

Facts about Ebola

...Work commences on trial Ebola vaccine production - ABC News

THE World Health Organisation (WHO) convened a meeting last week with high-ranking government officials from affected countries to discuss the production of a possible vaccine.

Trials of vaccines have already started in Britain, the US and Mali, and are beginning in Gabon, Germany, Kenya and Switzerland to determine safety, dosing and effectiveness.

"As we accelerate in a matter of weeks a process that typically takes years, we are ensuring that safety remains the top priority, with production speed and capacity a close second," Marie-Paule Kieny, WHO's Assistant Director-General of Health Systems and Innovation, said.

AS Ebola spreads from West Africa to isolated cases in Europe and the United States, so too do rumours and myths about how the disease is transmitted - many of them perpetuated on social media.

Here are the facts about how Ebola spreads, as outlined by the World Health Organisation (WHO), the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and other official bodies.

YOU CANNOT GET EBOLA THROUGH:

You cannot get Ebola through the air. Ebola is not an airborne disease like influenza or chicken pox, and the WHO has categorically said reports suggesting that Ebola has mutated and become airborne are false.

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Central province Governor Kila Haoda and Water PNG Chairman Peter Sweet at the entrance to officially commission the Bunu water treatment plant.

Water supply now accessible to West Hiri people

By Yakam Kelo

VILLAGES around the LNG project area in Central province will now have access to clean and potable water supply for their everyday needs after a new water supply treatment plant was built and launched on the 3rd of October 2014 at the Bunu village by Water PNG.

Bunu water treatment plant is very important to the people of Bunu, Papa and Lealea, because they will not travel long distance any more to fetch water like in the past as the water supply plant is right on their land to serve them.

Two ponds were constructed to collect water from the foot of Laloki river which otherwise runs openly to the sea is pumped into a small professionally designed treatment plant at Bunu village.

Raw water from the ponds is pumped into two reservoir tanks and channelled to the purification process and chlorination before final stage of delivery through water carts to the villages and

other economic activities within the area.

The water plant was initially operated under Katina Water New Zealand in 2010 and owned and operated by Hebou Construction to cart water to the LNG Plant and impacted village. During the early stages, Hebou Construction ceased operations in early 2011 following the establishment of a new desalination plant at the LNG Plant site.

Chairman of Water PNG Peter Sweet in his official speech said Water PNG took the opportunity to purchase this facility and improvement portion 647 from Hebou Construction in 2013 to pursue stage 1 operations and as a mid and long term development plan to construct a permanent water supply infrastructure to source, treat, store and pipe drinking water to the LNG Plant, impacted villages and new development into state 2 operation.

Mr Sweet said Water PNG inspected the facility in May this year and prompted a management approval to recommission the water plant to continue operation under stage 1.

After the approval, Water PNG undertook and completed several activities which includes; engagement of Karina Water New Zealand to recommission the plant took place and the plant was reactivated on 11 of August 2014 filling the two TW tanks with test result of samples taken acceptable according to World Health Organisations (WHO) standards.

Mr Sweet said Water PNG is mandated by the NWSS&S Act to provide safe drinking water and sanitation services to the people and will continue to support the government's vision to reach out to the vast population in the districts and rural communities by using such technologies where the conventional types are not viable.

He said the package plant is a pilot project by Water PNG as it ventures into technology to assist its operations and expansion programs.

The plant currently has a capacity of 10 kilolitres per hour and can be increased by adding another module which can adopt to supplement town water supplies

during severe drought conditions. The maintenance costs are relatively low and it is fairly simple to operate providing alternative drinking water to the public, said Mr Sweet.

Water PNG in its long term development plan hope to further develop the plant into a 120MGI permanent water treatment plant with piped supply and storage in the next two to three years. This is expected to cater for new infrastructure developments and potential economic growth along the LNG corridor and to support Port Moresby in the long term.

Governor for Central province KilaHaoda was present to witness the commissioning of the water plant and spoke highly of the Water PNG for this important project that will improve and sustain the lives of his West Hiri people.

Mr Haoda officially cut the ribbon to mark the official launching of the water supply and pledged his commitment and support to work closely with Water PNG to develop such water project for his Central people.

Other stories inside...



