



1970-2020

Health Toktok

Official Newsletter of Christian Health Services PNG

Issue No. 30

October - December 2021

Stay free from Covid-19. Behainim "Niupla Pasi". For signs and symptoms call the Covid -19 toll free number 1800 200

CHS ICONS PASSED ON



We are:

Anglican Church
Baptist Union PNG
Christian Brethren Church
Christian Union Mission
Evangelical Bible Church
Evangelical Lutheran Church of PNG
Evangelical Church of PNG

Salvation
Seventh
United

Late Rev. James Koi, Deputy Chairman of CHS PNG Executive Board

Insert: Late Sister Celine, Former Deputy Chairlady of CHS PNG Executive Board

A special Gathering was hosted by the Management and staff of CHSPNG National Secretariat Office to pay tribute to two (2) former Deputy Chairpersons of the CHS Executive Board both of whom have passed on. Sr. Celine Yakasere and Rev. James Koi both served as Deputy Chairpersons of the Board for various duration of time and it was for this reason that the staff of the Secretariat had to pay tribute to two wonderful persons whom we will remember for many years to come.

Sr. Celine was a Deputy Chair for quiet a very long time. This was during the era when CHS and CCHS were under one umbrella of CMC initially and later became CHSPNG in 2007. Upon the

"breaking away" of Catholic Health Services from CHSPNG to become a separate entity of their own naturally she also surrendered the Deputy Chairmanship as well. In the wake of Sr. Celine's departure the Board then appointed Rev. James Koi to be the Deputy Chairman of the Executive Board of CHS a position he held until his untimely death in October 2021.

During the special gathering much was shared about their work as leaders and elders statesman/woman of CHS and what their convictions were for a united CHS. Both were responsible for the involvement of their Regional Groupings during the CHS General Assemblies held and up to and including the Regional CHS general Assembly.

Speaking during the Tribute the CEO Mr. Ulch Tapia reechoed the lives of these two great man and woman and how their lives affected the journey of CHSPNG in the past to what it is today. "Both were wonderful people" said Mr. Tapia. They were people with wisdom and had the ability to influence very trying situations in to manageable ones during these times. Mr. Samblap when presenting a life story on Sr. Celine describes her "as a person of influence and was a straight shooter". She advocated well on behalf of Provincial CHS in her various roles in the

province and as Mr. Samblap puts it "it will be hard to find a replacement for her anytime soon".

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FROM THE CHAIRMAN'S DESK

From the Chairman's desk and on behalf of the Executive Board, we take our caps off and pay tribute together with all of you, passing our heartfelt condolences to the immediate and extended families of our Deputy Chairman and the Highlands Regional representative Late Rev James Koi. I also on behalf extend our condolences to the Lutheran Church Agency and its Health Department for the greatest loss within the organization. To the wider family of CHS PNG, the friendship, cordial respect both internal and external through working and social connections that you all have with Late Rev. James Koi. I take this time also to thank you all for your humble understanding into the matter of the situation where the CHS Family, especially the Highlands Regional Team were unable to meet in person with the immediate, distance and local Kotna Community to pay tribute to Late Rev. Koi.

From the Executive Board, we do acknowledge all your contributions, messages passed to the Lutheran Church Agency and family and also highly commend the Lutheran Agency team to be present in person to show the respect and being part of the family. From the Chairman's desk, our intention to pay tribute and visit still remains our agenda and that includes the Highlands Regional Team as situation for Covid 19 becomes lesser with normalcy of situations.

Extending our condolences also, goes out to every individual employee of the CHS PNG family per agency members that we have received formal notice of their passing, including one of our prominent figures in the fight of CHS PNG from the past and during the administrative separation of Catholic

Christian Health Services, Late Sr. Celine Yakasare. We will certainly have time for respect during our 2022 AGM. For those of us living on, God's commission for our lives is yet to be seen in our works of services to our people and the Executive Board to take this time as I would always do, to commend and salute your resilience to be there for the people. From the Clinics, Sub Health Centres, Health Centres, District Health Centres and Hospitals right from the tick jungles, utmost remote areas in the deep and wide valleys, rugged mountains and terrains, seas and waters on rural PNG that the executive Board cannot deny the hard times and struggles within the surge of Covid 19 against scarce resources available and made available for you for service delivery and development throughout the year 2021.

