

Fly Breeze Newsletter



This Fly Breeze newsletter is a bi-monthly news bulletin

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A family home built as a result of the Kawok VPC 5 year Development Plan

Village achieves results through Five Year Development Plan

Kawok Village in Western Province is making strides in community development, with four new permanent houses built. In a proud moment for Kawok village, located 40 minutes by dinghy along the Fly River from Kiunga town, new constructed three-bedroom homes were officially opened before a crowd of more than 300 villagers from Kawok and neighboring Moian villages.

The homes, funded entirely through the Kawok Village Development Funds (VDF) and the Ok Tedi Development Foundation (OTDF), mark a significant milestone in the village's journey towards sustainable community development. The PGK 700,000 project was delivered under the Community Mine Continuation Agreement (CMCA) between the Kawok community and Ok Tedi Mining Limited (OTML).

Chairman of the Kawok Village Planning Committee (VPC), Mr. Simon Kobowut, said the project is part of a long-term vision for the community, driven by the village's 5-Year Development Plan. "Infrastructure development is my key focus, I want my people to sleep under iron roof of a permanent house," Mr. Kobowut said. "Our plan revolves around three major goals: access to clean water, decent housing, and off-grid electricity for the entire community. We will use this plan as our guide and continue to support

one another in building our village." House owners Jackson John, Chris Bonney, Gill Michael and Velamina George thanked OTDF for the support in the project and most importantly the VPC chairman Simon Kobowut for the allocation of the homes to their families.

Ward 18 Councilor, Mr. Bondit Kembayong from nearby Moian village, commended the leadership of Mr. Kobowut for his perseverance in seeing the project through to completion. "To the families receiving their new homes today – take pride in them," he said. Trust Administrator Mr. Johanis Saferius reflected on the project's journey, highlighting the strength built through collaboration. "Delivering projects in remote communities comes with challenges but this is what gives these developments lasting value. He said OTDF also stepped in to manage variations beyond the original PGK 700,000 budget, ensuring the project's success."

Executive Manager of Corporate Services, Mr. Raul De Los Santos, called the new homes a legacy of leadership and a foundation for the future of Kawok village. This latest project is the second largest infrastructure investment in Kawok's history and was once again overseen by the OTDF Infrastructure Development team, led by Project Team Leader Mr. Pascoe Sevese.

In this issue



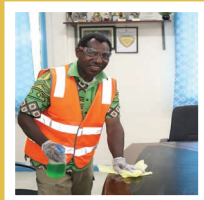
Mining forum encourages LO's to participate actively



WaSH Program extends across CMCA region



GDS program progressing



Patience is a virtue at the workplace



This newsletter is produced by the OTDF Public Relations to update and report on developments OTDF is carrying out throughout the Community Mine Continuation Agreement (CMCA) region, including the Western Province.

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Livelihood Development

Mr. Raul De Los Santos (OTDF Executive Manager Corporate Services) during his presentation

OTDF showcases Fly Vanilla Project at CANCONEX 2025

The Ok Tedi Development Foundation (OTDF) has presented its flagship Fly Vanilla Project at the CANCONEX program during PNG Resources Week, reaffirming its commitment to building sustainable futures in Western Province.

OTDF Executive Manager for Corporate Services, Mr. Raul Delos Santos, told participants at APEC Haus that the initiative is more than a commercial venture—it is a pathway for communities to transition from dependency to self-reliance through agriculture.

The PGK 42.9 million Fly Vanilla Project is spearheaded by West Agro Holdings, supported by OTDF, and managed by Innovative Agro Industries. It aims to establish Western Province as a premium producer of high-quality vanilla for both domestic and international markets.

In 2024 alone, 13,000 vanilla cuttings were distributed to 17 villages in the Middle Fly and South Fly districts. Farmers are already harvesting and selling beans, demonstrating the project’s early impact. Demonstration plots, farmer training, and extension services are ensuring that skills and knowledge are transferred at the village level.

“Land is life, river is blood, and custom is law,” Mr. Delos Santos said, quoting an elder’s wisdom to highlight PNG’s agricultural potential. “Land is life because PNG is a blessed land. Everything, even a small seed, can grow when planted with care.”

The project is also strengthening infrastructure to support quality-controlled vanilla production and processing, giving communities access to competitive export markets.

