



CIMC

National Development Forum
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**ROLES OF CHURCHES IN THE DELIVERY OF HEALTH
SERVICES**

PRESENTED BY W. KINTAK ON BEHALF OF CHURCHES
MEDICAL COUNCIL

Presentation Outline



- Brief Back ground – Churches
- Where Church Health Services are now
- State/Church Partnership Arrangements
- Roles of Churches
- Way Forward/Recommendation

Brief Back Ground



- Churches arrived prior to the arrival and formation of the colonial era
- Churches have always been for the people and with the people
- High level of TRUST developed between the people and the Church
- Churches are here to stay

Where is CHS



- Today Churches provide for up to 50% of total health services
- 80% in rural –that's where our population is
- 100% of Community health Worker Training schools – the back bone of the health sector work force
- 70% of General Nurse Training Schools – the 2nd in line from CHW

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- 526 Health Facilities supported by government grants
- 261 Health Facilities not supported through government grants
- 2921 Cadres of health professionals supported by government grants
- 432 Cadres of health professionals not supported through government grants
- 17 mission hospitals are not classified as hospital but as health centre.

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- Churches are a major partner in the delivery of health services for the people of this country, the same will be true for education
- Health and education are basic fundamental social services for any country and the churches have taken that on seriously
- Where the government cannot be, the churches are there

State/Church Partnership



- Agreement signed in 2008
- It was formal, today many churches are utilizing this avenue
- The MDG and MTDS as agreed by government is also a responsibility of the churches as
- The vision 2050 we believe by addressing the MDG and MTDS will eventually lead to a healthier, happier society for all citizens of PNG

The roles of Churches



Apart from presenting the gospel of Jesus Christ: the churches can do the following:

- Advocate on behalf of the government on matters of great importance that will affect the livelihood of the people
- Implement key government planned program priorities and policy directives [health and education]
- Provide feedback where necessary to responsible government authorities for decision making
- Maintain a harmonious environment where communities can live and work

Current Challenges for Health Services



The problems are systemic and need systemic changes.

- HR management Issues Accountability & Work Ethics -Health Sector
- Finance (Salary/operational discrepancies), facility funding –no equating to functions. CHS – 261 facilities not funded – bulk from rural areas.
 - ✓ Operational – Gov: grants – 20-25%
 - ✓ Salary – NO – Gov: – 8.1 – CHS – 7.2
 - ✓ Allowances – Gov – much higher then CHS
 - ✓ Training institutions –salary issues, capacity & infrastructure concerns
- Population increasing at 2.7 or more %, we have aging work force. Nursing ,Medical Training Institutions not producing enough to cater this imminent crisis. Institutions are struggling to keep their operations forward due to; discrepancies – salaries and operational grants, infrastructures and its capacity is on the decline.
- Health facilities standards needs to be applied. - 17 CHS hospital
- Lack support from all relevant agencies (Edu; Law & order, Works)
- Need more staff to meet the demands – (aging workforce, population increase, Imminent Health issues-HIV
- Corruption is impediment to quality life

Way Forward/Recommendation - Improve Quality Health Service



1. The policy frameworks that guides the state/church partnership needs to be widely circulated for maximum utilization
2. Christian Health Services is the legal entity that oversees all church health activities, therefore NPD and the Government needs to recognize this legal entity
3. Due consideration be given to all unfunded positions and facilities within church health services that is also their numerations be compatible with government workers

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- 4. Real change would need to address complete development in many areas. These would include: cultural changes in attitudes making it more desirable for citizens to have quality care and increased availability medical care, especially in rural areas,**
- 5. Accountability in the health care system so that every health facility has health professionals available at all times. – (PHA is a way forward).**
- 6. Better training of rural staff to recognize problems early, better road and communication systems for easy and faster referrals,**
- 7. Building more health facilities in rural areas, emphasis on training doctors for Rural and Remote medicine. CHP in the NPH is a way forward.**
- 8. The government should treat the Christian Health Services as equal partners for salaries and operational budgets (half the health care in PNG is done by the churches).**
- 9. Increasing nursing school programs upgrade its capacity and medical school numbers**
- 10. Increase CMC staff ceiling- struggling to meet demands with current situation**
- 11. Reclassify 17 CMC hospital to higher level and fund the accordingly.**

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A CALL to Serve is CHS's Mission

