



# INANAGA BI TEE

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR HELA PHA

“Leaving no one behind is every body’s business.”



Volume 2, Issue 1

May 2025

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Inanaga Bi Tee is a monthly newsletter produced by the Hela PHA Media Committee.

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## CEO’s Message



Dr James Kintwa  
AFCHSM

## Integration(Corporate Plan 2022-2025)

Amongst our Values and Principles in the Corporate Plan is that on “**Integration**” which refers to us providing Primary, Secondary and Tertiary health care to our population.

The intention of the Provincial Health Authority Reform is to see the full Model of Care (Level 1 community post to Level 5 provincial specialist hospital in a province) according to the National Health Services Standards (NHSS) implemented with strong partnership with the three levels of governments and other partners in a province. Our Prime Minister has reiterated the same and announced a public policy statement where health services must be within one hour of travel.

Hela Provincial Health Authority has attempted to address the NHSS Policy and the Prime Minister’s Policy Statement through the “**integration**”. We have started by constructing 10 x aid (community) posts according to the NHSS Facility Design standards in Tari Pori and Koroba Kopiago. We will now move to Komo Hulia and Magarima electroates. Additionally, we have opened closed aid posts and will attempt to open 10 more closed aid posts this year by employing CHWs and doing very minimal maintenance of facilities.

Furthermore, we are constructing Community Health Posts with our partners at Tingo, Idawi, and Juni in accordance with the NHSS Facility Designs. At the same time, we have built maternity wings at Karinja, Dauli, and Fugwa Health Centres. The construction of Kopiago Health Centre is expected to be completed early next year, following significant delays caused by tribal fighting and poor road conditions.

The work at the Level 4 district hospitals are making significant progress with the tender for construction of a new Emergency Department, Operating theatre and diagnostic (r-xray and pathology) facilities at Magarima District Hospital. We conducted a multi - disciplinary outreach to Magarima District Hospital for a week which is being reported in this newsletter and continue with once a day visits by our specialist to the health centres and district hospitals.

We hope to see some work happen at Koroba District Hospital later this year after our opening of the maternity wing at Koroba early this year. Hela Provincial Government has allocated K10m for work at Komo Health Centre which is now being scoped for the District Hospital and to be started soon. Finally, the new Hela Provincial Hospital work has already started with the staff houses that we officially opened and reported in this Newsletter. We are tendering for the full detail design for the new Paediatric Emergency Building to complement the current Adult Emergency Department. Our necessary documentation for the new Specialist Hospital is finalized and is before the National Government through Health and Treasury Departments for financing in 2026.

Additionally at the community level, our Board has approved the roll out of the Healthy Island and Village Health Assistant projects so that we can deal with population health issues through community engagements. This work is now going to start in June with all the different partners in eight (8) settings ( 4 x village, 4 x schools and 4 x health facilities).

It is exciting for our staff to see these initiatives throughout Hela Province as we work with the Hela Provincial Government , District Development Authorities and partners like Santos Foundation and Exxon Mobil to implement the policies of the National Government in the health sector.

If we continue persistently on this path, we will see an effective and efficient health service delivery system and to achieve the policy statement of the Prime Minister and our dream vision statement of our previous Board Chairman, Peter Botten. “We have started a journey from Lae to Tari” and are slowly making progress with us may be at Goroka now.

## Hela PHA Welcomes New Board Members Following NEC Approval



The third Board of the Hela Provincial Health Authority (PHA) was officially sworn in on February 3, 2025, following approval by the National Executive Council (NEC). The first meeting of the newly appointed Board was held in Port Moresby. The Board is chaired by Mr. Brett Darley, Executive Vice President – Eastern Australia and PNG, Santos. The full Board composition includes:

- **Mr. Brett Darley** – Chairperson, Santos Country Manager
- **Rev. Olene Yawai** – Deputy Chairperson, Chair, Hela Council of Churches
- **Ms. Sally Pate** – Women’s Representative
- **Mr. Marago Tagoba** – Hela Provincial Administrator & Ex-Officio Member
- **Mr. Peter Pindan** – National Department of Health Representative
- **Mr. Samuel Koima** – National Content Plan Manager, ExxonMobil PNG
- **Mr. John Tipa** – District Affairs Representative
- **Mr. Amos Libe** – Local Community Representative
- **Mr. Roger Harabe** – Local Community Representative
- **Mr. Gideon Jack Karali** – Local Business Representative

This is the third Hela PHA Board since the PHA’s establishment in 2016. The previous boards have played a pivotal role in health governance and system strengthening. Under their leadership, Hela PHA has made remarkable strides, ranking **3rd nationally in health performance** in previous years and currently **5th out of 22 Provincial Health Authorities** in Papua New Guinea.



