



Bung Wantaim



"Get it Right, Get it Out & Get Results"

VOLUME IV ISSUE II

FEBRUARY EDITION 2014

INSIDE THIS ISSUE: MOBILIZING YOUTH AND YOUTH PARTNERS FOR 2015 GAMES

DIRECTOR'S CORNER 2

BIRE: ITS GOOD TO BE SECURED 3

SHARON RUTH LEWIN: NEW HOPE FOR AIDS CURE 4

THOSE WHO CELEBRATED THEIR BIRTHDAY IN FEBRUARY 4

MORE UPDATES 4

THE DIFFICULTIES WE FACE AS PLHIV AND AS PEOPLE WHO CARE 5



Acting Youth Commissioner , Norit Luio (4th from Left) with youths from all walks of life after the meeting at NYC recently.

The 2015 Pacific Games Organizing Committee held a meeting recently with the NYC and its Youth Partners at the NYC Main Conference Room, Varahe Street Gordons. This was games awareness meeting in line with the theme Mobilizing Youth & Youth Partners for 2015 Pacific Games.

Acting Commissioner Norit Luio gave his opening remarks by welcoming all key stakeholders and partners. He stressed that 2015 Pacific Games was a big Event and a big challenge to all the youths.

"2015 games brings opportunity for the youths, you all need to work together with collective voice and promote your work so that your voice can be heard by the government" he said

Ken Siminji who is the Executive Marketing and Communications Manager 2015 Games

did a brief presentation on the game itself, the ground works and their expectation on NYC to take lead in mobilizing it key stakeholders and partners through their networks right throughout the country. He pointed out that youths come from all different back ground and sports are like their passport that takes them to places.

" We have seen the government doing a lot on its part by investing on major infrastructure of 2015 Pacific Games, now as advocates for the youths our role is to building infrastructure mentally in the mindset for the youths and getting everybody involved" he said.

DIRECTOR'S CORNER



Greetings and welcome to the second edition of **BUNG WANTAIM**, our stakeholder's newsletter. Thank you all once again for your

continued support and confidence in NACS despite the news of amalgamation with the Department of Health for the past few months that has created anxiety for all of us due to the uncertainty. However, we have to respect the decision of the Government and wait for their instructions. The first NAC meeting for the year is also at the end of this month so we hope to get the Council's view.

Despite this, I take this opportunity to assure all our partners and stakeholders that NACS will continue to work closely with you to address the HIV Response in this country through a multi-sectoral ap-

proach. The National AIDS Council Secretariat under my leadership looks forward to forging stronger working ties with the Minister for Health and HIV/AIDS, Hon. Michael Malabag, MP and other central government agencies to ensure that our role of coordination is fully realized in the fight to prevent and minimize the spread of HIV in Papua New Guinea. Thank you all and looking forward to working with you all.

Have a good year!

Mr. Peter Bire, AFAIM
Director

BIRE: ITS GOOD TO BE SECURED

The National AIDS Council Secretariat held a mini conference with the National Teachers Insurance Limited & Life Insurance Cooperation. This is a follow up meeting from the first one in August of last year in reference NACS interest to pursue further for its staff medical contribution. Spearheading the meeting was Joe Mage, Human Resource Manager. He told the staff that Under the Public Service Act, Public servant are provided K600 per annum to cover for any medical scheme. This will come in effect once everything is finalized between the two parties.

"I encourage you all to fill out the forms as soon as you can and submit to HR" he added.

Life Insurance Corporation is a subsidiary to National Teachers Insurance. They are one of the licensed Life Insurance company with well over 40,000 lifetime members.

Life Insurance is a risk taking approach where you pay premiums according to group size under its benefits you are subjected to a limited amount per policy year. Apart from death and funeral expenses this benefits cover medical hospitalization, optical, dental and maternity care.