Within those struggles and hardships, let me encourage for all to learn from, make informed decisions pertaining to your level of administrative responsibilities and service management responsibilities. For instance, seek financial outsourcing from provincial PHAs and or strengthen sound management into little funds you have I order to sustain services. Improve governance level to strengthen policies governing your organization in order to comply to CHS directives of where financial management is a concern. Submit your reports, either you have a surplus and or negative balance of funds. These information are vital for our CHS secretariat to access in order to continue struggles in advocating and knocking on government line department doors for our GoPNG Church Health Grants. I cannot express enough to stress strongly on the area as it is correctly by CS Constitution that in the position of Chairman and the Executive Board, our role to address issues of such to paint a good image for us before the government and partners is essential.

Many of you may like and dislike the very point of the funding as to how the flow of grants have been received

and coming. Many may have set backs and misinformed on the difficulties we have now and have faced and while we point figures, there are internal agency administrative and management issues out there you individual need to address. Because of the sensitivity of the concerns in such a public media platform as such, let me stop here on the subject and plead your understanding. As we close the end of 2021 books, we need to make a clean record and any member agency has queries, you have all the right to express at our 2022 AGM.

The executive Board decision to withhold grants and or dispose will always stand out per the records of your report returns monthly. While on that note, the partners who are now behind us to support our CHS PNG services visions and intentions complimenting that of the government, the internal agendas that of concern must be address and let me repeat, the concern to address such are in line with CHS PNG Constitution and CHS Act 2007.

Our last AGM recommendations are being looked at with God's help through various avenues and I am delighted to announced that our CEO CSH PNG, Deputy CHS PNG and the secretariat although faced with challenges beyond their abilities, we have witnessed God's Mighty Hand through not all but at least some of the concerns. In the New Year and first Executive Board meeting, all agendas will be updated and decision to conduct our AGM will be made and CEO CHS PNG and secretariat will advise all of us for the event.

The executive Board wish everyone a peaceful Christmas Eve and prayerfully allow the New Year in God's leading in the midst of many uncertainties. Blessings to you all.

Japalis Kaiok
Chairman – Executive Board,
CHS PNG

CHS NATIONAL OFFICE STAFF PAYS TRIBUTE TO TWO (2) FORMER DEPUTY CHAIRS OF CHRISTIAN HEALTH SERVICES



CHS National Secretariat Staff Passing for a 'Sign of Respect' after the tribute Ceremorny

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A midwife by profession she was able to obtain a loan from the SAVE THE CHILDREN FUND some years ago to improve birthing facilities and Maternal Child Health Services in general in the East Sepik Province as revealed by Mr. Samblap.

Sr. Celine was a firm believer that the strength of CHS was in its unity and there were times she was very vocal on the much awaited separation of the Catholic Health Services from Christian Health Services. She even spoke against the move and even attended one of our General Assembly to show her love for CHS although they have already have

their own set up Nationally. Reverend James Koi assumed the role as the Deputy Chairman of the executive board of CHS as soon as it became vacant by the departure of Sr. Celine. A position he held until his death. Rev James Koi was a mentor a friend and a leader in his own right. "He was a man who had his own thoughts about how things and life should be. He was a very approachable person and easy to get a long with" as stated by Mr. Rutmat in his tribute to the late Rev. Koi. Hospitality was one of his "forte" and if you are a guest of any description to him "he never disappoints" said Mr. Rutmat.

In his tribute to Rev Koi Mr. Tapia said the late James Koi was

a servant leader and he was able to attract other like minded leaders to him because of that attitude and mindset. He found joy in serving others more and he was a simple person with a heart to serve.

