

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

Signing of Contract for Kotna District Hospital

Construction of the new Kotna District Hospital in the Dei District of Western Highlands will start soon following the signing of the Contract early this month.

Contractor, Paul Berry of Steward Construction Consultants of Lae and Chairman of the Western Highlands Provincial Supply and Tenders Board (PSTB) and acting Provincial Administrator, Mr. Joseph Neng signed the Contract in front of a huge crowd at Kotna on 5th June 2014.

Western Highlands Governor, Rt Hon Paias Wingti, Dei MP, Hon Wesley Nukundi, Deputy Chairman of the Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority, Mr. Michael Pundia, Western Highlands Provincial Finance Chairman, Mr. Nathan Wantepe and other invited guests were also present to witness the historic occasion.

The new hospital will be built on the current location of the Kotna Health Centre at a cost of about K16 million and funded by Hon Wesley Nukundi and Governor Paias Wingti through their DSIP and PSIP funds respectively and Australian Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade (DFAT), previously Australian Aid.

Besides the construction of the new buildings and maintenance of some of the existing buildings for the new hospital which would cost K16 million, procurement and equipping of medical supplies and equipment would cost another K5 million.

The new hospital would have everything other hospitals have such as an out-patients



Chief Executive Officer of WHPHA, Dr. James Kintwa (left) shows the Chairman of the PSTB and acting Provincial Administrator, Mr. Joseph Neng where to sign the Contract while contractor, Paul Berry awaits his turn.

department, accident & emergency, operating theatre, labour ward, wards, pathology, pharmacy, X-ray unit, etc.

During the same ceremony, Mr. Nukundi also presented five new vehicles to the various government agencies in the district to help them carry out their respective services effectively.

Mr. Nukundi said the new hospital was an initiative of Governor Wingti and himself and was funded by the National Government through their District Support Improvement Program (DSIP) and Provincial Support Improvement Program (PSIP) funds and supported by the Australian Government through its DFAT.

He said the people of Dei were privileged to have such facilities provided using their money from the National Government and urged them to look after and take ownership of what was provided for them.

Governor Wingti said the people of Dei were fortunate to have a visionary leader in

Hon Wesley Nukundi and when he teams up with him, Dei would develop and “become a model district in PNG”.

He said when there are good leaders, society changes and people travel on good roads, live in good homes and have electricity and good water supply.

Mr. Wingti said following the construction of the Kotna District Hospital, the road between Kotna and Lapramb in Baiyer River would be sealed at a cost of K100 million and the people would benefit more from such projects.

The Deputy Chairman of the Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority (WHPHA), Mr. Michael Pundia said Governor, Rt Hon Paias Wingti and Hon Wesley Nukundi were right behind the provision of better health services in the Western Highlands and he was happy for their support.

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Support by donor agencies for health programs



Dr. James Kintwa

We have had significant donor support for many of our health programs and it is important perhaps that I talk a little about these donors.

Our biggest donor is the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT). Not long after

the Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority was established, we signed an agreement with DFAT which is known as the Health Service Agreement (HSA).

Under this agreement we have undertaken to achieve certain improvements in health indicators and DFAT has agreed to fund a range of activities to improve the probability of these improvements being achieved.

Some of these programs integrate into our existing programs. For example there are DFAT funds available for school health programs which integrate into healthy lifestyle programs.

Funds are available for a range of other activities including training for TB prevention and treatment, funds to assist nursing staff who have been out of the workforce to improve their skills so they can come back as productive members of our nursing services, funds to improve Executive Management performance and a range of other activities designed to assist the WHPHA improve the health of our people.

The Outreach service which is a large part managed by Dr Maddison Dat is another very important project aimed at improving services

available for people in rural and remote areas.

An exciting DFAT funded development which will come on-line shortly is the Call Centre initiative which will not only provide health information by ringing a toll free number but will also strengthen our resolve to become more accountable to the community.

DFAT also assist by funding a long term Adviser and have assisted with short term advisers in areas such as finance, human resources and internal audit.

Our large rural infrastructure program is part funded by the Provincial Support Improvement Program (PSIP) and District Support Improvement Program (DSIP) funds as well as significant matching funds from DFAT.

