

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

Launching of Health Promoting School Program

A program aimed at encouraging all schools in the Western Highlands Province to promote healthy lifestyles in their respective schools was launched at St Mary's Ulga Primary School in the Nebilyer area on 3rd December 2014.

The Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority (WHPHA) is encouraging health promotion and prevention in schools and communities in order to reduce sicknesses among the population and improve the health status of communities and the province as a whole.

The Chief Executive Officer of WHPHA, Dr. James Kintwa said the priority of the Provincial Health Authority is to help and facilitate changes of the lifestyles and behavior of everyone and this means going to the schools, villages and other places where diseases are and prevent or stop them from spreading.

Dr. Kintwa said the Health Promoting School Program is aimed at getting the selected schools to keep their classrooms, teachers' houses, playgrounds, toilets and the general environment clean and tidy including having clean drinking water to stop diseases from breeding and introducing health promotion messages in the curriculum and good nutrition.

He said a certain number of schools throughout the province would be selected to participate in this program which would run from 2015 - 2017 and it is hoped that at least 35 schools would be qualified as healthy schools by the end of 2017.

He added that it would cost at least K1.5million to implement this program over the next three years to help prevent diseases and promote good health instead of curing



Mr. Pascoe Kase (left) and Mr. David Guinn being led into the school by a singing group

sicknesses.

"We want to prevent diseases and promote good health in schools because we do not want children to get sick. Health and schools must work together because children are our investment for our future.

"Children can become change agents in our villages and the WHPHA is prepared to spend this amount of resources. I want to come to you to ensure we prevent curable diseases", Dr. Kintwa said.

He was also thankful to the PNG Government via the Asian Development Bank (ADB) through the Rural Primary Health Services Delivery Program (RPHSDP) and the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade for their continued support in health service delivery in the province. He also revealed that two vehicles had been bought under the RPHSDP – one for the Health Promoting School Program and the other for the Healthy Village Project.

Chairman of the WHPHA Board, Mr. David Guinn told the gathering that much illness can be prevented by advocacy and social mobilization for promoting healthy schools.

He said through health education, promotion, prevention and protection programs in schools, children would participate in health promoting and healthy school based activities and learn by practice to develop healthy behaviours that they would be able to carry on into their adult lives.

"When a child grows up with an adequate education, a balanced diet, a safe place for play

and exercise and a place which provides emotional support then that child is best equipped to meet the challenges of later life", he said.

Mr. Guinn said good health and good education were interrelated and produced successful learning, adding that an informed, educated young person would be more likely to have self esteem and avoid tobacco, drugs, alcohol, HIV and unwanted pregnancy.

"With your help and participation we look forward to a life for all our children where each individual can make a positive contribution to his or her own health and further contribute as a productive member of the community, district, province and the nation", he told the crowd.

Secretary for Health, Mr. Pascoe Kase commended the WHPHA, saying Western Highlands was a leader in health. He said 10 years ago the province was at the bottom of the national health indicators but now with good leadership and good initiatives, it has moved up to be in the top three provinces in the country.

He said the Provincial Health Authority had a good CEO and Board that were determined to provide good health services to the people and the National Health Department would continue to support their initiatives.

Mr. Kase said he believed prevention was better than cure and he was sure the two vehicles that had been purchased under the RPHSDP would be put to good use to promote healthy living and prevent curable diseases.

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

REFLECTING BACK ON THE PAST AND LOOKING FORWARD TO 2015



Dr. James Kintwa

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our staff! The year 2014 was quite a fruitful year with a number of projects and activities achieved. Foremost was the recognition and celebration of the Board's 20th Anniversary on 8th October 2014.

The Board started as Mt Hagen General Hospital Board in June 1994 and remained as such until March 2011 when it became the Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority Board following the creation of the Authority under the Provincial Health Authorities Act 2007.

The Board comprises some highly reputable people including its chairman, Mr. David Guinn CSM OBE OAM, businessmen Bob Hargreaves and David Yak and community leader and Deputy Chairman, Michael Pundia. Mr. Guinn, Mr. Hargreaves and another member, Fr. Garry Roche have been on the Board since 1994, making them the longest serving Board members.

During those years the Board had made some significant decisions to take Mt Hagen Hospital and the Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority forward and implementation of all if not most of those decisions had taken place, resulting in a number of projects being completed or are ongoing.

