



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

WHPHA is a registered security guard employer



The Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority (WHPHA) is now a legally recognized employer of security guards.

This follows its recent registration and licensing as a category C employer with the PNG Security Industry Authority,

The PNG Security Industry Authority was established under the Security Industry Protection Act 2004 to safeguard the industry and protect its members and their employees from unnecessary attacks by criminal elements and the public in general.

Any organization whether it be public or private that operates a security service must register

with this Authority and be licensed under category A, B or C depending on its size and nature of its business.

A category A licence is issued to companies or organizations that employ more than 100 guards and provide all security services such as escorts, guard dogs and electronic security while a category B licence is issued to those that employ 50 plus employees and provide static guards and guard dogs. Category C licence holders are those that employ only static guards numbering up to 50 employees.

Under the Security Industry Protection Act, all companies and organizations employing in excess of six guards are required to register themselves with the Authority and get a licence to operate. Their employees must also be trained to a high level and be issued with permits to work as guards to protect lives and properties.

The WHPHA has been operating a security

service at Mt Hagen Hospital for more than 20 years to protect staff, patients and property from unruly behavior by the public as well as enemies and its recognition by the Authority is welcomed and appreciated.

Its licence to operate a security service was presented to its Director for Corporate Services, Ms. Julie Bengi who is in-charge of security by the WHPHA's Security Operations Manager, Bill Nende on behalf of the Security Industry Authority during a ceremony at the hospital recently.

During the same ceremony, the organization's 50 security guards were also presented with their permits, recognizing them as qualified security guards who can pick up jobs anywhere with registered security firms and organizations.

Ms. Bengi told the security guards that the occasion was an important one for them as it was to recognize them for their services as a good and strong team that always stood ready to protect staff and patients.

She said over a year ago the guards were issued with new uniforms and now they were being issued with permits, thus recognizing them for their potential input to this organization.

"The permits we are giving you is in fact our way of thanking you for the good job you do and also to empower you to get jobs elsewhere and be comparative in the security industry should you leave us", she said.

A spokesperson for the security guards, Philip Miti said they were happy to receive the permits as this would enable them to seek jobs elsewhere should they leave the WHPHA and thanked the Management for recognizing and appreciating their work.

Top - Security guards pose for a group picture with Ms. Julie Bengi (seated centre).

Bottom left - Guard Rosemary Helly receiving her permit from DDFA, Yasi Anuma and right - DDFO, Pius Goimba (l) presenting guard Philip Miti with his permit.

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Our guards can pick up jobs with any security organization



Dr. James Kintwa

Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority is proud that our security guards, both permanent and casual are now equipped with the necessary tool to pick up jobs with any security organization in the country.

The basic training on various aspects of the security industry that they have received whilst in our employ together with their hands-on experience has earned them their permit which has opened the door for them to be comparative with others in the security industry.

The issuing of their permits was made possible following the registration and licensing of the Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority (WHPHA) as a category C employer of security guards by the PNG Security Industry Authority in February this year.

The PNG Security Industry Authority was established under the Security Industry

Protection Act 2004 to safeguard the industry and protect its members and their employees from unnecessary attacks by criminal elements and the public.

Any organization whether it be private or public that operates a security service must register with the Authority and be licensed under category A, B or C depending on its size and nature of its business.

Under the Security Industry Protection Act, all companies and organizations employing in excess of six guards are required to register themselves with the Authority and get a licence to operate. Their employees must also be trained to a high level and be issued with permits to work as guards to protect lives and properties.

The Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority is a Category C licence holder as those under this category are companies or organizations that employ only static guards numbering up to 50 employees.

Mt Hagen Hospital and later the WHPHA has been operating a security service at the Hospital for more than 20 years to protect staff, patients

and property from unruly behavior by the public as well as enemies.

The recognition of WHPHA as an employer of security guards by the Security Authority and the subsequent issuing of permits to our guards is a great achievement that we can all be proud of.

Like a carpenter with his saw and hammer and a journalist with his notebook and biro to work with, the permits are the tools for our guards which recognizes them as experienced guards who can work anywhere with registered security firms and organizations.

Congratulations to you all. You can now pick up jobs with other security firms. For those of you who will be leaving us due to the country's difficult financial situation which has forced us to lay off staff, we are confident that your permits will help you to find jobs quickly and we wish you every success

Dr. James Kintwa AFCHSM
Chief Executive Officer

More employees inducted into the Public Service



Some of the employees are pictured signing their Oaths in the presence of Mt Hagen District Court Magistrate, Lorna Sani.