One of their product called PNG Life Style Plan was selected for NACS staff because accustomed to needs of PNG family. Under this plan there are no limitation to the number of children, limited to one legal spouse and it also include members parents and parents of the spouse. It is flexible with minimum repayments of fortnightly salary of K30 which is affordable or it can be in the form of lump sum payment.

Mr. Bire when receiving the plan told the staff to fill the forms accordingly as this will benefit them in one way or other.

"It good to be secured because you do not know when you will get sick or die, those you declared as your beneficiaries will benefit as well" he said.

The sales of Life Insurance Team comprising of



Director making his speech during the presentation made by the Life Insurance Corporation Last year.

GLOBAL UPDATES

Sharon Ruth Lewin: New hope for AIDS cure

In January, 2013 Professor Sharon Ruth Lewin (pictured) led a research team from Burnett Institute, Peter MacCallum Center and Australia's National Association of People Living with HIV to uncover HIV Genetic hiding place by using the highly toxic cancer drug Vorinostat for two weeks trialed on 18 HIV patient. This drug has been able to rouse sleeping HIV infected cells so they can be detected to drug and visible to immune system making it a huge step in curing the disease once view as curable. Professor Sharon Ruth Lewin is a professor of medicine in Monash University, Australia and active member of International AIDS Society. She was motivated to conduct medical research on HIV related infection at the time when she was working mostly with young gay men in Australia who were suffering from pain, emotion, stigma and discrimination. She is optimistic because working in global research has seen huge reduction of HIV related deaths and suffering. HIV is manageable unlike in the past where HIV patient had to consume 20 pills in a day compared to present.



Professor Sharon Ruth Lewin

However, she said scientist needed to

“The search for cure has still a long way to go and will require innovation, sustainable funding and political commitments from all parties”

inform the public in an honest and measured way that they were working at and the challenges they were facing. The search for cure has still a long way to go

and will require innovation, sustainable funding and political commitments from all parties.

Professor Lewin will co-chair the International AIDS Conference in July this year. AIDS 2014 theme is Stepping up the pace.

She made a reflection on the theme saying *“Stepping up the pace is not enough. We have to accelerate the pace to achieve zero AIDS by mobilizing stakeholders and build on present momentum necessary to change the course of the epidemic for everyone affected”*.

THOSE WHO CELEBRATED THEIR BIRTHDAY IN FEBRUARY



Sam Mana Executive Admin Assistant Celebrated his birthday on February 2nd.

MORE UPDATES

Undetectable viral load but low CD4 count

A new study has shown that people who continue to have a low CD4 count despite HIV treatment that reduces viral load to undetectable levels have poorer outcomes than other people. (Source: nam aidsmap)

HIV Treatment for Children

Anti-HIV drugs are often provided to infants and children in a liquid form, as a syrup. But, when researchers asked people to measure a dose, about half made mistakes. (Source: nam aidsmap)

AROUND THE PROVINCES

The difficulties we face as PLWHIV and as People who Care.

By Doreen Nadile-Acting HRC NCD PAC

This is NCDPAC story. Margaret has given permission to have her name and photographs published. The other two stories weren't. They had their names labeled as Joan to safe guard the identity.

Further more it highlights the plight of PLHIVs living in the city especially and the need to strengthen Continuum of Care and the resources to make it work.

Margaret

Margret is a pleasant soft spoken woman and is a mother of a 10 year old boy. She is 42 years of age and hails from Simbu. She has been living in Port Moresby all her life. She dreamt of owning a home where she can take care of hundreds of people just like her who have moved from house to house in search of love, security and a place call home.

Her son needs an education; and money is hard to come by. Despite all of this Margret puts a smile on her face and lives one day at a time. She is not allowed to be stressed or worried or take offence at someone's rude or aggressive remark, her immunity will plummet and she cannot afford to go the hospital if she becomes sick.

Margret started a Home Base Care group and have personally taken friends to the hospitals and made hospital runs to pick up the odd Septrin, Chloramphenicol, TB drugs or ART if her friends were too weak to go themselves. She asks World Vision or NCDPAC to help transport her friends to hospital. She takes part and encourages her friends to participate in World AIDS Day.

