



# 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

## ELA MOTORS DONATES HEALTH CARE KITS FOR PATIENT CARE

The Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority (WHPHA) took delivery of more than 200 health care kits to be used at Mt Hagen Hospital and other health facilities during a ceremony at Mt Hagen Hospital on May 30<sup>th</sup> 2014.

Motor vehicle dealer, Ela Motors donated the kits worth more than K200,000 as part of its celebrations to mark its 50 years of operations in the country. It was witnessed by officials and staff of both organizations and members of the public.

The kits which included beds, mattresses, pillows, bed sheets, bed tables and stands, disposable masks and examination gloves were personally handed over by the Chief Operating Officer of Ela Motors, Mr. Takeshi Abe.

Mr. Abe said Ela Motors had reached 50 years of operations in PNG on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2013 and wanted to celebrate this occasion with the people of PNG by donating these kits.

He said the company had worked in close consultation with the National Department of Health and it had been decided that a number of health care kits numbering 50 each be donated to the four regional hospitals to serve their patients.

Mr. Abe said in the last two months, Ela Motors had made similar donations to Port Moresby General Hospital, Angau Memorial Hospital in Lae, Nonga Base Hospital in Rabaul and he was pleased to present the



Dr. James Kintwa (right) taking delivery of a bed and other kits from Mr. Takeshi Abe as President of WHCC&I, Mr. Jim Leahy (behind Dr. Kintwa) and staff of WHPHA look on.

last lot of the kits to Mt Hagen Regional Hospital this time.

Chief Executive Officer of WHPHA, Dr. James Kintwa said when accepting the donation that it was a good idea for Ela Motors to share its 50 years celebrations with the regional hospitals as more people would benefit from the kits.

Dr. Kintwa said the Highlands region catered for nearly 50 percent of the country's population and such assistance would benefit everyone because anyone would use them as long as they were admitted to the wards.

He added that some of the beds, pillows and sheets would be used in the new 2<sup>nd</sup> Stage Building (to be opened in July) while some would be given to the rural facilities to use.

Dr. Kintwa also said Ela Motors provides good support to the whole government with the durable vehicles that it sells and maintains so that government agencies like police, health etc could use Ela Motors for their vehicle requirements.

President of the Western Highlands Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Mr. Jim Leahy said it was good to see companies speaking with action.

He said WHPHA had spent a lot of money in Ela Motors for its vehicle requirements and it is good to see Ela Motors giving something back. "You give doctors and nurses tools to work with and they will use that to serve our people", he said.



Pictured above are samples of what was donated.

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# MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

## Promoting Healthy Lifestyles in villages and schools



**Dr. James Kintwa**

I said in my last message that the Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority Board of Governance had approved the implementation of the Healthy Lifestyle Project. This now means that we will need to implement it.

The project includes programs such as health-promoting school, healthy village, healthy market, healthy lifestyle and health promotion and disease prevention.

The aim of this project is to encourage our people to live healthy lives and become less sick. The saying that "prevention is better than cure" is what this is all about and I would like us to encourage and promote healthy lifestyles in our villages, communities and families so that we have less health problems to deal with.

These programs are nationally-driven by the National Departments of Health and Education in collaboration with the World Health Organization to encourage everyone to live healthy lives, especially children to be change agents for health in their families and local communities.

We have had dialogue with the Division of

Education in our province to help us implement this program in all schools and the senior management has responded very favourably. They would like to see the health-promoting school program introduced in all schools and Public Health (Health Promotion) will need to work closely with them to see how this can be done.

We have also asked the Local Level Government Division of the Department of Western Highlands to involve all Council Presidents in the healthy village and healthy lifestyle programs and again the response has been good.

A meeting was called for all council presidents to meet with our health promotion team in Mt Hagen recently to introduce and explain the different programs involved and nearly all presidents had turned up and pledged their support for these initiatives.

These meetings with education officials and the presidents need to be held regularly and programs drawn up to visit schools and villages to explain what they need to do to keep their schools, villages, communities and environments clean for healthy living.

Our health promotion and disease prevention teams will have to get out there and work closely with the people and educate them to live healthy lives so that we have less health problems to

worry about.

The recent outbreak of measles in our province should be a concern for all of us. It calls for regular immunization programs to be carried out by all facilities to prevent such outbreaks from reaching pandemic levels.

I would like to see routine programs carried out instead of waiting for supplementary immunization activities because outbreaks can occur any time. We must be seen to be proactive in our efforts to control the spread of diseases instead of being reactive when something happens suddenly.

All facilities must be proactive and carry out their routine activities as scheduled. Imagine your own 2-year-old child getting measles because he or she has not been immunized against it or your father, mother, wife or husband getting sick because they have not been told how to keep themselves and the environment they live in clean and healthy.

As health workers we must encourage our people to live healthy lives and help reduce health problems that we face daily at our hospital and other health facilities.

