

MARCH - APRIL



# The Network



DISABILITY AWARENESS POSTERS AVAILABLE!

## MAKING DISABILITY A NATIONAL ISSUE

Weaving through with...  
Dame Carol Kidu

Hello, we are...

BRAIN TEASERS

MPAC?

Personal Profile



THE NATIONAL  
DISABILITY MAGAZINE



# NDRAC

National Disability Resource & Advocacy Centre

Papua New Guinea

EDITION 21. 2010



**H**ello there Readers! And welcome to the 21st Edition of The Network!

Firstly, let me introduce myself as the new Editor of The Network Magazine. It is certainly a great privilege and challenge in the creation and editing of the 21st issue of the Disability Magazine with new information for all our readers.

We sincerely apologise to all our readers for the delay of the publication of the Network magazine due to the recruitment drive of NDRAC's new Communication Media Officer.

For this new issue we have redesigned the cover and the whole magazine with a much greater outlook. We have also made the Network Magazine to be more fun to read.

For this edition we have made available a page for fun and games with our cartoon character, 'Smiley Drac'. There is also a page for Dame Carol Kidu who joins in the team to advocate more on disability issues. Her page is called, 'Weaving through with Dame Carol Kidu.'

This Edition's theme is "Making Disability a National Issue."

## What is The Network

The Network started in 2004 is a quarterly magazine for all people involved and interested in the disability sector in Papua New Guinea. The aims are to empower, share views, and spread accurate and inspiring information about disability in the country and abroad.

The Network is one of the activities of the National Disability Resource & Advocacy Centre. The magazine is free-of-charge, however we do like to encourage anyone who can to make donation.

The production of this national disability magazine is supported in different ways by,

- > Divine Word University
- > Creative Self-Help Centre
- > Voluntary Service Overseas
- > Callan Services
- > Government of Papua New Guinea

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Through our campaign in advocating for people with disabilities, there is still much work to be done for PNG to really take ownership of the issue with disabilities and address the problems that are affecting them in our local communities, provincial and national level.

Our National Government is yet to make disability a national issue just as HIV/AIDS. Give all Papua New Guineans including People with Disabilities equal opportunities to employment and government services.

I thank you all who have contributed articles towards this edition and would like you to continue sending in your stories.

Cheers..... Robert. Warel. Banasi

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By Marleen Nelisse

## Why the Water and Sanitation sector in PNG should consider Persons with Disabilities?

Did you know that one out of every three people in the world do not have access to good sanitation, and one out of every six people in the world do not have access to clean water? Most of these people live in Africa, the Pacific Islands, and parts of Asia and South America.

The World Bank estimates that 2.6 billion of the world's population does not have access to basic sanitation and hygiene. In rural areas it means people do not have toilet facilities and have to do their needs in the open field, whereas in the cities they may get rid of their human waste into plastic bags and throw them into the street. The result? Disease and sometimes death. But access to sanitation is not only a health issue, it is also a national issue. According to the World Bank a billion of the world's population lack access to a clean source of water. Dirty water makes people sick. And in many developing countries fetching water is a task for women and girls which often is a heavy and time consuming job.

But what do we mean with 'Water and Sanitation (also WATSAN)'? When we talk about clean water, we mean water that is protected from things like animals, leaves, plants and dirt getting into it. For example, water that comes out of a tap or from a well that has a cover on it, is clean water. Water that comes from an open well or directly out of a river, dam or lake is not considered to be clean. Sanitation refers to safely getting rid of human waste. Good sanitation stops the waste from being spread around or getting into the water supply or onto fields. This includes a flush toilet or pit toilet that takes the waste into a sewer that uses pipes or a septic tank. However, going to the toilet in the bush, into a bucket, or if the sewer is open to the air, is not a good way of safely getting rid of waste. Hygiene is also important – this is when we wash our hands after going to the toilet, or do things like using a tissue when we blow our nose, or cleaning our dishes after we eat. A lot of diseases can be spread by poor sanitation and hygiene. Some diseases are also spread by unclean water. When people are sick, for example if they have diarrhoea, having clean water to drink is needed to help make them better.

Data on sanitation and water access for people with disabilities is hard to find. In fact Persons with disabilities have always given little consideration in programme planning or policy making. Access to clean water and adequate sanitation are basic requirements for survival, and fundamental human rights. However, PWDs are often excluded from water and sanitation development activities, resulting in a higher incidence of illness and secondary disability. Based on experience from other developing countries we can only assume that PWDs in PNG are generally excluded from water and sanitation programmes due to the limited technical capacity to plan and implement disability-inclusive water and sanitation activities. Lack of clean water and sanitation facilities are

key factors in keeping people poor, unhealthy and unable to improve their livelihoods. For persons with disabilities the impact is far greater. So what can be done? There is no single answer to that. First of all, the facilities themselves vary widely: a toilet for example, might be a Western-style seat in some countries but a hole in the ground in other countries. Second of all, a person who walks on crutches due to the effects of polio may have different needs than a person who walks without an aid but who cannot bend easily. Both of these individuals may have different needs still from the person who uses a wheelchair due to spinal cord injury, whose needs will also differ from those of another wheelchair user who has cerebral palsy.

The concept of 'Water and Sanitation' (WATSAN) is fairly new to the disability sector and persons with disabilities in PNG. However water and sanitation projects are not new to PNG. International NGO World Vision helps poor communities to improve their access to clean water and to good sanitation in a number of ways. For instance by working with the community, covered wells are built and rainwater tanks installed to improve the quality of water and make it quick and easy to access. Education is given on the importance of good hygiene for helping to stay healthy. Toilets and improved sanitation facilities are built for the safe disposal of human waste.