Despite facing significant challenges, including rugged terrain, security concerns, and a dispersed population, Hela PHA manages **over 300 health facilities** across the province. The dedicated efforts of healthcare workers and administrators have ensured that essential services reach even the most remote communities.

**Dr. James Kintwa**, CEO of Hela PHA, acknowledged the difficulties in healthcare delivery in Hela but praised the resilience and commitment of his staff. “We will continue to do our best to serve our people with commitment and dedication,” Dr. Kintwa stated.

**Hon. Philip Undialu**, Governor of Hela Province, welcomed the new Board and thanked **outgoing Chairman Mr. Peter Botten** and his team for laying a strong foundation for health service delivery in Hela. He also commended Dr. Kintwa and his team, including nurses, doctors, support staff, and church-run health facilities, for their critical role in the success of the PHA.

Governor Undialu also acknowledged the ongoing support of **development partners** such as **Santos Foundation, ExxonMobil, MRDC, KPHL**, and others. He extended a special appreciation to **Hon. Elias Kapavore**, Minister for Health, and the Department of Health for facilitating the Board’s swearing-in.

Looking ahead, Governor Undialu outlined **five key priority areas** for the new Board and Hela PHA:

1. **Improve Hela PHA’s performance** beyond the current 5th national ranking.
2. **Deliver the Level 5 Provincial Specialist Referral Hospital.**
3. **Upgrade all district hospitals, health centres, sub-health centres, and aid posts** across the province.
4. **Fully implement and strengthen ambulance services** in the province.
5. **Maintain full accountability** to the Minister for Health, the Secretary for Health, and the Hela Provincial Government..

The new Board assumes office at a crucial time as Hela PHA continues to navigate healthcare challenges while striving to deliver quality services to all its people.

**Hela PHA Board Holds 2nd Meeting and Opens New Staff Accommodation**

The second Board Meeting of the Hela Provincial Health Authority (PHA) Board of Governance was successfully held on 18th February 2025 at the Hela PHA Headquarters in Tari, Hela Province. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Brett Darley, Executive Vice President – Eastern Australia and PNG, Santos, along with the newly sworn-in Board Members.

Dr. James Kintwa, Chief Executive Officer of Hela PHA, stated that several critical decisions were made during the meeting, including the endorsement of the 2024 Annual Management Report, approval of financial statements, and approval of the 2025 budget. He emphasized that with strong leadership and clear direction, the HPHA is well-positioned to make meaningful progress in delivering quality health services across the province.

Following the meeting, the Board officially commissioned three newly constructed staff accommodation buildings. Dr. Kintwa highlighted the development as a major milestone in addressing the longstanding housing challenges faced by healthcare workers. Accommodation has always been one of our biggest challenges. This development represents meaningful progress in improving staff welfare and strengthening the delivery of quality healthcare,” Dr. Kintwa said.

He further emphasized the importance of a strategic and phased approach to development: “We may not achieve everything at once, but with consistent and focused efforts, we will accomplish great things—some even beyond our original expectations.”

Dr. Kintwa also acknowledged that while the new accommodations may not meet all current housing needs, priority will be given to front-line staff delivering full-time patient care. “Our goal is to support those who are at the forefront of healthcare service delivery,” he added.



**Medical Specialist Out Reach In Margarima District**

A successful **Medical Specialist Outreach Program** was conducted in **Margarima District** from **12th to 16th May 2025**. The program concluded with a formal closing ceremony officiated by **Dr. James Kintwa**, Chief Executive Officer of Hela Provincial Health Authority (Hela PHA), and **Mr. Simon Olaya**, Chief Executive Officer of the Margarima District Development Authority (DDA).

Dr. Kintwa expressed heartfelt appreciation to the team of specialist doctors from Hela PHA and visiting eye specialists from **Mt Hagen PHA**, who came to address the skills gap in the province. He emphasized that the core mission of Hela PHA is to **reach the rural population**, stating, "There is no meaning to the existence of Hela PHA if the rural majority are not reached." He reaffirmed the organization's commitment to making the outreach a regular initiative.

