



INDEPENDENT STATE OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Confidential
Prime Minister &
Minister for Health & HIV AIDS
Our Reference:
Date: 20th October 2020

Policy Submission No:..... 2020

For members of the National Executive Council

**SUBJECT: COVID -19 DRUG PROCUMENT AND TREATMENT AND
CREATION OF DATA ANT-COVID 19 DATA BASE**

A. PURPOSE

The purpose of this statutory business paper submission is to:

1. Inform the NEC about the novel discovery of Covid-19 drug combination ready to treat patients with Covid-19.
2. Seek NEC Approval for Covid-19 drug procurement from overseas and clinical treatment on patients with Covid-19.
3. Inform NEC about the creation of Drug database for Covid-19.
4. Seek NEC approval for the establishment of Niugini BioMed, a science, innovation, research and development company to engage in Covid-19 research.
5. Seek NEC approval for Niugini BioMed Limited to partner with the state institutions and the national health authorities to procure Covid-19 drugs and to proceed with clinical trials and treatment.

H. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS
NIL

I. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS.
NIL

J. HEALTH IMPLICATION:

The procurement of Novel Covid-19 drugs and treatment on Covid-19 patients will save a lot of people in our country and the rest of the world during this pandemic now and into the future.

K. RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that NEC:

1. Approves Covid-19 drug procurement from overseas and clinical treatment on patients with Covid-19.
2. Approves the establishment of Niugini BioMed, a science, innovation, research and development company to engage in Covid-19 research.
3. Approves and Directs Ministers Treasury and Finance to make available K10.2 million immediately for the procurement of Covid-19 drugs, commencement of treatment on Covid-19 patients in the country, keeping surveillance of Covid-19 and monitoring the outcome of the treatment cases.
4. Directs the National Department of Health (NDoH) to facilitate a collaboration between Niugini BioMed, National Department of Health, Provincial Health Authorities, National AIDS Council Secretariat (NACS), and PNG Institute of Medical Research (PNGIMR) to immediately run clinical treatment and trials.

combinatorial drug therapy has been formulated for Covid-19 treatment.

12. The team is highly confident this discovery could be potentially used as treatment for Covid-19 infections.
13. The Niugini BioMed limited was formed to formally manage and run the Covid-19 drug database as well as partner with the local health authorities in the treatment of Covid-19 following the WHO and the NDoH recommended protocols.
14. So far, this team has made a number of noteworthy contributions towards the management of the Covid-19 pandemic in PNG.
 - i. On the 7th of August this team has made a very impressive presentation of their discovery before the Prime Minister at Sir Manasupe House.
 - ii. On the 10th Of August the team made a presentation before the MESAC, the former Health Minister Hon. Jelta Wong, the Minister for Higher Education Science and Technology Honorable Nick Kuman, Minister for Education Hon. Joseph Yopyyopy, the Controller David Manning, WHO country director, and a number of international observers. Their presentation has given us the hope and confidence to embark on the decision to relax the local restrictions and open the domestic economy on that same day.
 - iii. On the 4th of September, the team revealed the names of the Covid-19 drugs to the Prime Minister at his parliament office. At the same time the first ever Covid-19 drug database created by this team was launched. Following the presentation, it gave us the confidence to announce the lifting of international boarder restrictions and resumption of international flights.

FACTS AND CONSIDERATIONS

1. Covid-19 has become a global health problem and during the early part of 2020, and the WHO declared it a pandemic.
2. Papua New Guinea (PNG) confirmed its first Covid-19 case in March 2020. Until now there are over 500 confirmed Covid-19 cases with 7 associated deaths.
3. There is no cure for Covid-19, and vaccines are not available at this point in time
4. To date, over 1.1 million deaths have been recorded around the world, and numbers are rising daily making the pandemic a serious health concern.
5. Developed countries are severely affected by the Covid-19 pandemic and are struggling to manage the pandemic internally. That means third world countries are on their own to fend for themselves and PNG is no exception.
6. Given the social lifestyle and struggling economy PNG as a third world nation, this country could potentially emerge as a Covid-19 hot spot.
7. Resources currently available to fight the pandemic in PNG are scares and even the little that have become available have quickly been depleted.
8. A more serious and worrying development is that Europe is now under total lock down due to a second wave of attack by a mutational Sars Cov 2 strain. The mutant strains of evolving viruses are usually aggressive and are capable of rendering the existing drug regiments and vaccines ineffective.
9. Given such scenario, the UPNG Covid19 team was formed with the aim to research for Covid-19 drugs as potential cure from the existing (generic) drugs around the world (see Attachment 1 for team members)
10. Using computational and structural biology tools, the team has successfully scanned over 30,000 known drugs from US Food and Drug Administration (FDA), World not US FDA, World FDA, and Natural Products.
11. From the 30,000 drugs that have been scanned and analyzed, only ten (10) top scoring candidates were selected and a

C. VIEWS OF THE PRIME MINSISTER

The Prime Minister is aware of the immensity of the current pandemic of Covid-19 and the urgent need for a solution. Therefore, the ongoing consultation between the group (ie Niugini BioMed) and Prime Minister on several occasions has been cordially acknowledged and overwhelming supported.

