



THE INFORMER



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A MOTHER AND CHILD IS THE REASON WE EXIST

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WHPHA

A bi-monthly newsletter of the Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority

New delivery beds for Labour Ward

Expectant mothers admitted to the Labour Ward of Mt Hagen Hospital will now be using new and more comfortable beds to deliver.

The Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority (WHPHA) has purchased eight new electronically-operated delivery beds for the labour ward, aimed at helping expectant mothers to make themselves comfortable while preparing to deliver.

The beds cost in excess of K88,000 and were supplied by PNG Medical Supplies and Diagnostics Ltd, a local medical supplies company based in Madang.

The WHPHA took delivery of the beds in late May and wasted no time in assembling and placing them in the labour ward for immediate use.

An expectant mother who was admitted to the labour ward on the same day was one of the first to use one of the new beds.

Lavina Samuel, aged 26 of Keltiga village outside Mt Hagen who gave birth to her second child said she was happy to use the new bed as it was more comfortable and easy to adjust than the old beds.

She said the old beds were manually adjusted and were not as comfortable as the new ones and thanked the hospital management for identifying the needs of mothers and meeting them.

The Sister-In-Charge of the ward, Sr Susan Kolopu echoed the same sentiments, adding that unlike the old beds where mothers found it a bit hard to get on them, the new beds can be adjusted and lowered for them to get on.

She said the head rests were adjustable and the beds could also be folded to make more room for the portable delivery trolleys to be placed on the sides of the beds.

Sister Kolopu said this made the delivery process a lot easier for the mothers and the nurses who helped them and she was pleased to have the new beds.



Above - A young mother, Lavina Samuel with her new-born baby on one of the new beds while below, Hospital staff assemble one of the new beds under the watchful eyes of the Hospital Manager, Jane Holden.



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Brian Bell staff donate blood to Mt Hagen Hospital

Staff of Brian Bell Home Centres in Mt Hagen have donated more than eighty (80) bags of blood to the Blood Bank at Mt Hagen Hospital.

The staff who volunteered to donate their blood had done so at a time when the hospital had gone through its last stocks and was about to appeal to the public for more.

The Officer-In-Charge of the hospital's Pathology Department, Dr Zure Kombati said he was very happy for the Brian Bell staff who had used their own initiative to give blood during a time when the Hospital had needed it most.

He said such a kind gesture would go a long way in saving the lives of the many people who lost a lot of blood as a result of vehicle accidents and other violence.

Brian Bell staff had invited the hospital's blood bank team to their workplace on 19th June 2018 and had donated a total of 53 bags of blood. The following day, those who were busy serving customers visited the hospital and donated another 26 bags.

This donation was in addition to another 60 bags which the blood bank team had collected from them in April this year, making Brian Bell Home Centres the biggest donor of blood by any corporate citizen in Mt Hagen.

As well as donating blood, the company had also donated a 20-litre urn to the Blood Bank to use for making tea and coffee for those who donated blood at the hospital.

Dr Zure said he was humbled by the kind gesture of the Brian Bell staff and management and thanked them for recognising the need to donate blood to save lives and urged other corporate citizens to do the same.



Above - Mt Hagen Hospital Blood Bank staff preparing and collecting blood from Brian Bell staff and left, some of the Brian Bell staff waiting for their turn to give blood.



Dei District donates food to Mt Hagen Hospital

Mt Hagen Hospital was blessed with food and vegetables recently when the Dei District Administration in Western Highlands made a surprise visit and donated the food items.

The items included kaukau, taros, yams, bananas, cabbages and other vegetables.

The food items were part of a collection of food and vegetables that had been collected by the people of Western Highlands to donate to the people of Hela Province who had been affected by the February 26 earthquake.

The Western Highlands Provincial Disaster Committee had asked all the four districts of the province to organise their own collection of food, cash and kind and bring them to the Provincial Headquarter in Mt Hagen to deliver to Hela.

Unfortunately the Committee had deferred the delivery of the food items to a later date, resulting in the Dei District donating what it had collected

to Mt Hagen Hospital as the garden produce could not be kept for a longer period.

