



Cheshire disAbility Services
Papua New Guinea

26 August 2017

Cheshire disAbility Services

SPECIAL FEATURE

TUBU OPENING OF THE NEW
DIGICEL (PNG) FOUNDATION
FUNDED CLASSROOM



TUBU SCHOOL OPENS ITS NEW DOUBLE ACCESSIBLE CLASSROOM



Showing a few photographs captured....



Tubu Elementary School students waiting impatiently for ceremony to begin.



The new accessible classroom-picture showing the ramp.



Digicel (PNG) Foundation Board Member Jayleen Morris, CEO Beatrice Mahuru, Central Governor Robert Agarobe and Justice Kassman.



Top: Students from the Tubu school join hands in to cutting the cake.
Bottom: the locals in their traditional face paintings.



"For over 25 years, Tubu village, along the Hiritano highway has had no physical school infrastructure," says Founder Justice Stephen Kassman.

"Many children who are now 25 years old and who did not have the opportunity to access education elsewhere, missed out on education, and therefore, not likely to be in a position to make a meaningful living and contribute to PNG's development.

"Firstly, With the help of Cheshire disAbility Services (CdS), the community developed a strategic plan that calls for increased government contribution, and the community's participation to bring such services to the people.

"The plan, aligned to PNG Government Development Strategic Plans, and emphasising on what the community's most felt needs are, provides for the need and required interventions for greater access to Inclusive Education, Health and Rehabilitation, Clean Water and Sanitation, improved Law and Order, Food Security and Livelihoods.

"Second is the opening of a new low-cost Double Classroom for elementary and primary levels which have been put up by the community members themselves, with support from volunteers, friends and partners. "A respected community member, who never went through formal education was touched by the aggravating situation.

"John Alua Dea, offered his land at no cost, signing his land use agreement on 16th of September 2013, to put up a school infrastructure which has seen



"John Alua Dea, (left) offered his land at no cost, signing his land use agreement on 16th September 2013 to put up a school infrastructure which has seen the two low-cost double classrooms done by the community members," says Founder Stephen Kassman.



Digicel Foundation (DF) Board Member Jayleen Morris cutting the ribbon to open the new classroom as DF CEO Beatrice Mahuru, Central Province Governor Robert Agarobe and Justice Kassman look on.

the two low-cost double classrooms done by the community members."

An active community member, Margaret Kassman also shared her experience. She said that there was no school for over 20 years. "Until 2014, when we mobilised our community and started this project, there was no school" she said. "My village Tubu has missed out on two decades of potential students who would have by now had the capacity to lead, develop, and add to further growth in the community," she said. "Our people have missed out on their right to education and have solely

maintained their own gardening and hunting and sale of produce to buy the basic essentials. This situation has affected progress to the community and to some extent left them disadvantaged in not knowing the difference and not confident to challenge areas of concern that affect the community."

On the 26th of August 2017, the community, together with Cheshire and other development partners joined hands in opening a new low-cost double classroom for elementary and primary students, funded by Digicel (PNG) Foundation and built by villagers, volunteers and friends.

Digicel (PNG) Foundation Chief Executive Officer Beatrice Mahuru and her team officiated the opening of the classroom. She appealed to the parents to encourage their children to go to school.

"As parents we should always support and encourage our children to go to school. And as children you must always make it your priority to get enough knowledge from your teachers," she said. "We hope that this classroom will go a long way in helping our children. We also ask that you look after this facility so we can come back later in future to build another one," she concluded. Cheshire General Manager Benard Ayieko thanked the Tubu Community, Development partners and Cheshire staff for their hard work in achieving another great milestone.

PICTORIAL OF THE MEET AND GREET



Central Governor Hon. Robert Agarobe making entrance.



The newly opened Tubu classroom.



Cheshire staff on arrival.



John Alua Dea (left) with Governor Agarobe, Peter Isoaimo and Beatrice Mahuru.



Cheshire General Manager Benard And Digicel (PNG) Foundation CEO Beatrice Mahuru greeting each other



Founder Justice Stephen Kassman (left) receiving UN Resident Coordinator Roy Trivedy.



(L-R): Cheshire Programs Officer Joyce Kouperu, Unicef PNG Chief of Education Ruby Noble with Justice Stephen Kassman.



Roy Trivedy having a chat with Governor Robert Agarobe (L) and Michael Kouperu (R).

Article 24 of the UNCRPD- "Every person with disability has a right to Education within the General Education System, without Discrimination."