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Media Release

PNGPCL employees undergo HIV & AIDS educational awareness

PNG Ports Corporation Limited (PNGPCL) employees were given an opportunity to better understand their own values, attitudes, strengths and life skills especially when dealing with the issue of HIV and AIDS in the country.

This was made possible a week-long HIV and AIDS awareness which was conducted for all staff within the different sections of the Company.

This initiative is in line with PNGPCL's HIV & AIDS Workplace Policy to provide HIV & AIDS educational awareness and trainings as well as other socially related issues such as drug and alcohol abuse and family violence.

Training facilitator, John Madigobuna said life skills are a set of core human abilities which are likely to sustain people's everyday needs as these skills enables us to translate knowledge, attitudes and values into actual abilities.

There are 10 generic life skills of self awareness, empathy, effective communication, interpersonal relationship, values, ability to manage emotions and cope with stress, problem solving, creative and critical thinking as well as making decisions.

He said people with good life skills will be able to take care of themselves and others as well as assist in the reduction of risk situations and the prevention of HIV & AIDS in PNG.

He said it was good to see PNGPCL involving its employees as well as empowering them to better know these important aspects of life which can improve and create a better life style for its staff.

"I congratulate PNGPCL for its contribution towards its personnel and the general public in assisting with addressing HIV & AIDS as well as other social related issues," he said.

Mr Madigobuna said another issue that has been overlooked by many people is the Human Rights issue, predominantly rights in relation to HIV & AIDS.

He said there are provisions of the law in particular HIV and AIDS Management and Prevention Act (HAMP Act) that protects the rights of People Living with HIV & AIDS (PLWHA).

"The law says that people have the basic right to be protected against stigmatisation and discrimination. They also have rights that give support for the protection against HIV infection," he said.

Mr Madigobuna stressed that it was illegal to deny or stop a person from getting access to medication against HIV & AIDS as well as to discriminate PLWHA.

PNGPCL is committed to creating a safe, healthy and conducive working environment for all its employees and have proven this by taking on an initiative to establish a Voluntary Counseling and Testing (VCT) centre within the Port Moresby Port Office area.

The proposed VCT setup is an initiative of PNGPCL to provide its employees and the general public to access the readily convenient and available health services. Apart from VCT, the centre will offer general counseling services.

PNGPCL acting Chief Executive Officer, Jerome Peniasi commended all staff for attending the week-long training and urged them to assist in disseminating the information they learned during HIV & AIDS educational awareness as a fight against this epidemic.

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