## **"...PWDs in PNG are generally excluded from water and sanitation programmes..."**

Goroka-based NGO ATprojects works with communities, other NGOs, and the provincial government in the Eastern Highlands Province of Papua New Guinea.

ATprojects builds on locally available skills and materials and encourages the full participation of local people in its projects. This should mean that local needs will be met more effectively and that technological and social changes that follow are more likely to complement evolving local traditions and culture. ATprojects has developed its low cost 'ATloo' to provide safe human waste disposal in rural areas away from any mains sanitation provision. The ATloos are easy to build and maintain, easy to clean, free of smell and nice to look at. Far from making sanitation a taboo subject, the idea is that users develop a sense of pride and ownership of the facility. In addition to hygiene education, local people are taught to operate and maintain the latrines.

Recently ATprojects along with their partners WaterAid (Australia) and Oxfam (NZ) is looking at the possibility of hosting a "Knowledge Sharing Workshop" later this year to start the process of looking at the issues surrounding water and sanitation for persons with disabilities in PNG. NDRAC has been consulted by ATprojects to be part of the set up of the workshop, which is an important step in the right direction in making disability inclusive. This means that persons with disabilities will be considered in future projects regarding WATSAN, because PWDs have the same needs and rights as everyone else, including access to adequate living conditions, sanitation facilities, safe water, education and health services.



### What is MPAC?

The Madang Provincial Aids Committee by the abbreviations is a provincial coordinating body that has a mission to strive together to control the spread of HIV and AIDS and care for people with HIV/AIDS. The Madang Provincial Aids

Committee was first established in the province in 2002.

Since its first establishment MPAC has a vision that is mandated to oversee and coordinate the HIV response in the province. This means that the MPAC is to work with all the Stakeholders; Government Departments, Leaders, NGOs, FBOs, CBOs and communities to ensure that everyone is informed and have as much information as possible on the pandemic. The Madang PAC is tasked to provide logistical support to District HIV and AIDS Committee where they are operating in the districts.

Madang province has six (6) districts, four hundred fifty one (451) wards and an approximate population of 362,805 (2000 National Census Statistics). So questions may arise on how to provide much awareness on the pandemic or much information? The Madang Provincial Aids Committee has Policy and Planning in place to achieve that.

Ms Matricia Mari-Provincial HIV Response Coordinator with MPAC said they have a policy and plans to:

- Develop and implement District HIV and AIDS plans through the District HIV and AIDS Committee.
- Mainstream HIV and AIDS issues and responses into planning, programs and operations.
- Develop and implement a Provincial Government work place HIV and Aids Policy.

However, Madang PAC also faces problems with struggling with financial assistance to support District Aids Committee establishments get running with their activities. There are also no District Coordinators to monitor district activities. Most activities are done where there is an easy access by the road network. "We have not yet reached the total population with all the awareness programs being carried out", Matricia said. Most services are urban based thus people at the rural areas of Madang have given very little information to make the right choices in life. The MPAC is currently working with ten (10) theatre groups in the province to extend awareness to all 451 wards in Madang. Though this be the way we'd like to go, financial impediments is one other thing.

The MPAC is now working very closely with the National Disability Resource and Advocacy Centre (NDRAC) to also



reach out to People with Disabilities to create much information on HIV and Aids so that the information can be accessible to all PWDs in the Province. There is still much work to be done in producing such information which would be available to the visually and hearing impaired persons in audio version, Braille version. The message could also can

not be accurately communicated using sign languages when making awareness drives.

To-date, the International NGOs and some Faith Based Organizations (FBO) have picked up very well and are moving with the response. District AIDS Committees in the six Districts of Madang have been established, however our downfall is eminent because organizations who supposed to work with the Madang Provincial Aids Committee to ensure the District Aids Committees are up and functioning have not fully comprehended what we all suppose to do. Management of funds allocated to each group is also one problem. Organizations are yet to learn to manage funds allocated to them and to provide good acquittals after putting the money to use.



Our Leaders have not shown much interest in the pandemic and have not fully supported the HIV responses. There is one (1) out of every ten (10) Leaders who actually have shown some interest in HIV. If we have this kind of attitude, and if we are still practicing risky behaviors, how can we stop HIV from spreading? HIV and AIDS have much to do with behaviors and attitudes. And this has to start with the leaders in the province. Most leaders live a promiscuous life therefore awareness carried out are considered to be not important. Often times stakeholders are told to educate Leaders first. What message is being driven through such talks? People are not blind, they see what our leaders do and they try to copy such behaviors and attitudes thus making it difficult to the HIV awareness to reach the rural population, if not wider populace in Madang Province.



By Ian N Apeit



A census is the procedure of acquiring and recording information and about the members of a given population systematically. It is a regularly occurring and official count of a particular population.

As we are approaching the national census this year, we are reminded too of what really happens here. In PNG, the national census occurs every ten years. It is for a count of all people and households. It is the most complete source of information about the population that a country can have. PNG's latest census was held in 2000 every effort is made to include everyone. That is why the census is so important. It is the only survey which provides a detailed picture of the entire population, and is unique because it covers everyone at the same time and asks the same core questions everywhere. This makes it easy to compare different parts of the country.

The information the census provides, allows central and local government, health authorities and many other organisations to target their resources more effectively and to plan housing, education, health and transport services for years to come. The national census in PNG is carried out by the Office for National Statistics—a legitimate authority established in 1981 by the Statistical Service Act (Chapter 386) and became the central agency in Papua New Guinea for providing statistical information to meet the needs of the Government for the formulation of policy and planning. Under Section 106 of the 1995 Reformed Organic Law on Provincial and Local Level Government, the NSO was mandated to assist in creating statistical databases at the Provincial and Local Government levels for policy formulation and planning at these levels.

