facility said he was happy that through the hard work of the Chief Executive Officer, his staff and the Board, the WHPHA had received plenty of assistance from AusAID and ADB.

He said the Western Highlands Provincial Government allocated K6 million to health each year but AusAID and ADB provided a lot more for health and other areas as well to help develop the province and he thanked them for their assistance.

He also said that such facilities were not easy to be built, especially in an area like Waknam where there were no major economic activities such as coffee plantations and other businesses and urged the people to look after what was provided for them. Meanwhile, the country's third Community Health Post (CHP) was opened at Nengil at the end of the month. It has been built on the same site of the old aid-post which was built in the early 1980s.

The old aid-post, although built many years ago is still intact with no damage done to it despite several tribal conflicts in the area in recent years and the people have been praised for looking after government services well.

A local leader said whilst the community was happy for the CHP, the population that the facility would serve was big and called on the current Member for Mul/Baiyer, Hon Koi Trape to help upgrade it to a health centre level.

Former Mul/Baiyer MP, Mr. Sani Rambai who had the honor of opening the new facility said he had planned and funded the four CHPs to bring vital health services close to the people, particularly women.

He said pregnant women sometimes gave birth on vehicles while travelling to the nearest health facility to deliver or died of complications when delivering at home and he saw that CHPs could cater for their needs and had decided to fund them so that they could deliver safely with the help of trained midwives.

Mr. Rambai said he had done what he could for the people and supported the call by the community leader for the current MP for Mul/Baiyer to make funds available to upgrade these facilities to health centre status and the Bukapena Health Centre to a rural hospital.



WHPHA Finance Chairman, Mr. Nathan Wantepe (right) about to officially open the CHP, witnessed by the CEO, Dr. James Kintwa (left) and Deputy Board Chairman, Mr. Michael Pundia. Below - the new Waknam CHP and below left, proud locals celebrating the big occasion.



The three staff members that will provide the services being introduced to the public.

The CHPs will have three staff - a nursing officer and two community health workers and the services to be provided include out-patients, supervised deliveries and health promotion and disease prevention.

Chief Executive Officer of the Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority, Dr. James Kintwa thanked both Mr. Rambai and ADB for making the necessary funds available for the establishment of these facilities and urged the people to look after them well.

He said the motto of the Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority is "no mother or child should die during pregnancy, childbirth or the post partum period" and therefore all expectant mothers should use these facilities to deliver.

"There are two beds in the delivery section of this community health post (Waknam) and I don't want to hear that a mother has delivered in the village - no, this must stop.

"Fathers, you have a responsibility to bring your wives to the CHP to deliver. I don't want to hear that a mother has delivered in the village and died of some complications", Dr. Kintwa said.

Deputy Chairman of the WHPHA Board of Governance, Mr. Michael Pundia said the organization was able to provide these services because of the good support it receives from donor agencies such as AusAID and ADB.

He said the Government through the National

Chief Executive Officer of the Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority, Dr. James Kintwa told the big crowd that the Mul/Baiyer District was leading in health services in the country with more facilities opened.

He said this was because there was good partnership between the WHPHA, donor agencies and the former and current Members of Parliament for Mul/Baiyer. He added that Lumusa Health Centre would also be upgraded this year.

Dr. Kintwa also told the people that aid-posts were a thing of the past. They would now be replaced by CHPs which would have three staff – a nursing officer and two community health workers with midwifery skills who would assist mothers to deliver. "We want all expectant mothers to deliver here (CHP) and not in the villages. We have facilities here for mothers to deliver so make use of them because these are free of charge including all other services", he said.

Dr. Kintwa said he was happy to hear that the aid-post had been well looked after for many years and he urged the people to do the same with the new buildings in order to receive much needed services. He also thanked the Works Department for constructing the buildings.

He said donor agency, ADB would also assist with the construction of another staff house and the renovation of the existing aid-post orderly's house so that all three staff could live in good houses and serve the people.



The people celebrated the day with traditional singsings to show their appreciation for health services being brought close to their doorstep.

UP-SKILLING TRAINING FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS



The graduates are seated, waiting to receive their certificates

Twelve Community Health Workers (CHWs) from Western Highlands, Jiwaka and Enga Provinces have recently graduated with certificates in maternity care following six months of intensive training.

