

CHESHIRE LAUNCHES ITS STRATEGIC PLAN 2016-2020 AND CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

This was another great year for Cheshire especially the month of September. Cheshire disAbility Services launched its Strategic Plan 2016-2020, the second phase. It was remarkable as the launch was celebrated on the 08th together with two international events, the International Charity Day and the World Physiotherapy Day which fall on the same week but respectively on the 05th and the 08th. Cheshire Board Chairman Mr. Michael Van Dorssen officiated the launch, witnessed by various partners in development, beneficiaries, parents, care givers and persons with disabilities. Following was what Mr. Van Dorssen highlighted in his officiation speech:

"We celebrate these events together to appreciate and to remind us of the enormous contribution of the activities associated with the organisation's own identity as a charity and its core business which revolves around Education, Health and Rehabilitation services for people with and without disabilities. "Today would not be complete without the value addition of having it used to officially launch our already running Strategic Plan for 2016-2020, and the Child Protection Policy which are important steps towards Cheshire's full compliance with the relevant due diligence requirements and practices for proper corporate governance," he said.

"At this stage I would like to specially thank MOORE Printing for sponsoring the printing of the 200 copies of Cheshire's Strategic Plan. I would also like to acknowledge the contribution of CPL with sausages and bread and finally Italian Gelato for the ice creams which have complemented the refreshment needs for marking this day. I am happy to acknowledge the role of parents who have brought in assorted plates of food for communal sharing, demonstrating the true spirit of Melanesian society," said Mr. Van Dorssen.

"For those who were not able to make it, I pass my word of gratefulness to them. In acknowledging the event sponsors' contribution, we are glad to have prepared certificates of appreciation which we will present to you at the end of my remarks. I would like to mention a few areas which are captured in the plan which some of you contributed in its development.

1. The plan is aligned to the PNG Government Development plans and policies, The UN SDG, therefore, contributes to



Cheshire Board & Management, Program and Development Partners and friends sharing a moment in this group photo with the copies of the Strategic Plan and Child Protection Policy .

the delivery of Government development priorities which promote service delivery for PWDs towards their social inclusion.

2. The implementation of the Strategic Plan (SP) is already underway and the Child protection policy, service redevelopment and improvement plans alongside other policy documents which are in their draft forms, are just some examples of the products of the new Strategic Plan.

3. The current SP traces the history of Cheshire from what the baseline situation was with regards to service delivery prior to such plans being developed. It describes what Cheshire has come to be amid a myriad of challenges after development of the first ever Strategic Plan 2010-2015, including the achievements met. All these due to your partnership.

4. The SP further maps out what Cheshire would like to achieve with your support and partnership in the next five years while taking into consideration, strategies to evade or address the challenges experienced before. "To our valued partners, State and Non State actors who are from the UN family, corporate sector, government, civil society organisations, church-based and individuals, without your support, Cheshire could not have reach this far. The impact created in the lives of our service beneficiaries by your contributions would not be this visible. It is my humble appeal to you all, to study the Strategic Plan and identify the core areas which would be worth your funding, material or technical support so we can all be proud of making real, the rights to social inclusion for PWDs and other special needs.

Of particular interest to Cheshire requiring your support as highlighted in the plan include support by Partners to:

1. Improve our infrastructure and service delivery for Inclusive Education and Early Childhood Care Education for children and youth with and without disabilities in resource, mainstream and TVET settings.
2. Support by partners to create/offer livelihoods opportunities and trainings for the youth, care givers and parents through formal employments, business entrepreneurship support through income generating activities , trainings and scholarships,
3. Support by partners to advance the realization and upholding of the rights of PWDs through guaranteed accessibility to information and physical environment, respect for the rights of PWDs and inclusion of PWDs in mainstream development.
4. Support by partners to ensure Cheshire fully complies with due diligence practices through technical trainings, knowledge sharing and mentoring.