Perplexed by the current trend of change-big major development projects like LNG, mining boom, forestry development projects, and fishery, with the seven pillars of the PNG Vision 2050 as the foundation for development plan from 2010 to 2050, human rights of persons with disabilities bothered me. My conscience rings: how would persons with disabilities benefit from all these development?



Coming June 2010 is a national census period for PNG. Organizations with, for and of persons with disabilities worked hard to push for inclusion of persons with disabilities in the national census. At least census questionnaires for persons with disabilities should be included. Ipul Powaseu, chairlady for PNGADP had been pushing for disability inclusion in the questionnaire through Mr. Israel Sembajwe- NRI Chairperson to the 2010 Census Users Advisory Committee (UAC).

She wrote ... "WHO reports that about 10% of a country's population would be PWD. For PNG this may be above or below and the last census was not able to provide us this information as there is no disaggregated data on disability per se. On this point, I would like to find out whether the government has given consideration in the census survey questions to

determine the number of people with disability. My questions relate mainly to concerns that come 2015 or 2020 we (PNG) may not actually achieve all the MDGs. And if we pretend (say from the national census survey) that we might have reached over 75 % of achievements of the MDGs this might not be a true picture come 2015." Ms Ipul Powaseu further reiterated on measuring disability. "In the several Pacific Island Countries who have undertaken disability

surveys, the prevalence ratios is lower than that measured by the WHO of 10% of any population. Comparing this with Australia and New Zealand the prevalence rate is over 10%, between 15-20 % prevalence rates. The difference is that the census has also measured limitations to participation and limitations to activities by people with disability".

At the board level, chairperson for NBDP- Mr Braun Kapi advocated to NSO for inclusion of disability questionnaire. Mainstream media had provided great support on that.

For NDRAC, constant lobby was made between NSO officer. Further, dialogue between Governor for NCD- Hon Powes Parkop for disability inclusion in the NCD Census Panel Steering Committee was made. There was greater support received, especially at the politician levels. Dame Kidu was no exception in any way.

Ipul said: .. "PWDs in PNG would like to be counted and when we know how many people are living with disability then what?. Measuring number of PWDs in PNG is not enough but rather we need to measure right or count it right" in the national census.

# DISABILITY AWARENESS MATERIALS

Through our recently designed **T-shirts and Posters** with catchy slogans, we wish to raise disability awareness. At National DRAC you will not only find disability awareness materials for persons with disabilities and people who wish to advocate for disability, but for everyone who supports disability rights!

## Promote disability rights by ordering one of these t-shirts!

The T-shirts (selection between collar and round neck) cost **K25.00** (excl. registered postage). Colours available: White shirt/blue and orange print or Black Shirt/white and orange print. Sizes available: **Medium, Large and Extra Large**



**DISABILITY AWARENESS POSTERS AVAILABLE!**

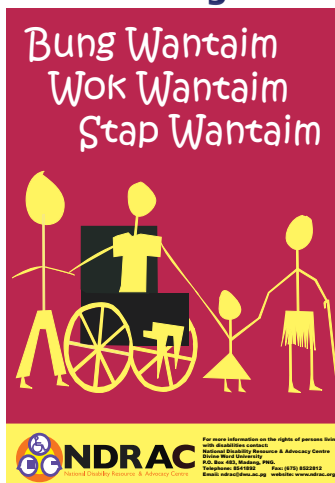
In our campaign to raise awareness for disability rights we have designed **2 posters (A2 size)** with powerful slogans! We want to distribute these posters to the wider communities in PNG; ensuring posters are available at community level, churches, health centres, hospitals, public spaces, schools, government offices and individuals. Currently we have the following posters in stock:

**Price per Poster**

**K 10**

(excl. registered postage)

### Item 1: "Bung Wantaim"



### Item 2: "Mi Ken Wokim"

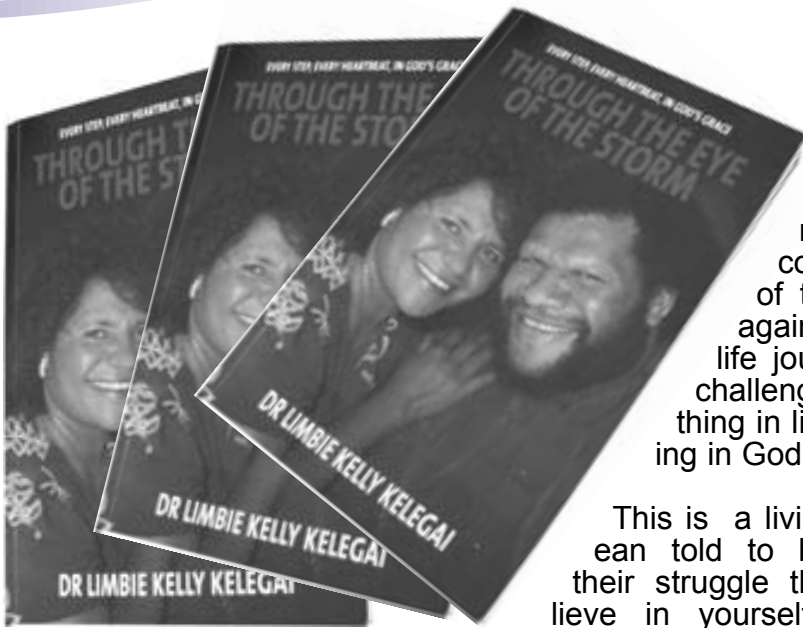


### Item 3: "Wheelchair"



**JOIN US IN OUR ADVOCACY CAMPAIGN AND ORDER A POSTER TODAY!**

# THROUGH THE EYE OF THE STORM



**T**HROUGH THE EYE OF THE STORM is an extra ordinary story of courage, determination, perseverance and living through tragedy with hope. It follows the life of one determined person's amazing struggle to overcome scores of obstacles and, in the midst of the turmoil, finding love. And remarkably, against all odds, achieving his dreams. It is the life journey of one person making light of every challenge and speaking from his heart about everything in life. It is a story of the power of love, believing in God and living in total faith, and never giving up.

