

NGCB to beef up hospitals

By SALLY TIWARI

THE National Gaming and Control Board, through its community benefit fund, will be spending K6.6 million to purchase essential equipments for hospitals and rural health centers.

Prime Minister Peter O'Neill said yesterday the government was serious about delivering health services to the people.

He said equipment to be purchased included sterilisers, vehicles, oxygen tanks for the Port Moresby General Hospital and the Brachy therapy machine for the cancer unit in Lae.

He hopes that the

roll-out of K200 million which was part of the K350 million allocated for the upgrading and rehabilitation of the major hospitals would boost health services in the country.

He said PNG citizens deserved better health services and it was shocking and embarrassing to see people die every day because of the lack of services.

He said the K6.6 million and the K200 million would be managed by private contractors through AusAID.

This will allow for the efficient delivery of service.

"This is to avoid misappropriation and mismanagement of funds as seen in the previous governments," he said.

O'Neill warned hospital boards and chief executive officers to stop charging or over-charging patients.

"Enough is enough," he said.

"We will not tolerate anyone charging fees and those who do will have to move on."

Health secretary Pascoe Kase said some people were gambling with huge amounts of money and it was only fitting that money was put to good use to benefit the people.

Ministry's plans on target

THE government has delivered almost everything planned by the communication ministry despite difficulties with the geographical terrains.

Minister for Communication and Information Jimmy Miringoro said in Port Moresby yesterday the greatest achievement was the Integrated Information System (IGIS).

IGIS is a system created to network all government agencies and share information through a website and file storage.

Some of the depart-

ments connected by IGIS are treasury, personnel management and rural development.

He said he had tried to implement many ideas and policies developed by the Somare regime which were good but not implemented.

Miringoro said the challenge was to have almost all parts of the country link to some form of communication as part of the Medium Term Development Plan targets.

This includes mobile phones, V-Sat systems

and others.

He said the government was faced with challenges of linking communication system in a country with thousand of tribes and rough geographical terrains.

However as government, they have the responsibility to ensure that remote parts of the country were linked up.

Miringoro said for the country to have effective development, the next government must strengthen the ICT sector.

UNDP funds climate change programme

By CALDRON LAEPA

THE United Nations through its adaptation fund board has approved K14million (US\$6.5million) for its adaptation programme in the country.

A funding agreement signing was done yesterday between the office of climate change and development and the United Nations Development Programme.

The funding will cover four key areas: coastal flooding related risk and hazards, inland flooding, institutional strengthening and awareness rising and knowledge management.

The funding will help people adapt to climate change effects in the country.

Building stone walls to protect the washing away of villages, people and property by rising sea levels are some of the activities.

OCCD acting director Varigini Badira said



UNDP resident representative David McLachlan-Karr (right) explaining the role of UNDP as OCCD acting executive director Varigini Badira looks on.

that the implementation of projects was a mammoth responsibility and would involve all stakeholders.

UNDP resident repre-

sentative David McLachlan-Karr said the Pacific region was identified as one that would be greatly affected.

McLachlan-Karr

called on the government to look seriously into ways of having alternate energy produced to meet the energy demands of the country.

PNG assists NZ with relief funds

THE government has given K2.9 million to New Zealand as relief funding for the Christchurch earthquake.

National Disaster acting director Martin Mose gave the cheque

to acting New Zealand High Commissioner Nathan Glassey in Port Moresby.

New Zealand's second largest city Christchurch was hit by 6.3 magnitude earthquake that killed

181 people and destroyed millions of dollars worth of properties last February.

Mose said NZ had always supported PNG and was the country's second largest donor.

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