

Femili Tok

Quarterly Newsletter

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Femili PNG Information Officer Joan Asanga giving the six months data presentation during the Core Service Providers meeting.

Core Service Providers Meeting for 2018

It was a great turnout by partners in Lae who attended the first quarter Core Service Providers meeting on 15th February 2018. This included representatives from the Morobe Family and Sexual Violence Action Committee (FSVAC), Family Support Centre (FSC) at Angau Hospital, the police (Police Prosecution, FSVU, PPHQ, SOS, Juvenile, 3mile, Tent City, China Town), Lae District Courts, Public Solicitor's Office, Public Prosecutor's Office, Milford Haven Clinic, Salvation Army, Haus Claire Crisis Centre, and Centre of Mercy Clinic.

The meeting was organized by Femili PNG to present the six months data from July to December 2017, and also to discuss the successes and challenges that were faced, especially when assisting survivors of sorcery accusation related violence.

A short skit was performed by Femili PNG

staff at the beginning of the meeting to initiate discussions among the service providers. The skit outlined the services that a survivor of sorcery accusation related violence accesses, and the challenges associated with helping the survivor.

After the short skit, the opportunity was given for all the service providers to identify and discuss the challenges faced when assisting survivors and addressing sorcery accusation related violence. It was pointed out that stigma is inevitable for survivors of sorcery accusation related violence, regardless of wherever they may be relocated to. Recommendations were also discussed to see how some of the challenges can be addressed.

The meeting continued with the six months data presentation by Femili PNG's Information Officer Ms. Joan Asanga. Partners also provided updates to keep everyone informed of any changes within their offices.

Femili PNG thanked the partners for their ongoing support in addressing FSV issues and sorcery accusation based violence. And to conclude, partners were given a small valentines treat to end the day.



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ANU and DVCS team from Canberra visit Lae



ANU and DVCS team from Canberra accompanied by Femili PNG team (Lae and Canberra) standing with the IPO Clerk Ms. Paulyn Wafia and Mr Nick Sawong after visit to the Lae District Court House.

In partnership with the Morobe Family and Sexual Violence Action Committee (FSVAC), we hosted a visit from 5 to 9 March 2018 from Dr Judy Putt (Department of Pacific Affairs, Australian National University) and Mrs Eve Ball from the Domestic Violence Crisis Service (DVCS) in Canberra. Dr Putt is leading some research on the use and efficacy of protection orders in Lae, and Mrs Ball was in Lae to continue to develop the ongoing partnership between DVCS and Femili PNG.

During their visit to Lae, they met with the FSVAC partners such as the police, District Courts, Welfare, the Deputy Provincial Administrator, the Family Support Centre at the ANGAU Memorial Hospital and the safe house.

Pilgrim continues support

The Pilgrim SDA Church at Limki in Lae has continued their support by handing over their first quarter donation of their garden produce and store food items to assist survivors of family and sexual violence at the safe accommodation in Lae.

The handover took place at the Church grounds on 4th March 2018 in the presence of the church members and elders, Femili PNG representative and the media. The media was invited to capture and report on the local support to encourage other churches and communities to support their local organizations who are assisting people in need.

The Church have made five quarterly donations since 2016 to support Femili PNG's clients. Church Elder Mr Karo Neinama said the support to the clients of Femili PNG is a way of giving back to God. "The church members have recognized the needy, and even though the Government might have put some efforts into helping them, we at the Pilgrim Church are out to help them with what we are blessed with," Mr Neinama added.

Femili PNG's Communications and Fundraising Officer Miss Jonica Jay received the donation on behalf of Femili PNG. Miss Jay thanked the Church members for their commitment and continued support. "Getting such support encourages us as an organization to continue our work in assisting survivors of family and sexual violence," Miss Jay said.



All Nations Women PNG support

On 6th March 2018, Femili PNG Communications and Fundraising Officer Miss Jonica Jay had the opportunity to speak at the All Nations Women's Group morning tea meeting in Port Moresby about the work of the organization.