This is a living experience of a true Papua New Guinean told to help all People with Disabilities through their struggle through life. As Dr. Kelegai states, "Believe in yourself and Never, Never, Never Give Up."

To have a copy of this extra ordinary lifestory, please contact the National Disability Resource and Advocacy Centre at Divine Word University for more information.

**National Disability Resource & Advocacy Centre**  
P O Box 483  
Divine Word University

Phone: 424-1892 or  
Email: [iapeit@dwu.ac.pg](mailto:iapeit@dwu.ac.pg)



The logo for NDRAC (National Disability Resource & Advocacy Centre) features a stylized orange and blue circular emblem with a white figure inside, followed by the acronym 'NDRAC' in large blue letters and the full name in smaller text below.

*Bung Wantaim, Wok Wantaim, Staf Wantaim!*

*Rauw Wantaim!!*

HAVE A LOOK OUT FOR THIS SECTION IN THE NEXT EDITION FOR A SPIN ROUND THE COUNTRY AND RURAL COMMUNITIES TO SEE WHAT PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES CAN DO TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA!!!



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## A Primary School in EHP Celebrates National Disability Day

By Martin Kawage, EHP.

A Primary School in Lufa, EHP took a commendable lead in organizing a special event to commemorate a National Disability Day which falls on the 29th of March annually. Gotomi Primary School is one of many rural schools in Lufa District and it's the first to admit children with special educational needs. Also joining in the celebrations was a group of staff and students from Mt. Sion Resource and Training Centre for Disabled.

The first speaker was Mr. Martin Kawage, blind and working for Mt. Sion as an Advocacy Officer with the Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) Unit. He thanked the school for taking ownership in organizing such an event and for promoting Inclusive Education. Mr. Kawage also gave a concise articulation on the National Policy on Disability that strongly emphasis on dismantling discrimination and promotes a barrier free inclusive society in all aspects of life. Mr. Marcel Pool, a CBR Regional Coordinator

praised Gotomi Primary School for creating a more welcoming environment for students with special needs and also congratulated the two special students, Eta who has a hearing impairment and doing grade 6, and Wesley who is in a wheelchair and doing grade 3. Mr. Pool made a special mention that if we want to see change in this country we have to be the change ourselves in order for other people to change. The Site Leader Mrs. Betty Lokain thanked Mt.Sion for accepting the invitation particularly the blind students for entertaining the audience with music and songs. She also presented a receipt of K80.00 school fee to Wesley as her personal donation. Special event coordinator Ms. Cathy Steven asked Mt.Sion in closing remarks to work more closely with them to enhance their network.



## NDRAC has the First Steering Committee Meeting

NDRAC has formed its first Steering Committee.

The objective and purpose of the steering committee is to act as over seeing body of the National Disability Resource & Adavocacy Centre. The Steering Committee will hold its meetings every six weeks

The committee consists of two PWD representative, Ms. Elina Seko who works for TNT Air Cargo and Mr. Desmond Beng, Fr. Jan Szweda of the Catholic Church, Dr. Sibona Kopi who is a lecturer in Community Development at Divine Word University, Matricia Mari of Madang Provincial Aids Committee, Mr. Eliud Mayarom, Madang Branch Manager of PNG Waterboard, Mr. Mase Warel, Administrator for Creative Self Help Centre, and Jubilee Dulau of the Community Development Office in Madang.

## NEED for a DISABILITY DESK at NACS



There should be a Disability Desk on the National Aids Council Secretariat. This is according to visually impaired and PWD rights advocate Jerry Hensen.

Mr Hensen who recently attended a HIV and Aids stakeholders meeting in February this year told stakeholders and partners the need to have Disability addressed along side HIV.

“PWDs are at a greater risk of contracting the HIV virus due to their disability, lack of education, poverty and neglect”

He went on further to say; “We as advocates, carers, HIV stakeholders need to realize that our women and children with disabilities are at more risk of being abused, thus contracting the virus is highly eventual”

## Advocating begins at the District Level with Birap Theatre Troupe



The Birap community in the Bogia district of Madang Province were brought a step closer to knowing rights of Persons with Disabilities when NDRAC Project Officer, Ian Apeit visited them recently.

Ian traveled with the Birap Theatre Troupe which put up dramas and awareness campaigns on disability rights issues including inclusive education at the district level.



The sites they visited were Giri Primary School and Bunipas Health Sub-Health Centre.

## Papua New Guinea Fourth Paralympic Games



The fourth PNG games gave all Papua New Guineans an equal opportunity to measure and evaluate the level of equal participation regardless of language, color or disability.

All Papua New Guineans were also given a chance to test their athlete's competitiveness and their will to gauge support from the different levels of Governments, NGOs and the corporate sector under the Inclusive Sports Ability and Paralympics Sports development programs. Each provincial centre had people with disabilities being included in almost all the sporting events.

The PNGs fourth sporting event was held from the 19th to the 28th of November 2009 in Port Moresby.