By aligning with PNG’s national development goals, the

Fly Vanilla initiative offers a sustainable alternative to mining dependency while empowering landowners with ownership of agribusiness opportunities.

For OTDF, the Fly Vanilla Project is more than an investment in crops—it is an investment in people, resilience, and the future of Western Province.



Small holder vanilla farmers receive upskilling in growing vanilla



Mr. Kwasa Samadi and family were part of ODF project at Pukaduka 1 village.

WPHA declare Pukaduka 1 and Mutam Villages : 'Open Defecation Free'

A major milestone in sanitation and community health was reached when two villages in Western Province's South Fly and Delta Fly regions were declared Open Defecation Free (ODF) on the 29 and 31 of July 2025.

Pukaduka 1 Village in the Suki Fly Gogo region and Mutam Village in the Dudi region of the CMCA Trust area have successfully eliminated open defecation through the combined efforts of communities, development partners, and government agencies.

The declarations were made in partnership with the South Fly Women and Children Association (SFW&CA), Western Provincial Health Authority (WPHA), and the Ok Tedi Development Foundation (OTDF), as part of ongoing efforts to improve sanitation and hygiene across Western Province.

The events were celebrated with community members, local leaders, and key stakeholders, including WPHA Manager for Public Health Mr. Gagole Segela and South Fly District Development Authority representative and Chairman of the SF district WaSH Committee Mr. Joel Galuma.

The ODF declarations are part of the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) program implemented by OTDF which aligns with the Western Provincial and District Health plan.

The program aims to eliminate open defecation by encouraging safe sanitation practices, building household toilets, and running intensive hygiene awareness campaigns. OTDF and South Fly Women and Children Association (SFW&CA) facilitated Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) training, empowering villagers to take ownership of their sanitation needs. A total of 2,256 people were reached through the CLTS program.

Speaking at Pukaduka 1, OTDF PSSD Manager Mr. Moses Kalup praised the determination of the villagers:

"This milestone shows what can be achieved when communities, local organisations, development partners, and government work together. Achieving ODF is not just about building toilets — it's about protecting health, restoring dignity, and ensuring a cleaner future for our children and communities."

WPHA's Manager for Public Health, Mr. Gagole Sagella, also congratulated the villages, noting the broader public health impact:

"Ending open defecation breaks the cycle of preventable diseases like diarrhoea, cholera, and typhoid. Your hard work will lead to healthier families and stronger communities. Today we are here to celebrate with you a new beginning. We thank SFW&CA for being instrumental in driving this program and acknowledge OTDF for funding initiatives that change community perceptions. We hope to continue this partnership to deliver better health services across CMCA communities in Western Province."

SFW&CA leaders expressed pride in the achievement and gratitude for OTDF's continued support. Mrs. Saridu Saudi, President of SFW&CA, highlighted the significance of partnership in creating lasting change:

"Through this partnership with OTDF, we have been given ownership and a voice in deciding how resources are used for projects that directly benefit our communities. Thank you for bringing positive change to the lives of our people. We are more than grateful to OTDF for giving us a platform to be true development partners."

This success stands as an example to other communities across Western Province to embrace sanitation improvements and work towards ODF status.

OTDF remains committed to partnering with SFW&CA, the WPHA, and local government to ensure more villages achieve ODF, contributing to healthier, safer, and more resilient communities.



Kiunga Vocational Administration staff receive vehicle donated by OTDF Board & Executive Management

Kiunga Vocational Centre receive vehicle donation from OTDF

The Ok Tedi Development Foundation (OTDF) endorsed its commitment to supporting education in Western Province through the donation of a vehicle to the Kiunga Vocational Centre (KVC).

The handover took place at the Brown House 2 car park in Kiunga witnessed by the OTDF Board of Directors including the Chairman of the board, Mr. Jesse Pile.

The Board of Directors handed over the car keys to Kiunga Vocational Centre Principal Mr. Andrew Yima and two Heads of Department.

Principal Mr. Andrew Yima, on behalf of KVC's staff and students, expressed appreciation for OTDF's contribution, noting the vehicle will improve mobility and operational efficiency for the centre. He added this support will further enable KVC to deliver high-quality vocational training that meets industry needs and prepares students for employment or entrepreneurship. "Thank you OTDF, we are grateful to receive this asset from you. You have contributed greatly to our school with this asset," said Mr. Yima.