The Rural Primary Health Services Delivery Project of Asian Development Bank (ADB) is another significant donor and is assisting the rural infrastructure program in Tambul/Nebilyer and Mul/Baiyer by building Community Health Posts which are designed to consolidate the services from our Aid Posts into a more comprehensive service at community level.

The Rural Primary Health Services Delivery Project (RPHSDP) is funding training for rural health staff as well as providing much needed equipment.

The RPHSDP has a Health Mentor permanently located in the WHPHA and his expertise in many health areas is acknowledged.

WHPHA has been given significant support from our Governor, Rt Hon Paias Wingti and the Members for Dei, Hon Wesley Nukundi, Tambul Nebilyer, Hon Benjamin Poponawa, Mul/Baiyer, Hon Koi Trape and Hagen, Hon William Duma.

They have made available significant PSIP and DSIP funds which is allowing us to construct the new Kotna District Hospital, the new Lumusa Health Centre, the Tambul District Hospital, the Tinsley District Hospital and make improvements to other rural infrastructure including Togoba and Gia.

The Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority is indeed very fortunate in having significant support from the private sector, especially Tininga Best Buy and Daewon Trading.

The innovative Visual Inspection of the cervix with Acetic acid (VIA) service to screen women for cervical cancer is entirely funded by Tininga Best Buy and much equipment has been secured from business houses in Mt Hagen.

In as much as the delivery of services is a team effort, the strong partnerships the WHPHA has built and continues to build with the community is a vital part of our strategy to improve health.

WHPHA has embraced Church Health Services and is working in partnership with the churches to improve their capacity to deliver health services.

Similarly formal agreements have been signed with NGOs including Susu Mamas, Marie Stopes and CHAI to name but three.

As the Board approaches its 20th year celebration it is incumbent upon me to say that many of the initiatives I have mentioned have been nurtured and at times driven by our Board.

I am left therefore to congratulate the Board and in particular for those three members, Chairman David Guinn, Gary Roche and Bob Hargreaves who have been members of the Board since day one back in June 1994.

Dr. James Kintwa AFCHSM
Chief Executive Officer

Kotna District Hospital Contract signing

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He said health services in the province receives funding from the National and Provincial Governments as well as Members of Parliament from the province, donor agencies and others and the WHPHA sets targets to achieve.

"We have a 'model of care' plan and we want to take health services back to the rural areas and not only concentrate in Hagen.

"We have plans to build district hospitals at Kotna, Tambul and Tinsley and health centres at Gia, Nunga, Bukapena etc. We want to distribute health services fairly to all areas including places where there are no roads", he said.

Mr. Pundia said the WHPHA Board has good and experienced members who make good decisions on health in the province and Messrs Wingti and Nukundi can be happy that their money is well spent.



Top left - WHP Governor, Hon Paias Wingti (right), Dei MP, Hon Wesley Nukundi (second left) and WHPHA Board member, Rev James Koi (centre) arriving at Kotna.

Top right - A student singing group from Kitip Secondary School performs to celebrate the occasion.

Left - The crowd braves the hot sun to listen to the speeches and witness the signing of the Contract with the ambulance and other new vehicles in the background.

NEW HEALTH CENTRE FOR LUMUSA

A new Health Centre will soon be built at Lumusa in the Mul/Baiyer District of Western Highlands to replace the old one which was burnt down during a tribal fight several years ago.

Member for Mul/Baiyer, Hon Koi Trape who wants to see basic health services restored in the area has made available K1.5 million from his District Services Improvement Program (DSIP) funds towards the construction of the facility which is expected to commence in late June.

Western Highlands Governor, Rt. Hon Paias Wingti has made available another K1 million from his Provincial Services Improvement Program (PSIP) funds as part of the Western Highlands Provincial Government's contribution towards the project which will cost more than K5 million.

The Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) through its aid agency will equally match these contributions under its kina for kina policy, bringing the total contributions to K5 million.

The contribution by the Member for Mul/Baiyer was presented to the Chief Executive Officer of the Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority (WHPHA), Dr. James Kintwa by the District Administrator, Mr. Oгла Makindi and Mr. Trape's Executive Officer, Mr. Douglas Kilipi during a brief ceremony in Dr. Kintwa's office in early June.

