



Independent State of Papua New Guinea

Department for Religion and Community Development

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PRESS RELEASE

UNGGAI-BENA LAUNCHES DISABILITY DATA SURVEY PROJECT

Unggai-Bena District in Eastern Highlands Province are on their way to making the Rights Real for Persons Living with Disability (PLWD) following the Launching of Disability Data Survey project on Wednesday 16th, November, 2016 in Goroka.

A total of K100, 000 funding was presented to the district for the project, with K50, 000 from the Department for Community Development & Religion with the other K50, 000 from Member for Unggai-Bena District and Minister for Lands and Physical Planning, Hon. Benny Allen from the DSIP funds.

The District will become the first in the Highlands region to roll out the project and only the second district in the country after Rigo District in Central province, who were the first to launch a similar project in 2015.

Department for Community Development & Religion's, Executive Manager to the Office of the Secretary, Mr Joe Itaki who attended the launching on behalf of the Minister Hon. Delilah Gore, commended Unggai-Bena Districts Development Authority (DDA), it's LLG Leaders, District Committee on Disability with their local member and Minister Hon. Benny Allen for taking on board such initiative to help Persons Living with Disability.

"This is a major milestone achievement for the Unggai-Bena district and its people. It is not the Department's responsibility to tell you what to do. The responsibility is with you to come up with such important projects and we will be more than happy to work together with you to see that the policy is implemented for the betterment for people with disability in our communities.

While Minister Allen thanked the CEO for Unggai-Bena's, District Development Authority and his team for their hard work in gathering data to make this project a reality, he said, PLWD are very special people in our society and we need to love and care for them.

"There are different types of PWD's with specific needs and this survey project will help us especially in the District to identify and cater for their special needs through the data collected."

"These are the people that we as leaders represent in Parliament and these are the people that we should also care for." Minister Allen said.

A Toyota 10seater vehicle funded by the Prime Minister, Hon Peter O'Neill through the National Gaming Control Board (NGCB) was also presented by Minister Allen to the Mt Zion Centre for Blind, received by the Principle for the Centre, Mr Justin Wagame. With Papua New Guinea as a Signatory to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability, The National Policy on Disability was launched by Prime Minister, Hon. Peter O'Neill in May 2015.

While the data survey project is just a step towards implementing the policy with the aim to 'Make Rights Real' for PLWD creating an Inclusive and better community.

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APPROVED FOR RELEASE BY

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SECRETARY
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