D. VIEWS OF OTHER MINISTERS AFFECTED

To be sought in Cabinet.

E. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The team requires 10.2 million Kina for the procurement of drugs and equipment for treatment for Covid-19. The successful drug combination will be the sole propriety ownership (Patent) between the company (Niugini BioMed) and Government of Papua New Guinea (GoPNG). Sales and purchasing of this drug regime by overseas government and pharmacies should be enormous financial benefit for Papua New Guinea. Foreign Exchange and Economy stimulation for PNG is pertinent.

F. EMPLOYMENT IMPLICATIONS

Creation of collaborations between government institutions, private and community groups in Papua New Guinea. While harnessing and retaining of highly qualified professionals from 'brain drain' to overseas. Hence jobs are created within the country from these activities.

G. POLITICAL IMPLICATION

This government, unlike any previous government, will usher in a new era of science, innovation, research and development, driving the economy of Papua New Guinea. This will have huge implication in the politics of Papua New Guinea for many years to come.

H. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

NIL

I. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS.

NIL

J. HEALTH IMPLICATION:


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K. RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that NEC:

1. Approves Covid-19 drug procurement from overseas and clinical treatment on patients with Covid-19.
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4. Directs the National Department of Health (NDoH) to facilitate a collaboration between Niugini BioMed, National Department of Health, Provincial Health Authorities, National AIDS Council Secretariat (NACS), and PNG Institute of Medical Research (PNGIMR) to immediately run clinical treatment and trials.

5. Approves annual financial support by the Government of Papua New Guinea to Niugini BioMed.
6. Approves the establishment of databases system of similar pandemics, or epidemics like resistant Tuberculosis (TB), HIV/AIDS and other similar national pandemics and illnesses.



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HON JAMES MARAPE, MP
PRIME MINISTER OF PNG

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HON. SIR PUKA TEMU, KBE, CMG, MP
MINISTER FOR HEALTH & HIVAIDS

Date: 10th August 2020

SCHEDULE 1

INTRODUCTORY for the UPNG COVID -19 RESEARCH TEAM

1. Mr. Reddy Kuama –MSc, BSc, Chemistry, Aust; BEd, PAU,

- Head of Chemistry Discipline, SNPS, UPNG
- Lecturer in Bioinorganic & Physical Chemistry
- Chairman, Testing Labs Division of NISIT
- Member of NISIT Council
- Examiner of Chemistry grade 12 National Examiner

2. Dr. Bomai K. Kerenga – Ph.D. in Biochemistry

- Team Leader, UPNG COVID-19 Research Team;
- Expert in structural and molecular biology,

Whilst working on his masters, Dr. Kerenga discovered a cocktail of protein molecule under the supervision of Dr. Clement Waine. His discovery is now applied as organic insecticide on agricultural crops across Australia. Dr. Bomai Kerenga's discovery is now revolutionizing the industry with the launch of the FIRST-OF-A KIND bio-insecticide in the world called SEROX -X.

It is described as the next generation of bio-insecticides.

The market value of the technology when sold will be valued at well over US\$10Billion.

3. Mr. Belly Asong – MSc Chemistry, PhD in Management

- Chemistry Lecturer at UPNG for 6 years
 - Researcher, Organic Chemistry
 - From Philippines, (birthplace-where the anti-biotic Erythromycin was discovered.
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4. Dr. Christopher Kinipi (MBBS) – Physician and Director of Health Services, UPNG

- Currently –Director, UPNG Health Services Clinic
 - A Physician for 20 years
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6. Dr. Arnold Waine –Masters in Medicine

- Senior Lecturer in Surgery, School of Medicine & Health Science, UPNG.
 - A Honorary Consultant Surgeon, Port Moresby General Hospital.
 - Faculty member to International Liver (HBP) surgery.
 - International Editorial Board member to two International journals of Cient Periodique (Cancer), & International Journal of Pharmaceutical Science & Clinical Pharmacy.
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Dr. Nick Mawe Dala, MBBS, M. MED

- Current Director of NACS
- A specialized HIV Medical Officer
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7. Mr. Tony Lupiwa, MMSc, BSc

- Deputy Director –NACS
 - Leader of NACS HIV Prevention, Programs, Monitoring & Evaluation
 - A Research Advisor
 - Was a Biomedical Researcher with over 25 years' experience in Health Research at PNGIMR, Goroka, EHP
 - Specialized in HIV, & STIs.
 - He was a member of the ground breaking research in Pigbel, Pneumonia & Diarrheal disease.
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