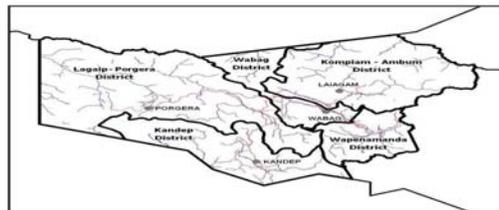
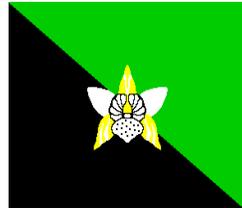


INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY IN COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES 2011

INCEPTION REPORT
FOR PAPUA NEW GUINEA



'ENGA PROVINCE'



COMPILED AND WRITTEN BY:

MISS. BRENDAH N. LOMBANGE

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Papua New Guinea is a blessed country with the largest developing country in the South Pacific Region. It has 463,000 kilometres and 600 separate islands that make up one of the most diverse in the geographic, biological, linguistic and cultural wealth on earth. Papua New Guinea has about 5% of the world's biodiversity in less than 1% of the world's total land area.

The life expectancy for Papua New Guinea is 75 years of age compare to other countries in the world due to economic recovery. The infant mortality rate for Papua New Guinea is 43.28 deaths/1,000 live births: male 47.12 deaths/1,000 live births and female 39.28 deaths/1,000 live births. The maternal mortality rate for Papua New Guinea is 700-900/100,000 mm rate. The result of this is because rural areas suffer more especially women giving birth at home/villages than in urban areas where women being pregnant have access to hospitals and etc. This is the result due to lack of clinical awareness for pregnant women in the rural areas and road access to go to nearby clinics or hospitals. This one disadvantage causing high maternal rate in PNG which the health sector needs to take into consideration in reducing it by implementing more health awareness for pregnant women in the rural areas which the government needs to bring service to them to be more accessible to health services in their community. The literacy rate for Papua New Guinea is very low about 50%-69% as of age 15-24 years old amount is 64.1% for men and for women of age 15-24 years of age amount will be 59%. This the result why family and parent's refuse to send female to school because they are need to help them do gardens and house chores with the mentality of cultural believes than men. Men are resourceful and important in the society to develop the community and country as in cultural believes. Another reason for low literacy is no education and training services provided for both gender in rural areas due to lack of road access, manpower and resources available to rural areas disadvantage to government services in road/transport services. The other reason cause of low literacy rate in PNG is the lack of family planning and parents can't afford to support their kids to education or road access to have access to their learning programs. The overall reason for all this result is that Papua New Guinea is currently experiencing an economic recovery, with improvements in several macroeconomic indicators.

Enga Province shares a northern border with East Sepik Province. The Central Range runs through the north of the province, with two river valleys, the Lagaip and the Lai supporting high population densities. The Lagaip River runs south to join the Fly River while the Lai joins the Sepik River in the north. The provincial member is Mr. Peter Ipatas, a member of the People's Party. This is his third term. Agriculture provides only a low to moderate source of income for the province, earned from the sale of coffee, food and firewood. Cultivated areas are very prone to both drought and frost, which can seriously affect food security. Some royalties and wage employment can be earned at the Porgera Goldmine. A branch of the Highlands Highway runs from Mt. Hagen up to Wapenamanda and Wabag and the Porgera Goldmine. Another road connects Kandep with Southern Highlands Province. Those living in the north of the province are very remote and require more than a day's travel to reach a service centre.

The population of Enga increases each year in each five districts of Enga Province. The age of ten years of children do have about 70% access to education aboard than 30% children lack education due to cultural beliefs and lack of money to buy school fees.

This is the population chart figure for the five districts of Enga Province, Papua New Guinea:

DISTRICT	POPULATION
WAPENMANDA	53,547
WABAG	58,750
KOMPIAM-AMBUM	44,332
KANDEP	47,400
LAIGAP-POGERA	91,002

(Source: Google:www.engaprovince.com)

The education system in Enga Province is best because the Provincial Governor Peter Ipatas and his provincial government do subsidies schools from Elementary to tertiary education for students of Enga

Province. It helps the parent's, guardians and relatives in paying school fees for the students. That is the important thing the Provincial Governor Peter Ipatas does for his people that people take pride and ownership of the governor investing more on education for the province. The governor has strong vision for education system for students of his province and visits schools in each district and tertiary insitute for and pays subsidy for his Enga students. That is one common thing of Enga Province that our Provincial Governor gives first priority to education to improve the standards of people of Enga.