The members of the All Nations Women's Group were fascinated by how Femili PNG and the service providers coordinate to assist survivors of Femili and Sexual violence (FSV) and deal with the issue.

The All Nations Women's Group is the premier Port Moresby club for women of all ages and background with the purpose of promoting international fellowship and goodwill among members and appreciation and understanding of life and culture of the different nationality groups. The group has had a long history of services in Port Moresby, and have now reached out to also support Femili PNG's work

Members of the All Nations Women's Group donated clothes, toys, and toiletries with a cheque of K500 to support survivors of FSV.

Femili PNG is always grateful for all the support, whether it be cash or kind which can help a person in need one way or another.

CLIENT STORY

By Jonica Jay

**Names have been changed to protect identity and safety of client.*

***RUTHY'S STORY**

Justice Prevails - 23 year sentence for Kidnapping and Sexual Abuse

On 29th March 2018, the Goroka National Court sentenced a 35 year-old man to 23 years imprisonment with hard labor for Kidnapping and Sexual Abuse of a minor (7 years for Kidnapping and 16 years for Sexual Abuse).

In early 2009, *Ruthy, six years old at that time, went to a local market with her mother to sell betelnuts and cigarettes which is a routine activity for the family to earn some income to sustain their livelihood in Lae City. Ruthy was upset when her mother did not buy her ice cream, so she went a little further from where her mother was. She was tricked by a stranger (now prisoner) who pretended to be her uncle. He lured her with sweets and took her to the Highlands bus stop at Eriku where he again lied to her that they would go on a short bus trip and then return to her mother.

The man took Ruthy to his village in Eastern Highlands Province where he held her captive, and raped her continuously. This led to arguments between him and his wife. Because of the arguments, the man's sister sold Ruthy to another family for K200. Ruthy was then treated as a "hausmeri" (housemaid) for five years. During this time, she was also used to care for another child with physical disabilities.

During the period that Ruthy was abducted and held captive in Goroka, her father used every means possible to search for his daughter. He placed a missing person's report at the police station in Lae and also went to other provinces in the Highlands, including Madang and Sepik, but his search was unsuccessful. He also went on radio both in Lae and Goroka with the help of Morobe FM.

In October 2014, at the age of 11, Ruthy managed to escape back to Lae and searched for her family with the help of another woman in the prisoner's village. She was given directions to the local market in Lae where she was kidnapped from. From there, she was able to find her way home and was finally reunited with her family. Ruthy received medical treatment at the Family Support Centre (FSC) at Angau Memorial Hospital and then was referred to Femili PNG (FPNG) on 11th November 2014.

FPNG was newly established at that time and had just begun its operations in Lae. After Ruthy's intake as FPNG's client, her case was reported to the Lae Sexual Offense Squad (SOS) at the Lae Central Police Station. Unfortunately, the Lae SOS couldn't assist because the abuse occurred in Goroka, and this was out of their jurisdiction. The Lae Criminal Investigation Division (CID) registered the case for abduction, but the rape case was referred to the Goroka SOS as the incident occurred in Goroka.

There were a lot of challenges faced at the initial stage when FPNG tried to coordinate with partners in Lae, Goroka and even Australia to ensure that Ruthy's case was given the priority it deserved and appropriate legal advice. This was because of issues such as the location of Ruthy's parents, for instance her father was a resident of Lae and her mother was living in her village in the Southern

Highlands Province. So the travel and accommodation costs associated with her parents seeing detectives in Goroka were covered by FPNG. There was an instance where Ruthy's file went missing and FPNG had to literally collect each witness's statement again, compile the file and send the file through Express Air Carrier to Goroka SOS.

After the case was formally handed to Goroka SOS in October 2015, the police attempted to arrest the man but couldn't locate him. On 24th August 2016, he was finally arrested and the case went through the committal process at the Goroka District Court in September 2016. He was remanded in custody until his matter was committed to the National Court in Goroka on 16th February 2017. The trial was scheduled for November 2017, but due to the court vacation period, it was rescheduled to the 6th and 7th of March 2018.

