O’Neill Govt commits K649m to free education in 2012

The Papua New Guinea Literacy and Non Formal Education website was formally commissioned early this month and is aimed at strengthening the coordination of the National Literacy and Awareness Secretariat (NLAS).

Team Leader of 2050 Vision Pillar One (on Human Capital Development, Youth and People Empowerment), Dr Paul Ngabung said the website was among the five priority components of the Capacity Building in Education for All (CapEFA) project funded by the UNESCO.

He said the project was aimed at strengthening national capacities in coordinating, planning and managing evidence-and-result-based sustainable literacy and non formal education development.

"Priority five of the CapEFA project on knowledge generation for capacity development calls for the establishment of a clearing house for literacy within NLAS, from which the website is the end product.

"NLAS is the main administration arm responsible for the coordination of literacy and non-formal education programmes, consistent with the National Literacy Policy," Dr Ngabung said.

Dr Nabung said without an information and communication tool like the website, NLAS would not be able to coordinate literacy and non-formal education programmes throughout the country.

"The increasing demand from literacy and non formal education programme providers and stakeholders for NLAS to share information on literacy highlight the need for the website.

"With the establishment of the revitalised website, NLAS now has the potential to communicate better with all literacy stakeholders and serve their clients more effectively," Dr Nabung said.

The first literacy website was developed in 2003 but ceased operation due to funding constraints.

The website address is: Hyperlink; http://www.literacyportal.net.pg

Teacher trainees graduate from BSH College

The O'Neill - Nama h Government has kept its promise of providing free education by allocating more than K649 million to fund the implementation of the policy in 2012.

Students attending higher institutions in the country will also enjoy the re-introduced national scholarship scheme (Natschol). 10, 000 tertiary students budget lockup at Parliament State Function Room that the allocation will fund tuition-free education up to Grade 10 and 75 percent subsidy for grades 11 and 12.

The national government funding will also trigger the release of additional funding support of K27 million on education from AusAid.

Minister Polye also said the 2012 budget would pay for 6,700 new teachers to work in the provinces.