Both Sr. Celine and Rev Koi came to be household names in the Regional space of CHS. where it was almost impossible to unseat them in the Regional Elections for Regional representative to the CHS Board. A feat that truly depicts the value the people of the regions and agencies placed up on both persons.

Both Sr. Celine and Rev Koi were also best friends and this is one thing that bemuses us in their subsequent deaths.

Southern Region



Mr. Lengi Derring Coordinator CHS Training Institutions

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) with its bilateral Partnership with the Government of Papua New Guinea has invested a lot not only in Socio-Economic and infrastructure development but also in Human Development. The JICA scholarship Program has benefited a lot of young Papua New Guineans gaining specialized trainings in different fields of expertise.

JICA in-country office also has much interest in reaching out to our rural population thus came into contact with CHS PNG in 2020. A formal conferencing with JICA PNG Office and CHS PNG Management in March 2020 permitted us to explore study opportunities JICA offers to PNG. They also introduced to us on "Grass-roots Grants" which the small agencies can apply to access and improve our clinics and health facilities.

Between 2020 and 2021 JICA has offered several online courses due to COVID 19 restrictions in PNG and also extending this has extended to CHS PNG. Invitations for CHS participations have been disseminated through the agencies and we believed most of our officers became recipients to this scholarship.

Mr. Lengi Derring hails from remote Kabwum District of Morobe Province and is a staff of the National Secretariat as Coordinator Training Institution. He was among few PNG and other Pacific Island Nations who participated in the training beginning November 2020 and completed in December 2021. He successfully completed the training

and was awarded a certificate in Young Leaders Community – Based Health Operations and Management Course conducted by Kochi Medical School Hospital

in Kochi Prefecture of Japan under the knowledge Co-Creation Program (KCCP).

Mr. Derring said he is very thankful for the Management of CHS PNG for endorsing him to undertake this important Training, and also offered his special word of appreciation to JICA in country for linking CHSPNG and enabling us benefiting from this course. "You (JICA) are really reaching to over 80% of our rural population by way of re-training our workforce with specific skills and knowledge that are relevant to our current health needs and returning them back to the rural communities," Derring added.

JICA in country Office remains our close partner in human development and at the Secretariat level we have been extending those scholarship invitations to our member agencies across the country for the last two years. We encourage our Health Managers and Health Secretaries to make use of these opportunities and build the human capacity who can manage our health needs with additional skills and knowledge.

"Arigato, (Thank you in Japan)"

HEALTHY TIPS ON OBESITY Obesity prevention for adults



- Consume less "bad" fat and more "good" fat.
- Consume less processed and sugary foods.
- Eat more servings of vegetables and fruits. ...
- Eat plenty of dietary fiber.
- Focus on eating low-glycemic index foods.
- Get the family involved in your journey. ...
- Engage in regular aerobic activity.



FEATURED STORY

The Impact of Early Missionaries during the Colonial Era in the Remote Areas of Papua New Guinea

The slow spread of colonial government “footprint” finally reached the northern mountains of Enga in the late 1950’s and early 1960’s. Eventually the governing authorities took over responsibilities for the provision of health care to the population of the Sau Valley, initially out of the health centre at Kompiam, but later through a well-supplied system of aidposts and other health centres across the entire district.

Picture & Story by: Dr. David Mills - Enga Baptist Health Services

PART I

"Part I, we discover the encounter of the first missionaries, the transition from colonization to PNG Independence and the battle of delivering better health services."

The first missionaries came into the Kompiam area in 1950. They immediately started to provide basic health care and education to the local population. This they continued faithfully over the next couple of decades.

After independence this responsibility was handed over to the local government, which was initially based out of Mt Hagen (Enga had not yet become a separate province).