The current Board's term expired in March this year and all except one were re-appointed for another three-year term. Women's representative,

Cecilia Kuman was replaced by businesswoman, Mrs. Margie Duckworth of Tininga Group of Companies. The new Board was sworn in by Senior Provincial Magistrate for Western Highlands, Mrs. Betty Jacob on 4th December this year.

The swearing-in of the new Board was one of a number of activities or projects that had been initiated this year. During the same week, the Health Promoting School Program and Healthy Village Project were launched at Ulga Primary School in the Nebilyer area and Sanap village in Baiyer River respectively.

We would like to promote healthy lifestyles and healthy living by encouraging people to take ownership of their own health and live in clean and healthy homes and environments and protect themselves from catching preventable diseases.

The saying that "prevention is better than cure" must be preached and encouraged at all levels of our communities so that our people do the right things and keep themselves healthy at all times and visit our health facilities less frequently.

On infrastructure development, contractors have already moved into Kotna and have started work on the new District Hospital for Dei District while work on the new Tambul District Hospital will start in late 2015. The upgrading of Tinsley Hospital into a District Hospital for the Mul/Baiyer District will also commence in 2015.

Contract for the construction of the new Lumusa Health Centre in Mul/Baiyer District has been awarded and the contractor has already gone on site to commence work.

The 2nd Stage Building at Mt Hagen Hospital has been completed except for a few minor changes

that need to be carried out in the wards and other rooms. As soon as these are completed, the building should be ready for occupancy in February.

Work on the redevelopment of the hospital is progressing slowly. Funding allocation by the National Government for the redevelopment has been reduced by more than half and this is having some serious implications on the speedy progress of this project.

Our Board through its Chairman, Mr. David Guinn has taken up this matter with the Prime Minister and the National Executive Council through our Minister for Health and HIV/AIDS, Hon. Michael Malabag to reconsider the budget allocation for this project with the aim to top it up and hopefully we will get a good response.

Our first ever Call Centre to be set up by any Health Organization in the country goes public on Monday, 26th February 2015. The year 2014 was used to plan and progress this project and we have recruited and trained five nursing officers who will man the Call Centre on a 24 hours and seven days a week basis.

The toll free number to call is **1542** and I encourage the public as well as our staff to use this service to seek advice and assistance on any health issues that they may have as well as report on any maternal and neo-natal deaths and complaints so that we may attend to them without delay and allow health services to continue to reach our people.

Some other initiatives that we had started in 2014 will continue in 2015 and beyond such as the health promoting school and healthy village projects and I urge our staff to encourage our people to live healthy lives and avoid catching preventable diseases.

Dr. James Kintwa AFCHSM
Chief Executive Officer

Second Board of WHPHA Sworn In

Members of the second Board of the Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority (WHPHA) have been sworn-in for another three-year term.

The members took their Oath of Office before Senior Provincial Magistrate, Mrs. Betty Jacob during a swearing-in ceremony at the Highlander Hotel in Mt Hagen on 4th December 2014.

Among the nine members are two new appointments – Mrs. Margaret Duckworth representing women in the province, replacing Mrs. Cecilia Kuman and Mr. Ken Wai representing the National Department of Health.

Three other members who had been on the Board of Mt Hagen General Hospital since its inception on 30th June 1994 have been re-appointed. They are Chairman, Mr. David Guinn CSM OBE OAM, Fr. Garry Roche and Mr. Bob Hargreaves.

Mrs. Jacob said before swearing-in the Board members that they were taking on a big responsibility and she was confident they would do a good job in taking the WHPHA forward as they had done in the past.

She said having a mixture of people from the private and public sectors on the Board was a good thing as they contributed meaningfully in taking the organization forward and commended the WHPHA for doing a good job in delivering vital health services to the people.

Health Secretary, Mr. Pascoe Kase said through

the Board, WHPHA had done great things and was far ahead of others in health services and commended the leadership of the Board and Management.

"Under your leadership things have moved and if you maintain that momentum, you will go a long way.

"We choose Western Highlands Province to host provincial health authority conferences because of good leadership and we are fully behind you and support you in everything you do", he said.

Mr. Kase said the Chief Executive Officer, Dr. James Kintwa was like one of his deputies, contacting him regularly and giving his support and he was thankful to him for his continued support over the years.

Mr. Guinn thanked the previous Board members for their hard work and input and added that the new Board had a big job ahead and he expected all members to perform.