Mr. Makindi said the Member for Mul/Baiyer had a lot of heart for his people and wanted to provide essential services for them despite their past history and the destructions that they had caused.

He said Mr. Trape was well aware that the tribal fight and the destructions that were caused were done by a minority group while the majority suffered silently and he wanted to rebuild Lumusa and bring essential services back to the people.

Mr. Kilipi said Mr. Trape recognized that the WHPHA had had vision to provide better health services for the people of Western Highlands and he wanted it to build the new Lumusa Health Centre so that his people could receive better services as well.

He said the arrangement that the WHPHA had had with DFAT to have health infrastructure developments funded on a kina for kina basis was very good and Mr. Trape wanted to capitalize on this by making available funds to build health facilities in his electorate.

Dr. Kintwa when accepting the cheque said the WHPHA was responsible for managing health services in the Western Highlands Province and added that it was not an easy task.

He said the National Government does not provide direct funding to the WHPHA to build health infrastructures and it is fortunate to have good Members of Parliament like Mr. Trape who



Chief Executive Officer of WHPHA, Dr. James Kintwa (left) receiving the cheque from Messrs Oгла Makindi (centre) and Douglas Kilipi.

are ready to help and thanked him for making the funds available.

"On behalf of the WHPHA, I express our appreciation to Hon Member (Mr. Trape) for making available this money to build the new Lumusa Health Centre.

"We are fortunate to have MPs like Hon Koi Trape, Hon Wesley Nukundi (Dei), Hon Benjamin Poponawa (Tambul/Nebilyer), Hon William Duma (Hagen) and Rt Hon Governor Paias Wingti who have helped us a lot and we appreciate their assistance.

"Our plans for health infrastructure development are only dreams and cheques like this make a

New ambulance for Alkena Community Health Post



Assistant District Administrator for Alkena, Mr. Alex Misi (left) receives the vehicle keys from Dr. Kintwa as local leaders look on.

Critically-ill patients, expectant mothers and others from the Lower Kaugel area in the Tambul/Nebilyer District of Western Highlands will now have quick access to services from the Alkena Community Health Post or referred to higher level of services like Tambul District Hospital or the Mt Hagen Hospital.

years to receive something like this to help them with their health needs.

Whilst the handover ceremony was being held outside the Provincial Health Authority Office in Mt Hagen, hundreds of people had gathered at Alkena Community Health Post to welcome the vehicle and received it with open arms and

This follows the purchase of a brand new ambulance for the Lutheran Church-run Alkena Community Health Post by the Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority (WHPHA).

The vehicle, a 10-seater Toyota Landcruiser was handed over to the Centre by the Chief Executive Officer of WHPHA, Dr. James Kintwa during a ceremony in Mt Hagen in mid-May, attended by health officials and local councillors and leaders from Alkena including their Assistant District Administrator, Mr. Alex Misi.

It was a moment of joy and happiness for the leaders and their people from the 12 council wards in the area who had waited for more than 10

chants of applause when it arrived there after lunch.

The leaders said Alkena CHP had been operating from a run-down church building since 1992 with no ambulance to carry out its activities and the vehicle was a blessing from God to help His people.

They thanked the management of WHPHA for coming to their aid and said they looked forward to working closely with them to provide improved health services to the people of Alkena and the surrounding communities.

The Chief Executive Officer of WHPHA, Dr. James Kintwa said the biggest dream of this organization was to see health services go down to the communities and it wanted to distribute resources fairly and equitably among the four districts of Western Highlands.

Dr. Kintwa said the priority for WHPHA was Healthy Lifestyle (KRA 7 of the National Health Plan) and Health promotion and disease prevention were important and the WHPHA Board of Governance had approved for their immediate implementation through the Healthy Village Policy.

He said healthy schools and healthy village programs would be the two programs to encourage healthy living and prevent diseases from spreading and would be launched soon from Ulga Primary School in Nebilyer.

The councillors and village leaders in the communities are important change agents and are asked to take the lead to implement the healthy village and school programs once these programs are launched.

MP donates to Tipuka Community Health Post



Association president, Dot Kawagla (second from right) presenting the cheque to Dr. James Kintwa (second from left), witnessed by other executives of the association and WHPHA.