Empower Youths in the 21st century... P2



Effect of drunkennes destroyed a budding sportsman - P3



Mother of four breaks into solar electricity supply - P4



YOUTH SAY... Empowering youths in the 21st Century

with **Issac Liri**



Stand together to empower youths, the leaders of tomorrow ... In this Vox-pop young people are given the opportunity to share their thoughts and ideas with others.

You never know you might be an inspiration to another...

To participate or give comments about this Vox-pop, do not hesitate to contact Isaac Liri Email: iliri@wantok.com.pg
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Name: Benny Geteng
Age: 28
Origin: Morobe/Eastern Highlands Province
Dream Job: Movie Director
Current Employment: Researcher/Reporter-Resource/PNG-Skul Bilingual Yu (EMTV)
My challenges as a youth of today:

Being a youth in a developing country is a challenge. Having to find a place to fit in the society and contribute meaningfully is something that makes you feel worthwhile and productive.

Seeing yourself pros-

per and be seen as a role model for the younger generation is a big and yet another motivating factor in striving to become the best of your God given abilities and talents.

What youths should do to become good leaders in the future:

Try to do anything small within your society and community like gardening, be an errand for church or even sports etc. At least it will keep you occupied, and that may be a stepping stone in finding a much greater opportunity in life that may come by.

Do not sit back and expect things to happen. You as an individual, you are the creator of your own universe. Live the dreams you have and always have a big fulfillment of your visions to become successful one day.

Motto: Dream big!!!!



Name: Eric Taman
Age: 26
Origin: Autonomous Region of Bougainville
Dream Job: To be a senior reporter
Current Employment: National Broadcasting Corporation
My challenges as a youth of today:

HIGH COST OF LIVING IN THE CITY; Life in the city, especially in Port Moresby is getting

expensive. Everything depends on money. As for me, I have to make sure I follow my budget at all times. It is very challenging considering my needs and wants, and paying for them. For those who are unemployed and in the informal sector, serious problems are encountered that lead to issues that affect the country such as crime.

What youths should do to become good leaders in the future:

I think senior youths must become role models in their communities.

Through this approach with whatever experience they have, they can show good leadership qualities and become an example for other younger youths.

Respecting others is another important value that all youths must take into account. Respect helps youths to have a good attitude in the society which helps them to make better decisions.

For myself I think that law and order issues are the main issues that youths should be working on to eliminate lawlessness.



Name: Barbara Lari
Age: 18
Origin: Gulf
Dream Job: Academic
Current Employment: Student
My challenges as a youth of today:

Peer pressure from friends is something that gets me out of line at times. I try my best to follow the right peer group to become a better person

but it is not easy from time to time because influences come from all different directions. Young men and women who hang around wrong peer groups end up in bad situations that make them regret.

What youths should do to become good leaders in the future:

Young people must always listen to their elders and respect them at all times. Going to church is very important because church activities will shape youths to become better people in their communities.

Say NO to Drugs and Homebrew!



Metal band rising "Flag of War" They believe they will last...

By Isaac Liri

THEY have played with various local heavy metal bands in the past. Playing live during concerts is something these young men all have in common, and they've done it with constant practice, mastering all necessary skills required to express and entertain.

A couple of weeks ago when I invited them to come to the Wantok Niuspepa office at Waigani, they came as group, united they stood, serious about them collectively as a band. They shared with me their ambitions to become successful as a heavy metal band in the country and the Pacific region as well.

In Papua New Guinea most bands usually record an album first before getting together to perform live. However for these guys (Flag of War), they are doing it the other way around. They've performed together as a band already, and now they're heading into the process of recording their songs.

According to front man and lead singer, Hansley Sione, November and December is highlighted on their calendar to hopefully come up with a demo or even a master copy.

It might seem quite easy to record these days thanks to digital technology yet, these group of

young men prefer to record live embracing their real talents.

They've found an ideal recording avenue already which they spent tireless days searching for, and they've got their fingers crossed and heads steady to give every inch of effort to rise and shine.

Whilst talking with the boys I found out that the band was formed this year during the days leading up to the Autonomous Region of Bougainville Day in June. All members saluted founder Cyhras Seavour for his initiative in bringing them together to share and expose what they have to offer.