More employees of the Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority (WHPHA) have been inducted into the National Public Service, enabling them to know more about their roles and responsibilities as public servants.

The latest group to be inducted includes 68 employees who were issued with certificates recently after going through one week of induction. They have been serving the WHPHA for periods ranging from one to two years.

The Head Trainer with the National Department of Health, Mrs. Juliane Aihl spent two weeks in

which we did not know much about before. We can now use this knowledge to help ourselves as well as those we serve", a spokesperson for the participants, Francis Pena said.

The WHPHA's Acting Director Curative Health Services, Dr. Madison Dat said the public perception about public servants was that they were lazy and not fully committed to their work and urged the staff to change their attitudes and prove these critics wrong.

"After going through this induction I am sure you all have learnt something worthwhile and I want

Mt Hagen and conducted the course, assisted by WHPHA trainers, Joyce Nandye and Jolly Kulimbua and supported by Senior Personnel Officer, Lilian Urae.

As the number of employees was big, they had to be divided into two groups and the trainers spent one week each with them. They said the participants had been faithful in their attendance and had committed themselves fully to the sessions that had been conducted.

"Through the induction we learnt a lot of things about the Public Service and the General Orders

you to start changing your attitudes and be somebody different that is ready to help those in need.

"You are now born into this big public service family and I want you to be positive and committed in your work and show the public you are not what they think you are", he said.

Director Corporate Services. Ms. Julie Bengi congratulated the participants on behalf of the Board and Management and told them that their code of conduct and channel of communication were important elements for the success of themselves and the organization and that they must not overstep authority.

"When we sign our contracts of employment with our employer, we agree to be servants of the public and our duty starts there and then. Accountability and punctuality must be maintained at all times", she said.

She said the difference now was that now that these employees knew the public service rules and regulations better, they would perform even better.

Ms. Bengi also told the participants that there must be gender equality and gender equity among all employees and respect for one another must prevail.

"Only when we respect each other will we see this organization go forward and produce good results for everyone to enjoy including our patients", she said.

She said the WHPHA Board had declared 2016 as the "Year of Change through Positive Attitude and Affirmative Action" so everyone needed to change their attitudes towards each other for the good of this organization and the people they served.

Earlier, all employees signed their Public Service Oaths, promising to be servants of the public before Mt Hagen District Court Magistrate, Lorna Sani.

Country's difficult financial situation affects Provincial Health Authority

The difficult financial situation faced by the country is being felt by all Government departments and statutory organizations across the nation including the Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority (WHPHA).

The Authority which has not received all of its appropriated funding from the National Government and none of the funding through the Health Functional Grant (HFG) this year cannot continue to meet all its obligations and has been forced to lay off some of its employees to save cost to provide basic health services to the public.

The Authority's Corporate Services Director, Ms. Julie Bengi told a gathering of security guards at Mt Hagen Hospital recently that unfortunately some of them would have to be laid off because the organization could not afford to keep them on its payroll.

Ms. Bengi said the WHPHA Management had made a decision towards the end of last year to lay off some people in security, hygiene and other non-essential areas and unfortunately security guards would be the first to be affected.

She said in 2014 the WHPHA had experienced

serious security problems at the hospital and had recruited 22 casual guards for three months but had painfully (due to the financial crisis) extended their contracts up till this time and unfortunately it could not keep them all any longer.

Ms. Bengi said about half of them would have to be laid off in the next two weeks or so and thanked those who would be leaving for their valued services to the organization.

She said unfortunately some of the employees in the Hygiene section would also be leaving soon, adding that it would be a painful thing to do but the reality was that there was no money to continue to keep them.

She added that those who would be leaving would only be laid off and that when the nation's financial situation improved and if there was a



WHPHA security guards, both permanent and casual, during one of their morning parades before going to their respective locations to work.

need for additional security guards and hygiene staff, they would be recalled.

Those who were laid off were farewelled with their security guard permits which recognizes them as qualified guards and can pick up jobs anywhere with any security company or organization.

PGAS system at WHPHA made transparent

The Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority (WHPHA) is one of several government departments and agencies that use the PNG Government Accounting System (PGAS).

It has now decided that the system be made transparent to allow senior executives and managers to check their respective budgets to ensure there are sufficient funds available before making any commitments to spend.

It recently engaged a PGAS administrator from the National Department of Finance to install 10 terminals in selected offices to enable these officers access to information on their budget and how they are spent.

