



ISSUE #
ONE
August-October 2023

Our Mission
"A healthy Western Highlands"

WHPHA Newsfeed
An Insight into the Current WHPHA Events & Activities

Acting Chief Executive Officers Corner



Jane HOLDEN - WHPHA
Acting CEO

This newsletter is the first of bimonthly news letters we intend to publish.

Whilst a number of the articles you will have seen already, we want to ensure that the newsletter is more focused to our staff, partners, Provincial Govt, colleague PHAs and NDoH.

It is important that we use a platform such as this which I hope keeps us connected and also is focused on our collective achievements and challenges rather than articles only in newspapers.

I would also like to advise that the newsletter is also supported by our facebook page and new website to be launched on Friday December 7th.

Enjoy the newsletter and please provide feedback to Jill Mirr

Best wishes

Jane

In this Issue

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- Commissioning of Genset and Water pumps
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Commissioning of 550KVA Generator and Southern Cross Water Pumps for Mt Hagen Hospital.

25 AUGUST 2023



Picture Caption
Massip Engineering and Consultant Ltd MD Timothy Kapak and PHA's acting CEO Jane Holden Officially launching 550KVA generator.

A landmark day for Mt Hagen General-Hospital campus was witnessed in August with the commissioning of the second new 550KVA generator and a Southern Cross water pump. Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority's (WHPHA) acting Chief Executive officer Jane Holden says Power and Water are two fundamental resources for running a Hospital. She says the new 550KVA generator will power the hospital campus 24/7 when required while the Southern Cross Water Pump will increase water pressure in all the wards, departments and the entire hospital campus as well. The new 550KVA will replace the old and existing 350KVA generator and support the 500KVA generator to supply the provincial hospital power in the event of blackout.

The frequent blackouts in the District have recently affected the supply of power to the Provincial hospital and the risks of damaging expensive medical is too are high. The hospital had been running on two generators every day, the 500 KVA and 350 KVA however, both are old especially the 350KVA. With the new 550 KVA installed now, the campus will be powered by both the 500 and 550KVA. WHPHA thanks the National Department of Health (NDOH) for allocating the Capital funds to support the hospital and the local contractor, Massip Engineering and Consultant Ltd for delivering the project.

Staff Financial Literacy Training

27 August 2023

Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority (WHPHA) staff undertook a week-long Financial Literacy Training with Nambawan Super Ltd Mt Hagen Branch. Nambawan Super is offering Free Financial Literacy and Training Modules to its members with the following courses delivered on the training;

1. FLT01: Taking charge of personal Finances
2. FLT01: NSL Superannuation Products and Services
3. FLT03: Planning and Retirement
4. FLT04: Buying your own home
5. FLT05: Financial Literacy Skills for Micro Small Medium Enterprise (MSME's)

Jolly Kulimbua, PHA's senior Staff Development Officer says the main purpose of this training is to train the PHA staff on the important skills to manage their earnings and savings now and later in the future.



Photo Caption : PHA Staff with Nambawan Super training officer after the Financial Literacy training

Not only that, but the training will also assist staff facing financial constraints she says. The first and second batch of staff have been trained in May and September. The PHA continues to support training, workshops and other forums that are for staff benefit. Upskilling, staff development, health, wealth, and safety of our staff will always remain a PHA's priority.

Family donation spend on staff clinic and on call rooms.

11 September 2023

New staff clinic and four (4) on call rooms for Doctors' and Health extension Officers (HEO's) were opened on the 11th of September ,2023 at the Mt Hagen General Hospital by Director Medical Services (DMS) Dr. Jonah Kurubi.

The main purpose of having the staff clinic and on call rooms is to manage risk and promote safety of both the staff and patients in the hospital hence a hospital that runs 24/7 and very high trauma rates and limited staff must have Doctors (registrars and residents) close by.

We have refurbished 4 rooms and a staff clinic at a total coast of almost K60, 000 to allow comfort and safety for those on call – O&G, Pediatrics, Surgery and Medicine. The availability of these rooms is to ensure staff can sleep on site and are available quickly if needed without having to call out drivers, pick them up and drop them off. This should ensure a more timely response to urgent patient demand.

The staff clinic will have a data base to manage sick leaves and staff profiling and in the event that a staff may have a disease beyond the specialties of Mt Hagen General Hospital the PHA will assist the staff seek medical attention elsewhere.