We must also treat those who seek our help with love and care as we would treat our own parents, husbands, wives and children because through our actions, people can get well quickly and I encourage you to think seriously about this whenever you are with a patient.

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

## COMMISSIONING OF NEW 550KVA GENERATOR

The Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority (WHPHA) took delivery of a new 550KVA generator set to provide standby electricity for the Mt Hagen Hospital in early May.

The new generator which cost more than K400,000 was funded by the National Department of Health under its medical equipment and static plant equipment replacement program.

National Health Department's Manager for Health Facilities Standards, Mr. Ambrose Kwaramb who was in Mt Hagen for a week-long workshop on health services standards commissioned the new generator.

He said this was an important capital investment and was funded through the Health Department's development budget.

He said money is allocated through the recurrent budget for this particular program and it is managed by the National Department of Health for the entire country.

"The money is used for the replacement of outdated medical equipment and static plant and equipment for major hospitals throughout the country", he said.

Mr. Kwaramb said there were two different components - one was for medical equipment and the other was for static plants including generators, sterilizers and other important equipment.

"We have been running this replacement

program for about six years now with good government support or annual budgetary support and Mt Hagen Hospital has benefited from it", he said.

Mr. Kwaramb said the official commissioning and handing over of the generator was in line with the redevelopment of Mt Hagen Hospital as a regional referral hospital for the Highlands region.

He said a new incinerator as well as kitchen ware and medical equipment for Mt Hagen Hospital had also been procured under the same program.

Chief Executive Officer of WHPHA, Dr James Kintwa

said he appreciated the funding from NDoH to have a bigger capacity generator to power the hospital and offices during blackouts.

"The current generator is quite old and gives us problems at times and we are thankful to NDoH for buying this big generator for us", he said.

He said with the redevelopment of the hospital, there would be more clinical areas, offices and other areas like staff houses hence increased



**Mr. Ambrose Kwaramb (left) cutting the ribbon to officially commission the new genset, witnessed by Dr. James Kintwa (right) and other executives of WHPHA.**

electricity load and the purchase and commissioning of the new generator was timely.

Dr. Kintwa said the new generator would produce much more power than the current generator which can only produce 380KVA. He said with the current power consumption rate of between 150-200KVA, there would be more power available which could be sold to neighbouring premises.



## Health Services Standards Workshop

A team of Senior Specialist Medical Officers from the National Department of Health was at Mt Hagen Hospital in May to conduct a week-long Health Services Standards workshop for clinicians, doctors and nurses.

The team of five deputy chiefs from various health disciplines at Health Headquarters was in Mt Hagen from 13 – 20 May as part of a nationwide tour to conduct workshops, highlighting the importance of maintaining high health standards within health facilities.

The respective deputy chiefs conducted power point presentations on their respective areas of responsibility in the first four days and later got the participants to do physical inspections of their respective areas in the next two days before presenting their findings on the last day.

Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority Chief Executive Officer, Dr. James Kintwa said he appreciated the team for coming to Mt Hagen, adding it was history for WHPHA to have senior health specialists spend a week with the staff.

"This is a blessing for us – it is the start of a long road and we must use standards to see where our gaps are. None of us can fill the gaps overnight or in 1 - 2 months but if we can't do them, we are doing injustice to ourselves", he said.

Dr. Kintwa said clinicians would take the leading role in this together with the specialist medical officers and curative health had a big role to play in the maintenance of high health standards within this organization.

"I have been involved with standards in this organization for a long time and this is a challenge for SMOs and clinicians to take the lead and do it", he said.



*Senior staff listening attentively to a presentation during one of the sessions.*

He added that accountability was important and that everyone must be accountable to themselves in order for other things they do to fall in line.

Dr. Kintwa said the WHPHA is accountable to its partners, the government and the public and the processes and care it provides must be safe, adding that standards would become prominent in the restructure process.

"We are accountable to the public and I am

asking clinicians to lead us and others in corporate services", Dr. Kintwa said.

He said the Senior Executive Management (SEM) team supported this work and therefore funded the visit of the senior specialist medical officers.

He said the SEM team looked forward to seeing the final report and thanked everyone who participated in this exercise.

## More HIV-Negative children released



*Pictured with nursing staff are parents and children proudly displaying their release certificates.*

A program set up by the Western Highlands Provincial HIV/AIDS Services to provide continued care and treatment for people living with HIV and AIDS is proving successful for babies born from infected parents.

The Prevention of Parents to Child Transmission (PPTCT) program which has been running for the last four years has had a high success rate with more children born from HIV-positive parents testing negative to the disease.

On Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> April, 25 babies who had been

services in the province to provide continued care and treatment for those living with the disease.

