



# 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

## New library for Ogelbeng Lutheran Primary School



*Proud students put on a song and dance to show their appreciation for the new library.*

One of the oldest schools in the Western Highlands will now have a library to enhance the knowledge of the students and help improve their spoken and written English.

Ogelbeng Lutheran Primary School outside Mt Hagen took delivery of several boxes of books recently during a ceremony which saw the launching of the Library Project by a former student and current Chief Executive Officer of the Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority, Dr. James Kintwa.

Dr. Kintwa said when launching the Library Project that the idea of setting up a library for

the school had been discussed by his family and work towards collecting the books had started some time back when his wife, the late Sr. Anita Kintwa was alive.

Dr. Kintwa said as a former student, he felt obliged to give something back to the school and the family felt that setting up a library was a good thing to do and he was happy to donate the books together with a K5,000 contribution from his family to start off the project.

The library project would cost more than K120,000 to set it up and Dr. Kintwa has appealed to all former students of the school to contribute in whatever way they can to help enhance the knowledge of the current and future students who would be the future leaders of the community and the province and the country.

He said good education at primary schools was the foundation for a strong nation and the learning environment must be good in order for students to acquire good knowledge and excel in life to be accountants, nurses etc to help contribute towards nation building.

But he said good

knowledge and wisdom only comes from God and if students go to church on Sundays and listen to the Word of God being preached by their pastor and follow it, they will have a good future because God is the source of all good things in life.

Dr. Kintwa challenged the students to read more because by doing so, they would do well in both written and spoken English. He further challenged them to commit themselves to reading one book every week until they finished reading all books in the library and the students pledged to do so.

"I want you to say you have read all books in the library and you want more and I will get more books for you", he said.

Dr. Kintwa also challenged the surrounding community to contribute towards the Library Project, saying this was a project for everyone. He would also write to former students whom he thought should contribute.

The launching also saw the donation of a personal computer set to the school administration by a businessman, Mr. Mark Sepi. When making the donation, Mr. Sepi said he had done this to his former primary and high schools in the Mul/Baiyer District and he was doing this to help Ogelbeng Primary School as well.

The 24 teachers and 700 students of Ogelbeng Lutheran Primary School said they were very happy for the initiative. Dr. Kintwa had taken to launch the library with the donation of books and cash and they hoped other former students would help as well.

### In this issue:

### Page

New library for Ogelbeng Lutheran Primary School	1
Message from the Chief Executive Officer	2
Contract signed for new Lumusa Health Centre	2
Launching of National Health Week in WHP	3
Patients fitted with prosthetic hands	3
Nurse loses life through cancer	4
Community donates food to Hospital	4



*An Education Official (left) accepts the donations from Mr. Mark Sepi (front right) and Dr. James Kintwa.*

# MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

## Redevelopment of Mt Hagen Hospital



**Dr. James Kintwa**

The redevelopment of Mt Hagen Hospital into a major referral hospital for the Highlands region and the National Trauma Centre will soon start.

Demolition of some of the old buildings to make way for the first new buildings to go up is expected to start by early January next year.

All preparations including service planning and facility-wide policies for the various services to be provided have been completed. Any unfinished work which includes the tender bid will need to be discussed and contract for the Principal Architect and managing contractor would be completed by the end of this year.

As the redevelopment program must start and finish on time, any tasks that we are required to carry out as an organization must be done before the end of October.

Respective directorates should by now have

planned your services with Health Planner, Kathy Roughan and decided where you would like those services to be located under the redevelopment. Kathy's work needs to be given to the Principal Architect to work on for construction design to begin in November so all feedback should be with her by now.

The Decommissioning Committee headed by Dr. John Kiap should by now have met and decided where vital services should be relocated for continuation of services when the first buildings are pulled down.

Temporary offices and venues for the relocation of services such as dry containers and urban clinics or health facilities are currently being organized as things can become chaotic when construction begins.