The OTDF Board Chairman Mr. Pile in his remarks emphasised the significance of this support, stating: "It is with so much joy I present this vehicle to you today. Institutions like Kiunga Vocational Centre are important to us because you educate and prepare our children for future opportunities."

As a foundation, we see it as our responsibility to partner with such institutions to ensure our children receive the knowledge and skills they need to contribute meaningfully to the development of Western Province."

This support aligns with OTDF's broader development agenda, which prioritises capacity-building, education, and

the empowerment of youngpeople across the Community Mine Continuation Agreement (CMCA) regions and Western Province.

The ceremony concluded with the official handover of the vehicle keys by Mr. Pile to Mr. Yima, witnessed by the OTDF Board of Directors and KVC's staff, marking another milestone in OTDF's long-standing partnership with educational institutions in the province.



The KVC administration team alongside the Toyota Land Cruiser



Women leaders from the CMCA region network with stakeholders at the CANCONEX Mining Conference in Port Moresby

Community Development

CANCONEX 2025 concludes with call for stronger Landowner voice for Development

The Community Affairs and National Content Conference and Exhibition (CANCONEX 2025) concluded at APEC Haus with a strong message of empowering landowners and ensuring that the resource sector delivers sustainable, long-term benefits to Papua New Guineans.

The three-day event, staged as part of PNG Resources Week, attracted more than 1,400 delegates, 78 exhibitors and 60 speakers, including senior government leaders, landowner representatives, developers, and civil society groups. Prime Minister James Marape opened the conference by stressing the critical role of the resource sector in building infrastructure, creating jobs and supporting livelihoods.

Throughout the sessions, speakers repeatedly highlighted that landowners are not just stakeholders but custodians and rights-holders whose leadership must drive national development.

PNG Chamber of Resources and Energy (PNG CORE) Senior Vice President Richard Kassman described CANCONEX as the “heart of the national conversation on inclusive development,” and urged that national content should never be treated as a box-ticking exercise, but rather as the most powerful tool for building local capacity and delivering dignity to communities.

Discussions also focused on practical mechanisms such as the Landowner Beneficiary Identification program and social mapping to ensure that benefits reach the right people.

Successful landowner businesses, including KutMor Limited, Trans Wonderland Limited and PNG Mining & Petroleum Hospitality Services, were recognised as examples of family-based enterprises creating intergenerational impact.

East Sepik Governor Allan Bird reinforced the need to diver-

sify beyond mining by linking communities to agriculture and agribusiness for broader economic resilience.

Kassman concluded the event with powerful stories of ordinary workers whose families have advanced through opportunities created by resource-linked enterprises.

He reminded delegates that the wealth of the sector is measured not by what is extracted from the ground but by how it transforms lives above it.

The conference ended with six major takeaways, including the need to institutionalise landowner identification systems, strengthen benefit transparency, build women and youth capacity, and prioritise long-term employment strategies.

Delegates also identified three urgent priorities: empowering landowner enterprises, ensuring fair benefit distribution, and embedding systems that create lasting transformation.



The representing team at the CANCONEX program in Port Moresby



Ismael has never missed a day off work as his duty of care lies in the up keep of the OTDF Kiunga office

From Casual Beginnings to Permanent Pride: The Story of Ismael Kamisi

In the quiet village of Kono 2 in Nomad, Middle Fly, a humble man named Ismael Kamisi began a journey that would not only change his life but inspire those around him. With no formal education or prior experience, Ismael never imagined he would one day be a valued team member of one of Western Province's leading development organizations.

In 2017, Ismael joined the Ok Tedi Development Foundation (OTDF) as a casual worker, stepping in to relieve the organization's janitor. It was a modest beginning, but for Ismael, it was an opportunity—a foot in the door of an organization he respected deeply.

Through dedication, discipline, and a quiet but unwavering work ethic, Ismael proved himself reliable and indispensable. His humility and commitment did not go unnoticed. In 2018, he was formally brought on as a permanent janitor for OTDF.

