

# WHPHA News



## Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority Quaterly News Letter

Our Mission  
 “A Healthy Western Highlands”

Edition 04

April- June 2024

### In this Edition

#### Village Health Care Assistants (VHA's) Upskilling and Refresher Training

A 4-day upskilling and refresher training for Western Highlands Village Healthcare Assistants (VHAs) was held at the Mt Hagen General Hospital on the 23rd -24th April 2024

To begin the week, 49 VHAs from Tambul Nebilyer attended the training on the first day. Followed by Mul Baiyer Lumusa, Dei Council and Hagen Central.

*Story Continues inside*

#### Local Business Woman Donates to Symposium



Ms Yank Rut, the owner of Mt Ararat Hotel in Mt Hagen, presented K10,000 to the 58th Medical Symposium Organizing Committee (SOC) and WHPHA .

Ms Rut said her support for Mt Hagen General Hospital is ongoing and she will continue to support the delivery of Health Services in Mt Hagen and Western Highlands

*Story Continues Inside*

- Influx of Patients
- Acting CEO remains

And other stories will be featured in this edition of WHPHA News Letter.



Jane HOLDEN  
Acting Chief Executive Officer

Dear Readers ,

This newsletter is the fourth edition of newsletters 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 the new website.

Enjoy the newsletter and please provide feedback to Jill Mirr



## Upskilling and Refresher Training for Village Health Care Assistants (VHA's)

A 4-day upskilling and refresher training for Western Highlands Village Healthcare Assistants (VHAs) was held at the Mt Hagen General Hospital on the 23rd -24th April 2024

To begin the week, 49 VHAs from Tambul Nebilyer attended the training on the first day. Followed by Mul Baiyer Lumusa, Dei Council and Hagen Central.

WHPHA has a total of 204 VHAs, 126 active. These VHA's play a pivotal role in communities assisting health workers.

Their role in communities is to make awareness and deliver health education messages to pregnant mothers and other social groups within the community. All in all, they are the voices of health workers in communities.

Over the years, WHPHA has recognized the importance of their work through data and statistics collected and presented. Therefore, the upskilling training is conducted to improve the skills and knowledge of the VHA's.

After the 4 day session, small incentives were presented to the VHAs.



*Small incentives were presented to the VHAs.*

*VHA's from Tambul Nebilyer District during the training .*

## New Ultrasound Scan Machine for Mt Hagen Hospital



*Officer from Meddednt showing the setup, functions and usages of the Siemens Acuson Juniper Ultrasound Scanning Machine to Mt Hagen Hospital Medical officers*

Siemens Acuson Juniper Select Ultrasound Scanning Machine.

The ACUSON Juniper Select Edition ultrasound system is a high-performance, compact diagnostic ultrasound system that provides embedded time-tested and leading-edge imaging technologies encapsulated by an elegant, yet simple and intuitive design.

With a capacitive touch screen and traditional control panel, the ACUSON Juniper Select Edition is engineered to grow and adapt with dynamic user requirements and departmental demands as they evolve.

The ACUSON Juniper Select Edition supports limited transducers, software features and options compared to the ACUSON Juniper ultrasound system. The ACUSON Juniper Select Edition uses operating software Release 1.5 and has four transducer ports.

The Ultrasound Scan Machine is currently being used in most of the wards now.

## Influx of Patients at the Emergency Department an Ongoing Concern.

Mt Hagen General Hospital is under huge pressure stretching all its resources to treat the influx of patients, Says Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority Acting CEO Jane Holden.

Hospital medical staff are working three shifts a day to treat the influx of patients.

Hospital Manager Serah Dot added on stating that the hospital has 303 beds which is not enough to cater for the influx. Hence resulting in patients getting treated on the floor.

“We are stretching every resource we have to address the increasing number of sick people,” Dot said.

Holden further stated that the many people from the upper Highlands Provinces tend to seek medical services here and that is one reason why the hospital sees an increase in the number of patients treated daily.