By the mid 1990’s the local Enga

Administration was looking to a partnership model to help assist with the difficulties in providing health care in Kompiam-Ambum. It was clear, and remains very clear, that government struggles to provide proper supervision and support in the more rural areas. Enga Provincial Government had already created partnerships with Gutinius Lutheran Church (based out of Wapendamanda) and the Catholic Church (who were strong on the Ambum side of our district) to provide health care to

the people.

In 1997 the EPG signed an agreement with the Baptist Union of PNG for the provision of health services administration and oversight at Kompiam Health Centre and the smaller health sub centres at Yengisa (in the far north near the ESP border) and Lapalama.

The local church immediately secured the services of an Indian husband and wife doctor team who stayed for 12 months. There were also ongoing support visits from the larger Baptist Hospital in the Baiyer Valley in WHP but these were infrequent and when the Dr Bipul and his wife Asha left Kompiam in late 1998 there were no medical services until March 2000 when Dr Mills and family arrived.

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The early hospital was very basic, with no laboratory facilities of any kind, no X-ray and a very basic operating theatre with just a single light bulb hanging from the ceiling for operating light. We had a tiny generator which wasn't strong enough to power the sterilizer and we could only run the power for 3 ½ hours each day. We used kerosene lanterns for light after 10pm. There were no patient notes and no medical records apart from the patient clinic books.



The Early Hospital - 2001

Perhaps the hardest part of all was that we had only one staff house, so it was very very difficult to get new and qualified help in to assist. The fact that there was not good local schooling available was also a major disincentive to potential staff. We particularly struggled in the areas of finance as none of us had any real experience in handling money at that point in time. We were regularly bouncing cheques and had no idea about finance reports or anything. We desperately needed a trained accounts manager.

Enga is such a volatile place and there was quite a bit of antagonism from other denominations initially to the government's decision to let our denomination run the local health service. There wasn't much

we could do about that but we made deliberate decisions early on that employment would be for anyone qualified, not just Baptist people, and that we would not provide subsidies to our pastors or use the facilities to support our own church work. That decision wasn't always popular amongst our Baptist people but we stuck to it and it was the wise course. Eventually the community saw that we were working for everyone and over time began to own it as everyone's health service. We also had to fight against the idea of giving subsidies to local landowners, which was perhaps even harder, but again it was the right course that has seen us become quite stable in a world of instability.

One thing we have learned in the face of envy and criticism is that it's often best just to not respond, but to put your head down and do the work. The work eventually will speak for itself. There will always be critics; sometimes staff you have to discipline or terminate because of theft, adultery, or just ongoing poor performance. These are dangerous times where the families involved become pretty hot. It's like someone trying to strike a match to burn your trees down. If those trees are very dry, they might just catch fire, but if they are nice and green, it's much harder for them to burn down, even with all the attempts to set them alight. So too with the service – there will always be headaches, but they are less likely to become massive threats if you just do your job and do it faithfully. People can see when you are trying to serve sacrificially without favouritism, year in and year out. It will serve you well. But if you don't do your job, then those small conflicts are much more likely to grow and may even be able to bring you down.



Many of Enga's remote people have seen little change to their lives



Master planning of the Hospital in 2006

In addition to trying to build up the clinical services and train staff, we had a lot of work to do on infrastructure. Nowadays we have housing for 35 families and 17 single staff and solar power to run the hospital and staff housing. Staff housing has been one of these things we have put a lot of effort and money into, as it has become a real attraction in a place so remote, but it has taken a long time, step by step, little by little, by God's help each year.

Slowly we have built up the clinical services. Today we have two modern theatres, a good lab and new digital X-ray. We have been blessed with the help of a wonderful Indian dentist and are slowly building up that capability too. We still struggle for lack of staff, with the staff ceiling being frozen since 1999. But that's a battle we all face. We can't complain too much, knowing that so many of our brothers and sisters in CHS do it much tougher.