The people of Tipuka village near Ogelbang in the Hagen Central District of Western Highlands will soon receive health services close to their doorstep, thanks to the Member for Hagen Open, Hon. William Duma.

Mr. Duma has made available K100,000 through a local association, the Kekewati Community Development Association to fund a health facility in the area and the money was recently handed over to the Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority to build a community health post.

The money is part of a K1 million donation to the Kekewati Community Development

WHPHA but the scope of work being carried out is a lot bigger for a CHP and the funding would help to complete the work.

Tipuka is one of seven places in the province the Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority has selected for community health posts to be built and the local leaders said they were happy for the decision which would bring health services close to their doorstep.

Chairman of the Association, Mr. Dot Kawagla said ground breaking for the construction of the CHP had already been done and construction of the staff houses and the clinical building has started and the K100,000 should now help to

complete the project. He said seeking medical services at the Mt Hagen Hospital is usually time-consuming with long queues at the Out-patients and the Pharmacy to see health workers and pick up medicines and he urged the local community to take ownership of what was being provided.

Association Secretary, Ray Pungi said the association had put together a development plan and proposal to see changes in the community and was fortunate that Mr. Duma had approved and funded it. He said there were plenty of other places in Western Highlands that could have been selected for the CHP but instead Tipuka was one of those selected and he was happy for this decision. "We give special thanks to WHPHA for bringing such an important asset into our community", he said.

The CHP would be staffed by a nursing officer and two community health workers and would have services such as an out-patients department, a minor procedure room, a birthing place and an overnight ward and conduct health promotion activities in surrounding villages as part of the CHP roles.

The Chief Executive Officer of WHPHA, Dr. James Kintwa who has taken the lead in constructing the CHP said the community had planned for an aid-post but after construction had begun, the buildings had turned out to be big and the facility is much bigger than a CHP.

Dr. Kintwa said he had hoped that there was money somewhere and that it would be given to complete this job and the presentation of the K100,000 had made his dream come true.

"We must give thanks where it's due and I thank the Member for Hagen, Hon William Duma for this money", Dr. Kintwa said.

He said the centre was big and would have three people working in it and the money would help to complete the current work but indicated that there would be a need for additional financial resources for two more staff houses.

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Kotna District Hospital receives new ambulance

The soon-to-be-built Kotna District Hospital in Dei District of Western Highlands Province has been double-blessed.

Besides having the Lutheran-Church-run Health Centre upgraded to a District Hospital, it has also been given a brand new 10-seater Toyota Landcruiser ambulance to carry out its activities.

The Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority (WHPHA) has bought the ambulance for the new district hospital to replace the old one which has been used for the last 16 years.

The new ambulance has been bought in preparation for the new district hospital whose contract was signed on 5th June 2014. Construction is expected to begin as soon as the contractor mobilizes its building materials, equipment and staff to Kotna.

Deputy Chairman of the WHPHA Board of Governance, Mr. Michael Pundia officially handed over the keys to the new vehicle during a brief ceremony at the WHPHA Headquarters in Mt Hagen recently.

Mr. Pundia said the Board wanted to see health services reach communities in the rural areas and for this to happen, health facilities needed reliable vehicles for staff to move around and deliver those essential services.

He said recently a new ambulance was presented to Alkena Community Health Post in the Lower Kaugel area of Tambul District and this time Kotna Health Centre was getting one so that people's health could be looked after well. He urged the facilities to look after the vehicles properly to gain maximum benefit.

The Chief Executive Officer of WHPHA, Dr. James Kintwa said the organization can have good plans and policies in place but without the support of partners it cannot deliver successfully.

He said WHPHA needed partners to deliver services and thanked church health services and other partners such as Susu Mamas, Marie Stopes, Clinton Health Access Initiative and Igat Hope Inc for their contributions in delivering health services.

Dr. Kintwa said health facilities were gradually being upgraded for better health service delivery including the Kagamuga Urban Clinic which is now in its design stage to be upgraded to a health centre.



Deputy Chairman of WHPHA, Mr. Michael Pundia (centre) handing over the ambulance keys to the Chairman of Kotna Health Centre as other Board members look on.

He said with such work being carried out, staff must commit themselves to their jobs and carry out routine immunization programs instead of waiting for supplementary immunization activity which attracted allowances. He said such mentally must stop.