He also thanked Dr. Kintwa whom he said was the best CEO who was passionate about his work and led the senior executive management team and others well, resulting in good progress being made so far in health service delivery in the province.

He said business houses and individuals such as Pat and Margie Duckworth of Tininga Group of Companies and Daewon Trading had continuously supported the WHPHA over the years and he was glad Margie was on the Board.



Board Chairman, Mr. David Guinn CSM OBE OAM being sworn in by WHP Senior Provincial Magistrate, Mrs. Betty Jacob.

Mr. Guinn said churches and Non-Government Organizations played a big part in the delivery of health services to the local population and he thanked them as well as the local community for their support and urged them to continue their good work.

Dr. Kintwa said he was privileged to work under a Board that was determined to see health services reach all parts of the province and the people of Western Highlands needed to acknowledge and appreciate the work done by such a Board.

He said under the leadership of Mr. Guinn who was a practicing accountant, Western Highlands has seen many good things happening in the health sector including the construction of new infrastructure and creation of more health facilities.

Healthy Village Project Launched at Sanap Village

The Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority (WHPHA) will now concentrate more on promoting healthy living rather than clinical health services to make people take ownership of their own health.

Chief Executive Officer of the WHPHA, Dr. James Kintwa says he wants to see people, particularly communities taking responsibility for their own health to avoid diseases attacking them.

He was speaking at Sanap Village in the Baiyer River area of Western Highlands in early December during the launching of the province's first Healthy Village Project.

Dr. Kintwa said the Provincial Health Authority had already selected 10 sites to set up the healthy village project however there were plans to set up another 18 in the four districts between 2015 and 2017, bringing the total to 28 and costing over K1 million to set them up.

The Healthy Village Project is aimed at making the communities live in a clean environment by keeping their homes and their surroundings clean, having clean water for cooking and drinking, building good and proper toilets for each family and producing and eating healthy garden foods.

Dr. Kintwa said at Sanap Village, a Community Health Post (CHP) would also be built as part of the National Health Plan for CHPs and Healthy Village Projects to go together to promote healthy living and getting the communities to take ownership of their own health.

Health Secretary, Mr. Pascoe Kase when officially launching the project thanked the WHPHA and local Members of Parliament including the Member for Mul/Baiyer, Hon. Koi

Trape for introducing the healthy village concept in the Western Highlands Province.

He said a lot of people, especially the older ones who could live a little longer died early because of the poor health conditions that they lived in.

Mr. Pascoe said with the introduction of the healthy village concept, people would be better educated on how to look after themselves and the environment they lived in and this would result in less diseases attacking them.

"Take less people to the hospitals. Look after your health well through these kind of projects and live healthy lives and get less sick", he said.

The Health Secretary also announced that in the first quarter of next year, the new Community Health Post would be built at Sanap and staffed by three health workers including a midwife, bringing much needed health services closer to the people.

The CHP will be funded by the PNG Government through a loan from the Asian Development Bank under the Rural Primary Health Services Delivery Program. All other CHPs planned for the province would also be built under the same program.

Mr. Pascoe said supply of medicine for these facilities would not be a problem, adding that the



Invited guests standing for the National Anthem and flag raising before the official launching.

Health Department would buy plenty next year for all facilities.

He said however that staffing was a big problem throughout the health sector and the PNG Government and Australian Department of Foreign Affairs were now considering funding new nursing colleges and maintaining existing ones in order to train more nurses.

Member for Mul/Baiyer, Hon. Koi Trape thanked the WHPHA for introducing the new healthy village concept in his electorate and the people of Sanap for giving up their land and urged them to look after what was provided in order to benefit from it.

New uniforms for WHPHA security guards and drivers

Security guards and drivers employed by the Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority (WHPHA) are now expected to work more smartly and efficiently.

This follows the presentation of their new uniforms recently, aimed at boosting their morale and instilling a sense of pride and commitment in their work.

The presentation was made by the Senior Executive Management of the WHPHA to indicate its appreciation of the work and the important roles the drivers and guards played.

The 30-plus drivers were presented with black trousers, brown shirts and brown boots while the security guards who also number more than 30 received blue trousers, shirts, jackets, helmets and brown boots.

Director of Corporate Services, Ms. Julie Bengi said the security guards and drivers played an important role, saying they were a group of employees the WHPHA could not operate without like any other group of employees.