The Management of the Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority was surprised to receive such donation without notice and thanked the people of Dei for their kind gesture.

Acting Director for Public Health, Dr Madison Dat thanked the District Administration and people of Dei for the donation and said the vegetables would supplement processed food such as rice and tinned fish and meat that was cooked for the patients each day.

He said feeding patients with garden produce as well as processed food was good for their health as it was a balanced diet and he urged other like-minded groups with a heart for giving to do the same.

The donation was witnessed by senior staff of both the Western Highlands Provincial Health

Authority and the Dei District Administration.



Dei District Health Officer, Smeek Rank (left) accepting the food from the Assistant District Administrator for Dei, Raphael Koldop (next to Smeek) watched by other public servants of Dei.

Renovation of Mt Hagen Hospital Emergency Department Completed



Dr Colin Banks (standing front 2nd from right) with other doctors and clinicians after completing their emergency ward round.

The newly-upgraded Emergency Department of Mt Hagen Hospital has the right ingredients to cater for any emergency situation, according to a visiting emergency physician from Australia.

Dr Colin Banks, an Emergency Physician from Townsville Hospital in North Queensland said the Emergency Department was well designed and he was excited to see how clinical staff were handling emergency cases with professionalism.

Dr Banks was at Mt Hagen Hospital at the invitation of the Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority (WHPHA) to see the new emergency setup and contribute ideas as well as to support clinicians in their work.

He has been visiting emergency departments in

PNG for the last nine years to try and support them and the staff that work in them to ensure all protocols of emergency were followed for better outcomes.

The Emergency Physician who has a special interest in developing emergency medicine and international training was accompanied by another colleague, Dr Rob Mitchell from Cairns Hospital who spent a day helping to set up the triage in the Emergency Department.

Dr Banks who spent three days at the hospital also provided mentorship and training for clinical staff as well as helping with the layout of the building.

He is also an external examiner of candidates for the Master of Medicine in Emergency Medicine discipline and was able to meet and find out how training was going on for three of the doctors who were currently undertaking this program.

Acting Chief Executive Officer of the WHPHA, Ms Jane Holden thanked both Dr Banks and Dr Mitchell for spending time with the Emergency Department and helping to set it up as well as supporting the staff in their work.

The Hospital's Emergency Physician, Dr John Junior McKup said for the first time this year, Port Moresby General Hospital was running a Diploma course in Emergency Medicine for doctors in the Southern region and he wanted to see the same course conducted in Mt Hagen next year for doctors in the Highlands region.



Dr Colin Banks (left) examines a patient's X-ray while other doctors and clinicians check her medical history to determine her treatment.

Hospital receives bibles for staff and patients

The Gideons Bible Society has donated more than 700 bibles to Mt Hagen Hospital to help spread the Word of God among staff and patients.

A member of the society and lecturer at the Wesleyan Bible College at Avi in Western Highlands, Pastor Ninde Ole made the presentation during a small ceremony at the hospital recently.

The Easy Standard Version (ESV) bibles which have been written in English included 350 standard sized ones for patients and 400 small ones for staff.

Ps Ole said the aim of distributing these bibles was to ensure every human being had access to the Word of God.

"Gideons Bible Society is an organisation comprising different churches with one aim – to ensure every human being receives God's message.

"We want everyone to read the bible and decide for themselves which path to take – the one to heaven or the other one to hell", he said.

Ps Ole said Gideons wanted to see all people reading the bible and deciding for themselves

whether or not to give their lives to God.

He said the bibles were issued free of charge and were distributed mainly to schools, hospitals, hotels and motels where many children as well as adults would access them.

A representative of the Hospital and Deputy Director Nursing Administration, Michael Kaweya thanked Ps Ole and the Bible Society for their efforts to spread the Word of God to all mankind.

He said the bibles would help both staff and patients of Mt Hagen Hospital to know more about the Word of God, thus helping them to make an informed decision on which of the two paths to take when entering eternity.