The eight of them in the group are all talented in whatever musical instrument assigned to them whenever they take the stage or jam in the backyards. This made things easier for Cyhras to bring them all together.

Their interest in the same genre also got them to know each other well enough before coming together as a band.

It's just like in a society, when you have something in common, who come to know each other and eventually become friends.

Finding a name to identify them as band was something they had to do after months of being together and performing. Since most members were born and were kids that



lived through the Bougainville Conflict era, Flag of War sounded suitable as a name summarising them all.

In regard to their name, their lyrics mainly depict war. And to my surprise, I was told that their lyrics also cover various forms of war that are experienced widely in societies.

Currently the boys are spending their time practicing and polishing up their skills getting prepared for more live performances this com-

ing Christmas period.

They've already been exposed on stage and on social media, and their fan base is rising as time goes by.

They're using technology to expose themselves, focusing on some markets in Indonesia and Australia.

Apart from marketing, they also have an objective to educate more people about the genre they play, and promote it as widely as possible.

Band Members:

- Cyhras Seavour- Founder
- Hansley Sione- Lead Vocalist
- Wayne Maito- Rhythm and back up lead guitars
- Edmund Manuka- Bass
- Christopher Veu- Drums
- Richard Walung- Lead Guitars
- Darren Michael Paura- Composer and backup vocals
- Cyril Kobuko- Band Manager

Effect of drunkenness destroyed a budding sportsman

By Frieda Sila Kana

GOGOBE Simi Taunao could have been a memory in the mind of his mother and siblings today if it was not for the Grace of God and the confidence and diligent, attentive response from the brain surgery team of the Port Moresby General Hospital.

Mr Simi, a young man of 20 years is from Hanuabada but lives at Gaverah hamlet of Kila Kila Village in NCD along Taurama Road.

On a fateful Saturday evening July 25th, Gogobe went to have some drinks with his friends and brothers. The evening went into night and by midnight they were totally drunk. Thus in the middle of the night Gogobe with his brother and three of his friends went on to the Taurama Road and stopped an oncoming vehicle heading towards the Taurama Barracks. The vehicle stopped and picked up the drunken young men.

They went about 200 metres and Gogobe's wool cap flew off his head. In that drunken stupor he wanted to jump off the speeding vehicle to redeem his cap but two of his mates held him down. However, as the vehicle approached the sentry post at the Taurama Barracks, it slowed down for routine check.

The two friends who were holding tight on to Gogobe relaxed their grip to adjust themselves into the vehicle but before they realized what happened, their captive had already stood up and jumped from the Toyota Land cruiser open back.

He fell backwards on his head onto the bitumen and hit his head hard which caused a concussion and immediately he went silent. His mates jumped off and picked him up and carried him back about 2 kilometres to his house. Being all drunk they didn't explain the nature of the accident to the mother so they just gave him a cold bath and laid him on his bed.



Recovering at home but with the injury can never do active actions again.

However, this boy slept through the night until the next day afternoon when the mother returned from the Sunday service when she found him in pain and could hardly talk sense. His face was swollen and his eyesight was affected and he was not talking sensibly.

Unfortunately for another night and day he was still left in the house, his family thought he would just recover. The next day on Monday afternoon, he started to vomit blood and had feets and that's when he was rushed to the Port Moresby General Hospital Accidents and Emergency. By the time he reached the hospital he was completely unconscious and they had to resuscitate him with oxygen. And strong men had to keep pumping air into his lungs for the next 15 hours or so. He was not responding to treatment.

A CT-scan was performed and the diagnosis predicted that he will

be in comma or he will not make it. The concussion had caused blood cloth from internal bleeding to block the two sides of the brain because the family had delayed for 48 hours to take him to the hospital.

They couldn't operate on him at that point in time because his heart beat was very weak. At that time his mother confessed into his ears that God will heal him.

Thus sometime later, the doctor came and rushed the mother to sign papers for immediate surgery. Since he was a widow's son, the mother's brother co-signed the consent for surgery and thus the process of surgery began.

