

THE INFORMER

Volume 6, Issue 1

A MOTHER AND CHILD IS THE REASON WE EXIST

July-August 2017

WHPHA

A monthly newsletter of the Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority

PUBLIC RESPONSE TO CALL FOR BLOOD DONATION OVERWHELMING

A recent call by the Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority for volunteers to donate blood to treat patients has received overwhelming support from the public.

The call which was made following an acute shortage of blood at the Mt Hagen Hospital Blood Bank had received immediate response from concerned citizens when more than 100 bags of blood had been collected within two days.

The first group of people to donate blood were employees of the Public Curator's Office and the Solicitor General's Office in Mt Hagen who donated several bags.

This was then followed by the setting up of a tent in Mt Hagen City, initiated by the Kagul Koroka Foundation and assisted by Red Cross where about 90 bags of blood were collected from the public.

The response was so overwhelming that in the next couple of days, more people had turned up at Mt Hagen Hospital to give blood but due to limited storage space at the Blood Bank they had been told to wait and return some time later and donate.

The Public Curator for the Highlands Region, Mr. Eric Ranpi who also donated blood has encouraged the public to come forward and do the same as it would help to save many lives.

He said blood was something that nobody would buy and people should feel free to donate to help those in need.

Ms Maia Tobe from the Solicitor-General's office who also gave blood said she was happy to do so as her blood would help save some-one's life.

The Acting Chief Executive Officer of the Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority, Dr. Paulus Ripa said he was very pleased with



Mt Hagen Hospital and Red Cross staff doing a pre-check of volunteers to ensure they have enough blood in their bodies before they are allowed to donate.

the public response and thanked those who had donated their blood to help others in need.

He said the quick response from the public

showed that Western Highlanders and others living and working in Mt Hagen City and the province had a heart for giving and he had no

doubt that they would do the same if called upon again to donate blood.

"You have a willing heart to give and I am happy so please give again if we ask you to donate more blood to save others who could be your own relatives", he said.



Left - A staff member of the Blood Bank, Sani Tama, preparing to collect blood from a volunteer during a public appeal for blood donation in Mt Hagen City recently.

In this issue:

Page

Public response to call for blood donation overwhelming	1
Children undergo heart screening	2
Tininga assists children with heart problems	2
Mt Hagen Hospital receives new drapes	3
Health services to be reduced	3
Long-serving nurse passes on	4
New Well Women's clinic opened	4

Children undergo heart screening

Five children from Western Highlands had been diagnosed with heart problems that required closed heart operation while 10 had to go to Lae for further screening for possible open heart operation.

The children were among more than 50 who had been checked by a paediatric heart specialist, Dr. Cornelia Kilalang who had made a special visit to Mt Hagen in late May to screen children with heart problems and refer them for further screening and operation if necessary.

She had examined a total of 55 children and had discovered that five would require closed heart operation while 10 would go for further screening in Lae to determine if they would undergo open heart operation.

The five children selected for closed heart operation included three females and two males and they had travelled direct from Mt Hagen to Port Moresby in the second week of June to be operated on.

Those referred to Lae for further screening included five females and five males and they had to travel two days early to prepare themselves for the screening which was conducted from 1-2 August 2017.

All the children who travelled to Port Moresby were accompanied by a parent or guardian each and the Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority had to seek external sources to help fund their travel and accommodation.



Paediatric heart specialist, Dr. Cornelia Kilalang prepares to check a child as the parents watch.

TINGA ASSISTS CHILDREN WITH HEART PROBLEMS

The Tininga Group of Companies of Mt Hagen has once again come to the aid of paediatric heart patients from Western Highlands by meeting their travel and accommodation costs to go for open and closed heart surgery.

The company had made a donation of more than K30,000 in July to assist these children and their guardians to travel to Lae first for further screening and later to Port Moresby to undergo surgery.

The donation is part of an ongoing financial assistance the company provides every year to send paediatric heart patients and their guardians to Lae and Port Moresby for closed and open heart surgery.

The money is used to pay for transport, airfares, accommodation and meals for the children and their guardians as well as a doctor and nursing officer who are required to accompany them to both Lae and Port Moresby.