The terminals have been installed in the offices of the Chief Executive Officer and several other

senior officers and these terminals have been connected to the organization's main computer system or server to enable easy access to the PGAS system.

Director Corporate Services, Julie Bengi revealed this recently when explaining the financial crisis the country was facing and how it was impacting on the operations of the Provincial Health Authority.

She said the Management of the WHPHA was doing its best to manage the limited financial resources properly and spend it on essential services which would benefit the public who seek our care and attention.

Ms. Bengi said transparency of the PGAS system was to enable everyone to see where the organization's financial resources were being

spent so that no-one has any doubts about the use of these funds.

"We have a mandate to deliver services to our people and we want to do it in a transparent way. Transparency is what this is all about - people seeing our decisions on how we manage and spend our financial resources to benefit them", she said.

She added that the PGAS system was assisting the organization to achieve accountability and transparency in a more transparent way and enabling the people to see where funds were being spent - whether they were being spent in priority areas or not and she was happy for the installation of the system.

The Finance Department's Manager for PGAS Development, Mathias Luke who installed the terminals said the system was good as it allowed users to access it through the internet to receive and send financial reports.

He said the system installed at the WHPHA was the latest which had been upgraded to version 24 and was virus-free and easy to run.



Pictured left - from left, CEO, Dr. James Kintwa, Manager PGAS Development, Mathias Luke, DCS, Julie Bengi and senior accountant, Richard Wak.

Below - Mathias Luke showing staff and the media how the system operates.



Nursing Officer Anna Koyei loses her life through cancer

The year 2016 started on a bad note for staff of the Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority with the death of three employees through various illnesses between January and March.

Anesthetics Scientific Officer, Masa Kameso was the first to die in early January followed by Assets and Properties Clerk, Julio Bengi who passed away in late January. In mid-March, the Authority lost yet another staff in Nursing Officer, Anna Koyei who died of cancer.

These were painful experiences the WHPHA had to endure especially when there is a shortage of staff in all areas including doctors, nurses, community health workers, allied health workers and support staff such as security guards, drivers and hygiene staff.

Late Masa Kameso was from Laiagam in Enga Province while young Julio Bengi, son of Julie Bengi, Director Corporate Services was from Kondopina in Dei District of Western Highlands Province.

The late Sr. Anna Koyei who left behind five children and two grandchildren was from Fugwa village in the Koroba District of Hela Province.

She has served as a nurse for 30 years – 20 years with the Wesleyan Health Services in the Southern Highlands where she started after graduating from nursing school at Kudjip and the last 10 years with the WHPHA, working mostly in the surgical ward.

Those who spoke at her funeral service at Mt Hagen Hospital on 22nd March 2016 said she was always prepared and willing to help patients whenever they needed help.

She also willingly stood in for colleagues who could not turn up for their shifts so that there was always someone in the ward to attend to patients. The late Anna Koyei was a unique and caring mother and nurse who never complained about working extra hours.

The WHPHA's acting Director Curative Health Services, Dr. Madison Dat said he was saddened to lose a nurse at a time when Mt Hagen Hospital needed more doctors and nurses.

"We need more doctors and nurses in this



Pall bearers carrying the casket of the late Sr. Anna Koyei into the Mt Hagen Hospital campus for a funeral service and for her colleagues to pay their last respects.

hospital but sadly we continue to lose them (through death). Like her family, we will all feel the pain of missing her and her services but God wants us to serve patients so we must continue to serve with faith", he said.

Chief Executive Officer of WHPHA, Dr. James Kintwa conveyed his condolences and those of the staff and Board to the immediate family members and friends on the passing of the late Sr. Anna Koyei and said all the staff were saddened to lose her.

He also thanked the late Anna's family on behalf of all the patients that had received help

from her over the years and said they too would miss her and the help she offered them.

Dr. Kintwa whilst also speaking as an ordinary citizen said everyone who knew late Anna had written her book of her life and he believed those in health services had written a good part of it in that book.

"This is only her body. Her spirit has left with activities of her life and I challenge you all to check your lives and write your own books as well and let God judge on Judgement Day", he said.

The body of the late Sr. Anna Koyei was then driven by road to Koroba the next day to be buried, accompanied by staff and relatives including the Deputy Director Medical Services, Dr. Paulus Ripa and other senior nursing staff.

Left - Colleague nurses singing a farewell song for the late Sr. Anna Koyei while below, senior nursing officer and the acting president of the Mt Hagen Branch of the National Nurses Association, Mary Culligan reading a poem.