He further highlighted the significance of **patient recovery and restoring sight**, describing it as true **job satisfaction** — helping someone return to a normal life. He said, reaching the three rural District Hospitals with this outreach will mark a historical milestone for the province and identifies Hela PHAs stand.

During the event, Dr. Kintwa also announced that **Hela PHA will construct a new facility in Margarima District** to house an **Accident & Emergency Unit** and an **Operating Theatre**. The new development will further strengthen the workforce and improve access to specialized care for the people of Margarima. He further thanked Mr. Simon the CEO Margarima DDA to witnessed the special care given to the people of Margarima District.

Dr. Kintwa concluded with a special statement, declaring that Margarima District is the gateway to Hela Province — the first impression visitors get upon entering Hela. Therefore, he emphasized that Margarima District Hospital must stand as an icon of Hela PHA, reflecting who we are and what we represent. He called on the staff and everyone involved to work together toward making this vision a reality.

In response, **Mr. Simon Olaya**, CEO of Margarima DDA, conveyed appreciation on behalf of **Hon. Manasseh Makiba**, Member for Margarima and Minister, thanking Dr. Kintwa and the specialist team for selecting Margarima as the launch site for the outreach. He acknowledged the challenges that prevent people from accessing specialist care — including financial constraints, security concerns, and transportation issues — and recognized this initiative as a **milestone achievement** for both Hela PHA and Margarima District Hospital.

Mr. Olaya assured the community that the **District Administration is committed to funding and supporting** the continuation of the outreach, especially for patients who were unable to receive care due to time and resource limitations. He echoed Dr. Kintwa's call for peace, appealing to the youth to refrain from causing disruptions and to **create a safe environment** so the medical team can serve families in need.

He concluded by affirming that the **District Administration will continue to work in partnership with Hela PHA** to support and strengthen healthcare service delivery in Margarima District.



Front Row: Dr. Tana Kiak Deputy Director Medical Service, Dr. James Kintwa CEO., Dr. Sylvester Tati Director Curative Service  
Back row: Mr.Simon Olaya CEO DDA Margarima District Dr. Girimai and HEO Sebastin at Margarima District Hospital.



Mr. Joseph Jarali a/Director Nursing Service on behalf of the Margarima DH thanking the Dr. Kintwa and his highly motivated team for the specialist care provided .



Triage to register and send the patient to the specialist Sections



Pathology service



ENT Service



Physiotherapy Service



Dr.Girimai and Bio-tech David Hiliwako

### Specialist Medical Outreach Brings Vital Services to Remote Communities

**D**r. Tana Kiak, Deputy Director of Medical Services, led a team of specialist doctors during an outreach program at the District Hospital. The initiative aimed to provide essential medical and clinical care to people who face challenges accessing healthcare services.

Dr. Kiak stated, "Each of the five days—from the 12th to the 16th—was fully booked. People began lining up as early as 6:00 a.m., and we continued working into the night until 7:00 p.m."

He described the initiative as a **"One Stop and Shop"** program, meaning all specialist services typically available at Hela PHA were brought directly to the community. The services provided included:

1. Paediatric/Child Health
2. Women's Health
3. ENT (Ear, Nose, and Throat)
4. Pharmacy Services
5. Anaesthetics
6. Ophthalmology
7. Dental Services
8. Internal Medicine
9. Blood Services
10. Emergency Medicine
11. General Medical Cases
12. Immunisation
13. Infection Prevention and Control
14. Biomedical Services
15. Maintenance Team
16. Surgical/Theatre Services

Dr. Tana Kiak stated that over 5,000 patients had been screened so far, with many more still to be seen. He assured the community that the team will continue making regular visits as part of their commitment to reaching people in districts where access to essential healthcare services is limited.

He expressed his gratitude to **Dr. Erick, HEO Ritchy, Joseph Jarali (Acting DNS)**, and all other clinical and support staff for their efforts in successfully completing the program.

A special thank-you was extended to **Dr. Waimbe Wahamu**, an eye specialist, and **Moses Annason** from Mt Hagen PHA for helping bridge the expertise gap during the outreach.

Lastly, Dr. Tana acknowledged the **Police presence** for helping manage the crowd and ensuring safety, and he thanked the community for their support in maintaining peace and harmony throughout the five-day program.