On Saturday 8th of February 2014, Margret moved again, she asks NCDPAC to help her move in search for another home, this time at 17 mile. This place is offered to her by her friends. Margret lived in a makeshift tent with a few of her peers at Taurama. She is moving because she can't stand the discrimination she is facing from people whom she thought she could trust.



Margaret & her Son Anthony at their new place 17mile

She tells NCDPAC "If you want to take care of people like me, you walk the talk and don't use me for your name or for your gain."

Joan (1)

Joan (1) flees from her province in fear of her life with her husband and 2 children and looked for relatives in the city where she thought she will be safe. Her husband dies in Hospital and she gave birth to her baby whilst in Hospital. With nowhere to go Joan (1) practically lived in the Hospital for a full year.

Pressed for bed space she has to move. NCD PAC was consulted to find a place for them. A little cottage at the far end of 5 mile owned by the Archdiocese of Bereina was willing to take her in BUT...!! "We have got our water cut for unpaid water bills."

The hospital drops Joan (1) off to a makeshift tent at Taurama. The mother, her child and infant lasted only one night, she found solace at the hospital again, where there was food and the mosquitoes didn't bite.

Joan (2)

Joan (2)'s mother approached NCDPAC for help. "My daughter is bed ridden, we are experiencing stigma. I support my family by selling stuff at the roadside. I am not making enough to buy the adult bum bums or nutritious food that they talk about to feed my daughter. She can't take her medicine; she has to take it with food. The community talks about us, and they won't let me use the common water tap to do my daughter laundry. My daughter is so weak I need to move her to a care center where she will be properly looked after. Tomorrow she needs to go to Heduru Clinic to get checked and I can't bring her."

NCDPAC responded that they can only support by bringing Joan (2) on PAC vehicle to Heduru Clinic. The care centre that they worked closely with do not have water.

Heduru clinic is a walk in clinic; they can't take her there because she is in a stretcher. A phone call to Heduru confirms that, but Dr Gideon was kind, they can take her there to be checked.

Mrs. Nadile sought the assistance of Ken and Frank from Igat Hope and now to St John Ambulance to ask for a stretcher or better still let's ask if St John's Ambulance can assist to transport.

At St John Ambulance – "we will assist but you have to pay K20.00". Mrs. Nadile digs deep; she has to pay fuel and now the Ambulance. We get to the location; it is a settlement at the

back of Geno Police barracks. You walk uphill to a rocky ledge and under the house with a black plastic canvas for the wall, we find Joan (2) pale, weak and dehydrated. She offered me a smile.

The ambulance man got to work and with the help of Frankie & Ken we brought Joan (2) to Heduru Clinic.



Frank & Ken of Igat Hope (We may have our TORs but when it comes down to real stuff – the Heart takes over)

At 4.00 pm I receive a call from Heduru "Can you take Joan (2) back? We close at 4 pm we are not the ward you know".

"Can you arrange with St John's Ambulance to drop her" I asked.

She replied "I don't know if I can, St John's Ambulance is a private organization and I have never dealt with them".

"Please try, I don't have a stretcher, and how can I move her or carry her from the road up to where she lives. She is the responsibility of the health services and maybe they will do it for free. I arranged it this morning as a private organization and outside of the Hospital arrangement" I replied.

St John's Ambulance finally takes Joan (2) home but charges K60.00, for her mother to pay. Joan's mother refers them to NCDPAC and Mrs. Nadile had to pay out of her pocket again.

Further care for Joan (2)

Link her to the nearest clinic where ART is administered and a peer counselor to provide peer support 'and to encourage ART compliance. Identify a community Home Base Care group to continue care

- Freddie of Kilakila Clinic was identified as the peer counselor
- Kaugere Clinic was the nearest ART providing clinic
- Four Square Clinic volunteers will provide home base care