# PERSONAL PROFILE

By Robert Banasi

Name: Gabriel Paren  
Age: 14 years old  
Current Residence: Magud, Kranget Island  
Home Province: Madang  
Cause of Disability: Childhood operation

**H**ere is one very interesting person that I would like you all to meet. His name is Gabriel Paren and lives just off the coast from the Madang Resort on Kranget island. You'll find this young lad on any typical day at his home in Magud or on a canoe swimming, fishing or in the speedy with his dad transporting passengers to and fro Madang town.

### **Where was Gabriel born?**

Gabriel was born at the Modilon General Hospital through a normal birth.



### **How did Gabriel get his disability?**

Gabriel was born a normal child with a lump that was noticed on his spinal chord two weeks after his birth. A practicing doctor advised his parents for Gabriel to have the lump operated and removed when he accidentally cut the main veins from his spinal chords to his lower limbs/legs that caused him to be paralysed from his hips down to his toes.

### **What are Gabriel's favorite hobbies?**

On any typical day, you find Gabriel swimming in the cool waters of his home in Magud or fishing in his small canoe.

### **What is Gabriel's favorite food?**

He loves fried bananas and fish or just freshly cooked garden vegetables in coconut milk.

### **Does Gabriel go to School?**

Gabriel has gone to school till grade 3 in 2007 but through 2008 had to quit classes since he developed sores on his feet from using crutches to and fro school.

### **How does the community of Kranget treat Gabriel?**

They give Gabriel a very special treatment with lots of love and gifts anytime anyone sees or meets him. He is much appreciated by all the community.

### **What kinds of activities does Gabriel find difficult to do?**

"I love eating but cooking is quite difficult for me to do and also breaking firewood for the kitchen department," he jokingly says.

### **What kinds of activities can Gabriel do well?**

Scrapping coconut since he knows the food will soon be ready and fishing. He is also very good at helping with fixing electronic appliances like radios and mobile phones in the house.

### **How do Gabriel's parents see Gabriel's future?**

They see Gabriel's future to be bright since he takes the initiative to do things and is a very fast learner in catching up with new things.

### **What kind of support would you like to get from other organizations like the Creative Self Help Centre or schools to help Gabriel?**

They would much as possible like Gabriel to read and write well in order to help him learn faster. A provision of a Laptop or Notebook will be a bonus for Gabriel since he is very good with electronic appliance.

### **What would you like to say to the people to help them understand people similar to Gabriel better?**

Disability must not be seen as an obstacle for any parent or guidian to see as a hinderance that may stop them helping him/ her to prosper in life. Look at their abilities more than just looking at their disabilities.

## The Loss of an Inspirational Physiotherapist.

By *Rafael Caballero, Head of the Physiotherapy Department Mount Hagen General Hospital*

Mount Hagen General Hospital has been graced by one very committed and consistent staff, Sr. Lina Waringi. For many years, Sr. Waringi has worked dedicatedly as a nursing officer, until such time she left the Nursing Division and joined the Medical Division as a physiotherapy aide. In 2008, she joined the Divine Word Physiotherapy department as a student where the Mt. Hagen general hospital was able to sponsor her to complete a degree in Physiotherapy.

Just two weeks ago, we were saddened by the news of her passing away due to leukemia.

The whole hospital was shocked by the news and more so the physiotherapy department of Mt. Hagen General Hospital.

It was not too long since Lina joined our team to work on her first clinical placement. It was in mid last year till December. She had shown dedication and good qualities that had struck me in her work. She was smart and very funny at times. Sr. Waringi was very consistent with her work. Problems did arise in the department but that did not hinder us from giving our best to all our patients. Lina was very optimistic and appreciative about everything. She will always be an inspiration to us all.

Completion of her assignments, preparations for case presentations and her studies were done in the office just as any other student. However, there were serious moments when she shared her struggle in DWU. For her age, she found it complicated concentrating with studies and entertained the thought of quitting school and just working as a physiotherapy aide. Lina always had time to have encouragement from fellow workmates.

Lina had a big heart for all needy patients. I am a witness on how she takes care of our sick brethren. She was very hardworking, honest and straight-forward. She gave her all as if time was too limited not to give all her best in every endeavor she was in to.



Most of the hospital staff knew her as very motherly, compassionate and a very generous person.



• DIVINE WORD UNIVERSITY •

Indeed, Lina really marked my life here in PNG and I am sure many people were also touched by her life as classmate, as colleague, as sister or mother or as a very dear friend. Surely, she will be a great loss for us in the department of physiotherapy, and the entire hospital. But I am praying and hoping that there will be more like Lina who will show dedication, handwork, consistency, discipline and compassion to our least brothers and sisters in the health care mission.

We will surely all miss her dearly.

## “She was meant for kindness, love and care for the staffs and students.”

By *Priya Karthi, Lecturer of the Physiotherapy Department, Divine Word University.*

“It is really very disappointing to lose our student Ms. Lina Waringi (who was a nurse from Mount Hagen General Hospital) from Physiotherapy Department. She started her studies in 2008 and was currently in year 3. It is still hurting and not acceptable to know that she left us all.”

“She was meant for kindness, love and care for the staffs and students. She was very sincere, responsible and amendable in all situations. Though she was a senior person among the staff and students in the department she was quite obliging in all her endeavors. I can still think of the places in the university where she used to greet me it’s unbelievable to see her absence in the class. Students used to address her as ‘mama’ that shows how much she has been loved by the fellow students. As a student she coped herself with the young group of students in studying, engaging in activities inside and outside of the university. She maintained her professionalism and the intimacy within the boundaries. We take this opportunity to remind her in our memories and rest her soul in peace.”