He concluded by saying, "We have piloted this program successfully and will continue to roll it out at Koroba and Komo District Hospitals."

### Hela PHA Delivers Four Vehicles to Boost District Health Service Delivery



**H**ela Provincial Health Authority (PHA) has delivered four vehicles to enhance health service delivery across the province. This marks the second batch of vehicles issued, following an earlier distribution primarily for ambulance services. The newly delivered vehicles are designated for Koroba District Health Services, Disease Control, Public Health Services, and Administrative Services.

Chief Executive Officer Dr. James Kintwa stated that the purpose of these vehicles is to bring essential health services directly to remote and underserved communities — "to where the people are." He emphasized that the impact of service delivery is best measured through the data captured in the Electronic National Health Information System (ENHIS). "This is where the evidence of our work lies — in the data," he said.

Dr. Kintwa also reiterated the Governor's remarks during the swearing-in of the Hela PHA Board in Port Moresby, proudly noting that Hela PHA ranked 3rd nationally in 2023 and 5th in 2024. He expressed confidence that with continued dedication, Hela PHA can achieve the top position in the country.

He added that the delivery of these vehicles represents a critical step in strengthening the organization's capacity to collect accurate data and improve performance, stating, "We've made it to the top three before — we can reach number one."



## New Disease Control Vehicle Boosts TB and Communicable Disease Response in Hela



Melisha Andrew –  
Provincial Disease Control  
Coordinator Melisha  
Andrew

**H**EO Melisha Andrew, Provincial Disease Control Officer, on behalf of the Disease Control team, extended sincere thanks to **Dr. James Kintwa**, Chief Executive Officer, and the Hela PHA Management team for their decision to provide a new vehicle for the Disease Control Unit.

She highlighted that the vehicle has long been a critical need, enabling the team to effectively track and manage the spread of communicable diseases such as **Tuberculosis (TB), HIV, STIs, and Malaria**, as well as carry out **awareness campaigns and facility supervision visits**.

The vehicle has already played a vital role in supporting key disease control activities, including:

1. TB outreach activities in communities
2. Household contact tracing for confirmed TB patients
3. Follow-up of TB patients lost to care—who are at high risk of spreading the disease.
4. TB, HIV, STI, and Malaria awareness campaigns, and facility supervisory visits.

HEO Andrew reported that during a **five-day outreach program** across **five communities**, a total of **160 suspected TB cases** were identified and referred for review by medical and paediatric specialists. Of these, **41 new TB cases** were confirmed and placed on treatment.

“This number of new cases from just five villages shows that what we are seeing may only be the tip of the iceberg,” she said. “Despite our ongoing manpower shortages, we remain committed to achieving our provincial health indicators.”

She also emphasized the broader social benefits of the outreach, noting that the awareness sessions helped address **sorcery-related accusations** and **misinformation**, contributing to greater community harmony and understanding.

However, HEO Andrew pointed out that **ensuring patients complete their full course of TB treatment remains a major challenge**, often due to **security concerns** and **economic hardship**. She stated that the new vehicle has significantly improved their ability to reach patients and ensure treatment adherence, allowing more people to successfully complete their medication and recover.

Of the **six National TB Target Indicators**, four are directly addressed through outreach programs:

1. **Sputum Conversion Rate**
2. **Treatment Success Rate**
3. **Lost to Follow-Up Rate**
4. **Not Evaluated Rate**

“We may be a small team,” she said, “but we are a **vibrant and dedicated** one, driven by our aspiration to meet national targets and make **Hela a TB-free province**.”

She concluded by acknowledging the valuable support from **Specialist Medical and Paediatric Doctors**, nursing staff, and in particular, the **Outreach and Awareness Team Leader, Mr. Luke Pajari (CHW)**, for their commitment and personal dedication to achieving Hela's TB control goals.



**Integrated Patrol Brings Hope to Isolated Communities in Hela**

By Sr. Rhondie Hapolo – Deputy Director of Public Health



**A**n **Integrated Patrol** to some of the most remote and hard-to-reach areas of **Komohulia and Koroba-Kopiago** was successfully conducted from **May 1st to 4th, 2025**.

**Sr. Rhondie Hapolo**, Deputy Director of Public Health, extended heartfelt thanks to the **Santos Foundation** for chartering a helicopter to access locations where there are **no roads or transport links**.