Ps Ninde Ole (left) presenting a copy of the bible to Michael Kaweya with the rest of the bibles in the boxes in front of them.

Polio Awareness in Western Highlands Province



Health Promotion Officer, Elizabeth Pundu addressing the public in Mt Hagen City.

The outbreak of polio in the country recently had prompted health authorities in many of the provinces to be pro-active and conduct awareness on the spread of the virus and how to prevent it.

Following the discovery of the virus in Morobe Province in late June, health authorities in provinces have carried out various awareness programs to educate their people on what they needed to do to avoid catching the virus.

In the Western Highlands Province, staff of the Provincial Health Authority printed and distributed posters on how the virus spreads and also conducted awareness at public places along the road from Kagamuga Airport to Mt Hagen as well as in the city.

A radio toksave or service message was also broadcast on the local radio station over a couple of days as well as an SMS blast through Digicel, advising subscribers in Western Highlands Province to call a toll free hotline to get more information on the virus.

The toll free number was set up by Digicel free of charge as a community service to its customers to help them receive professional

advice and assistance from health professionals on the spread and prevention of the polio virus.

This was done at the request of the WHPHA, and the management is very thankful to Digicel for assisting in this area.

As well as the service message, health promotion staff went live on the local radio station and advised parents in particular to take every precaution when preparing food to ensure it was prepared in a hygienic manner and to also take their children to the nearest health facility to be vaccinated against polio.

Preparations and actual awareness programs on the virus were carried out during the week commencing 2nd July and the SMS blasts went out on Monday, 9th July for a few days, resulting in the influx of telephone calls from people wanting to know more about the virus and how they could avoid catching it.

The hotline received more than 600 calls in just a few days with over 400 of these answered and the message was widely spread throughout the province.

Whilst response at the Western Highlands Provincial level was strong, communication with the National Department of Health has been difficult in relation to clarification of high risk areas in a timely fashion and access to vaccines.

For the first time since the outbreak was announced, WHPHA received polio vaccines on Thursday, 19th July 2018. These are now being provided to the community.

The key public health messages in regard to polio are:

- Ensure good handwashing after using the toilet.
- Ensure all utensils are thoroughly cleaned before being used to prepare food.
- Ensure all drinking water is clean and safe before using.
- Wash all vegetables and fruits before eating.
- Avoid contaminating creeks and rivers.
- Keep your environment clean and healthy at all times.
- Ensure your children's immunisations are up to date – check these regularly and ensure those under 5 years are taken to the nearest health facilities for vaccination.



Cold Chain Officer, Joe Kumi addressing a crowd at another venue in the city.

Kenembo Community Health Post progressing well

Construction of Kenembo Community Health Post in Dei District of Western Highlands is progressing well and should be completed within the next few months.

Member for Dei and Minister for Transport, Mr Wesley Nukundi is funding this project under his District Services Improvement Program (DSIP) at a total cost of over K2.2 million.

Chief Executive Officer of Dei District, Batamai Tipi said the facility should have been completed some time ago but due to lack of funds, the job had been prolonged.

He said financial constraints faced by the country had played a major part in the delay as the DSIP funds had not been released on time.

Mr Tipi said the district had made available K1 million for construction work to begin and together with a contribution of K500,000 by the Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority (WHPHA), work had commenced and progressed quite smoothly.

He said the contribution by the WHPHA was refundable and early this week, he presented a cheque of K358,898 to the Authority.

He thanked the Authority for the contribution which helped to speed up work on the project and added that the balance would be paid up as soon as the next lot of DSIP funds were disbursed by the Government.

The WHPHA's team leader for PARSU (Payment, Accounting,



CEO of Dei District, Batamai Tipi (left) presenting the cheque to WHPHA's team leader for PARSU, Richard Wak.

Reporting and Support Unit), Richard Wak when receiving the cheque on behalf of the Authority thanked the Minister and Mr Tipi for refunding the money at a time when the Authority needed it most to buy urgently needed drugs and medical consumables.