## Dame Carol Kidu

By Ipul Powaseu, Chairperson of PNG ADP

**I have been asked by our great Advocate and Minister responsible for Disability, Dame Carol Kidu to write something under her column.**

I thought then to inform you all about what has been happening in terms of the disability movement in the region and where PNG is heading to in terms of the current shift in paradigm.

PNG through its membership with the Pacific Island Forums has been challenged to provide leadership in providing robust enabling environments through enactment of appropriate legislative and regulatory frameworks to empower persons with disability to live a decent quality of life as full participants of society.

People with Disability ourselves also need to come forward and hold hands with the government and stakeholders to determine our way forward as well. The PNG Assembly of Disabled Persons (PNGADP) is the umbrella National Disabled Persons Organisation in PNG. Together with the government, PNGADP is advocating for recognition for persons with disability. It is our inherent rights to also enjoy and benefit from the services that are available for all citizens. PNGADP is working closely with the Department for Community Development to sign and ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability (CRPD).

The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability when signed and ratified will enable the government to make sure that persons with and without disabilities are treated equally. This convention is based on human rights. It means that once the government signs and ratifies the convention, many existing rules, attitudes and even buildings need to be changed to make sure that persons with disability and especially a child with disability can go to school, play and take part in things every child wants to do.

To fight and make our rights become real we Persons with Disability need to take the first step by advocating at the personal, local, and community and district level. It is the right of the child to have an education, for a disabled woman to have access to good maternal health care, and to have her access to quality education.

It is us that need to change attitudes and existing rules by doing a lot of advocating for the CRPD. Let me suggest some ways by which you can start to create change in attitudes and rules.

You can:

- Start a self help group and create some form of campaigns. Remember there is strength in numbers and therefore have your disabled persons organisation registered and affiliated with the PNGADP, the umbrella DPO in PNG. The PNGADP is the voice of persons with disability in PNG and has currently some awareness training and programs underway to advocate for CRPD.
- Start a project within your community that create awareness on CRPD such as building wheelchair ramps to church building, clinics or school.
- Organise social events by bringing children with disability to show case their talents and invite the community to also bring their children without disability to participate as well.
- Go to schools and talk about the importance of including children with disability and invite role models (person with disability) who have overcome the odds to be educated at higher levels.

The year 2010 is an exciting year. It is the year when the Vision 2050 was launched and also expected to sign and ratify the UNCRPD. This year as well is the National Census year and I would like to encourage all Persons with Disability to stand up and be COUNTED.

Let us all be COUNTED as equal CITIZENS of this Country by taking part in the National Census, and also advocating for the UNCRPD to be signed and ratified.

Everyone of us whether abled or disabled have abilities that we can utilise to contribute to the development of this beautiful country PNG. **STAND UP FOR YOUR RIGHTS AND OTHERS WILL STAND BY YOUR SIDE.**

### Joining Hands To Make Disability A National Issue

By Ian N Apeit

**J**oin hands, work together, gather together and be together! Your time and mindset are important. If we could have our individual thinking changed to a certain plane, we could afford to make PNG a better place for all of us.

Every year round in PNG, on the 29th of March, every Person with Disabilities (PWDs) commemorate the National Disability Day.

**"STAND UP FOR  
YOUR RIGHTS  
AND OTHERS WILL  
STAND BY YOUR  
SIDE."**

It is the time PWDs, the organizations working for, with and of persons with disabilities and their care givers join together and commemorate that day. It is a day of empowerment, of awareness, of portrayal of the Abilities of PWDs and of sensitization. It is a day of awareness for non discrimination on the basis of disabilities-a day to say 'NO' to distinction, exclusion, restriction. It is a day to promote recognition, enjoyment or exercise of PWDs, on an equal basis with others, of all human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural or civil.

This year, National Disability Day in Madang was organized by the Madang Disability Group (MDG) and was commemorated on Saturday 27th March. There was a float, speeches by Mr. Dick Bart in the absence of the governor for Madang and Ms. Jenny Kaidang-a visual impaired representing Persons with Disabilities in Madang. A debate was organized between two primary schools on the theme "Children with Disabilities Should Not Go To School". Each school was given a carton of books for participation donated by the Rotary Club of Madang. Other activities included parade of Paralympic athletes with their medals won during PNG Paralympic Games, church choirs and a performance by the famous Kanage group.

The day was a success made possible by MDG, stakeholders and sponsors, including participants, it reflects of the year's theme: 'Joining hands together to advocate for United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.' Given more and collective efforts for mainstreaming disability in PNG we could do more, even for the ratification of UNCRPD and signing of its optional protocols by seeing and embracing disability rights issues as a national issue to achieve that.

What is significant to this convention is it seeks to ensure "people with disabilities enjoy the universal human rights that everyone else does in their respective societies".

The UNCRPD is the first new human rights treaty of the twenty-first century, designed to protect the rights of the world's estimated 650 million PWDs - approximately 650,000 PWDs of PNG. The Convention marks a "paradigm shift" in attitudes and approaches to persons with disabilities. It takes to a new height-the movement from viewing persons with disabilities as "objects" of charity and medical mediocrity to a more social.

Ensuring that people with disabilities enjoy the universal human rights that everyone else does in their respective societies which the UNCRPD promotes, organizations working for, of and with persons with disabilities throughout PNG had commemorated the day in various ways.

Gotomi Primary School Lufa with Mt Sion in EHP, Morobe Special Education Resource Centre in Lae (read more in News & Events section page 8-9) as well every disability organization throughout PNG.