Opening of the new paediatric ward in 2013

Part II. To be continues in the next Issue # 31

OUTREACH

The Team Leader, Mr. David Langer, introducing the the team and outlining the purpose of the visit



A team from CHS (PNG) Secretariat office headed by Mr. David Langer recently visited the United Health Service Central Province Headquarter in Kwikika Central Province

Other team members included Ms. Alice Vetu (PA to CEO), Ms. Kanae Kila (Accounts), Ms Hayman Aigilo (HRM) and a representative from Nasfund

The purpose of the trip was to register new members of United Health Services Agency to Nasfund, update their Bio-Data, fill out their IRC Tax Declaration form and preparing the staff who already exceeded their retirement age to retire.

It was a very succesful trip where all the enitre staff on strenght were onboarded on to Nasfund, which they will now benefit from the services that Nasfund is currently providing.

On the other hand, 3 of their longtime serviing nursing

officers namely, Sr. Merrien Ronnie, Sr. Idau Renagi and Sr. Dora Renagi retired from their formal duties.

They had served the United Church Health Services, the surrounding communities and the people of Papua New Guinea with Love, dedication and commitment .

Their exit had shown their bravery and courage in serving in the healing ministry of Jesus Christ to show God's miracle by curing the sick and dressing



Nursing Officer Pisi attending to patient outside since the facility in still under renovation.



With Ignatius Jerriffia
IT support Officer CHS(PNG)

Tips to convert Word, Excel and PowerPoint documents to PDF file

In the document that you want to convert.

1. Move your cursor to the FILE and Left Click
2. Scroll down and Left Click on the PRINT tab
3. On the PINTER Tap, Left Click on the down arrow and the drop down will show the devices that you can print to.
4. Locate and select.
5. Click on the PRINT button
6. A dialogue box will appear, rename the file and select the location or folder that you want to save the file to, and Click on the SAVE button

You can also Convert PDF file back to Word and Excel file by opening the PDF file with Word or Excel itself, but it has some limitation, and also, depending on the file structure and layout.

If the PDF file contained only letters, try open with Word, and if the PDF file conained tables, try open with Excel

We'll try and discover some of this tricks in the next Issue, so stay tune

Quarter Four updates....

From DCEO's DESK

Hi Every One. We are pleased to put out for you all the 4th QTR Newsletter of the Christian Health Services PNG. It is now a common trend during these difficult times that certain aspect of our work will be affected due to the 3rd wave of the Covid 19 pandemic. However we remain vigilant and steadfast to continue to adhere to safe workplace and New Normal protocols put in place at the National Health Secretariat Office in order that services continue to be provided at the Agency level.

A lot of things have happened since the last issue of the Newsletter was circulated. Some positive news whilst some not too good for the Organisation. During the last few weeks we lost two (2) leaders who spent a good part of their lives and contributed immensely to the growth and progress of CHS as an organisation. Rev. James Koi and Sr. Celine both have moved on to be with God.

They served in various capacities and the most important position both occupied during their term on the CHSPNG Executive Board was serving as the Deputy Chairman of the Executive Board. The irony of this is that Rev. James Koi replaced Sr. Celine as the Deputy Chair during elections when the Catholic Church Health Services decided to 'sever ties with CHSPNG and be on their own. Both represented their respective Regions on the Board. Sr. Celine Yakasere represented the Momase Region whilst Rev. James Koi represented the Highlands regions respectively.

On behalf of the staff and management of CHSPNG Secretariat Office and the Executive Board we take this time to salute these two unique leaders for their lives of service to their churches and to the larger CHS Family all over PNG. Rest in Peace.

During these trying times 3 of our National Office staff succumbed to the Covid infection after being tested positive during a management sanctioned compulsory Covid testing for all our staff. After a few of the staff showed symptoms of the virus. This in turn led to the Office Shutting down for a total of 14 days. We thank God that all have recovered well.

At this time we take this time to announce a few milestone development at the CHS National Office.