“Despite being a costly exercise, the Santos Foundation remains a committed partner to Hela PHA. They step in during times of critical need and support missions like this, which aim to ‘touch the untouched.’ We are truly grateful for their continued assistance,” said Sr. Rhondie.

With Santos' support, the patrol team was able to reach **16 clinic sites** in some of Hela’s most isolated regions. Among the visited locations with functioning **Aid Posts** were, **Wala-gu, Dodomona, Huya Bulago, Aluni and Yokona**

Another group of locations visited had **no health facilities, no schools, and no government presence** at all. These included; **Trailiva, Ilauki, Warawalu, Kenalip, Papake, Maliali, Elibalip, Wisk, Yana, and Walu**

“These communities are completely cut off from the rest of Papua New Guinea and even from other parts of Hela Province,” Sr. Rhondie said. “Our visit was deeply emotional. The people told us this was the first time they had seen any **government presence**—they said that Hela PHA was the **first light of government** to ever reach them.”

During the patrol, the team conducted **vaccination services** and identified a **high number of malaria cases**. They distributed **treated mosquito nets and malaria tablets**, though Sr. Rhondie noted that **time and resource constraints** prevented them from reaching everyone in need.

“We now plan to return for at least a week with a dedicated team of three officers,” she added. “Our goal is to **treat every person and leave no one behind.**”

Sr. Rhondie emphasized the importance of maintaining a consistent presence in these forgotten communities. “Until **health facilities and schools** are built, we must continue reaching them through patrols. While the Santos Foundation’s support has been instrumental, it may not last forever. Therefore, we **urgently call on the government, our leaders, and other development partners** to step in and continue the mission of service to these neglected areas.” Integrated Patrol Brings Hope to Isolated Communities in Hela.



*Difficult terrains where our people live, often cut off from basic services.*



*Locals gather to pick up vital medical supplies delivered by chopper.*



*A small boy in bush clothes symbolizes Hela PHA’s mission—reaching remote communities with essential healthcare is everyone’s responsibility.*



*Hela PHA staff vaccinate children in an open, clear area—bringing essential immunization services closer to remote village communities.*

## Hela PHA Successfully Implements HCWM Incinerator Installation Project



**Shiela Mariap**  
OHS & Environment  
Coordinator  
ESS Focal Lead Hela PHA

**H**ela Provincial Health Authority (PHA) has successfully implemented the Health Care Waste Management (HCWM) Incinerator Installation Project as part of the national initiative to strengthen public health systems across Papua New Guinea. The project, expected to result in long-term positive environmental and social impacts, was completed in 2025.

Ms. Shiela Mariap, OHS & Environment Coordinator for Hela PHA, stated that the project is part of a larger National Department of Health (NDoH) initiative, funded through a financing agreement between the World Bank and the Government of Papua New Guinea (GoPNG). It is being coordinated by the Secretary for Health, who also serves as the Project Director.

“The incinerator installation follows strict regulatory frameworks, including Environmental and Social Management Frameworks (ESMF) and related safeguard instruments,” Ms. Mariap explained. “These were developed to ensure that all project activities are implemented without causing harm to people or the environment.”

She highlighted the lengthy and collaborative process undertaken by Hela PHA and other PHAs to meet the required guidelines before implementation. An Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) was conducted by the national project unit, with support from individual PHAs. Reports were submitted accordingly, and Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs) were developed in association with the incinerator project to safeguard the implementation.

A national Environmental (New) Permit was granted to the NDoH and extended to all PHAs. This permit authorizes the installation and operation of Model 8 incinerators with a capacity exceeding 10 tonnes per year. As a result, Hela PHA will coordinate with the Conservation and Environment Protection Authority (CEPA) regarding compliance and the forthcoming annual fees.

Ms. Mariap noted that the Model 8 incinerator is environmentally friendly, producing clean air emissions with no visible smoke or fumes. It is capable of incinerating all types of medical waste except metals, such as iron and tin.

To ensure consistency and compliance with national standards, each provincial hospital has drafted a standardized Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) on HCWM. These drafts are now awaiting review and finalization by the National Project Coordination Unit and the World Bank to establish a uniform SOP across all PHAs.

“The project has already made a significant positive impact and will play a key role in improving health care waste management standards within Hela PHA,” Ms. Mariap concluded.