When the mothers test positive to HIV during maternal and child health and antenatal clinics, they are put on anti-retroviral therapy 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 are then tested three times for HIV – first at six weeks old, then at 18

cared for under this program at Mt Hagen Hospital over

the last two years were released as HIV-negative children, bringing the total number of children released so far under this program to 70.

In June last year, the first 20 such babies were released and in October, another 25 were discharged.

The PPTCT program has been set up jointly by the Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority (WHPHA) and Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI), a partner in the delivery of health

months and the last at 24 months old. The children released recently tested negative to all three tests, resulting in their release as normal healthy children.

The Sister-In-Charge of the labour ward at Mt Hagen Hospital, Sr. Kolopu urged all pregnant mothers to attend maternal and child health and antenatal clinics so that their HIV status could be checked and put on treatment if positive.

She said these children could have lost their lives had their mothers not been checked and added that she was very proud to see so many kids now being released without the HIV virus.

Mt Hagen Hospital's Deputy Physician, Dr. Kipas Binga thanked everyone involved in this program including staff of Tininga clinic and the labour and paediatrics wards for working closely with CHAI to achieve these positive results.

He said parents had a responsibility to ensure these children remained HIV-negative throughout their lives until they were old enough to get married and be on their own and urged them to take their medications faithfully and be healthy.

The Deputy Director for Curative Health with WHPHA, Dr. Madison Dat when officiating at the ceremony said HIV/AIDS was a challenge for everyone in PNG and what was happening in Western Highlands showed there was hope for those living with the disease.

He said the HIV-positive parents were heroes of this program as not many people were willing to let others know of their HIV status and their courage and commitment was greatly appreciated and acknowledged.



# Another Nursing Officer Passes On

The Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority has lost yet another dedicated officer in the late Sr. Anita Kintwa, the beloved wife of the Chief Executive Officer, Dr. James Kintwa.

Whilst Christians and others alike were enjoying their Easter festivities, the family of Dr. Kintwa was struck with bad news on the morning of Sunday, 20<sup>th</sup> April 2014 when Sr. Anita passed away peacefully in the family home.

She had been battling breast cancer for some time and despite the best efforts of Dr. Kintwa and the family, the good Lord had called her to her final resting place.

Staff of the Provincial Health Authority as well as friends and relatives have expressed shock and sadness at the death of the late Sr. Anita and have passed on their sympathy and condolences to Dr. Kintwa and the five children.

The body of the late Sr. Anita was taken to the funeral home in Goroka on the same day and was kept there for dressing until the following Wednesday when it was brought back to Mt Hagen where WHPHA staff viewed it at the Mt Hagen Hospital Chapel before it was taken to the family home to overnight.

The haus kraai or funeral was held at Dr. Kintwa's Tipuka village outside Mt Hagen where hundreds of people turned up each day for one week and paid their last respects and contributed food and money towards the funeral and burial costs.

Prominent leaders and businessmen including representatives from donor agencies and Members of the WHPHA Board led by its Chairman, Mr. David Guinn attended the burial service on Saturday, 26<sup>th</sup> April before the body of the late Sr. Anita was finally laid to rest.

The late Sr. Anita was from Ialibu in the Southern Highlands Province and commenced work as a nurse at Mt Hagen Hospital in April 1994, two years after graduating from nursing college.

She moved into the Intensive Care Unit as a clinical nurse soon after and remained there for the rest of her working life, holding various positions including acting manager from 2011 – 2012. She took sick leave in July 2012 and remained sick until her death.



*The body of the late Sr. Anita Kintwa at Tipuka village for the funeral and burial service.*



*Above left - The body of the late Sr. Anita is viewed by friends and staff of WHPHA at Mt Hagen Hospital and above right - the body is being delivered to her family at Tipuka village.*

## New Staff Orientation

New employees of Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority (WHPHA) have been told to challenge themselves and personalize everything they do to win the hearts of those whom they serve and see better health outcomes.

Speaking during an orientation workshop recently, Chief Executive Officer of WHPHA, Dr. James Kintwa told the new recruits that working as a team and sharing resources was very important for patient care.

He said all employees, especially clinicians are very important when it comes to patient care because they make the decision themselves on how to treat a patient.

"Treat a patient as though it is your father, mother, brother, sister, wife, husband or child and give due care to everyone you treat", he said.

Dr. Kintwa also told the employees to be

honest to themselves and to God because by doing this, God would guide them to carry out their duties well and patients would appreciate what they do for them.

He said every employee was important and this was decided by the job on hand, adding that if a person was to put an IV on a patient, he or she would not need to wait for the CEO to come and show him or her how to do it.

"It is you who must make that decision to put the IV on a patient and that is why you are important", he said.

Dr. Kintwa said the WHPHA's motto is "no mother or child should die during pregnancy, child birth

or the post-partum period" and "accountability for quality health services".

He added: "If we improve on our accountabilities to ourselves and to others, everything will work well and we will provide a better health service to our people".



*Some of the new employees pose for a group picture*