This year more than 50 children were screened at the Mt Hagen Hospital Loo Pok Heart Clinic by a paediatrician and heart specialist from the Port Moresby General Hospital, Dr. Cornelia Kilalang.

Following the screening, six children were referred to Lae for further screening while five were sent to Port Moresby for closed heart operation.

Those that were sent to Lae were all selected for open heart surgery but only one had undergone surgery due to many children waiting to be operated on and the lack of time to operate on all of them. The five remaining children would now have to wait till next year to have their hearts operated on and rectified.

Two of the children sent from Mt Hagen for the closed heart operation in July had returned, happy that they had been given a new lease of life. The other four that had had successful operations had returned later in the month.

The Board and Management of the Western

Highlands Provincial Health Authority had expressed great appreciation to the owners of Tininga Ltd., Pat and Margie Duckworth for their continuous financial support for the unfortunate and marginalised children to have their heart problems rectified.

Acting Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Paulus Ripa said without the company's support, many of these children may not be able to survive and he thanked Pat and Margie for having a kind heart to assist them.



Pictured top right - the paediatric heart screening team with Dr. Cornelia Kilalang (seated centre) checking a child while his parents and nursing officer, John Umba (front right) watch.

Right - Nursing Officer, John Umba is pictured doing an ECG on a boy before giving the result to Dr. Kilalang to check him.

Mt Hagen Hospital receives new drapes



old drapes had been used many times and needed to be replaced but the WHPHA did not have the necessary funds to buy new ones due to the current financial constraints faced by all Government institutions in the country.

He said all staff involved in surgery including surgeons, nurses, anaesthetic scientific technical officers and support staff were extremely happy to receive the new drapes as it would help them to achieve better surgical outcomes.

Operating Theatre Manager, Peter Pisimi said the use of the new drapes meant that all surgical I procedures would be carried out in a clean and more hygienical manner and the patients would recover quickly.

He said the WHPHA could not purchase new drapes for the theatre due to the current financial constraints felt across the country and thanked the Sir Brian Bell Foundation for making the donation at the right time.

"My team in the operating theatre is very happy for the donation and we send our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to the CEO of the Sir Brian Bell Foundation, Mrs Bronwyn Wright and her team for the kind gesture", Mr. Pisimi said.

Left - New drapes are being used in the operating theatre by a doctor, assisted by theatre staff to conduct a caesarean section on a pregnant mother who has gone into labour but has had difficulty delivering her baby through normal delivery and below, the baby is delivered after a successful operation.

Thanks to the Sir Brian Bell Foundation, Mt Hagen Hospital is now using new drapes in its operating theatres to improve infection control when operating on patients.

The Foundation has donated 39 cartons of drapes to the hospital to use as part of its support for health and education in Papua New Guinea.

The hospital took delivery of the drapes in August and started using them immediately after sterilising them at its Central Sterile Services Department.

The drapes cost in excess of K50,000 and were made in Port Moresby by the in-house sewing team of the Brian Bell Group of Companies.

The Foundation has also made available K37,850 in cash to fund 10 clinical staff to attend this year's National Medical Symposium in Port Moresby which ended recently.

The money had been used to pay for travel and accommodation, registration fees and travelling

allowance for the staff, most of whom had presented papers at the symposium.

The Acting Chief Executive Officer of the Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority (WHPHA), Dr Paulus Ripa said he was very happy for the donation as it had been made at a time when the hospital needed it most.

Dr Ripa said the



HEALTH SERVICES TO BE REDUCED

The Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority (WHPHA) regrets to advise the public that the current level of services in all WHPHA-run health facilities will not be fully sustained due to the current financial constraints faced by the country.

Acting Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Paulus Ripa said as a result of this situation, some of the services provided by the WHPHA in its rural facilities as well as at the Mt Hagen Hospital would be reduced.

"This is an unfortunate situation where WHPHA as the provider of health care services in our province is forced to take such action as we

cannot operate without sufficient financial resources", Dr. Ripa said.

He said this year the government had made available only 65 percent of the total amount allocated under the WHPHA's operational budget and this was not enough to keep all operations functional.