This is the chart indicating the number of schools/students in each district of Enga Province:

DISTRICTS	SCHOOLS	STUDENTS (APPROX)
WAPENMANDA	115	12,000
WABAG	80	11,600
KOMPIAM-AMBUM	81	9,500
KANDEP	50	7,000
LAGAIP-POGERA	130	11,000

(Source: Google:www.engaprovince.com)

This is the chart indicating the number of hospitals in each district of Enga Province:

DISTRICTS	HOSPITALS
WAPENMANDA	26
WABAG	34
KOMPIAM-AMBUM	48
KANDEP	24
LAGAIP-POGERA	44

(Source: Google:www.engaprovince.com)

The major industry in Enga Province is gold mine which is called 'Pogera Barrick Mining' and the gold mine is located at Laigap-Pogera District at Pogera station. The Pogera gold mine is a joint venture operation located at an altitude of 2,200-2,700 meters in the Enga Province in the highlands of Papua New Guinea (PNG). The mine is located about 130 kilometers west of the established town of Mount Hagen, 600 kilometers northwest of Port Moresby, and about 680 kilometers by road from the coastal port of Lae from which all materials are freighted. The Pogera JV operation is 95% owned (remainder is owned by PNG government) and operated by a Barrick subsidiary. Both open-pit and underground mining methods are employed. The Pogera Gold Mine is operated by the Pogera Joint Venture (PJV).

It began production in 1990 and developed and operated by Placer Dome which was acquired in 2006 by Barrick Gold, the world's largest gold mining company. Barrick is 95% ownership of the operation. The remaining 5% is owned by Mineral Resources Enga (MRE), which is owned by the Enga Provincial Government, the Papua New Guinea National Government and Porgera Landowner. The number of people is 2,427 employees at the mine, 93.49 % were PNG nationals, 1,606 were Porgerans, 33 other Engans, 630 other PNG nationals, and 158 were expatriates.

The employment rate for Enga Province is about 80% because the Enga Provincial Government has funded and subsidized the education system for all Enga students in public servants of Enga attending tertiary institution and young students to pursue their studies and bring development back to Enga Province. Approximately 20% are unemployment with cultural beliefs and look after the village. Sometimes it is due to lack of school fee to support their kids to school in favor of cultural beliefs. But the Enga Provincial Government especially the Provincial Governor Honorable Peter Ipatas strongly urges public of Enga not to oblige their kids to education for they will bring development to the nation, province and community with self-esteem than being unemployed bringing drug addicts to the community when the children are not helped sent to school causing more trouble to the province, district and the community. Thus, the governor of the province has good vision in education system which other provinces admires his role in putting up with education for the province. Thus, the employment for Enga Province is 80% which more Engan people work outside of Enga Provinces bringing compliments to the governor's input into education system bringing development to Enga Province.

2. INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES

Firstly, intellectual disability is a general mental capacity, such as learning, reasoning, problem solving & so on. Intellectual disability is a disability characterized by significant limitations both in intellectual functioning and in adaptive behavior, which covers many everyday social and practical skills. This

disability originates before the age of 18. Doctors have found many causes of intellectual disabilities. The most common are:

- **Genetic conditions.** Sometimes an intellectual disability is caused by abnormal genes inherited from parents, errors when genes combine, or other reasons. Examples of genetic conditions are Down syndrome, fragile X syndrome, and phenylketonuria (PKU).
- **Problems during pregnancy.** An intellectual disability can result when the baby does not develop inside the mother properly. For example, there may be a problem with the way the baby's cells divide as it grows. A woman who drinks alcohol or gets an infection like rubella during pregnancy may also have a baby with an intellectual disability.
- **Problems at birth.** If a baby has problems during labor and birth, such as not getting enough oxygen, he or she may have an intellectual disability.
- **Health problems.** Diseases like whooping cough, the measles, or meningitis can cause intellectual disabilities. They can also be caused by extreme malnutrition (not eating right), not getting enough medical care, or by being exposed to poisons like lead or mercury.

An intellectual disability is not a disease. You can't catch an intellectual disability from anyone. It's also not a type of mental illness, like depression. There is no cure for intellectual disabilities. However, most children with an intellectual disability can learn to do many things. It just takes them more time and effort than other children.

Laws concerned with persons with Intellectual Disabilities are: Intellectual Disability and Criminal Law, Discrimination, Discrimination-Disability Disability Rights, Human Rights and Disability. However, in other countries this law has been passed and government and non-government agencies are working closely-by it to help People with Intellectual Disabilities. For Papua New Guinea, it is still pending on the Parliament floor and our governments are taking into consideration to pass these laws on the floor for people with disabilities as NGO's do help a lot to promote disability awareness campaign in PNG.