As 34th independence anniversary approaches, may PNG take drastic decisions as a nation to join hands together and advocate for and ratify the UNCRPD and sign its Optional Protocols. This would entail a massive paradigm shift of thinking from exclusion, discrimination to a more inclusive, barrier-free PNG society.

Meanwhile at the national level, the Department for Community Development organised an advocacy dinner on the eve of 29th March in commemoration of the National Disability Day. The dinner was a success, according to Dame Kidu. A special guest speaker was Professor Ron McCallum- the first blind professor in Australia and current Chair of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. He highlighted that a lot of work is required before countries can sign the convention. "Signing the convention is one thing, complying with it is totally different as it is a binding document where member countries are required to provide an initial report followed by subsequent reports every four years," Professor McCallum said.

He also commended PNG for the process it has started towards signing the Convention on the Rights of PWDs.

Further, Dame Kidu also highlighted PNG is now working towards signing the UNCRPD. This has begun with the establishment of National Advisory Committee on Disability. "I am proud to say that Papua New Guinea is working towards signing the Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities, I would like us to make sure that we have all the mechanisms in place before signing the convention because of the reporting requirements of the convention and the United Nations," Dame Kidu said.

The dinner was attended and supported by various stakeholders: Air Niugini and QANTAS, Ombudsman Commission, PNG Red Cross Society, Origin Energy, Institute of Business Studies, Civil Aviation Authority, Department of Prime Minister and NEC, NDoH, Australian High Commission, Digicel PNG, Shady Rest Hotel, Department of Commerce and Industry, AusAID, Office of the High Commission for Human Rights, PNG Power and the media.

There will be something for them with them. Nothing that is done for them will have been done without them. Concerted and collaborative efforts among sectors is required to make disability rights issues a national issue. We merge to exist and exist to co-exist-as one people building one unified nation-state of PNG free from any attitudinal and structural barriers and is rights based.

# Disability Inclusion in HIV/AIDS Programmes in PNG

By Ian N Apeit



**HIV/AIDS and Disability are intersectional emerging issues. AIDS service organizations have not improved access to HIV/AIDS information for Persons with Disabilities. Support services and Disabled People Organizations have not been able to sensitize service providers in AIDS service organizations about ways to interact with PWDs, share best practice methods on the use of technology to support HIV/AIDS prevention and support to PWDs in PNG. Will there be collaboration between HIV/AIDS and Disability sectors in PNG? If so: why and when?**

Over years HIV and AIDS was seen as a medical issue rather than a human rights and development issue. With disability it is no exception. The PNG government has already recognized the importance of preventing the spread of HIV, and is supportive in the national awareness campaigns. Recognizing the rights of persons with disabilities is just starting, and so is our campaign to have disability included in the National HIV and AIDS Strategic Plan 2011-2014 which is been carried out by the National AIDS Council Secretariat.

At the provincial level, there was already collaboration between NDRAC and Madang Provincial AIDS Committee for disability inclusion in HIV/AIDS programmes/activities of the committee in Madang. We hope, as PNG is moving forward with new heights and hopes and direction, persons with disabilities will not be marginalized to the extreme and be victims of HIV/AIDS more than able bodied people. The onus lies between HIV/AIDS and Disability sectors in PNG.

The fact that persons with disabilities are not being considered as an at-risk group in national policies as these, is because it is assumed that people with disabilities are not sexually active, but the reality is that people with disabilities are as active as everyone else. They are also equally affected by the HIV/AIDS pandemic. Unfortunately, awareness campaigns and programs that are designed to fight against the spread of HIV/AIDS often exclude disabled persons. For example, all written information is in ordinary print and little is in Braille for the visually impaired. Likewise, spoken information is not simultaneously translated into sign language for the benefit of the hearing impaired. Because of this situation, persons with disabilities are at the highest risk of getting HIV/AIDS and if infected with HIV/AIDS, they experience the double impact of stigmas related to having a disability and living with HIV/AIDS in the society.

In NDRAC's response to the National AIDS Council Secretariat we stated that there is an urgent need to

respond to, and understand the issue of HIV/AIDS and disability within the entire context of health and primary health care because the implications of any infectious disease presents awful consequences for a person with a disability. They should be provided with intervention strategies and health education programmes using comprehensive and friendly approaches.

In general, persons with disabilities are not reached through HIV/AIDS outreach for a number of reasons. First, there is also an issue with lack of accessible public transport facilities as well as access to health services when not accompanied by a family member. Also, since many people with disabilities do not attend school, campaign information needs to have a strong visual component in the case of limited literacy skills. One of the major challenges in sharing information about HIV/AIDS with persons with disabilities is to know how to communicate with them most effectively.

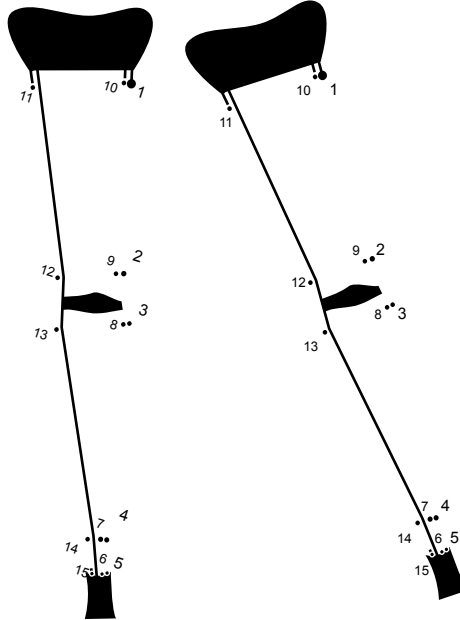
**“...persons with disabilities are not reached through HIV/AIDS outreach...”**

For instance health workers need to be educated on how to treat persons with disabilities who have HIV/AIDS. They should work with the Ministry of Health to identify gaps in HIV/AIDS awareness, prevention, health care and support programmes for people with disabilities. PNG Government together with international organizations and civil society organizations should conduct workshops and training for persons with disabilities on issues related to HIV/AIDS so that they can learn about HIV/AIDS transmission and use this information to protect themselves and their partners. To promote inclusion, people with disabilities should also be invited to join HIV/AIDS trainings and seminars available to all members of the community and such meetings should routinely have material ready in accessible formats, such as Braille, audio cassettes in local languages, written materials in large print and well-elaborated sign language interpreters. Disability advocacy groups should take on this challenge as well, creating awareness among their members.