She said they were simple and humble people who worked like machines and brought services closer and the recognition by the management to buy new uniforms for them was very much appreciated.

"This is a workforce we cannot do without so talk and look at them with respect like I do. With them we can reach out far and wide and bring things closer, Ms. Bengi said.

Director of Curative Health Services, Dr. John Kiap said the demand for security in

Mt Hagen and the Highlands was high, unlike on the coast where people listened and respected one another and it was good to see the WHPHA recognizing the guards.

He said security guards played an important role in protecting Mt Hagen Hospital premises as well as its patients and equipment and the presentation of the new uniforms was a good morale booster for them.

Chief Executive Officer, Dr. James Kintwa said the presentation of the new uniforms did not mean that the management recognized them only and not others. He said all employees were the same except that their job levels were different and the management recognized everyone as equally important.

Dr. Kintwa said all employees of WHPHA must be proud of who they were and what they did as employees of an organization that provided a vital service in the City of Mt Hagen and in Western Highlands Province as a whole.

"People will know who you are and how you work. You are not only a driver or a security guard but an employee of WHPHA with its logo on your shirts and vehicles and you are a representative of this organization in everything you do.

"When you drive a WHPHA vehicle, be conscious that you are an employee of WHPHA. The public is watching you so don't chew betel nut, smoke or drink while driving in public places because it portrays a bad picture of this organization", he said.



The drivers and guards are pictured proudly wearing their new uniforms, joined by the Management including the CEO, Dr. James Kintwa (seated in the centre).

TRUKAI INDUSTRIES DONATES RICE TO MT HAGEN HOSPITAL

Mt Hagen Hospital received an early Christmas present in mid-December when Trukai Industries donated a tonne of rice to feed its in-patients.

The company which produces quality rice such as trukai, roots, jasmine and sunlong delivered 100 bags of 10kg roots rice to the hospital on Monday, 15th December 2014.

This was the third time Trukai had made such a donation to the hospital. In the last two years, the company had made similar donations to help feed the patients.

Trukai's Regional Sales Manager for the Highlands, Mr. Jacob Areke said when presenting the rice that such donation would become a yearly event every Christmas.

"This is the third year running and we will continue to give rice to the hospital every year to feed its patients.

"We get many letters asking for donations but we only look at the needy areas and Mt Hagen Hospital is one area which needs such help so we have decided to donate this rice", Mr. Areke said.

Chief Executive Officer of the Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority, Dr. James Kintwa was available in person to receive the rice on behalf of the hospital.

He said the WHPHA had a responsibility to provide breakfast and dinner for in-patients every day, costing thousands of kina and the donation was a big help to reduce some of this cost.

"We have an occupancy rate of more than 90 percent or over 300 patients at any one time and

costs us between K500,000 – K600,000 every year to feed them.

"You are helping us to reduce our costs but more importantly you are taking ownership to look after our sick people and we encourage

private entities to help in whatever way they can", he said.

Dr. Kintwa said this gesture of support from the community and business houses was helping to reduce the organization's operational costs and he thanked Trukai and other companies and individuals for their continued support over the years.



Chief Executive Officer of WHPHA, Dr. James Kintwa (right) thanks Mr. Jacob Areke and accepts the donation, flanked by Trukai staff.

Maternity ward receives new flat TV screen



Staff in the maternity ward pointing to the new screen, placed beside the old 21" screen.

Patients in the Maternity Ward of Mt Hagen Hospital are now able to watch news, movies and other programs in the comfort of their sick beds, thanks to a concerned citizen.

Mr. Peter Laka, a member of the Western Highlands Development Forum recently donated a 40 inch flat television screen to the ward to help patients get their minds off whatever pains and sufferings they were going through so that they could have a speedy recovery.

He said when presenting the screen that the hospital was doing a lot for the sick people and he was helping in a little way to help the patients get well quickly and go home.

The Western Highlands Development Forum is an organization comprised of educated elites and friends from the province who meet periodically to discuss issues of common good such as conducting clean-a-thons in Mt Hagen City and the surrounding suburbs to promote healthy living.

Chief Executive Officer of the Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority, Dr. James Kintwa in accepting the TV screen thanked Mr. Laka for the donation, saying it would contribute much towards the health of the patients.

He said people like Mr. Laka were taking ownership of looking after our sick people and urged other individuals, business houses and the wider community in the province to do the same.