

**Public Statement by Rt Hon Sir Mekere Morauta
Former Prime Minister and Member for Moresby North-West
Port Moresby, 28 October 2018**

Journalist's research exposes O'Neill/Temu drugs deception



Research conducted by prominent TV journalist and blogger Scott Waide has revealed that medical supply claims by Health and HIV-AIDS Minister Sir Puka Temu are false and misleading.

Waide's research, conducted during the past week and published during a Facebook Live session on Thursday afternoon, demonstrated conclusively that there is a critical shortage of medicine and other medical supplies across the nation.

"Mr Waide's work proves what we all knew in our hearts – that thousands and thousands of people are dying and suffering because of the O'Neill Government's corruption, mismanagement and waste in the health sector," the Member for Moresby North-West, Sir Mekere Morauta, said today.

"Mr O'Neill and the Health Minister should stop pretending that the health system is functioning properly. It is not."

Mr Waide himself surveyed Lae clinics and Angau Hospital, and called for reports from health workers and patients across the country. The results are shocking and demonstrate the Government's neglect of the health system while spending K3 billion plus on APEC, a giant party for the Prime Minister and his cronies.

Mr Waide's Facebook Live report is available here:

<https://www.facebook.com/Occupant.from.block1/videos/2335752043107827/> and further information is available on his Facebook page and blog, <https://mylandmycountry.wordpress.com/>

Some examples of the information gathered by Mr Waide and provided by informants:

- Lae urban clinics: No antibiotics, painkillers, malaria medicine, family planning drugs, penicillin injections. No syringes, forceps, surgical scissors, diabetes test strips, gloves, face masks and other consumables.
- South Koroba clinic: no antibiotics – capsules, tablets, or in suspension. No painkillers.
- Lawes Road clinic, Port Moresby: antibiotics and painkillers shortages. Long delays in drug delivery from the Area Medical Store – which is only a few kilometres away at Badili.
- Kwikila station hospital has shortages of many medicines and medical supplies.
- Kimbe: widespread shortages. One man reported having to go from clinic to clinic to find medicine for a relative.
- Mt Hagen Hospital: No TB drugs.
- Oro clinic serving 2000 people: no antibiotics and no painkillers. No other basic supplies such as gauze, gloves and adhesives.
- Bougainville: No medicine in Buka. One man says he cannot find medicine for his sick relative.
- Madang Province clinic: No antibiotics or painkillers.
- Alexishafen. No antibiotics. No painkillers. No STI drugs. no malaria-specific drugs.
- Hela PHA Hospital: Shortage of essential drugs such as antibiotics.
- Angau Hospital: under additional pressure because of shortages and stock-outs in Lae clinics. Angau itself has critical medicine shortages.

Mr Waide described the medical supply shortages as a nationwide problem, but much more pronounced in rural areas. *'It is a bigger problem in the rural areas in terms of logistics and delivery of medicines,' he said.*

'If any bureaucrat tells you we don't have a medicine shortage problem, here it is. I have got the evidence to show there is a medicine shortage problem. You can go all over the country and see these medical shortages. Again, it is basic medicines that people need.

'When you don't have basic medicines such as antibiotics at the lowest level of the health system, then everybody in the community is in trouble.'

Sir Mekere said Mr O'Neill should admit the health system was in crisis and take urgent steps to fix the medical supply system.

"The Prime Minister and Health Minister should divert some of the money being wasted on luxury cars for themselves and their cronies and use it to save people's lives," he said.