We are grateful for the support that we have received from our Board and Western Highlands Governor, Rt. Hon. Paias Wingti in securing the K500 million funding from the Government of Prime Minister, Hon. Peter O'Neill.

This is the first time for any public hospital in the country to be given such a huge sum of money

to develop it into a major referral hospital to provide for our people and we must do everything we can to get construction work started on time. It is a vote of confidence in the Board and Management of the Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority.

When the Principal Architect comes in, the Master Plan will be reviewed to see how work will be carried out and planned accordingly. All executives have looked at the Master Plan and have decided what stages work will be carried out over the entire period so that we can plan our activities in line with the redevelopment program from November this year to 2017.

One thing we must all be aware of is that when work on the demolition of old buildings and the construction of new buildings starts, it will not stop for the next three years. Under current plans, work on the Poly Clinic and Accident & Emergency will start first.

Under the redevelopment, all the current hospital buildings will be demolished except the JICA building and the David Guinn complex as well as the new 2<sup>nd</sup> Stage facilities.

**Dr. James Kintwa**  
Chief Executive Officer

## Contract signed for new Lumusa Health Centre



**Contractor, Nelson Watai signing the contract, watched by (from left) Dr. James Kintwa, Mr. Joseph Neng, Governor Paias Wingti and Minister Abel.**

Vital health services will soon be restored in the Lumusa area of the Mul/Baiyer District of Western Highlands following the signing of a Contract recently for the construction of a new Health Centre in Lumusa.

The new Health Centre which will cost up to K9 million to build is an initiative of the Member for Mul/Baiyer, Hon Koi Trape MP, to replace the old one which was burnt down during a tribal fight several years ago.

It will be funded jointly by Mr. Trape and Western Highlands Governor, Rt. Hon Paias Wingti MP, through their District Services Improvement

Program (DSIP) and Provincial Services Improvement Program (PSIP) funds respectively and the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade (DFAT), previously Australian Aid.

A total of K5 million has been made available so far – K1.5 million by Mr. Trape and K1 million by Governor Wingti with these contributions equally matched by DFAT under its kina for kina policy to commence work on the new health facility.

The signing of the contract was one of a number of major impact projects for the Mul/Baiyer/Lumusa District which was launched by the Member for Mul/Baiyer at the Baiyer River District Office on 15<sup>th</sup> August 2014.

The launching of the various projects including the district's Five-Year Development Plan, construction of Digicel towers for improved communication, signing of Contract for Lumusa Health Centre and distribution of vehicles and earthmoving equipment was witnessed by a huge crowd including the Minister for National Planning and Implementation, Hon. Charles Abel MP, Governor Wingti and Member for Anglimp/South Waghi, Hon. Komun Joe Koim MP.

The Contract for the new Lumusa Health Centre

was signed by contractor, Nelson Watai of Kaim Building Construction of Mt Hagen and Chairman of the Western Highlands Provincial Supply and Tenders Board (PSTB) and acting Provincial Administrator, Mr. Joseph Neng.

The Chief Executive Officer of the Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority, Dr. James Kintwa who was present for the signing of the contract said he was happy for the support the local MPs were giving towards health services in the province.

He told the huge crowd that he did not think what was happening in health in the Western Highlands was happening elsewhere in the country.

He said good partnerships with church health services, donor agencies such as DFAT and the Rural Primary Health Service Delivery Program and support from Members of Parliament from Western Highlands has seen some improvement in health service delivery in the province and thanked them all for their contributions.

Dr. Kintwa said work on the Lumusa Health Centre would commence immediately with the K5 million already available and would be completed as soon as the rest of the funds are made available.



**Dr. Kintwa (left) shows Mr. Neng where to sign, watched by Mr. Watai and Hon. Koi Trape.**



# Launching of National Health Week in WHP



*The Tiria Theatre Group from Togoba in WHP entertaining the crowd.*

Women of child-bearing age in the Western Highlands Province have been urged to get immunized against tetanus to protect themselves and their unborn babies from getting sick.

