



Independent State of Papua New Guinea

## Department for Religion and Community Development

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**Thursday 08<sup>th</sup> December, 2016**

### **PRESS RELEASE**

#### **DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & RELIGION STRENGTHENS PARTNERSHIP WITH NABUA PAKA COMMUNITY.**

“My appeal to the Community Leaders, Provincial Leaders and National Leaders is that, we must protect the rights of our children. Everything we own and do, we owe them to our children. And that is where our priority should be.”

Director for Child & Welfare Services (Lukautim Pikinini Office), Mr Simon Yanis made this statement when addressing Elementary Two and Grade 8 Graduands of Nabua Paka, Early Childhood Learning Centre and Primary School at their graduation ceremony yesterday (Wednesday 07<sup>th</sup> December, 2016).

The Director was emotional when the 2016 Annual School Reports for both schools were presented to him by the respective Head Teachers of the Schools.

He said, he is saddened to learn that both school are having problems with no new infrastructures or logistics for their school for many years now, as a result the children are suffering.

“Unfortunately, the Department for Community Development and Religion cannot be able to assist you in these areas as it falls under the jurisdiction of the Department of Education. But building the capacity of the community and enriching livelihoods is what we do and we can be able to assist you especially in the areas of human and community development,” said Mr Yanis.

He further stressed the importance of educating a child starting from early childhood learning and how it falls under the Lukautim Pikinini Act which is made up three key definitions and that is the System of Child Protection, Parental Responsibility and surveillance mechanism.

The presence of Mr Yanis and his Child and Welfare officers at the graduation ceremony on behalf of the Secretary of the Department for Community Development & Religion, Ms Anna Solomon was greatly appreciated by the Schools and the community of Nabua Paka.

Headmaster of the Primary School, Mr James Aihi told Mr Yanis and his team that their presence is the start of a new partnership which they hope will go a long way in strengthening and building a strong and vibrant community beginning with the Children.

As a token of appreciation for the partnership, the Director donated three new chairs, a table and a cupboard to the Nabua Paka Early Childhood Learning Centre.

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*Approved for Release by:*

*Mr Simon Yanis*

*Director – Office of Child & Welfare Services*

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