



EH Provincial Health Authority Monthly

Issue 114 | May 2022 | "HEALTH IS EVERYBODY'S BUSINESS LET'S BUILD A HEALTHIER EHP"



2022 Staff Performance Review Meeting—A Success

The 2022 Eastern Highlands Provincial Health Authority (EHPHA) Staff Performance Meeting was a success. The five days meeting that was staged at the Institute of Medical Research (IMR) Auditorium attracted District Health Officers (DHO's), District Nursing Officers (DNO's) and sectional heads from the eight districts of the province. Some burning issues raised at the review was that of the Coronavirus (Delta Variant) that took the province by storm from March to September 2021. Other issues of concern were also raised during the weeklong meeting by the DHO's, DNO's and the sectional heads. The EHPHA Board Members and the Management team including the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Dr. Joseph Apa were also present throughout the meeting that was staged from February 28 to March 04, 2022.



Health workers successfully complete Hiv Counselling & Testing Workshop

Government and church health workers from the eight districts of Eastern Highlands including Kainantu, Obura/Wonenara Hengano, Okapa, Lufa, Unggai/Bena, Daulo and Goroka district who participated in the Hiv Counselling and Testing training workshop are now fully equipped with the knowledge and skills of carrying out and performing their duties effectively when attending to their patients in

their respective districts.

And the Eastern Highlands Provincial Health Authority (EHPHA) Director for Public Health Services Dr. Max Manape is overwhelmed with the training of the health workers who will add more value to their normal duties in providing the Counselling and Testing for their patients.

"I am so grateful for the 20 participants who have gained the

knowledge and skills of performing Counselling and Testing, and on top of that, the patients after testing will be made known their status and results in just 30 minutes", Dr. Manape said.

He said the participants were issued two separate certificates, one for Counselling and the other one for Testing after the nine days workshop held in Goroka recently.

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EBC Kassam Rural Hospital officially opened for operation

After the initial ground breaking ceremony headed by the then (former) Governor for Eastern Highlands Mrs. Julie Soso and the current sitting member for Obura/Wonenara Hon: Mehrra Minne Kipefa, the state of the art Evangelical Brotherhood Church (EBC) Kassam Rural Hospital in the Obura/Wonenara district was officially commissioned and launched by the Health Secretary Dr. Osbourne Liko on Friday April 22, 2022.

The hospital fitted with some of the latest medical equipment will deliver services similar to that of a modern hospital.

"I am humbled and grateful to have this facility commissioned and opened for operation, where it will deliver vital and more modernized health services to the ever growing people of Obura/Wonenara, including the township of the PNG Pawa at Yonki and even Kainantu, as well as the general public that travel along the main Okuk Highway between Lae and

Madang in the Momase Region, and the seven Highlands Provinces including Eastern Highlands, Chimbu, Jiwaka, Western Highlands, Enga, Southern Highlands and Hela province" Dr. Liko said.

He thanked the then-Governor Ms. Julie Soso for her leadership, willingness and input in providing funds from the Provincial Government, and the local member Hon: Mehrra Kipefa who allocated money from his District Service Improvement Program (DSIP) funds and generously assisted in the establishment of the hospital.



"I am sure that the hospital will require more assistance in terms of funds

and logistic support as well as vehicles (ambulances). I assure you that I will bring the requirements up to the appropriate authorities, so that they can assist and health services can be provided and delivered for the local people especially mothers and the children of Obura/Wonenara and the neighbouring districts", Dr. Liko said.

Services that will be provided and delivered at the new hospital will include; Outpatient Medical Services, Doctor's Consultation Services, Doctor's Diagnostic Services with medical equipment of port-

(Radiography and Laboratory Services), Doctor's Surgical Services, Accident & Emergencies and Acute Care Services, Maternal and Child Health Services (Antenatal, Labour & Delivery and Maternal Surgical Services), Immunization, Special Orthopaedic & Prosthesis Services and Mortuary Services.

The official commissioning and launching was witnessed by the Chief Executive Officer of the Eastern Highlands Provincial Health Authority (EHPHA) Dr. Joseph Apa and his management team as well as senior provincial and district administration officers, local LLG councillors, church officials and the people of Marawaka, Andakombi and Wonenara.

The CEO of the EHPHA Dr. Joseph Apa in his remarks appealed to the people of Obura/Wonenara to take ownership and look after the health facility at all costs, so that they will benefit from the facility that will provide services for them in years to come.

able X-ray and Ultra Sound Scanning Machine



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Handover takeover... On the left is a group picture of the outgoing and incoming District Health Officers (DHO's) and right outgoing DHO for Lufa District Mr. Gabriel Wau handing over the reigns to his female successor and acting DHO Ms. Saliana Dama who is joined by another female colleague Ms. Penny Dick who takes over from Mr. Jack Kuntin (retired) to manage the Daulo district health services.

EHPHA appoints female District Health Officers

Putting in tireless efforts, hard work and commitment over the years towards what they do and love best in their day to day official duties as Health Extension Officers Ms. Saliana Dama and colleague Ms. Penny Dick were officially promoted by the Management of the Eastern Highlands Provincial Health Authority (EHPHA) to take up acting District Health Officer's posts in the Lufa and Daulo districts respectively.

Ms. Dama who took over from Mr. Gabriel Wau will head and manage the District Health Services in the Lufa district, while her colleague Ms. Dick is taking over the reigns from Mr. Jack Kuntin who has retired recently and will manage the District Health Services in the Daulo district.