The doctors predicted that the operation would be 4 hours but when he was taken in at 1:00 am on Tuesday morning, he was pushed out at 7:00am. It took 6 hours, 2 hours more than what was predicted. The surgeons have to cut open his scalp in order to remove the blood cloth and drain out



Gogobe Simi, a 46kg amateur boxer (blue shirt.)

excess.

The sight after surgery was one of doubt and fear. There were tubes sticking out of his head, into his mouth and nostrils and life support equipment connected and remained for the next 24 hours. When he came around after two days, he was disoriented and couldn't get up as he had IV drip and other tubes still connected to his body.

Faith and prayer were offered by family and friends. The amazing thing about PNG Wantok System is that when you are down, not only your family show love and care but your friends and neighbours as well. With that and the loving care and compassion from the nurses in the Ward 3C surgical ICU, Gogobe was finally let to go home with warnings of precautions by his doctors.

But to his doctor's amazement he went back for review a week later and he was normal. However he cannot do normal activities now because one of his essential bones protecting his brain on the right hand side was mistakenly removed so he now has a very soft scalp, the size of a 50 toea coin. A precaution was for him to wear a helmet whenever he has to go out to public places where there are a lot of peo-

ple, in case someone will bump his head.

Much of his body functions are back except that sadly he will no longer be the 5/8 sports man for the Rabi Raiders of Taurama Defence Force Barracks and the 49kg boxer for the Kondo East Amateur Boxing Club of NCD.

This was Gogobe Simi, who was on demand by the two sports clubs. He was an upcoming promising boxer to represent NCD Amateur Boxing Association in the PNG games and for rugby without him, his club couldn't perform as well as they could. At the time of injury he was a student at Koki Technical College studying to be a mechanic but he can't go back now with this permanent injury. The doctors advised him not to do hard manual labour and no sports.

The Simi family, widow Baeau and her 5 children and three grandchildren are very grateful Brain surgeon from PMGH and the Thai brain specialist, 2 resident doctors and the nurses and trainees including the Pilipino relief nurses are doing a very good job. Gogobe's healing is accorded to the Grace of God and the wonderful work that these dedicated health workers have done.

Mr. Simi goes back to check on November 3rd.

SPC aims to increase energy access in rural Melanesia

About seven million of the Pacific region's ten million people still do not have access to electricity. Rural Melanesia in particular faces the exceptional challenge of achieving universal electricity access in an area where the cost of electricity and petroleum are among the highest in the world, averaging around 20% of total household income.

This year is the beginning of the United Nation's Decade of Sustainable Energy for All. Acknowledging that access to clean and affordable energy is crucial to economic development in the post-2015 agenda, the Secretariat of the Pacific Community's Energy Programme is working on a project titled Melanesia's Million Miracle Programme (M3P).

M3P is aimed at bringing the miracle of electricity to one million people in the Melanesian countries of Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu by 2020.

For Vanuatu, M3P aims to provide electricity to 26,625 households or 159,790 people by 2020. To start with, based on current



Port Resolution women completing survey forms for M3P baseline data.

funding, the project will bring electricity to 200 households (1,200 people) in two rural communities, thereby helping to bridge the gap between the urban and rural areas in terms of access to modern energy services.

A team from SPC's Energy Programme was in Vanuatu in June this year to consult and collect

baseline data from local communities. The team, in partnership with Vanuatu Department of Energy and the NGO Alternative Communities Trade in Vanuatu (ACTIV), identified the two communities that would be beneficiaries of the project, namely, Port Resolution and White Sands.

The SPC team was able to

gather and collate data on access to basic lighting, type of cooking fuel used, and household income and expenditure. Results indicate that the majority of the households in the two communities still rely on traditional fuel such as biomass, candles and kerosene for lighting.

To counter this, the project proposes the use of solar energy, which will reduce the carbon intensity, as well as the reliance and spending on kerosene.

Breaking traditional barriers, the project also sees women playing a key role as agents of change. It proposes the creation of markets and a business environment. Women's groups have been identified and will be trained to manage their own micro businesses, injecting thousands into the economy while improving the quality of life of their families.

The SPC team met with women's groups in the two communities. This project will empower them to effectively manage community-based micro businesses. They will run solar shops that serve

as charging stations for solar lights. The solar shops will be coordinated by the women's council in the two communities,' said Kuini Rabo from SPC's Energy Programme.