Dr. Kurubi says both facilities are equally important because the well-being of the staff and the patients are of the PHA's number one priority. He says Staff are critical to providing health services and they should be both role models and healthy. We have an aging health workforce, something the whole country faces, we

Staff touring the new staff clinic and oncall rooms after the opening



Pictures and Caption

1: Opening

Caption: From left Sr. Serah Dot Hospital Manager with Director Medical Services Dr. Jonah Kurubi officially Opening the refurbished Staff clinic and son call room facilities.

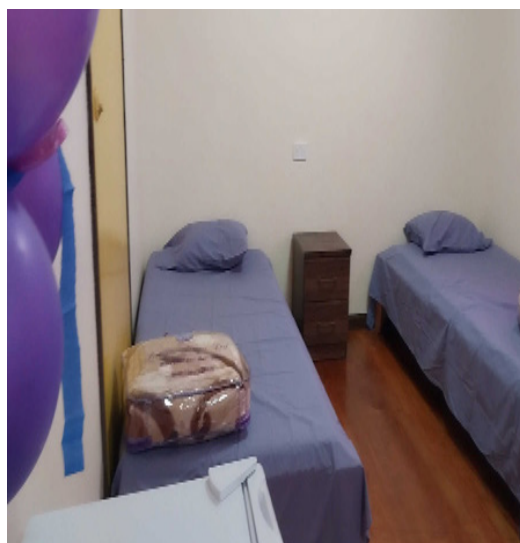
want to ensure we provide support to our staff to focus on wellness and monitor any chronic health conditions. Dr. Kurubi also says the staff clinic is an integrated model and it is the first in Mt Hagen, the PHA also plans to go out to the districts soon.

Funding for these projects came from the Bori family .The family at Late John Bori's funeral donated K100, 000 for the PHA without any directions for how it would be spent.

The PHA used this funding to ensure and prioritize the safety for patients and staff. The remainder of funds will be used to contribute to the purchase of equipment for wellness clinics in our rural facilities as well

as creating a sewing room that will be staffed by volunteers to provide Meri Bags – these will be issued freely to women and girls through facilities and school health programs to provide sanitary support during menstruation. The room will finished this year and we hope that in partnership with Rotary the Meri Bags will be ready for distribution from early 2024.

The PHA further acknowledges business houses, individuals and corporate organizations who have been supporting the Hospital and other operations of the PHA.



WHPHA to Host the 58th Medical Symposium

BY Dr Junior John McKup and Dr Benjamin Yapo

Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority will be hosting the 58th Annual Medical Symposium in Mt Hagen on September 2024. This is not the first time Mt Hagen General Hospital has hosted a Medical Symposium. Mt Hagen hosted the second Medical Symposium in 1966, after the inaugural symposium held in Goroka in 1965. The previous symposium held in Hagen after 1966 was in 1994 and then the year 2003. This will be the 4th time the symposium will be held in Mt Hagen.

The PNG Medical Symposium has been a focal point of all health professionals coming together annually to discuss and raise important health issues that continue to challenge our efforts, resources, and health systems effectiveness for our people who are often faced with poor access to health services.

There have been many symposiums on important health topics wide and varied from Malaria to Tuberculosis to Cancer and Medical education including access to Safe Surgery and Anaesthesia (2017). Participants help to present papers delivering health messages from these meetings, promoting medical research, helping to change health policy, and improving aspects of health care by improving health systems, and resource management, and promoting new ideas and research findings that are practice-changing.

The first President of the Medical Society of Papua New Guinea was a Hungarian surgeon called Charles Haszler who was posted to Mt Hagen as the first surgeon in 1950. He was relocated soon after to Port Moresby, then Madang, and back to Port Moresby under the Health Director Dr Tony Scragg who replaced John Hunter in 1945. The early health facilities were a malaria center in Minj, a leprosy centre in Togoba, and a health clinic in Baiyer.

Dr Benjamin Yapo stated that Mt Hagen as it is today stands tall compared to other provincial hospitals. We have one of the highest patient turnover numbers of any other PHAs in PNG (PMGH exception), we maintain arguably the best clinical governance systems.

He also added that, compared to other PHAs, and we serve the biggest population base per hospital other than Port Moresby, and of course a great teaching hospital for junior health staff and trainees outside of Port Moresby.

Our hospital receives patients from all over the Highlands provinces by patient preferences, doctor referrals, specialist attention unique to us, and at times for need of clinical resources we have of benefit to patients.