1. The successful development trial and use of the New reprinting Financial Report template for CHSPNG. This is a big one. As most of our Agencies are now sending their reports using this new reprinting templates you can attest that this is an outright improvement to our financial reporting.

All credit and appreciation must go to the CEO Mr. Ulrich Tapia for his leadership perseverance and resilience and the two men IT team at CHS office and the ever hardworking HR Team who assisted in putting the raw data (Bio Data) together in to the desired layout for the development of the Financial Reporting and Acquisition TEMPLATE.

2. EDEN Research: Another important milestone achieved at the National Office is the Presentation of the Eden Research Findings. The Research finding has been presented to the NDoH HP branch and staff of the CHS Office.

The paper in draft form as a manuscript for the PNG Medical journal.

To the team of researchers who assisted in the Data collection and all the rest of the work. A big word of thanks and appreciation to the team of Officers namely: Mr. Nickson Samblap (Team Leader), Mr. Elias Namosha and Ms Nidra Kewere.

To BROT for its timely assistance in funding the work of the EDEN research. CHS PNG truly appreciates your input in to a work that is a first for CHSPNG.

3. Covid 19 Funding: For the first time during the Covid 19 Pandemic CHS PNG has been able to receive direct assistance from the National Covid Centre. As we grapple with the direct effect of the third wave of the Covid pandemic it is really reassuring the Covid Center is coming to assist us at this time. As we speak supplies for several of our Health Facilities are being checked for shipment to their provincial ports. A separate update on this will be provided.

As we prepare for the publication of this Newsletter there are more reports of Covid having an effect on the staff and the level of care and delivery of Health Services at a couple of our Health Facility which we will cover in a separate story in this issue.

Happy Reading



Bernard Rutmat, Deputy Executive Officer, CHS (PNG)

Health Toktok is a quarterly publication of CHS (PNG). All information in this newsletter has been verified before publication. Send any stories from your agency that you would like to see published in this newsletter to the address given. Material published in this newsletter shall be used in any other publication unless permission is sought from CHS

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Notices

1 Continue to send in the Financial Reports as instructed in an earlier update. This is a mandatory activity for us and it is now increasingly important that we adhere to this instructions for our own good. The financial reports are to be sent to CHSPNG Secretariat Office by the end of the first week of the new Month. (By the 07th of the New Month).

2 The October Grants has been deposited. We are still awaiting the corporate clearance by the bank of PNG (BPNG) prior to remitting the funds to your respective accounts. Hopefully this can be done by Monday.

3 The 2021 National Government Budget was passed in Parliament yesterday (Thursday 25th Nov) for your information. More on this later.

4 We desperately need some item of news from the Regions and Agencies for the 4th QTR Newsletter. Any Agencies with any interesting and eventful news to share please kindly forward them to me on the email address below.

5 Contributions from Agencies and Regions towards the funeral costs for the late Deputy Chairman of CHSPNG executive Board (Late Rev. Koi) are to be sent to CHS PNG Secretariat office for Presentation on behalf of us all to the Family at an appointed time by the CEO. Contact Mr. Tapia for further directions on this.

REMINDERS

For the Agencies that are receiving the PPE and other logistic support from the National Covid Center here please provide us some information and news and pictures of how the PPE are utilized in the Facilities.

We are also seeking out the assistance of the Agencies to assist us with News of Current events and others happening at the respective Health Facility and Agency level for inclusion in the 4th QTR Newsletter. Your support in this area will not only be appreciated but expected as well. Our Challenge is to make the Newsletter be as inclusive as possible. Your support is needed.

Scheduling Agencies to provide items of news for the Newsletter in future is being mooted here at the Secretariat office.

This is a reminder to ALL Health Managers of Agencies. When sending in your Financial Reports please address them to Mr. Pao Kapo. His email address is pkapo@chspng.org.pg. Copy Ms Hayman Aigilo haigilo@chspng.org.pg Mr. Langer dlander@chspng.org.pg and myself brutmat@chspng.org.pg as well.