Two weeks before the trial date in Goroka, FPNG's Child Protection Officer (CPO) coordinated with partners in Lae and Goroka to provide the necessary support to Ruthy and her family, such as the accommodation and travel expenses from Lae to Goroka and back. This made it possible for all crucial state witnesses to be on the ground in Goroka when the matter was called for trial to commence.

Ruthy's father expressed his deepest gratitude for the assistance that FPNG provided him and his daughter since 2014. He said, "there were delays along the way, and the process in getting justice seemed too long which caused me to have doubts on whether the case would go through to court." He said that even though it took years, he was very happy that a local NGO such as Femili PNG existed at the time to support him in getting justice for his daughter. "I felt that I had the support I needed. Femili PNG really supported me like a family, and this gave me the strength to pursue the case. I firmly believe that had it not been for Femili PNG, this case would not have been pursued through to the end." he added.

He concluded that most times a lot of people give up along the way because of the delays, and don't get the justice they deserve. He said, "regardless of how long it may take, or the challenges that will cause you to have doubts and give up, don't give up, pursue justice until you get it." He wanted to encourage people to never give up in pursuing justice, and for service providers and NGOs to continue and work closely together so that positive outcomes can be achieved.

With effective coordination between FPNG and partners such as FSC at ANGAU Memorial Hospital, Welfare Offices of Goroka and Lae, Goroka SOS, Goroka District and National Courts, Public Prosecutor's Goroka Office, Kafe Women's Association, justice was received for the girl who went through this horrific ordeal at a very young age.

Ruthy is now safe with her family who are very supportive to her. Her disappearance had cost the marriage of her parents and they are currently living separately. However, they are both providing the support that she needs.

Although the Ruthy's trauma is still triggered from time to time, she has displayed incredible strength in overcoming her experience. She has rebuilt her self-esteem and is determined to complete her education. In fact, in 2017 she achieved a dux award from her school.

Welcome to our Community & Outreach team

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Femili PNG Community and Outreach Officers Ms. Betty Tom and Mr. Paul Kunump

Sexual Violence (FSV). Femili PNG has seen the importance of providing awareness sessions on the topics related to FSV such as Child Abuse, Domestic Violence and its different forms, Rape, and laws related to FSV.

Therefore, we now have two Community and Outreach Officers, Ms. Betty Tom and Mr. Paul Kunump to continue to provide awareness sessions to communities in Lae and other parts of Morobe Province. They will focus on bringing awareness to the communities not only in Lae city, but other rural areas to educate the people about the issue of FSV and services available for FSV survivors.

Awareness is a very important and effective method in disseminating vital information, especially on topics related to Family and

Thank you for your support!

Femili Tok is a quarterly newsletter published for our partners, sponsors and friends involved in family and sexual violence advocacy in PNG

Did you know?

Femili PNG has reached over 5600 members of the population since running awareness sessions from July 2017 to March 2018 on Family and Sexual Violence (FSV) and related topics. This includes business houses, organizations and communities.

Reaching out into the community

Our Community and Outreach team have already begun awareness sessions into the communities, schools and health centres of Morobe Province. Below are some pictures of team in action;



Pic 1 and Pic 2: Ms. Betty Tom and Mr. Paul Kunump speaking about Family and sexual violence during the awareness sessions at Maiana Village in the Huon Gulf District in Morobe Province.



Mr. Paul Kunump explaining the different forms of violence to Ola Fou members at UNITECH.

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To support the work of Femili PNG, please do not hesitate to contact the Communications and Fundraising Officer on:
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About us:

Femili PNG is a local NGO based in Lae that runs a Case Management Centre to assist survivors of family and sexual violence to access the services they need. Our target population are women, men and children who are survivors of intimate partner violence, sexual violence and/or child abuse.

Femili PNG began its operations in July 2014, providing integrated case management to survivors of family and sexual violence to help them access counselling, support and other interventions for protection and justice with the support from our partners (existing service providers)

We work closely with the police, courts, Welfare, Family Support Centre (FSC) at the ANGAU Hospital, safe houses, the prosecutor's office, government Social Workers and other NGOs to ensure that survivors access the available services and positive outcomes are achieved.