In Vanuatu, only 28% of the population has access to electricity. The government estimates that around 26,219 households – 55% of the rural population – use kerosene for lighting.

BizClim, a programme of the African Caribbean Pacific Secretariat funded by the European Union,

will provide approximately EUR 200,000 in the form of technical assistance via a consultancy to the Melanesia's Million Miracle Programme (M3P).

Background information: SPC is an intergovernmental development organisation that supports Pacific Island countries and territories, through its broad scientific and technical expertise, in achieving their development goals. It has 26 member comprising 22 Pacific Island countries and territories and Australia, France, New Zealand and the United States of America.

Mother of four breaks into solar electricity supply

By Joanne Wayang at PNGIMR

A mother of four has begun installing solar street LED lights in Goroka, Eastern Highlands Province.

Mrs. Louisa Saleu who hails from Kilau village in the Salt Nomane Karimui district of Chimbu Province, has broken into actual selling and installation of solar generated electricity including street LED lights.

Mentored by her husband Gerard Saleu, a medical researcher with the PNG Institute of Medical Research based in Goroka, Mrs. Saleu was introduced to solar generated electricity while being temporarily employed by an Australian solar company in 2012.

A resident of Goroka, Mrs Saleu has lived here with her husband and children for over 28 years.

Louisa is always adventurous when it comes to creating her own business.

She started as a shop keeper with the Colyns and Leahy group of companies and later formed her own security company, Ebi Security.

She also tried road-side marketing to assist her husband with their children's school fees but always came into conflict with the Goroka urban authorities.

That was probably the point where she decided to put her foot down and venture into selling and installing of solar lights as a business. The more she thought about



Mrs Louisa Saleu posing while workers are busy installing solar lights in Goroka.

it, the more interesting it sounded.

It was truly a gem of an idea because from that moment on, her ambitions to push for it to become a reality grew. Her perseverance for an opportunity in business was answered by her temporary employment with the Australian solar company which operated out of Lae and Goroka but no longer exists.

While she was employed with this organization, Mrs. Saleu uti-

lized her time to learn as much as possible to trade and install solar generated electricity.

It was a struggle but eventually, Louisa, assisted by her husband applied for and was granted a business licence through the Investment Promotion Authority of PNG in December 2012 and has been selling and installing solar electricity ever since.

Operating as AL – SOLAR Supplies, Mrs. Saleu has a small team

of technicians working around her.

They have successfully made solar installations to several places in and around Goroka including the most recent one at the Mercy sister's convent along the Kama road, Bihute in Goroka.

She aims to fully participate in the Government's initiated rural electrification program to provide solar generated electricity to homes, health centers, schools and churches throughout Papua New

Guinea.

Mrs. Saleu challenges the Government of PNG to support her and other small business owned and managed by women.

"The most important is the Government's advocacy on Public Private Partnership, rural electrification, women in business and the overall reduction of infant and maternal mortality", Louisa said.

Mrs. Saleu strongly believes that the Government initiated SME so far has not worked well and commercial banks are too restrictive to small businesses.

She suggests that the Government should fully support her and countless others like her who have established their businesses from the ground up all on their own, with funds and logistics rather than filling people's minds with empty promises in the media, especially in news papers, radios and television.

Louisa's business is growing in popularity as people are now realising the convenience of having solar lights installed in their homes and buildings.

It is affordable, reliable, and constant and most importantly, it is environmentally friendly.

For residents in Goroka who are interested in rural electrification using solar energy, this is an opportunity right at your door step. Mrs Saleu can be contacted on telephone-532 9812, mobile-71652069.

Facts about Ebola - ...Work commences on trial Ebola vaccine

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"Airborne spread among humans implies inhalation of an infectious dose of virus from a suspended cloud of small dried droplets," it says.

"This mode of transmission has not been observed during extensive studies of the Ebola virus over several decades."

You cannot get Ebola through water

Ebola does not contaminate water supplies like cholera or dysentery do.

You cannot get Ebola from someone who is not already sick

The virus only appears in people's bodily fluids after they already have symptoms, so a carrier can't unknowingly spread it before they feel sick.

