



MEDIA RELEASE

National Parliament staff attend COVID-19 awareness program

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Authorised by Kala Aufa, Acting Clerk of the National Parliament

TUE 24.03.2020 | National Parliamentary Service (NPS) staff attended an awareness presentation on the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) by Dr. Duncan Sengiromo, Emergency Medicine Specialist with the Port Moresby General Hospital (POMGH) on the first day of the national 14-day lockdown period, today. The Colgate Palmolive Health Education team also presented on the importance of handwashing through their “Clean Hands, Good Health” program.

Acting Clerk of Parliament, Kala Aufa said the initiative was part of the institution’s preventative measures against the pandemic and to educate the workforce on COVID-19 and how best to prevent them from being infected with the virus and how to contain it from affecting others.

“The staff present are part of the essential team working during this lockdown period, as we are avoiding mass gathering,” he said. “We are therefore, grateful for our media partners who are supporting with disseminating this important messages and information to our staff not at work, and also to the public in general.

Dr. Sengiromo in his presentation encouraged staff to wash hands frequently for 20 seconds, cover cough/sneeze, exercise social distancing and call the Toll Free Help Line 1800200, for any queries regarding COVID-19.

He confirmed that the POMGH has a facility set up, as of yesterday to address cases presenting early signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and those patients who would have developed severe symptoms, including shortness of breath.

Meanwhile, Colgate-Palmolive Health Educator Minhee Kook, apart from her presentation on the importance of clean hands promoting good health, did a demonstration on the correct way to wash hands and how to use a “Tippy-Tap”; a hands-free device for hand washing that is especially designed for rural areas where there is no running water.

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National Parliament, Parliament House Post Office, 131. NCD | Tel. +675 3277232 Fax: +675 3277 480
Email: mediadivision.parliament@gmail.com Website: www.parliament.gov.pg



“It is operated by a foot lever and thus reduces the chance for the transmission of germs,” she said.

NPS has set up a COVID-19 Emergency Response Committee to coordinate and implement response strategies to prevent infection by the virus and how to contain it from spreading, should it enter the National Parliament.

Ends.///