Inclusive development is about recognizing the needs and rights of persons with disabilities and including them in any development programming. It is evident among all levels of society in PNG that continues to prevent PWDs from being active participants in their own development or deny them of accessing the services they are supposed to receive. Their needs go unmet, forcing them into further poverty, poor health and invisibility. We hope NACS will open the doors to the disability sector for further collaboration because the AIDS crisis can not be fully addressed if disability is continually excluded in any HIV/AIDS interventions in PNG.

## DOT-to-DOT with Smiley Drac!

Join the dots together to create an Image.



A pair of \_\_\_R\_\_\_T\_\_\_ES

## SPOT THE differEncE

Try to spot 4 difference between the two illustrations of "PORO DRAC!".



CHECK ALL ANSWERS TO THE GAMES IN THE NEXT EDITION OF THE NETWORK MAGAZINE, EDITION 22.....

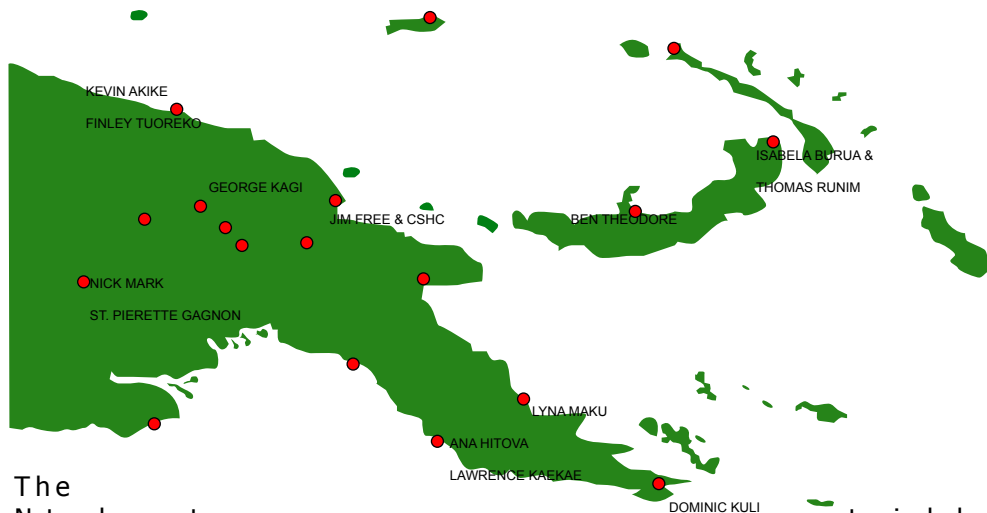
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Via The Network you can advertise your business, services, products or any other information. The Network is widely received; currently we have an estimated readership of over 2000 people and organisations in PNG and abroad....and our recipients list is growing with every issue!

If you have any information to advertise targeting the entire society, use The Network! With your advertisement you will directly support disability advocating activities.

**The flat rate for 1/4 page is K 150.**

Please contact The Network for more information.



The Network wants articles from all over the country and to include from person with disabilities. Local knowledge of what is happening on disability issues is easier to access through people who are living in that area. So we have established a promoters network team who are constantly sending us information. Articles and information presented in this issue is the product of their effort.

We have promoters in Mt. Hagen, Goroka, Lae, Madang, Alotau, Popondetta, Kingua, Port Moresby, Aitape, Wewak, Bougainville and Rabaul. Now we have David Iriap in Markam, Nick Mark at Tabubil, Finley Tuoreke in Wewak, Lawrence Kaekae in Central Province and Warian Wafie in Gulf Province.

The editor is regularly in contact with all promoters and gives guidances if needed. Our promoters are looking for inspiring stories and relevant information and they are encouraging other organisations and persons in their region to submit materials to share with the National Disability Magazine.

Is there no promotor in your area above? Do you want to be The Network promotor in your area? Please contact the editor for more information on the duties and terms of reference.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We thank all who supported and contributed to the 21st edition of The Network. Our special acknowledgement goes to the Divine Word University and the Creative Self Help Centre in Madang for their continuous and much appreciated support.

We also thank all people who sent materials which unfortunately could not be published in this edition.

**THE NEXT EDITION**

The Next Edition will be published in June 2010

The Theme for the next edition is:  
"PWD's and the Working Environment".

Do not forget to send in your news and views for the next Edition.

The Network started in 2004, is a quarterly magazine for all people involved and interested in the disability sector in Papua New Guinea.

The aims are to empower, share views and spread accurate and inspiring information about disability.

This edition has over 2000 recipients and an estimate readership of 3000.

Among the recipients are individuals with and without disabilities, government, media, business houses, donor agencies, church groups, NGO's within PNG as well as overseas in the Pacific, Europe, Asia, America and Africa.

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Individual views expressed are necessarily those of The Network.

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The editor will try to publish all material received but reserves the right of refusal and to edit stories for space and clarity, as appropriate.

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