Thus, the PNG government should take into consideration for people with disabilities certain financial assistance and main concern the Intellectual Disabilities. They should be given Disability Support Pension, Mobility Allowance, Carer Payment, Carer Allowance (Child) & (Adult), Health Care Card , Pensioner Concession Card, Pensioner Supplement and Assistance for Isolated Children. This should be considered in all countries for people with disabilities and intellectual disabilities and should be implemented with governments concern. The services like Callan Services, NGO's especially church organizations, community and a family member with PWD should be service provider for the intellectual disability which includes the CBR as the main service provider that can bring network challenges to improve the services network in the province and country. In Enga Province, there are only two services in Wabag District and Wapanemanda District that cater disability needs. In public health sector in other districts, I am aware that they do not have access and people with disability individually write to the Provincial Government, Business Houses and Pogera Gold Barrick for assistance. The service provider I have in my home district: Wabag is Callan Services, Enga Association of & for the Disabled (my self-help disabled association I formed at my home district), Wabag General Hospital (my last employment as I worked close with the Physiotherapist to work closely with me on disability cases in the hospital for treatment) and a rehab center for disabilities at Wapanemanda District. In other provinces, they do not have it and mostly come to my association for registration and we do little campaign awareness in Wabag town sharing our testimony to the public to consider disability issues in our province, country and community-based area. This really enlightens us but I urge other service providers to work strong with disability issues as Callan services are attached under the Enga Provincial Government. It lacks funding and training as I give guidelines to new trained Callan Servicer worker's of disability issues in our world today that affects people with disabilities.

3. Outline of your Organization

Enga Association of & for the Disabled formed at Wabag District in 2007 consisting 1,200 disabled members from all districts of Enga. The main area base is at Wabag where we conduct meetings to

discuss the issues of our association. The vision for the association is: “TO BE SELF-RELIANT IN THE FUTURE BY BREAKING THE STIGMA AGAINST DISABILITY IN OUR COMMUNITY-BASED AREA.” The strategy is to set up awareness in each one of our villages/area base of disability issues as we do campaign march in our main town Wabag to advocate disability rights in our district levels for consideration. This is what we called-STRONG WILL POWER TO ADVOCATE FOR DISABILITY IGNORANCE IN OUR COMMUNITY. This really empowered the members and myself indeed plus the beneficiaries who give us 100% morale support to achieve the major programs like campaign awareness march at Wabag Town that covers the areas we live and the population to be aware of our disability ignorance advocacy.

4. Community Development program which include Intellectual Disability issues as one of the activities

The Department of Community Development in PNG under the Minister of Dame Lady Carol Kidu as establish an office and Secretariat for People with Disability. But it covers all the disability issues in PNG as the head office. However, it lacks networking in provincial level with the national level due to lack of funds from the government to maintain the programs carried out. I work closely with the NGO's especially with the PNG Assembly for the Disabled under the leadership of Ms. Ipul POWESA and Mr. Brown KAPI-NATIONAL BOARD OF DISABILITY (Chairman) who gives aids to my association members in my province for the members. Also my association donated extra walking crutches and waterbeds for patients of Wabag General Hospital Management to recognize my disable association formed at Wabag District which the Hospital made commitment to help 'Enga Association of & for the Disabled' to be self- reliant in the future as our vision and goal to achieve in disability movements. Thus, it is one of the issues that I would like to work network with the National Department of Community Development office workers for Disability issues being established with Secretariat in place for development.

5. Situation of Persons with Intellectual Disabilities.

Medical doctors are the professional responsible for diagnosis to describe prenatal screening procedures and tests designed to assess the functioning of children/adults. There should be more education for people with disabilities (Intellectual Disabilities) to make them be part of the society and provide job opportunities and vocational training to bring development for the country. This will help them to be self-reliant in the future and be trained how to face the challenges especially in work ethic, financial (budgets), and social level ethics and etc. The government agencies and NGO's in our country should take the initiative to bring development for the intellectual disabilities and other disabilities. The main aim to be achieved is that Persons with Intellectual Disabilities must work towards its goal by working hard to advocate for disability issues and show their capability or talents demonstrated in work ethics, arts & craft and etc to show their skills and methods to bring development to the country as I mentioned earlier that Papua New Guinea is experiencing an economic recovery, with improvements in several macroeconomic indicators.

6. Issues to Solve to Conduct Effective Supports for Persons with Intellectual Disabilities

The issues is that Intellectual Disabilities is a main concern that should be cared and diagnosed with good treatment and be given opportunities to experience the live like we all ordinary do and face and be monitored and supervised closely with no harsh treatments. They are people to show affection to be part of the society to bring development for the country. Thus, the government and its agencies and NGO's (Service Providers) should take into consideration of disability movements in their district level, provincial level and national level of ways to achieve the objectives of disability issues in the country. I strongly do recommend that this has to be put into action plan with good management and training skills to achieve the objectives of disability movement and make Intellectual Disabilities and other disabled people be part contributing to the country to bring economic development in PNG as a developing country and other countries in the world.

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Goggle website:

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