Furthermore, our hospital has enjoyed excellent community support by locals, and help from business firms who continue to ensure we have all the help we can get to keep our functions rolling despite significant shortfalls in budgets or resource allocation.

Mt Hagen Hospital has the potential for better and improved health development and progress that we hope to see now that we finally have a Board in place. We are ready to showcase our potential in this coming symposium and hope all attendees enjoy the beauty of this place and its people and see what little things we do here that translate to better health care accessibility to all clients any time of the day or night.



Photos of our PHA medical staff and Board Chairman during the 57th Annual Medical Symposium in Port Moresby

Meet our hygiene staff.

The Hygiene team is one of the active and hard-working team of staff who work tirelessly to keep the Mt Hagen General Hospital in shape.

From cleaning to decorations and making sure our PHA staff are comfortable in their workstations and outside.

(From left) Jenifer Wani, Raichel Papa, and Angela Put on a daily routine, of doing clean-ups



Swearing in of New PHA Board Members.

01st September 2023

The swearing in of new board members was very important milestone ceremony for the Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority (PHA).

PHA's acting Chief Executive Officer Jane Holden says there is a lot of work to do with the new Board. The first step is the orientation to the role led by the National Department of Health (NDoH).

She also says that the key or priority areas the new board will be working on include a capital program, the appointment of a permanent Chief Executive Officer (CEO), and the renewal of the strategic and operational plans and organizational goals.

The new Chairman with his board will set the governance and performance agenda.

Holden whilst thanking the PHA staff for their huge efforts in ensuring we provide the best outcomes stated that we can hold our heads high in terms of service provision and fiduciary responsibilities. She also added that, strong operational performance is directly linked to strong governance.

The new Board is taking on from where the previous board left in March 2021, they are appointed for a term of three (3) years. The members of the PHA board were sworn in on the 26th September 2023.



Caption :From Left Public Solicitor Lawyer Shane Kerowa, v Mt Hagen District Court Magistrate Kimberly Berem Agnes Pawiong (NDOH Technical Advisor for Strategic Policy, Health Strategies and Policy planning and PHA Acting CEO Jane Holden witnessing Sam Koim OBE -PHA Chairman signing is Oath to office .

- 1: Sam Koim, OBE- Chairman
- 2: Sent Kolda-Deputy Chairman
- 3: Gerd Linhardt-Member-Business Rep
- 4: Agnes Mek -Member- Women' Affair Rep
- 5: Jim Pena-Member- District Affairs Rep
- 6: Leo Kuringi -Member-Community Rep
- 7: Dot Kawalga-Member- Community Rep
- 8: Martina Suve-Member- National Department of Health Rep
- 9 Joseph Manbil Acting Western Highlands Provincial Administrator -ex-Offico

Chairman Mr .Koim, upon swearing in stated that the board will do its best to serve the people of Western Highlands and further commends the PHA for delivering health services without a board in place for almost three years.

The new board members had a two day Induction into the Health Systems following the swearing in ceremony. The swearing-in of the oath was witnessed by Mt Hagen District Court Magistrate Kimberly Berem and Public Solicitor Lawyer Shane Kerowa.

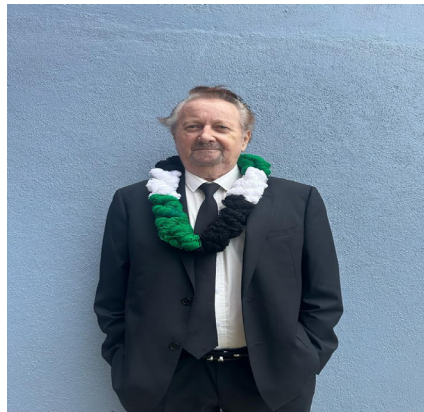
Present to witness the swearing-in ceremony were Western Highlands Governor Wai Rapa, Deputy Chairman Special Parliamentary Committee on Health, and Mul Baiyer-Lumusa MP Jacob Kop Maki, National Department of Health Officials, SEM for WHPHA, WHPHA Union Representatives and Donors Rep.