Director of Curative Health Services with the Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority, Dr. John Kiap said when tetanus affects the nerve system of the body, drugs will become resistant and will not cure any illnesses that may occur.

Dr. Kiap was speaking during the launching of the 2014 National Health Week at the Queen Elizabeth Park in Mt Hagen recently. The annual event titled, "working towards eliminating tetanus" was held throughout the country from 18

you and do as we ask and you will live healthy lives", Dr. Kiap told the crowd.

A drama by a local theatre group from Tiria in Togoba and DOTSY the health mascot provided entertainment for the crowd that turned up to witness the launching.

Health teams from the Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority joined by partners such as Susu Mamas then used the rest of the week to conduct awareness in the city and the rural areas of the four districts before embarking on the week-long immunization program.

Manager of Susu Mamas, Mr. Moses Moti told the crowd that his organization was also ready to help and if anyone wanted advice on family planning, they should see them as well as the

-22 August 2014.

Dr. Kiap said people must help themselves by getting immunized to prevent diseases from entering their bodies and causing illnesses.

He said Mt Hagen Hospital had a bed capacity of 300 which was just not enough to cater for the many patients that require admission for further observation and treatment and urged the public to protect themselves from being sick by getting immunized.

"Knowledge is power so listen to the health messages that we are giving you and do as we ask and you will live healthy lives", Dr. Kiap told the crowd.

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*DOTSY puts on a performance for the crowd, mostly school children.*

health centres, urban clinics and Mt Hagen Hospital.

Another health partner, Marie Stopes, offered to provide women with advice on sexual and reproductive information, adding that getting immunized was a good thing to do as it protected the mother and her unborn baby from getting sick.

President of the Western Highlands Provincial Women's Council, Mrs. Paula Mek who was to launch the program expressed disappointment that not many people had turned up to hear the messages.

"When Governor (referring to Rt. Hon. Paias Wingti) comes, such places are full but when there is a health promotion gathering, not many people are here.

"We should be listening to this kind of talk more than politics because doctors say things that will save our lives. When you get sick, don't blame our doctors or Hagen Hospital but yourselves for not listening to good advice", Mrs. Mek said before officially launching the National Health Week program in Western Highlands.

## Patients with no arms now fitted with prosthetic hands

At least sixty people from the Highlands region who have lost their arms or were born without them are now able to make full use of them with the help of prosthetic hands.

An American technical team has come to the aid of these people by providing and fitting them with prosthetic hands, enabling them to fully utilize their arms.

The American team led by Dr. James Ham of the University of Hawaii Medical School was in Mt Hagen from 11-16 August and fitted the artificial limbs on patients at the Kudjip and Mt Hagen Hospitals free of charge.

The patients who were fitted with the LN-4 prosthetic hands were those that had been born with no arms below the elbow or had lost them through accidents and other means.

An Orthotic technician with the National Orthotic and Prosthetic Services at Mt Hagen Hospital, Thomas Ketepa said another seven people whose arms had been cut off above the elbow would have artificial limbs made for them in Lae and fitted.

Ketepa said the LN-4 prosthetic hands fitted well on the arms of the 60 people and all of them were very happy to be able to use their amputated arms.

He said most of the recipients were men who had lost their arms through accidents or fights and only a few were women and children.

The American team was in Mt Hagen for the second time and provided the prosthetic hands as part of an ongoing program by the University



*Dr. James Ham fits a prosthetic hand on a mother, watched by Sr. Nellie Newman and Ps. Mathew Noki.*



*A woman gets a prosthetic hand fitted on her arm by Sr. Nellie Newman.*

of Hawaii to help such people in third world countries.



# Nurse loses life through cancer

The Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority (WHPHA) has lost another staff in senior nursing officer, Jane Paewa who died after battling cancer for some time.

From Baiyer River in the Mul/Baiyer District of Western Highlands, the late Jane was the Manager of the Surgical Ward of Mt Hagen Hospital when she succumbed to her death on Friday, 5<sup>th</sup> September 2014.

