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WEST NEW BRITAIN PROVINCE GENDER BASED VIOLENCE ACTION COMMITTEE (GBVAC) STATEMENT TO;

PERMENANT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE ON GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN EMPOWERMENT GBV/SARV, DONOR PARTNER AND NATIONAL GBV SECRETARIATE ON GBV ACTIVITIES AND DEVELOPMENT UNDERTAKEN IN WNBP.

BY:

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a/PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATOR

WEST NEW BRITAIN PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION

DATE: 24th – 26th May 2023

Hon. Pawes Parkop and Members of the Permanent Parliamentary Committee GEWE

Fellow Leaders and distinguish delegates

It is with great honour for me to provide to the committee and stakeholders an update on work undertaken so far by my administration and government in establishing the basic building blocks in as far as ending GBV is concerned in my province.

The status of GBV work in the province is progressing at a medium phase that is because of the gentle support from Hon. Sasindran Muthuvel Governor of West New Britain Province and Hon. Francis Galia Manake Member of Nakanai District, Hon. Freddie Kumai member for Talasea District and Hon. Joseph Lelang the Opposition Leader

Special thank you to the Governor of West New Britain Province Hon. Sasindran Muthuvel and the three Open Members of the parliament for showing the significant support towards the improvement of the GBV governing system and the establishment and endorsement of the following.

1. The Establishment of the Provincial Gender Based Violence Action Committee (GBVAC)

(Refer attachment of; PEC decision, Committee listings and GBVAC Establishment report)

1. WNB Provincial Gender Based Violence Strategy Plan 2021-2025;

(Refer attachment of; PEC decision, Strategy Plan 2021-2025 copy and the endorsement of the five-year budget.)

1. Establishment of the Multi- Service Safe House at the Nakanai District

Hon. Chairperson

15. Establishment of the Multi- Service Safe House Centre Facility- Hoskins LLG

West New Britain Provincial Government and Administration has given prominence to the work of Gender Based Violence in the province in supporting the plan to establish the Safe House Centre at Hoskins LLG in the Nakanai District. It is purposely to assist Women, Men, Disability and Children who impacted by Gender Based Violence or Domestic Violence and sexual assault can access the facility for counselling, temporary home and providing empowerment activities to the survivors.

In year 2022 under the CIP unspent Recurrent Budget the government allocated K300,000.00 towards the land mobilization, safe house building design, building board design approval and the perimeter clearance and grading at the parcel of land at Hoskins LLG.

The K300,000 is not fully utilized on the Safe House Feasibility Studies thus part of the money was used to host the 20 days Human Rights Events starting from 20th November- 10th December 2022.

The actual construction phases will come late once the Dpt. for Community Development & Religion approved it support in partnership with West New Britain Provincial Government and Administration.

The total value to construct Safe House Centre at around K4.2 million including Safe home facility, Fencing and the conference centre.

The PIP submission on the Construction of the Safe House facility was hand delivered to our good secretary DFCDR in November year 2022.

Again, this year 2023 West New Britain Provincial Government has allocated and released K150,000.00 from the unspent recurrent for the Safe House Perimeter Fencing and construction to be carried out shortly.

RMI contractors have identified to erect the perimeter fencing once payment is release to them this year.

Preliminary Scope of work executed so far

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| Main Task | Scope of Work | Performance | Remarks |
| Land Mobilization | Land Acquisition | Land applications lodged at DLPP with full documentation together with the attachments including Safe House PIP submission, PA recommendation letter, Lands Executive Manager Support letter | Listed for hearing at the National Land Board.  Follow up meeting with the DLPP secretary regarding the land application. |
| Air ticket x 4 officers | Executed |  |
| Accommodation x 4 officers | Executed |  |
| Allowance x 4 officers | Executed |  |
| PIP submission to Dpt. for Community Development and Religion including other donor agency for funding support | Round table meeting with the Dpt. Secretary Mr. Jerry Ubase | Well executed on time that Dpt. also looking into supporting such initiative. |  |
| PIP submission copy was submitted to National Gaming Control Board (NGCB) for funding support. | Submission was hand delivered at the Community Based Funds section of NGCB | Awaiting Response from the NGCB of their funding support. |
| PIP Submission attached with the Land Title documentation |  |  |
| Safe House Building Design. Missi Contractors | -Safe House architectural design  -Bill of Quantity  -Construction Implementation Schedule | Building Design Completed |  |
| Glad Design, Scope  Survey Works | -Building Board Application  - Health Board Application  - Grass Cutting and Brushing | Pending Approval awaiting the Building and Health Board Sitting  Grass Cutting by the youths. |  |
| Extreme Drift  Land Perimeter Clearance and Grading. | - Excavation work  - Dozing and grading | Work well executed.  Parcel of land were cleared ready for the fencing and construction. | Earth Compacting still outstanding.  Contractor promised to complete compaction during dry weather. |

**Hon. Chairman**

My administration and the government have noticed GBV as a development concern and global agenda and we will ensure this agenda is pursued and addressed at all levels to attract support from our external partners private sector organizations and Government of Papua New Guinea to support all the programs and projects relating to GBV in the province.