Both Ms. Dama and Ms. Dick in an emotional handover takeover ceremony held at the Bendam Lodge in Goroka thanked the management for the trust and confidence they had in them to become leaders to head the health services in the two districts.



a/DHO for Daulo Ms. Penny Dick

"DHO's posts are commonly dominated by our male counterparts. And to be promoted to take up the responsibilities of the DHO's and to run the health services at the district level is not an easy task", Ms. Dick said.

She said it may be challenging, but she is confident and keen on taking up the task to manage the district health in Daulo. And she will require the support from the Senior Executive Management (SEM) team as well

as the staff in the district.

Acting DHO for Lufa Ms. Saliana Dama expressed similar sentiments adding that as female health workers taking up the male dominated district health managers posts is very challenging.

"It can be challenging, but we assure you that we will participate equally as our male counterparts and lead by example, provided that we get the support where it will enhance us to move forward to carry out our daily responsibilities in terms of providing health services in our respective districts", Ms. Dama said.

She takes over from Mr. Gabriel Wau who has been promoted to support the Health Promotion activities in all eight districts of the province.

Ms. Kama who was a senior staff at the Sigehere Health Centre in the Unggai/Bena district played leadership roles in her performances in clinical services and health promotion activities that really improved and took the district to another level.

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Generous partners donate surgical instruments, pharmaceutical and medical items... Received with gratitude and presented with delight is the acting Goroka Provincial Hospital Manager Dr. Ian Wani when doing the honors in presenting the brand new surgical instruments for the new CSSD to the Peri-operative Specialist Nurse Sr. Jacinta Jim. On the right is the EHPHA Standards Manager Mrs. Agatha Otto presenting a flash drive as well as the pharmaceutical items to the Officer in Charge (OIC) Pharmacy Mr. Seva Korape. The pharmaceutical and medical items and surgical instruments include 135 cartons of surfex disinfectants, bottles with lids, surgical instruments (900 pieces that can cater for 300 trays), medical items (kidney dishes, measuring jugs, patient bath dishes, medicine cups, X-Ray vests—drapes and scrubs for hospital use), dry roll wipes and a gift box that contained flash drives, re-operative care books and neo-natal baby pack. Dr. Wani in a short presentation ceremony said, to have partners from Australia including Ms. Margaret Evans, the Royal Women's Hospital and the Whitely Chemicals that came up with such generous donation will certainly assist the staff to carry out their respective duties to care for the patients and those that are in need at the hospital. He was also thankful and acknowledged the late Mr. Luke Lucas and his trucking company Mapai for the transportation of the donated items to Goroka.



Encouraging achievement, job well done... The staff of the Eastern Highlands Provincial Health Authority (EHPHA) as well as that of the Church Health Services and partners that participated in the Routine Immunization activity did very well within two weeks. And significantly achieved over 90 percent coverage of the Routine Immunization in the eight districts of the province. This shows that the health workers when given the tasks performed accordingly and achieved encouraging results within the two weeks of immunization activity. The Director for Public Health Services Dr. Max Manape in his remarks during the closing of the Routine Immunization Performance Review commended the combined efforts of the health workers, adding that despite the trying times that is experienced in the districts and the province, they did exceptionally well in capturing the districts in the province. He was also thankful and acknowledged the generous partners that supported the immunization activity, and assured them that the results will definitely reach 100 percent when similar activity is carried out in future in the province.

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A group picture of the National Eye Surgery & Operation team and the Eastern Highlands Provincial Health Authority SEM team during the official launching of the Eye Surgery & Operation Outreach Program in Kainantu on Monday October 03, 2022. And on the right is the team leader and Ophthalmologist Dr. David Pahau performing an operation on an eye patient in Kainantu. The two weeks program ended on Friday October 14, 2022.

Eye Surgery & Operation Outreach Program Launched in Kainantu

Hundreds of local people with eye problems between the ages of 45 to 70 in the rural Kainantu district, one of the eight districts of the Eastern Highlands are making their way into the Kainantu Rural Hospital (KRH) in numbers to have eye surgery and get their eyes fixed and sights restored, thanks to the Eastern Highlands Provincial Health Authority (EHPHA) who made that possible in terms of sponsoring and officially launching the Rural Eye Surgery Outreach Program in Kainantu on Monday October 03, 2022.

When officiating at the launching of the program, Dr. Joseph Apa said the increasing number of people who require eye surgeries and operations is increasing, and the Provincial Health Authority under his leadership as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) is tasked to capture and provide assistance with the eye care services, not only for the people of Kainantu, but other centres and provinces as well.

"In the past 25 to 30 years, the

Christian Blind Mission (CBM) took the lead in providing the eye care services to the people of Eastern Highlands, until the task and responsibility was handed over to the EHPHA in 2017. And when we took over, we continued, and made sure that the eye care services was maintained up until now", Dr. Apa said.

He said the EHPHA is also committed to providing outreach programs in other centres and provinces around the country as well.

Dr. Apa and the Senior Executive Management (SEM) team were overwhelmed with the attendance of the National Eye Specialists, the nurses and the team leader and Ophthalmologist Dr. David Pahau from the Fred Hollows Foundation in Madang, who is leading the team and are currently tasked in performing eye surgeries and operations to the delight of the locals in Kainantu and the surrounding districts in the province.

The program will officially close on Saturday October 15, 2022



CEO Dr. Joseph Apa



A local patient after undergoing eye surgery in Kainantu.