“Another reason is because our district hospitals do not provide level four health services,” says Holden.

Emergency physician Dr. John McKup Jnr supported these statements stating the Emergency Department is the first place in the hospital that faces this situation daily.

Meanwhile, the Hospital Management and the PHA are working on some solutions like increasing medical staff, upgrading the emergency department and improve health services in the districts.



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## Featured: HPV Vaccine Updates and the Testimonials.

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### Facts about HPV

#### What is HPV?

- HPV is a very common virus, and it spreads easily through skin-to-skin contact.
- Most people will have an HPV infection in their lives.
- HPV infection usually has no symptoms and is cleared naturally by the body.
- If not cleared from the body, persistent HPV infection causes cervical cancer.
- There is no cure for HPV infection, but you can prevent it from happening




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Human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination for girls aged 9 to 14 will be available in the province soon for launching and rolling out .

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### Testimonials for HPV Vaccine

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Councillor Tilua Tai, WHP.



My wife died from cervical cancer in 2016. It tormented the whole family. She was suffering, we were also suffering the pain of it. We were all crying. It is so painful to see someone you have spent your whole life with suffering, it was awful. Knowing she was going to die and death coming closer and closer. She was in the prime of her life. It was tormenting. The kids couldn't take it. The trauma is still there with them, they are still in pain. I am happy that girls won't need to go through this because of the vaccine. The vaccines are tested by qualified people. It has been proven. There shouldn't be any question marks about the effectiveness of the vaccine

Jammel Kond, student at Hagen United School (aged 14 years).



I want it! I am happy that the vaccine is going to protect me in the long run of life.

## Is the HPV vaccine safe?

It sure is. The vaccine is very safe. It is used in more than 125 countries. Vaccines must pass strict safety testing before gaining WHO and NDoH approval. The vaccine is non-infectious and cannot cause disease or infertility because it does not contain live virus, DNA from the virus, or toxins.

## Is the HPV vaccine free?

Yes, it is free for girls aged 9 to 14 years.

## Who should have the HPV vaccine?

All girls aged 9 to 14 years.

## Where can I get the HPV vaccine for my girl?

Girls aged 9 to 14 will be offered the HPV vaccine at schools as a free service run by the WHPHA in collaboration with the Department of Education and the Western Highlands Provincial Government. You can also get the HPV vaccine at a health clinic or Mt Hagen General Hospital, and during outreach immunisation sessions.

How many doses of the vaccine are needed?

Girls will only need one dose of the HPV vaccine. Some girls with lower immunity may need more doses.

What if my daughter missed out on the HPV vaccine?

If your child missed the vaccination when it was given at her school, you can catch up for free at a health clinic or the Mt Hagen General Hospital and during outreach immunisation visits.

Why is the HPV vaccine recommended for young girls?

It is very important to vaccinate girls. The vaccine produces a better immune response against HPV infection when younger than at an older age.

What else do I need to do?

Talk to your girl about the HPV vaccine and how important it is to prevent cervical cancer. Make sure your girl is vaccinated when the HPV vaccination day is scheduled at your school or at a school near you. Or go to your closest health clinic or Mt Hagen General Hospital.

No-one should die from cervical cancer. Talk with your family and community about vaccination and screening today so that together we can protect our girls and women from cervical cancer

## Local Business Woman Donates to Medical Symposium.



*Front Row from Left ; SOE Chairman Dr John Mckup Jnr , Mt Ararat Hotel Owner -Local Business Woman Yank Rut ,WHPHA Acting CEO Jane Holde . Behind and on Second Row Hospita staff .*

Ms Yank Rut, the owner of Mt Ararat Hotel in Mt Hagen, presented K10, 000 to the 58th Medical Symposium Organizing Committee (SOC) and WHPHA.