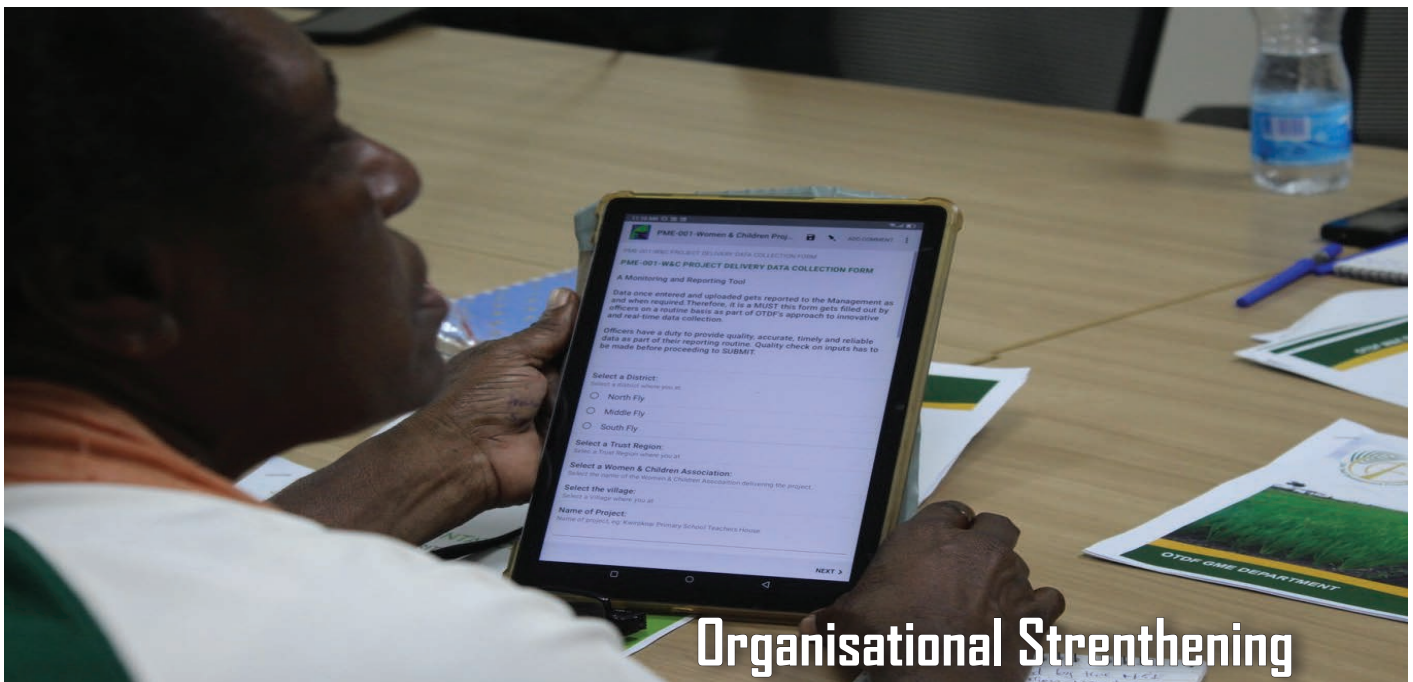
"I am grateful to OTDF for taking me in as a permanent staff," Ismael reflects. "With no experience nor an educational background, I am blessed to have worked with OTDF for seven years and counting."

Now a proud member of the OTDF family, Ismael takes great pride in maintaining a clean, safe, and welcoming environment for his colleagues and the communities they serve. He embodies the spirit of perseverance and gratitude, a reminder that dedication and loyalty can open doors even when the odds seem impossible.

Ismael Kamisi's story is not just about employment—it's about opportunity, dignity, and the transformative power of inclusion. His journey is a testament to OTDF's belief in the value of every individual and its commitment to uplifting the people of Western Province.



Ismael being attentive to his duties in the office



Organisational Strengthening

An executive from Suki Fly Gogo W&C Association getting familiarised with the online Field Task Application

Strengthening community capacity through mobile data collection

The Ok Tedi Development Foundation (OTDF) conducted a combined Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) and Media training workshop at the Daru Tango Motel Conference Room, aimed at equipping community representatives with essential digital tools for field reporting.

Central to the training was the Field Task Application, a mobile-based data collection platform designed to improve the accuracy, timeliness, and consistency of information gathered from remote communities.