He said services in all facilities that were likely to be affected included out-patients and in-patients, immunization programs, health promotion and maternal and child health clinics among others.

Dr. Ripa said emergencies would be attended to as usual but other services such as those

mentioned would be reduced and urged the public to look after themselves well and avoid situations or conditions where they may get sick.

He said the Caretaker Board and Senior Management of the WHPHA were working hard to secure additional funding and the Interim Board Chairman and Provincial Administrator, Mr. Joseph Neng said he hoped local Members of Parliament would support the health services in the province.

Dr. Ripa said if the financial situation continued into next year, the Board and Management would have no option but to shut down some of the rural health facilities..

LONG SERVING NURSE PASSES ON



Management and staff to the immediate family members and relatives said the late sister had had the Authority's core business of patient care at heart.

He said she knew what patient personally care was all about and she dedicated herself to looking after her patients with total commitment and the whole organization was sad to lose such a caring and hardworking employee.

Mr. Vorst said she would be gone for ever but her memory and all the good work that she had put into this organization would be long remembered by everyone.

He then led the convoy to Palimp village where the casket was delivered for her family to view the body before it was taken to her husband's village where Mr. Vorst officially handed it over for burial.

Top left - The casket arrives at the hospital for the funeral service while below, Acting CEO, David Vorst addresses family members before officially handing over the body to them. With him are Director Nursing, Roselyn Kali and Deputy Director Nursing Administration, Michael Kaweya.

A senior nursing officer with the Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority (WHPHA) has died following a sudden heart failure.

Anne Faith Tay, from Palimp Village on the outskirts of Mt Hagen City collapsed and died on Sunday, 9th July 2017 while on her way back to Mt Hagen Hospital after attending a village gathering.

She was in her late fifties and has left behind five grown up children – three girls and two boys and husband, Dr. Alphonse Tay who has been living a separate life from her for the last 19 years.

Sister Anne Faith had been a committed worker, having served as a nurse for 38 years, the last

few years as a shift supervisor at Mt Hagen Hospital.

The Management and staff of the WHPHA held a funeral service at the Hospital Chapel on 14th July 2017 to pay their last respects and to officially bid her farewell before delivering her body to her relatives on the same day.

Colleagues who spoke at the funeral service said the late Sr. Anne Faith had taken with her, the vast knowledge and skills that she had acquired over the years and that it would take some time before anyone could fill the vacuum that she has left behind.

The then Acting Chief Executive Officer of the WHPHA, Mr. David Vorst when passing on his condolences on behalf of the Board,



New Well Women's Clinic Opened

Victims of domestic and sexual violence in the Western Highlands and its neighbouring provinces will now be able to receive treatment and counselling in a new building.

Known as the Well Women's Clinic or Family Support Centre, the new clinical building is situated near the Mt Hagen Urban Clinic at the Mt Hagen Hospital premises.

It has been funded by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in partnership with the Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority (WHPHA).

The clinic which was re-located from the old operating theatre was designed by the Project Management Unit (PMU) of WHPHA and built by Steward Constructions, a locally-owned company.

It was built of two 40-foot dry containers which can be relocated anywhere should the need arise.

The clinic was officially opened on 22nd June 2017 by Mrs. Margie Duckworth, a Member of the WHPHA Board after the keys to the building were handed over to her by ICRC's Operations Coordinator for the Asia region, Mr. Simon Schorno.

The relocation of the clinic was necessary as there had been leakages in the new operating theatre, forcing it to be moved back to its old location.

The new building is more spacious and is in an area where victims of domestic violence and sexual abuse can feel free to attend and talk to

counsellors.

The management of the WHPHA has expressed its heart-felt thanks and appreciation to the International Committee of the Red Cross for fully funding the new clinic and to PMU and the contractor for designing and constructing a modern clinic.

Right - ICRC's Operations Coordinator for Asia, Mr Simon Schorno (r) handing over the keys to Mrs Margie Duckworth as WHPHA's Acting CEO, Dr. Paulus Ripa watches and below, the new clinic about to be opened.

