

New solar genset to light up Ruruva Health Centre

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THE story of midwife and "wonderwoman" Carolyn Fred, who delivered more than 50 babies in 10 months using her mobile phone torch, touched the hearts of many, including the former Australian High Commissioner Jon Philp.

Sr Fred said the solar generators were donated after Mr Philp heard about her delivering twin babies using her mobile phone torch.

Mr Philp committed the brand-new solar light kit two weeks ago at Tinputz.

On Sunday November 19, the solar light kit arrived at Ruruva where a local contractor is tasked to install it.

Acting Australian High Commissioner Dr Joanne Loundes said: "The work of nurses and midwives is vital, Australia is proud to prioritise the capability building of health care workers and in particular women's health providers.

"We are committed to providing support fit for purpose and solutions such as this solar kit can provide valuable benefits.

"We continue to listen to PNG and Papua New Guineans to support the health and wellbeing of our closest neighbours," she said.

Sr Fred said TotalEnergies has also donated solar lights for use while waiting for the installation of the solar gensets.

"I want other midwives around

PNG who are facing the same challenges to not struggle in silence, but to come out and tell their story to get help".

Sister-in-charge at the health centre Casilda Tsigoto, expressed her gratitude for the donation, adding that it is difficult working on mothers with complications and dealing with emergency cases using torch lights and phone torches at night.

"With these solar generators our job will be easier," she said.

Sr Tsigoto is happy with her eight staff who are committed and handle challenges faced every day in their line of work.

She said they are overcoming one challenge at a time and power supply for light was most crucial.

"I will keep reaching out to the government for funding for this health centre.

She said the church agency the health centre was operating under had been assisting with some of the needs for the facilities like water tanks and building materials for maintenance around the health centre.

Sr Tsigoto said the only government funding was the Ambulance donated by the regional member.

She said the health centre was also short of staff for many years due to accommodation issues.

"Two of my staff are living in nearby primary schools because their spouses are teachers and I am accommodating a new staff."