**Incinerator house**



**Incinerators Installed**



Emergency Department (Hela PHA ED) Progress Update



Dr Jon GABRIEL, Emergency Physician, Hela PHA

By Dr Jon GABRIEL, Emergency Physician, Hela PHA

The HPH ED has transitioned from a combined ED/OPD service to a stand-alone, state-of-the-art ED since 2022. The newly-built ED can provide full critical care capacity for acute illness and injury.

The previous emergency physician (EP), Dr Arabella Koliwan departed HPH towards the end of 2023 and the ED was without an EP until February 2024 when I came on board. It has been a challenge for me as a new graduate EP in my first year of practise, especially trying to balance clinical and administrative work. However, apart from being challenging, it has also been motivating and rewarding.



Hela PHA ED medical staff in their new scrubs

HPH ED functions as a mixed ED attending to both adult and pediatric (children) cases.

We see about 500- 700 patients per month, with almost equal number of adults and children. There is also a very high burden of trauma, with 1 in 3 presentations to ED being a trauma case.

Apart from trauma, pneumonia, malnutrition and diarrhoeal illnesses are the top 3 common childhood presentations, while in adults it is chronic lung disease followed by TB.

As the frontline (first point of contact) health service of the Hospital, we strive to maintain standards in our clinical practice to optimize patient care, and to establish a good rapport with our patients and the community at large. With the functioning of the new ED, there were several changes and improvements introduced by Dr Koliwan then, and these included:

1. A triage system- specifically the WHO's interagency integrated triage tool (IITT). Triage is an essential emergency care system that manages the flow of patients based on the urgency (and not the severity) of their conditions;
2. Some ED-specific models of care and SOPs;
3. UPNG post graduate training in Diploma in Emergency Medicine Training (DEMT); and
4. Staff training and upskilling. Some staff were able to attend basic emergency care (BEC), IITT and advanced pediatric life support (APLS) trainings.



ED staff posing in front of one of the

The emphasis throughout 2024 has been on continuing what had already been started, and that is to improve (or introduce) systems and build knowledge, skills and capacity in emergency care and practise. We have done a bit of that through weekly CMEs & teaching ward rounds, simulations, monthly meetings & audits, emphasising on the proper utilization of the IITT, improvement in data management and participation in the internal accreditation survey.

One of the changes brought about was the introduction of a new cloud-based data entry system in 2025 (figure 1). This new data entry system will improve the way we collect, collate and report ED monthly data. Another significant progress for the ED (although work is still in its infancy stage) is the introduction of pre-hospital ambulance service.

Some highlights since 2024 included:

1. ED NUM (Sr Heidi Peabe) and my graduations from UPNG in April;
2. A senior ED MO (Dr Jessy Yanda) getting approval to apply for DENT in 2025;
3. My attendance at the PNG Emergency Medicine Standard Treatment Guidelines (PNG EM STG) [draft] workshop, and a Hospital Major Incident Medical Management & Support (HIMMS) training in Port Moresby;
4. Purchase of custom-designed scrubs for use by ED MOs and HEOs (figure 2); and
5. Installation of a computer, and wireless phone and Wi-Fi network establishment at ED; and
6. Issuance of ambulances to start the work of pre-hospital ambulance service (figure 3).

We haven't had any trainings/upskilling in 2024, partly because of lack of PHA funding. However, trainings lined up for this year which are captured in our 2025 AIP include:

1. BEC trainer of trainers (TOT) course- by the Australian DFAT through RECSI (Regional Emergency & Critical Care Systems Strengthening Initiative);
2. IITT in-house training; and
3. Primary Trauma Care (PTC) training- by PNG Society for Emergency Medicine (PNGSEM).

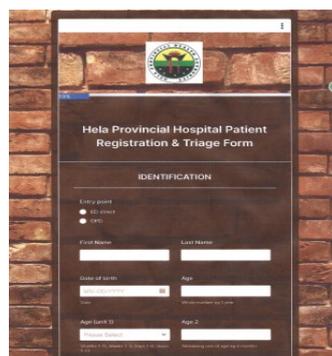
In terms of staffing, we lost a medical officer (a DENT trainee) to Madang PHA early last year but were able to get a replacement. The ED staff manpower consists of 1 EP, 3 medical registrars (MOs), 3 clinical HEOs, 2 specialist nurses, 12 general nurses and 8 CHWs. One of our MO (Dr Rhoda Selan) has decided to take up Pathology training this year at UPNG so we will be short of an MO again.