The training focused on building local capacity to collect, submit, and manage real-time data, replacing manual reporting with user-friendly digital solutions.

Participants, including eight Women and Children Association leaders and six dinghy operators with their spotters, engaged in practical sessions that simulated on-the-ground reporting scenarios.

These sessions were complemented by mobile phone photography and basic reporting exercises, reinforcing the need for clear, organised information at every level of project monitoring.

Facilitating the workshop was Mr. Penias Brown, Grants Monitoring and Evaluation Team Leader, who emphasised the importance of data quality in corporate reporting. "If you give us information which is untidy," he explained, "then the results we write in the reports at our end will portray this to the management for corporate reports." His comments reinforced the responsibility of frontline data collectors in shaping how community progress is presented to stakeholders and decision-makers.

Among the notable participants was Ms. Margaret Idia, President of the Manawete Women & Children Association, who expressed strong support for the

training. She highlighted the simplicity and usefulness of the Field Task App in helping communities monitor their projects and communicate results more effectively. Ms. Idia also called for further training opportunities to ensure more community members can benefit from the tool.

Also inducted during the workshop was Mr. Anthony Arikingi, the newly appointed Public Officer for the four South Fly CMCA Women and Children Associations. His participation marked a step forward in building institutional knowledge around the Field Task App and ensuring continuity in its use across leadership roles.

While the workshop was widely regarded as successful, one significant challenge was the lack of access to Android smartphones among some attendees, which limited their ability to fully engage in the practical exercises.

This highlighted the ongoing digital divide in rural communities and the need for targeted support to improve technology access.

Despite these limitations, the training delivered valuable lessons. Participants expressed strong interest in further digital literacy programs, and the event reinforced the importance of follow-up training, device provision, and strategic partnerships to support broader digital inclusion.

OTDF remains committed to these goals and to empowering communities to lead development initiatives with confidence, accuracy, and transparency.



Ms. Matit is part of the current OTDF Finance Administration team

First female GDS student with OTDF progressing well

I am Bernadette Matit a Graduate Accountant and first female of the second batch Graduate Development Scheme for Ok Tedi Development Foundation for 2024, a subsidiary for Ok Tedi Mining Limited.

I come from a mix percentage of Western Province, East New Britain and half Western Highlands from the District of Mul Baiyer. I was born and raised in Daru in my early childhood days. Most of my days as a child was spent travelling to remote parts of Western Province with my mother who is primary school teacher. I saw and felt the challenges involved in providing services to our people and developed the passion to serve others. I completed my grade 12 from Mount Hagen Secondary School and got selected to Divine Word University.

My goal was to give back to my province and serve my people while contributing to the economy of Papua New Guinea. I applied for the OTDF Graduate Development Scheme program in 2024 and was selected to do my two years training based in Kiunga.

I was excited knowing that my goal was to served communities and give in whatever I have learned so far in my field of study. I was privileged to be part of Ok Tedi Development Foundation (OTDF) which is a dynamic organisation that delivers projects to communities through a unique partnership between mining, the people and government of Papua New Guinea.

I began my GDS training in February under the department of Finance and Administration with the guidance and supervisions from my manager and mentors. I have gained experience in financial roles and did my rotation in the different sections which is accounts receivable and accounts payable. Whilst doing my training I have learned so much practical skills that involves doing payments for our suppliers, staff payrolls, preparing supplier reconciliations, purchase orders for related requests from communities and company operational activities.

I diligently do my responsibilities and ensures I get work done on time daily. Despite challenges I encounter each day I always

reminded myself to remain focused and to take on any responsibilities given even though am not sure of the tasks. I am grateful I have the best finance officers who provide necessary guidance to understanding tasks and the processes involved in performing them. In October 2024, I was privilege to be given the opportunity to perform the role of Payroll Officer as part of the GDS rotation.

Without hesitation, I was humbled to carry on the tasks with trust and confidence from my Finance Manager and the Executive Management of OTDF under the supervision of Demas Simeng our payroll and contracts Officer. Within the short period of time, I was able to perform my duties as expected without any disappointment. It shows the commitment and willingness to learn and also give back to my community and OTDF as a whole.