To our service beneficiaries, I applaud you for taking the ownership in your own rehabilitation process to have achieved so much that we have witnessed in the past and today. I urge you to be part of your own development process as you work together with the service providers to achieve your own dreams.

To our Government, whose development priorities this plan is meant to contribute towards, I appeal for your consideration with resource inputs to support the work of Cheshire to help liberate PWDs from the barriers that prevent them from realizing their full potentials and minimize their contribution to nation building-As they say, 'nothing about us without us'.

Finally, to my Cheshire staff who continue to achieve so much against not so adequate resources, I urge you to continue serving our beloved people with disabilities as you strive to mobilize more resources through extensive networking and partnership building.

I must also take the opportunity to thank my fellow volunteer board members who have always sacrificed their time and in many cases, personal resources to support the work of Cheshire in respect of PWDs despite their pressing commitments from the work they do.

I extend a call from those who would be willing to be part of this noble support to come forward and join the team. May you all join the world in celebrating this day as we appreciate the important roles played by our Physiotherapists and charities to the lives of the marginalized and underprivileged communities in the world," Mr. Van Dorssen concluded.

Other board members, partners and service users who witnessed were also given the opportunity to share testimonies such as Chairman of the PNG National Board for Disabled Persons Mr. Ben Theodore, Founder of WeCare Fr. John Glyn, including representatives from donor partners Unicef PNG, Digicel (PNG) Foundation, Steamships Trading Company, DFAT, and Australia Awards PNG, also attended to witness the occasion. From the Physiotherapy program, client Mr. Kelly Malara, gave his testimony about his recovering from rehabilitation to now walking and back into employment.

Parent Leo La'a also spoke about her daughter Jade's journey from rehabilitation to Inclusive Early Childhood Care and Education. And a caregiver from the Morata community spoke highly of her experience working with the Community Based Rehabilitation team. A point she raised was that we should not see persons with disabilities as being 'disABLE' rather see them as being 'ABLE'. Their stories speak volume of their commitment, and perseverance to attending physiotherapy and rehabilitation sessions, without that, they will not have made it to where they are now.

THE STRATEGIC PLAN, CHILD PROTECTION POLICY LAUNCH & INTL' CHARITY AND WORLD PHYSIOTHERAPY DAY SEPTEMBER 08TH, 2017 , THE PICTORIAL

Our Partners, Beneficiaries, Parents and friends who attended or who had their representatives present to witness the occasion, we are forever grateful. Some as featured below spoke very highly of Cheshire's work, and appreciating the partnership.



L-R: Ben Theodore chair NBDP, Shiva Bhusal of Unicef PNG, Fr. John Glynn of WeCare Foundation, Emi Aiga of Digicel (PNG) Foundation, Kelly Malara (beneficiary-success story), Leo La'a and wife-parents of beneficiary and success story-Jade La'a, Ladies from Steamships, Rep from Kumul Consolidated Holdings embracing the students' welcome, and Jane Nohou from DFAT all in attendance, acknowledging and enduring partnership with Cheshire and service beneficiaries.



Two students from the IECCE class, left- Jade La'a and Gibson Waffinduo presenting the Strategic Plan book to Cheshire Board Chairman Mr. Michael Van Dorsen- (middle* in purple shirt).



Left/Middle: students and teachers putting on song and dance items. Right: Youths of Morata putting on a drama play. The drama depicts the story of a PWD with a positive mindset versus the negative approach from people in the community they live in.



We thank our sponsors once again!
Left: PNG Power Ltd for lending the big tent for our use.
Right: Italian Gelato for donating and serving ice cream.



THANK YOU
GELATO
PNG!!



We were honored to have our partner school Sacred Heart Primary School joining us on the day.
Second row from right.