"The time from exposure to when signs or symptoms of the disease appear - the incubation period - is two to 21 days but the average time is eight to 10 days," the CDC says.

"Signs of Ebola include fever - higher than 38.6 degrees Celsius - and symptoms like severe headache, muscle pain, vomiting, diarrhea, stomach pain, or unexplained bleeding or bruising."

You cannot get Ebola from mosquitoes

It isn't carried by insects the way dengue fever or Ross River fever are.

"There is no evidence that mosquitoes or other insects can transmit Ebola virus," the CDC says. "Only mammals - for example, humans, bats, monkeys and apes - have shown the ability to spread and become infected with Ebola virus."

You cannot get Ebola from properly cooked food

Although Ebola has spread through the hunting, butchering and preparation of bush meat in Africa, it can't be transmitted through properly cooked food.

"If food products are properly prepared and cooked, humans cannot become infected by consuming them: the Ebola virus is inactivated through cooking," the WHO advises.

HOW YOU CAN GET EBOLA

You can get Ebola from direct contact with the bodily fluids of an infectious person

This is the main method of transmission.

You can get Ebola if the blood, saliva, sweat, vomit, urine, semen or other bodily fluids of a sick person comes into direct contact with your broken skin or mucous membranes such as the mouth, nose, eyes or vagina.

Therefore, activities such as kissing, sharing food or having sex with an infectious person all provide potential for transmission. Needles

are also a risk factor.

With Ebola, the most infectious bodily fluids are blood, faeces and vomit.

"The viral load in these fluids is enormous," notes Dominic Dwyer, the director of the Centre for Infectious Diseases in Sydney.

This means that healthcare workers who are treating Ebola patients, and the family and friends of infected people, are at the highest risk of getting sick.

If a person recovers from Ebola - the fatality rate in the current outbreak is about 70 per cent - sexual contact can remain risky.

"Men who have recovered from the disease can still transmit the virus through their semen for up to seven weeks after recovery from illness," the WHO says.

You can get Ebola from touching an infected surface

The Ebola virus can survive outside the body, so coming into direct contact with infected bodily fluids on surfaces such as bedding, clothing or furniture and then touching your eyes or mouth can spread the disease.

"Ebola is killed with hospital-grade disinfectants, such as household bleach," the CDC says.

"Ebola on dried on surfaces such as doorknobs and countertops can survive for several hours, however [the] virus in body fluids such as

blood can survive up to several days at room temperature."

The virus can also survive on the skin of an infected person for several days, even after their death. The UK's National Health Service says this has meant traditional African burial rituals have played a part in Ebola's spread.

"The Ebola virus can survive for several days outside the body, including on the skin of an infected person, and it's common practice for mourners to touch the body of the deceased," the NHS says. "They only then need to touch their mouth to become infected."

You can (theoretically) get Ebola if an infectious person sneezes on you

"Common sense and observation tell us that spread of the virus via coughing or sneezing is rare, if it happens at all," the WHO says.

"Theoretically, wet and bigger droplets from a heavily infected individual, who has respiratory symptoms caused by other conditions or who vomits violently, could transmit the virus - over a short distance - to another nearby person.

"This could happen when virus-laden heavy droplets are directly propelled, by coughing or sneezing (which does not mean airborne transmission) onto the mucus membranes or skin with cuts or

abrasions of another person.

"WHO is not aware of any studies that actually document this mode of transmission. On the contrary, good quality studies from previous Ebola outbreaks show that all cases were infected by direct close contact with symptomatic patients."

YOU CAN GET EBOLA FROM INFECTED WILD ANIMALS

In Africa, Ebola has spread to humans who eat infected wild animals without properly cooking them, or who otherwise come into contact with the bodily fluids of infected wild animals.

"It is thought that fruit bats of the Pteropodidae family are natural Ebola virus hosts," the WHO says.

"Ebola is introduced into the human population through close contact with the blood, secretions, organs or other bodily fluids of infected animals such as chimpanzees, gorillas, fruit bats, monkeys, forest antelope and porcupines found ill or dead or in the rainforest."

Also: viruses don't typically just 'go airborne'

Speculation that Ebola virus disease might mutate into a form that could easily spread among humans through the air is just that: speculation, unsubstantiated by any evidence.