I want to take this opportunity to motivate our young vibrant carrer women in Western Province and Papua New Guinea who are dreaming of working in Ok Tedi Mining Limited, PNG's own mine and its subsidiaries in contributing to the development of our province as well as the economy of Papua New Guinea, is to believe in your dreams and goals to become the woman endeavour to be in your community, province and country.

“The path from dreams to success does exist. May you have the vision to find it, the courage to get on it, and the perseverance to follow it”.

- Kalpana Chawla (Indian-American astronaut and aerospace engineer)

Month in pictures



Declaration of a new beginning for Pukaduka 1 village, South Fly



Aiambak clinic inspection for maintenance, Middle Fly



OTDF Board Visit Samagos AIC, Kiunga, North Fly



Menstruation Health Management (MHM) awareness, South Fly



Procurement and Supply Chain Management Training certification



Demo block visit by OTDF LDP team, Kaviapo village Middle Fly



Life Skills Training still a part of the OTDF WNC Program



Mutam Village declared Open Defecation Free by WPHA



Tyran (R) on a project site visit in the Middle Fly

Empowering Communities Through Infrastructure: Tyran Aukongo's Role Under OTDF's GDS Program

Ok Tedi Development Foundation (OTDF) continues to nurture emerging professionals through its Graduate Development Scheme (GDS) Program. One such promising talent is Mr. Tyran Tabua Aukongo, a graduate architect from the Papua New Guinea University of Technology (PNGUoT) currently serving within the Foundation's Infrastructure Development Department.

Mr. Aukongo's interest in architecture began at an early age, when his talent for drawing was recognised and encouraged by family and community members. Over time, this early interest matured into a clear professional ambition. He credits the support and guidance of those around him for shaping his decision to pursue architecture as a career.

When he was introduced to the OTDF GDS Program by friends who believed he would be a strong candidate, he saw it as an opportunity to apply his skills in a meaningful context.

In an interview, Mr. Aukongo reflected on what motivated him to apply for the GDS Program. "I was sent the job advert about the OTDF GDS Program by some of my friends who thought I would be a good fit. Looking into the kind of projects that OTDF does was very inspiring to me because I was raised participating in community service through church programs like the Pathfinder Club and student ministry associations in high school and university. Therefore, joining OTDF has given me the opportunity to serve the community in my profession."

What drew Tyran to OTDF was its commitment to community focused development. Having been actively involved in service through initiatives such as the Pathfinder Club and student ministry groups, he found that OTDF's values closely aligned with his own. The GDS Program offered him the chance to contribute to real outcomes that benefit rural communities while gaining professional experience.

His primary role at present is to engage in construction management, overseeing building projects from initial planning through to completion. This hands-on experience has deepened his technical understanding of the construction

process and strengthened his capabilities as a designer. Interacting with suppliers and contractors has enhanced his communication and negotiation skills, while working closely with materials has improved his knowledge of product types, sizes, transport logistics, and pricing. This technical understanding is critical for creating cost-effective and contextually appropriate architectural designs.

Additionally, his involvement in construction documentation has strengthened his planning and reporting abilities, essential for both design development and project delivery.

Despite the rewards of the role, Tyran acknowledges the challenges of working in Western Province especially logistical difficulties. The remoteness of many construction sites along the Fly River and Mine villages makes transporting materials and labour complex. To overcome this, he emphasises the importance of strong coordination and timely planning with all stakeholders to keep projects on track.

Looking ahead, he is committed to delivering designs that are not only structurally sound but also community focused and environmentally responsive. He believes that architecture must reflect the way people live and respond to the climate and landscape in which it exists. His design philosophy centres on practical, long-lasting solutions that improve daily life while preserving the natural environment. Sustainability is a key priority in his work. In line with best practices, he incorporates energy efficient strategies such as natural ventilation, passive lighting, and climate responsive features contributing to reduced energy use and greater comfort for building users.

His journey with the GDS Program highlights the value of investing in local talent. Tyran's dedication to his profession and to the development of CMCA communities represents the program's purpose and OTDF's mission: to build resilient communities through sustainable infrastructure and human capacity development.

Time Out



- 1. Field visit by extension staff and IDD team, MF
- 2. ODF Declaration in Mutam and Pukaduka 1
- 3. The hardworking OTDF support team

- 4. Taking time out to share a moment
- 5. Rumginae Nursing School project partners
- 6. Community engagement, Kawok project handover

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