



## DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & RELIGION

**SAMBRA HAUS, Kumul Avenue, Waigani, P.O. Box 7354, BOROKO, NCD, PAPUA NEW GUINEA**  
Phone: (675) 301 0252, (675) 301 0247 or (675) 325 5199, Facsimile: (675) 325 4270

### *Office of the Secretary*

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#### **PRESS RELEASE**

#### **FIRST EVER ELDERLY DATA SURVEY CONDUCTED IN CENTRAL PROVINCE**

The Department for Community Development and Religion is focused on taking the lead role in ensuring Elderly persons are cater for and enjoy government services just like others.

The first ever Elderly Awareness and Survey project was conducted by the Department for Community Development Elderly section on 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> of April, 2017 at Sabusa in Hiri District, Central Province with the Theme: ‘Promoting Rights of Elderly Persons in Papua New Guinea’.

The Elderly Awareness and Survey Project is mainly focused on major issues affecting elderly people from the target age of 65years and over. The data or information collected from the elderly survey will lead towards the development of the National Elderly Policy.

Speaking during a low key welcome ceremony before the survey process begun was Deputy Secretary – Community Development Division, Ms Jeane Sliviak, who pointed out that just like women and children, Elderly people do have Rights.

She highlighted that the Universal Declaration states that “all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights” thus, equality does not change with age. She said that what does change is that older people are considered to be less valuable to societies.

Ms Sliviak went on to emphasised that the awareness conducted was to promote Respect and Protect the Rights of elderly or older people who are faced with specific rights because of their age or age discrimination.

The survey conducted in Sabusa ensure they become the first community or model community in the country to rollout this program, thanks to the Sabusa community Magistrate Mr Peter Wara, who was very instrumental in the lead up to this milestone after continuous consultation with the Department through the Elderly section after seeing the needs of the elders in Sabusa community.

Meanwhile, Sabusa community Youth Leader, Mr Steven Aihi on behalf of the youths thanked the Department for conducting this timely exercise that will benefit today’s youth when they reach old age in the future.

The department will rollout similar project for Babaka village in Central province and Pari village just outside of Port Moresby later on this month (May).

**Ends//**

**APPROVED FOR RELEASE BY**

*Ms Anna Solomon*

**SECRETARY**

**Department for Community Development & Religion**