Our challenges and/or planned activities going into 2025 include:

- Coping with the ongoing burden of pediatric & trauma cases, and overcrowding;
- Shortages of certain equipment and consumables;
- Manpower issues, including urgently getting a replacement MO;
- Maintaining the new cloud-based data entry system through monthly subscriptions;
- Meeting out target KPIs, which also includes submitting timely monthly reports, delivering the three (3) trainings captured in the AIP, and working on ED-specific models of care, SOPs and a mass casualty incident (MCI) plan. We also plan to introduce a patient satisfaction box at ED to gauge views of patients regarding the service we provide at the front line;

Progress work on the pre-hospital ambulance service

- Supervising the UPNG DENT trainee;
- Supervisory visits to the three (3) district hospitals; and
- Attendance at the PNG EM STG 2nd workshop in September 2025.



New data entry system used at

Celebration with ExxonMobil and HGDC Brings Smiles to Tari Hospital staff and patients.

By Hela PHA Newsroom

Tari, January 10, 2025 – Staff and patients at Tari Hospital were all smiles as a team from ExxonMobil and the Hides Gas Development Company (HGDC) made a special visit, bringing gifts and cheer to kick off the new year.

The ExxonMobil team delivered Christmas presents for both hospital staff and patients, while HGDC generously contributed much-needed medical supplies. The visit was part of a New Year celebration aimed at making up for the missed Christmas festivities in 2024, which were postponed due to security concerns.

ExxonMobil is one of Hela PHAs key partners in the development and Health service delivery in the province.

This celebration marks yet another example of their ongoing commitment to the health and well-being of our community.”

The joint visit by ExxonMobil and HGDC brought joy and appreciation to all present, reaffirming the importance of strong partnerships in healthcare development in Hela Province.



HGDC team presenting medical supplies to Hela PHA, received by CEO Dr. Kintwa.



Exxon Mobil team presenting their gifts.



Presents ready to be distributed at Surgical Ward.



Pediatrics ward Nursing Unit Manager and mothers receiving their present with smiles.



Mothers smiling away with their presents at Labour ward



Team with gifts walking towards Accident and Emergency

Special Care and Nursery team posing with their shirts presented by Exxon Mobil team.



CEO, Dr Kintwa and Exxon Mobil representative presenting gifts to mothers at the outpatient.

## Hela PHA Recruitment and Selection



From left: Mr Nakini and Mr Willson

In October 2024, 101 positions were advertised and recruited under the leadership of Acting HR Manager, Mr. Na'man Nikini. Mr. Nikini stated that the previous structure of Hela PHA was district-based; however, transitioning to a Major Specialist Hospital requires a larger workforce. This recruitment drive was aimed at supporting that development.

He acknowledged the support of the Santos Foundation, which provided funding for short-term contract officers, including three Monitoring and Evaluation staff and two ICT staff. Operational funds were also utilized to employ additional short-term contract officers. Mr. Nikini emphasized that the recruitment of the 101 positions has significantly strengthened Hela PHA's operations and helped fill crucial specialist gaps needed for effective service delivery.

In addition, Mr. Wilson Anole, the Hela PHA Recruitment Officer, announced that a second phase of recruitment involving 205 positions is currently underway. He explained that this phase is aligned with the manpower needs required for the new organizational restructure in preparation for the transition to a Major Specialist Referral Hospital.

Mr. Anole highlighted the competitive nature of the selection process. A total of 1,056 applications were received, from which only 205 successful candidates will be selected. Of these, 95% will be chosen from external applicants to bring in new expertise for the restructure. He noted that the pre-selection phase has been completed and the final selection is now pending approval from the Department of Health and the Department of Personnel Management.

Mr. Anole expressed gratitude to Dr. James Kintwa, Chief Executive Officer, and the Senior Executive Management Team for their collaboration with the PNG Government in securing funds to support both the 101 and 205 positions.

## Hela PHA Represents Highlands Region in PNGs first ever eHealth Technical Working Group

Hela Provincial Health Authority is proud to announce that our very own Digital Transformation officer/ICT Manager, Ms Dora Dugube has been nominated as the **Highlands Regional Representative** to Papua New Guinea's **first-ever National eHealth Technical Working Group (eHTWG)**.