Late Jane who lived a single life and worked for 28 years leaves behind an adopted son. She started as a general nurse at Mt Hagen Hospital in May 1986 after graduating from the Tinsley School of Nursing.

Two years later in 1988, she worked at the Flinders Hospital in South Australia on job training for three months where she gained valuable knowledge and skills in her chosen field.

In the year 2000, late Jane successfully completed a one year Diploma course in Acute Care at the School of Medicine and Health Sciences in Port Moresby.

She continued working at Mt Hagen Hospital after graduating and in 2003 she was promoted to Deputy Nurse Manager for the Surgical Ward, a position she held until 2008 when she was again promoted as manager of the ward.

In her desire to improve her skills in managing human resources, late Jane self-sponsored herself to do a two-year diploma course in Human Resource Management at the Divine Word University in Madang and graduated in 2008.

She then enrolled at the same university to do a degree course in management through flexible learning and graduated two years later in 2011.

Colleague nurses and the management of the nursing directorate have spoken highly of the late Jane as a hard worker who had a willing heart to do anything including stepping in for others who did not turn up for work and her death was a big loss to them and the WHPHA.

As with other deaths involving staff, her body was taken to the Funeral Home in Goroka the same day to be treated and arrived back on Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup> September 2014 where a body-viewing service was held at the Mt Hagen Hospital Chapel to allow the management and



*Pall bearers bringing the body of late Jane Paewa into the hospital premises for viewing by staff.*

staff to view and pay their last respects.

Chief Executive Officer, Dr. James Kintwa said the families of late Jane would miss all the good things that she had done but there was nothing they could do to remove the pain of losing her except God.

"God only knows our destiny and He will take us through our pain and troubles. We will still see Jane if we are with God but if you don't know God, you will still feel pain", he said.

Dr. Kintwa said Jane had gone through physical pain but he believed this was all over now and that she

would have eternal peace. He challenged all staff to know and walk in the life of God in the workplace and have eternal peace as well when they die.



*Nurses singing a farewell song for their late colleague before viewing the body.*

## DEI COMMUNITY DONATES FOOD TO HAGEN HOSPITAL

A community in the Dei District of Western Highlands has donated two truckloads of vegetables to Mt Hagen Hospital to feed its in-patients.

The Yalakiro community from the Gumants area of Dei made the donation last Sunday, 28<sup>th</sup> September as part of its annual Community Thanksgiving Day activities to help those in need.

The group which comprises of the Yatnaka, Lati, Kimka and Rolgoka tribes also visited two wards in the hospital and gave out cash to in-patients totaling more than K500.

The food included kaukau, banana, yam, taro, pineapple, pawpaw and other vegetables and was collected after a week-long inter-denominational church service to donate to Mt

Hagen Hospital and the local Mun Health Centre to feed their patients.

A spokesman for the group, Samuel Rombil said this was the third time that such a donation had been made to a group since the introduction of the inter-denominational church service and Thanksgiving Day activities in the Gumants area three years ago.

Mr. Rombil said Thanksgiving Day activities in the first two years had seen donations of food, pigs and chicken given to community leaders and church pastors in appreciation for their efforts in maintaining peace in the community.

He said starting this year, all contributions of food, cash and other items would be donated to the needy such as Mt Hagen Hospital to help feed our own people. He also thanked former Dei

MP, Puri Ruing and other Yalakiro tribesmen living outside of the province for their contributions towards this year's Thanksgiving Day activities.

Chief Executive Officer of the Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority, Dr. James Kintwa was personally available to receive the food donation on behalf of the organization.

He said this kind of assistance was appreciated as it indicated the community's ownership and participation in health services and added that giving to the sick with their hearts was a good investment.

Dr. Kintwa also asked the communities to remember the sick in their prayers and thoughts as well as the improvements that are being planned for the WHPHA as these improvements would help serve the communities.

"Giving and helping those who cannot give you in return is a good investment because it will continue to bear fruits to the giver in the future", he said.