**Hon. Chairman,**

The scope and the nature of GBV in West New Britain Province is as similar to other provinces. It cuts through every segment of the society. Gender-Based Violence prevalence has no limit; hence, it causes so much of socio-economic disorder among individuals, families and communities in the West New Britain Province. Gender-Based Violence acts are not limited to certain areas, they are quite prevalent in any forms of relationships, whether, boy-girl relationships, marriages, and between friends of same gender. GBV acts occur at all levels including villages, communities and the political level as well.

**Hon. Chairman**

The acts of GBV in West New Britain is triggered by and influenced by multiple factors including external pressure from different cultures and mindsets from other provinces, and the indigenous cultures and traditions from societies within the province. Individuals have either somehow have one or more affiliations either within their indigenous culture & traditional setting or culture & traditions from outside the province. These affiliations eventually contributed directly or indirectly to conflicts within relationships between men and women. The diagram below demonstrates the influences the conflict between the relationship of a man to men, woman to woman or man to woman.

Hon. Chairman

Gender-Based Violence has caused so much detrimental impact on relationships between men and women and has a significant impact on individuals. Causes of GBV may vary from different settings but from the WNB perspective, the causes of GBV include;

* Victims suffer from Physical and Mental effects
* Health consequences are; injuries, untimed or unwanted pregnancies, Sexually Transmitted infections, genital injuries, pregnancy complications, miscarriages
* Physical and Emotional harm to victims and children, i.e.: ongoing anxiety and depression. Emotional distress, eating and sleeping disturbances
* Post traumatic disorder and suicide
* Broken marriages and displaced children
* Death
* Children growing up in a violent home or community tend to see violence as a legitimate means of getting what they want.

Overview of GBV and SARV cases in the province

The incidences of Gender Based Violence and the Sorcery Accusation Related Violence (SARV) are addressed by the strong network of GBV essential service providers in the province including

1. Family Support Centre (FSC) within the PHA,
2. Family Sexual Violence Unit (FSVU) within the Provincial Police Department,
3. Child and Family Services Office within the Community Development Division,
4. West New Britain Province Meri Seif Haus Association,
5. The House with Yellow Ribbon,
6. Patwe Out of Home Care for Children and
7. The District Court of Law.

( Refer attachment of the Data report from each essential service providers/ organization)

**Hon. Chairman**

West New Britain Province is among the few provinces that have developed the GBV strategy plan. Below is the outline of the Strategic Priority Action Areas (SPAA) and the total funding budgeted to effectively implement the Strategic Plan from 2021-2025.

In the strategy, we developed twelve (12) Strategic Priority Action Areas (SPAA). These SPAA are clearly specified by their key activity, output indicator, the responsible agency, and the estimated budget for each SPAA. Furthermore, these SPAAs are then demarcated into each level including the districts and Local Level Governments. These include; Planning, Policy Formulation & Creating Pathways; Stakeholder Engagement; Community & Persons Engagement; Effective Counselling & Advocacy; Capacity Building; Enabling Infrastructure; Research & Development; Coordination & Awareness; and Review/Evaluation.

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| STRATEGIC PRIORITY ACTION AREA | ALIGNMENT TO NATIONAL STRATEGY |
| SPAA.1: Establish the WNBP Gender-Based Violence Action Committee | Outcome.1, Output.1.1, Activity.1.1.1 & 1.1.2 |
| SPAA.2: Planning, Policy Formulation and create enabling Pathways. | Outcome. 1, Output.1.1, Activity.1.1.1 & 1.1.2.**vity.1.1.1 & 1.** |
| SPAA.3: Stakeholder Engagement | Outcome.1, Output.1.2, Activity.1.2.1 |
| SPAA.4: Community and persons Engagement | Outcome.4, Output.4.2, Activity.4.2.2 |
| SPAA.5: Effective Counselling and Advocacy | Outcome.3, Output.3.1, Activity.3.1.1 & 3.1.2 |
| SPAA.6: Capacity Building through Training | Outcome.4, Output.4.2, Activity.4.2.2 |
| SPAA.7: Enabling Infrastructure | Outcome.3, Output.3.1, Activity.3.1.1 & 3.1.2 |
| SPAA.8: Organizational Control & Capacity Building | Outcome.4, Output.4.2, Activity.4.2.2 |
| SPAA.9: Establish a Provincial and District Data Management Systems & Research | Outcome.2, Output.2.1 & 2.1., Activity.2.1.1 & 2.2.1 |
| SPAA.10: Coordination and Awareness/Advocacy at the Districts | Outcome.3, Output.3.1, Activity.3.1.1 & 3.1.2 |
| SPAA.11: LLG Coordination and Mobilization | Outcome.1, Output.1.1, Activity.1.1.1 & 1.1.2 |
| SPAA.12: Ward/Community/Village Mobilization and Engagement | Outcome.3, Output.3.1, Activity.3.1.1 & 3.1.2 |

Hon. Chairman

The West New Britain Provincial GBV Strategic Plan 2021-2022 is to be implemented for 5 years (2021-2022) and has proposed budget of **K7,187,000** which **K6.3 million** is budgeted towards Enabling Infrastructure, that’s for the three (3) proposed family support centres for Talasea and Kandrian/Gloucester Districts and Province as per IPDP reference; and **K200,000** for Research and Development.