Ms Rut said her support for Mt Hagen General Hospital is ongoing and she will continue to support the delivery of Health Services in Mt Hagen and Western Highlands.  
Upon receiving the deposit butt of K10, 000,

WHPHA acting CEO Jane Holden and SOC Chairman Dr John McKup Jnr both thanked Ms Rut for coming on board to support this significant Medical Scientific Meeting that will be hosted in Mt Hagen.

Meanwhile, the SOC has also received K30, 000 support from the Trade & Commerce Minister and Member for Tambul-Nebilyer Hon Win Bakri Daki via DDA CEO Mr Philip Talpa. The SOC further acknowledged the support contributions from;

-MVIL K30, 000 -Exxon Mobil K100, 000 to the Medical Society for SOC  
-And others who have made commitments to donate towards hosting the 58th Medical Symposium SOC Chairman Dr McKup jnr further adds that A thousand-plus visitors are expected to spend the week here in the province hence the Symposium will also open new economic opportunities in Mt Hagen and WHP as a whole. It will also be an avenue to showcase the province and culture



## Caption Stories



*SALOME MINAR-PROVINCIAL Malaria Supervisor/WHPHA speaking at animal market in Mt Hagen town .*

World Malaria Day was on April 25th, Thursday but we started commemorating it on 24TH WED. Wednesday we visited Baisu inmate's prison and made awareness, free testing & treatment. The health promotion team carried out an awareness at the following sites with a Roadshow in the town area, hospital carpark, Animal market, Top town, Panga coffee Waghi Por, Dei bus-top and Baisu primary and distributed IEC Materials, on Friday I went to the NBC radio and made awareness. It's being played in the night from 7-9 pm.



*Opening of a new Generator set and a ablution block in Tambul by WHPHA a/ CEO Jane Holden*



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## CEO's term extended and Dr. Palus Ripa joins PHA Board.

By Sam Koim – WHPHA Board Chairman

Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority (WHPHA) Board, after thorough deliberation, the board has accepted the Interviewing Panel's conclusion that none of the candidates interviewed are suitable for the Chief Executive Officer role at this time. We will re-advertise the position immediately.

To ensure seamless business continuity, the Board has extended Ms. Jane Holden's appointment as Acting CEO. Her Head of Department status will be automatically renewed every three months until a permanent CEO is appointed.

The Board has full confidence in Ms. Holden's leadership. While it is disappointing that we have not yet found a permanent CEO, we have encountered some promising candidates. The Board understands the critical importance of this appointment, as PHAs are complex organisations that deliver essential services.

WHPHA faces numerous challenges, and we seek a leader with management experience, discipline, and commitment to address these challenges cohesively. Unfortunately, the current pool of applicants did not meet the Board's expectations.

We remain OFFICE OF THE BOARD CHAIRMAN Our Vision – "A Healthy Western Highlands Province" dedicated to finding the right individual to guide WHPHA through this pivotal time.

Appointment Dr. Ripa to the Board of WHPHA.

I am also pleased to announce that the Board, having considered the absence of a medical professional, appointed Dr Paulus Ripa as a co-opted Board member, effective immediately following his retirement from the Provincial Health Authority at the end of June 2024.

This decision is consistent with section 18(1)(e) of the Provincial Health Authority Act 2007. Dr. Ripa brings a wealth of medical expertise and experience to our Board, and we are confident that his insights will significantly enhance our governance and strategic direction.

# Toksave Corner

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Due to the ongoing maintenance that will be undertaken in ED and also the increased number of patients coming into the ED we will be scaling down to accept only referrals from within WHP district healthy facilities. No inter-provincial referrals unless through the office of DMS/CEO.

We hope to start on the 1st July 2024

Once the ED ambulatory clinic room is ready we will then look at reverting back to seeing non-referrals as well.

This will not affect Emergency Cat 1 and 2 cases which will be progressed through via ED triage. However, all Cat 3 without referrals were sent back to the nearest Health facility

Dr. John Jr. McKUP, Emergency Physician

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To share news stories and content please do not hesitate to contact Jill  
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