The CHWs up-skilling training in maternity care which was conducted at Mt Hagen Hospital from April to October had helped the participants to gain valuable skills to help reduce the maternal mortality rate in the provinces and the country.

The CHWs were selected from health facilities in some of the remote parts of the three provinces

including two from Enga to undertake the training so that they could return and make a difference in their respective communities.

The training which was the second to be conducted since last year is important because most facilities do not have trained midwives to carry out safe delivery practices.

Trainer, Sr. Jolly Kulimbua said the purpose of the training was to up-skill the CHWs who have been providing maternal care in the remote health centres with midwifery skills to assist mothers to deliver safely.

She said the 12 CHWs including two men had proven their competency in all areas that they had been trained in and she had no doubt that they would do a good job in their respective facilities.

Sr. Kulimbua said the Western Highlands Provincial health Authority had a motto of "no mother or child should die during pregnancy, childbirth or the post partum period" and to achieve this, it must provide properly trained CHWs who are competent in midwifery skills for all the rural facilities to provide the necessary services.

Enga's Health Director, Harold Luai acknowledged and commended the WHPHA for conducting the training, saying it was an important course and he hoped it would continue so that more midwives could be trained.

He said in the absence of doctors, health extension officers and nurses in the rural areas, the CHWs had a big and important job to do and "we trust you will do a good job with the skills you have gained".

A participant, Bina Yopole urged the WHPHA to continue the program and invite other Highlands provinces to participate as well because it equipped the participants with much needed knowledge and skills to help reduce PNG's high maternal and child mortality rate.

Dr. James Kintwa, the Chief Executive Officer of the WHPHA told the graduating students and guests that the up-skilling training for CHWs would continue until all rural facilities in Western Highlands and Jiwaka had their own midwives.

He said supervised deliveries must be increased, adding he wanted to see an improvement in the maternal and child mortality indicators in the next two years.

Dr. Kintwa said new equipment for the rural facilities had already arrived and that obstetrics and gynaecology staff should go out and see what was needed for supervised deliveries and deliver them.

"If it will cost us K20,000 to hire a fixed wing or helicopter to pick up a mother in need in a rural area, we will do it. We want to see things change for our mothers and children", he said.

PAEDIATRICS TRAINING FOR HEALTH WORKERS

A group of 23 doctors, health extension officers (HEOs) and nurses from the Highlands region have recently completed a week-long training course in paediatrics at Mt Hagen Hospital.

The course which was the second to be conducted in Mt Hagen this year was attended by five medical officer registrars, 2 HEOs and 16 nursing officers from hospitals in Eastern Highlands, Simbu, Jiwaka, Western Highlands, Enga and Southern Highlands Provinces.

The training was aimed at enhancing the knowledge of health professionals in the assessment and treatment processes of children so that when presented with a case, they can be able to apply the right processes and treat them without delay.

The four-day training covered both theory and practical sessions where the participants visited sick children and applied their newly-acquired skills on how to assess and give them correct treatment.

The training was conducted by paediatricians, Dr. Ilomo Hwaihwanje of Goroka Hospital, Dr. Martin Saavu of Mendi Hospital and Mt Hagen Hospital's senior specialist paediatrician and regional paediatrician for the Highlands, Dr. Magdalynn Kaupa.

"The training was to ensure we understand the processes of treating sick children and assess the patients well before treating them", said Dr. Hwaihwanje when making his closing remarks during the presentation of certificates.

He said this was an important course for

paediatricians and others dealing with sick children and he praised and thanked the Chief Executive Officers of the

various hospitals in the region for releasing their staff and paying for their travel, meals and accommodation to attend it.

Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority's Acting Director Curative Health Services, Dr. Michael Dokup officially closed the training course and presented certificates to the participants.

He told the participants that it was important to disseminate what they had learnt to their colleagues so that information on best practices and assessments is shared to give the best treatment to

patients.

"You have been given special training so get the information out of the hand book (Hospital care for children) and teach your colleagues. Knowledge is power so when you share it, it can make a lot of difference to your patients.

"Medicines are changing all the time with new drugs on the market so keep on learning in order to give the best treatment to your patients", Dr. Dokup said. He thanked the World Health Organization for providing the "Hospital care for children" hand books and the Centre for Child Health through R.E. Ross Trust for providing meals and logistics, saying without their support the training would not have been a success.



The participants with their certificates pose for a picture with Dr. Michael Dokup (standing far right).