**Hon. Chairman**

The Provincial Gender- Based Violence Action Committee (GBVAC) through Community Development Division have conducted the mapping on the information regarding the GBV prevention activities in the province targeting the organizations that were directly addressing GBV issues in their space. The organizations responded are; Hargy Oil Palm Limited (HOPL), Public Health Authority (PHA), Police FSVU, Magisterial Services and the Provincial Office of the Family and Child Services. **(Refer attachment of the partners organisation report)**

**Hon. Chairman**

Below are partners and individuals using their family homes to shelter the GBV victims. These individuals are sacrificing their family time, resources just to spare a life of GBV survivors hence on the other hand they also putting their life at risk for the attack from the defenders. These partners and individuals operating without proper safe house facilities.

Apart from the three safe house operators WNBP Meri Seif Haus Association have improved its Safe House facilities through the small grant facilities that was funded by the UNDP and DFCDR.

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| Number | Organization | Operator | Type of service | Contacts  Phone:  Email: |
| 1 | **Patwe Out of Home Care Centre** | **Florence Kunia** | * **Out of home care placement** * **Shelter for GBV/DV Victims** | **Ph: 73557634**  **Email:** |
| 2. | **The House with Yellow Ribbon** | **Jennifer Aigilo** | **Shelter for GBV/DV Victims** | **Ph:71441233**  **Email:** |
| 3. | **WNB Meri Seif Haus Association** | **Rhonda**  **Fishi’hoi** | **Shelter for GBV victims** | **Ph: 72536062**  **Email:** |

**Hon. Chairman**

Given the situation and the current status West New Britain Province is now in- terms of addressing Gender Based Violence, Following are recommendations that I would like to recommend to the Special Parliamentary Committee on GBV and the National GBV Secretariat for your considerations;

Recommendations

1. West New Britain is similar to other sister provinces that don’t have GBV data Management system. The Provincial Gender Based Violence Action Committee has to have a main data system where it links with all our provincial partners and stakeholders for report submission. The National GBV Secretariat has to seriously consider allocate more funding coming year 2024 to establish 22 x Provincial Data Based system aligning to the National GBV Data Management System.
2. National GBV Secretariat to push for the PIP submission submitted to the good secretary of Department for Community Development & Religion late last year November 2022 to counter- part fund the construction of the WNBP One Stop Shop Safe House.
3. More Capacity Building training should be conducted at the regions and provinces to upskilled the provincial GBV partners on their roles and responsibilities, understanding the importance of the referral pathways SOPs, GBV training and establishment of the provincial data base system.
4. I anticipate next year 2023, National Government will allocate huge funding towards the work of ending GBV prevalence in the country. The county made up of Provinces, Districts, LLGs and its inhabitants. The money should put to a good use in addressing the GBV pandemic in the provinces, districts and LLGs so the citizens can have a safer place to live with violence free society. I urge the National GBV Secretariat should consider giving first preference to provinces that has already developed their GBV Strategy plan when it comes to funding support.

**Hon. Chairman**

I now come to my conclusion and I thank you for the wonderful initiative taken to bring all the twenty-two provinces gathered here today to publicly hear our concerns and issues faced in the work of addressing GBV prevalence in our respective provinces.

WNB Provincial Government cannot address GBV issues in the province alone, but we need support from all stakeholders and partners to address this agenda bring the development of our province forward. The GBV pandemic is a development issue which directly affects our society, the people especially, our mothers and children in the communities. Let us continue with the good work that we started and proceed to save our families, communities and the province as a whole.

On behalf of the people of West New Britain Province, with the highest respect, I kindly ask our heavenly Father for his wisdom and guidance all through the implementation of the GBV programs and activities in the province.

May God bless us all.

Find in the tabula below list of documents as a prove of the work WNBP has done so far in the GBV space. Copy of actual documents are also attached.

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| **ATTACHMENT LIST** | |
| **List** | **Description** |
| Attachment: 1 | PEC decision on the Establishment of WNB Provincial GBVAC |
| Attachment: 2 | GBVAC Establishment Report including Membership List |
| Attachment: 3 | PEC decision on the Approval of the WNBP GBV Strategy Plan 2021-2025 |
| Attachment: 4 | WNBP GBV Strategy Plan 2021-2025 |
| Attachment: 5 | Copy of PHA Mapping Report |
| Attachment: 6 | Copy of Hargy Oil Palm Limited (HOPL) data and mapping report |
| Attachment: 7 | Copy of Police FSVU mapping report |
| Attachment: 8 | Copy of Provincial Family and Child Services office data and mapping report |
| Attachment: 9 | WNB Meri Seif House Association Data |
| Attachment: 10 | GESI data Report |
| Attachment: 11 | Social Worker PHA data report |
| Attachment: 12 |  |