1: Sam Koim, OBE- Chairman



2: Sent Kolda-
Deputy Chairman



3: Gerd Linhardt
-Member-Business Rep



4 Agnes Mek -Member-
Women Affair Rep



5: Jim Pena-Member- District
Affairs Rep



6: Leo Kuringi -Member-Com-
munity Rep



7 Dot Kawalga-Member- Com-
munity Rep



8. Martina Suve-Member- Nation-
al Department of Health Rep



9. : Joseph Manbil Acting Western
Highlands Provincial Administra
ex-officio

Extension of Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority's (WHPHA) Acting CEO's Term & Advertisement for Permanent Appointment.

26th September 2023

The Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority's new board met on the 26th of September and decided to extend the term of the PHA's acting CEO Jane Holden for an additional six months. PHA board chairman Sam Koim stated that, after careful consideration and deliberation, the Board has unanimously agreed to extend the term of our acting CEO, Ms Jane Holden, for an additional six months. This decision has been taken to provide stability to the new board while recognizing Jane's commendable dedication in holding the fort without a functioning board for nearly three years.

He says, that during this challenging period, Jane Holden has exhibited remarkable leadership qualities, steadfastness, and a deep commitment to our organization's mission. Her contributions have been invaluable in maintaining the smooth operation of our health authority and ensuring that high-quality health-care services are provided to the communities we serve.

In parallel with the extension of Jane's term, the Board has decided to advertise the CEO position in the open market. This step reflects our commitment to finding the most suitably qualified individual to assume the role permanently.

The board believes this approach will enable them to identify and attract exceptional candidates who bring fresh perspectives, expertise, and a vision aligned with our organisation's goals.

Rest assured, the Board is fully committed to conducting a rigorous and transparent selection process, ensuring equal opportunities for all interested and qualified individuals.

They will adhere to the highest standards of professionalism and fairness in the evaluation and appointment of the permanent CEO.

During this extended term, Holden will continue to provide dedicated leadership, fostering collaboration, and maintaining the momentum of our organisation's growth and development. Her experience and institutional knowledge will serve as valuable assets in the transition process and ensure a seamless handover to the incoming CEO.

Koim further spoke on behalf of the board saying, I would like to express our sincere gratitude to all the staff for your unwavering commitment and dedication throughout this transitional period. Your hard work and resilience have been instrumental in upholding our mission of delivering exceptional healthcare services to the Western Highlands community as well as the Highlands region.

Meet Our Executive Management Support Team (EMST).

A team who tirelessly support the offices within the PHA.

From left: Rose Maitank, Serah Korri, Koslyn Koriam, Paula John and Maggie Dokta.



Caption Stories

19-20 AUGUST 2023

Health Promotion and Provincial Disease Control Officers from Mt Hagen General Hospital were present during the 64th Mt Hagen Cultural Show. The team had set up a booth at the Queens Park Oval providing some basic health services to the general public attending the 64th Mt Hagen Cultural Show.

Services available at the Showground boot are ;

- 1: Blood Pressure and Sugar Level Tests
- 2: Covid-19 Vaccination
- 3: HIV and TB testing and counseling
- 4: Nutrition Promotion
- 5: First Aid and others.

The two days booth was a one-stop shop for awareness, counseling, check-up, and other health messages that may be of great help



Our staff and booths set up during the Mt Hagen Cultural Show



Staff Induction

The PHA continues to prioritize the welfare and career development of our staff. 240 staff graduated with certificates from the Somare Institute of Leadership and Governance (SILAG). Our staff in two groups completed a week-long induction training into the public service. The two groups or batches of our staff comprised of Medical and Non-Medical, administration, and Ancillary staff. Upon graduation on Friday, the staff took the oath to office as permanent public servants. The two group from the WHPHA was the biggest SILAG had trained and certified .



Pictures of our staff during the induction graduation

Clinical Outreach

Our Medical and Health Promotion staff were in Lumusa District Implementing the 04th Clinical Outreach Program for this year. The main aim of clinical outreach is to reach out to communities and deliver quality services . The team will implementi two more clinical outreach in Dei District and Tambul Nebilyer to wind down the program for this year.



Fernnimore Goima Our Dental Therapist doing a tooth extraction during the clinical outreach program in Lumusa and locals in Lumusa lining up their clinic books .

Toksave Kona

In the Next Issue

- PHA Hosts Health Information Workshop
- US Embassy Tour
- Yaoums succesful Surgery
- Cervical Cancer Awarness and Treatmets caption stories
- Health Inspection team inspect Baisu Prison
- Others (Caption stories on Medical Symposium FUnd-
raisin)

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