OBSERVING NATIONAL EVENTS TO PROMOTE SOCIAL PARTICIPATION & INCLUSION

In the following week, the Inclusive Education program took the lead in organising the pre-independence celebration. This is one of the events that teachers and students nation wide take pride in showcasing their different traditional costumes and different traditional dishes. Program Coordinator and team leader for the day's event Suemylee Uriah said the event was an opportunity to build parent, guardian, care giver network; Student meeting other Parents/Guardians/Care Givers from different Regions; and Building Parent-Teacher/Staff Relationship. "Besides, it creates Inclusive Social Participation amongst students, residents, staff, and parents by showcasing the different types of Traditional Costumes so that students, residents, staff appreciate and value individual origins as well as appreciate and acknowledge the Heroes who have dedicated their lives for PNG Independence. It was also an opportunity for the students and residents who do not know their individual origins to identify diverse costumes and traditional food items as well as actively participating in traditional costume parade, singing groups, and cultural dances," Ms Uriah said.

"The unity experienced in the time of the Inclusive Social Participation showed team work and togetherness. Such events relieves cognitive overload and refreshes the spirit of unity. It also shows appreciation of the job well done by the team, which motives and raises the self-esteem of each of the members of the team as their work is recognized and valued by the Management. Everyone shared a joke and laughed while enjoying their favorite music," she added.



Top: Flag raising! Below: March pass.



More photos of the Day! Traditional costume parade, dances, parent's participation.

Under the program called the Respite Care and Protection we have about 19 residents whom are cared for 24 hours, 7 days. Only a few have their parents or loved ones come by to visit, while the rest we don't have contacts of their parents or relatives. Cheshire has been their home since.

The event also creates the opportunity for the 19 residents to be part of the celebration and to feel they belong to a group of people with these unique cultures and traditions.

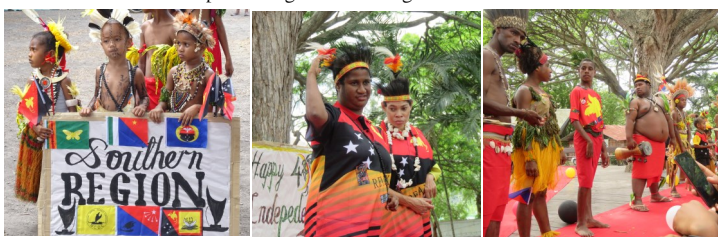
The program Supervisor Emmanuella Inahembi said the residents were happy to be part of the celebration which started with raising of the PNG Flag, reciting the Pledge, and the March Pass. Later in the program they joined in the Traditional Costume Parade, Traditional Dances. The residents experienced how it is like to be part of a big family, celebrating with school children, parents of school children, teachers, staff and management of Cheshire," Emmanuella said.

"Our residents Soma and Felician showcased their talents on the stage with confident in front of a big crowd on the day. To finish of the day, everybody ate and drank, they shared the traditional food that was prepared. Finally, on behalf of the residents/Carers we would like to thank you as we look forward for more of such event to strengthen the bond and spirit of unity amongst the residents and the team," she concluded.

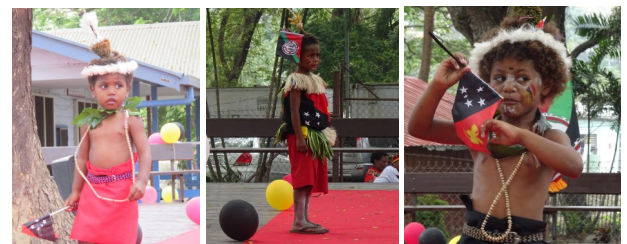


Residents:
L-R: Felician and
Daisy

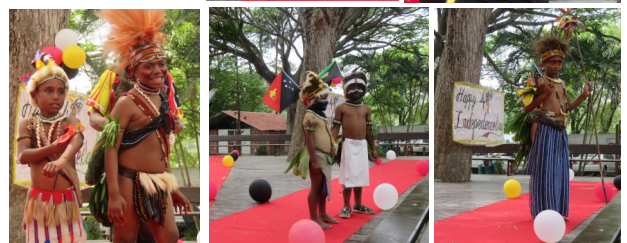
Representing Southern region



Representing Islands region



Representing Momase region



Representing Highlands region

Parents Involvement and Support

