High-standard private hospital opened

By GORETHY KENNETH

Prime Minister Peter O'Neill officially opened what may be the country's first international standard private hospital in Port Moresby yesterday. This means that PNG, Prime Minister Peter O'Neill, who was chairman of the Motor Vehicle Insurance Limited 15 years ago, approved the establishment of this hospital.

He officially opened the hospital after the visit of the buildings, which is now under full renovation after being abandoned for 15 years. Mr. O'Neill announced a further F1.5 million in specialisation rates to public patients referred from St. John's Hospital at Gerehu.

This, he said, would help reduce the burden of overseas medical costs.

The facility will be used by the PNG government to provide medical services for public patients referred from St. John's Hospital at Gerehu. Mr. O'Neill said.

"I believe the impact of this facility will be felt across PNG and hope we will be creating here is not simply a place that will benefit all segments of the population," he said.

PHC CDO Dr. Amyra Sultan said they shared the aspiration to ensure that the private hospital is able to achieve its potential as a world-class medical facility.

"PHC brings the experience and the commitment required to ensure that the hospital building will finally offer service to the people of PNG," she said.

Speaker to refine parliament

By ISAAC NICHOLAS

The National Parliament has made a budget submission of K18.7 million to the executive government to fund Parliamentary committees.

Speaker Mr. Theo Zurenuoc said yesterday that Prime Minister Peter O'Neill has given his indication to support parliament in its restoration efforts.

He said this during the opening remarks to the chairs and deputy chairs of committees of parliament who were attending a workshop at the state function room at Parliament House that is being conducted by the Centre for Democratic Institution.

The aim of the workshop is to contribute to the restoration of parliament by increasing the capacity of parliamentary committees to fulfill their accountability and review responsibilities.

Its objectives are for participants to develop an understanding of why parliament has committees; how committees work; how effective committees impact and make parliament more effective and how chairs and deputy chairs of committees can develop annual work plans.

Mr Zurenuoc said that his vision was for the restoration of parliament and the important role that parliamentary committees can play in achieving that vision.

He said that the budget session of parliament has not delivered to the expectations of the people.

"I want restoration, reform and modernisation of the conduct of parliament with respect to the practices and procedures in the chamber and committee support services, administration and administration and support services, to help MPs perform to their maximum," the Speaker said.

"This is because if the MP is fully functioning in his role as MP, then the parliament is fully functioning and democracy and good governance will transcend this parliament into the executive and judiciary divisions.

"My biggest challenge will be to remove the feeling of insecurity from the MP (the fear of losing his seat) for lack of delivery of tangible projects which are essential in establishing an MP who is a project manager and coordinator and provider of goods, cash and services," Mr Zurenuoc said.

He said that MPs were people's representatives, law makers and oversight providers for and on behalf of the people on how the executive government and public servants are managing and delivering people's money and services.

"I have discussed the funding of the committees with the Prime Minister already and he has given an indication that he will support the committees," he said.

"When the committees are functioning well effectively, we will be able to fulfill the role of parliament."