The eHTWG is a national body established to provide strategic oversight for the implementation of the National Digital Health Strategy. This milestone marks a significant step forward in shaping the future of healthcare delivery in PNG through digital innovation and inclusive health solutions.

In response to the appointment, MS Dugube stated:

*"I am humbled and honored to be selected for this pioneering role. This is a truly rewarding opportunity to contribute to the digital transformation of our health system. I'm especially grateful to represent the Highlands region, and in particular, Hela Province, as we work together to build a smarter, healthier Papua New Guinea. I also extend my sincere thanks to the National Department of Health for giving the opportunity."*

She expressed her gratitude to the Hela PHA Management, under the leadership of Dr. James Kintwa, along with the Director of Corporate Services, the Senior Executive Management Team and Santos Foundation for their unwavering support, commitment and investment in this emerging field.

This appointment not only reflects national recognition but also highlights the growing leadership role that Hela PHA is playing in advancing digital health and innovation within rural healthcare systems.

Hela Provincial Health Authority (Hela PHA) was one of sixteen (16) PHAs assessed during the **Digital Health Maturity Assessment** conducted nationwide. As part of this important process, Hela PHA contributed to the development of Papua New Guinea's **Digital Health Strategy 2025-2030**, specifically through its facilitation of one of the foundational building blocks — **Human Capacity**.

Following the assessment, Hela PHA now has a defined digital health profile and roadmap to guide its progress. The organization is committed to strengthening its digital health systems and is looking forward to working closely with partners to implement the strategy and improve health outcomes through innovative, technology-driven solutions. Hela PHA congratulates our representative and looks forward to supporting this important national initiative that aligns with our commitment to **equitable, efficient, and technology-driven healthcare**.

Let's continue working together to transform healthcare for all.





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*“Leaving no one behind is everybody’s business.”*

## International Nurses Day Celebration– 12th May 2025

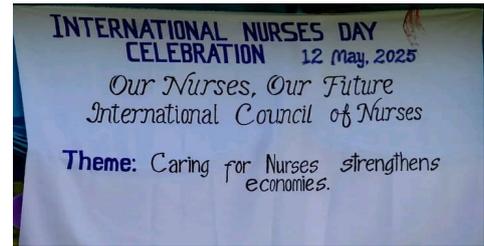
The Hela Provincial Health Authority (Hela PHA) proudly celebrated International Nurses Day 2025 on May 12th, marking a historic moment as it was the first time the organization formally supported this event. This milestone celebration was further made possible with generous support from several local business houses in Hela, showcasing a strong spirit of partnership and community backing for the health workforce.

The global theme set by the International Council of Nurses (ICN) for this year’s celebration was:

**“Our Nurses. Our Future.”**  
 Sub-theme: **“Caring for Nurses Strengthens Health Systems and Economies.”**

These themes resonated deeply with the Hela nursing team, highlighting the critical role nurses play in both the health sector and the broader socio-economic landscape.

One of the most inspiring outcomes of the event was the remarkable unity displayed by nurses from different facilities and backgrounds. Regardless of differences, they came together for one common purpose



— serving humanity. The day was filled with activities that not only celebrated their profession but also strengthened bonds among them.

The event was rich with symbolic and entertaining activities:

- A powerful drama performance showcasing the life of a nurse.
- The solemn Nightingale Pledge reaffirmed the commitment of nurses to ethical and compassionate care.
- The beautiful and moving nursing anthem sung in unison.
- Fun team-building games including chair challenges.
- A colorful and joyous bus parade around town, with nurses proudly dressed in their iconic blue and white uniforms.

Sr. Nancy Kipo, Deputy Director of Nursing (Clinical), shared her heartfelt reflection on the occasion that:

“This event has truly motivated our staff and strengthened the spirit of unity among nurses. Holding lit candles in our hands reminded us of the solemn pledge we have sworn to uphold — from the **Womb to the Tomb**. We are there to welcome humanity into the world, and we are also there to bid them farewell. This occasion reignited our passion and helped us embrace our identity as professional nurses with pride, beautifully dressed in our blue and white uniforms. We look forward to continuing this celebration in the years to come.”

This year’s celebration not only honored the nursing profession but also set a positive precedent for ongoing recognition of frontline health workers in Hela Province.

