

Colostomy cancer survivor on lifeline for 14 years and counting

BY GRACE AUKA-SALMANG

JANET Pawena Yaki is indeed a superwoman who has defeated many odds.

She is a survivor of four types of cancer – breast, cervical, a lump in the underarm and colon cancer.

As if these aren't enough, she had been living with arthritis for the past 20 years, had a lump at the top of her neck and has been living with stoma.

Stoma is an opening of the stomach, created by surgery; the diges-

tive system is brought to the opening in the stomach and attached to the wall of the stomach, leaving the hole or Stoma, allowing the patient to pass waste out.

"Having bowel cancer, the doctors here in PNG couldn't do the surgery as they didn't know the extent of the tumor.

"My doctor recommended me to seek overseas medical treatment.

"I tried a couple of overseas hospitals and finally, God made it possible for me to go to Changhua Christian Hospital in Taiwan," she said.

She is a colorectal cancer survivor for 14 years after undergoing surgery in 2009.

Colorectal cancer is when your colon or rectum needs to be removed, you will have a surgery called a colectomy.

If you have a colectomy or your colon becomes severely blocked due to the growth of cancerous tumors, you may need to also have a colostomy.

Mrs Yaki described her surgery as: "One of the best things that happened in my life, giving me a second

chance in life." Janet found not just medical treatment but a lifeline that has sustained her for 14 years and counting.

Her journey is more than a tale of survival; it's a testament to the power of hope and the human spirit.

"I would recommend for those who are suffering from cancer and going through a lot, to undergo treatment in Chang Hua Christian Hospital in Taiwan.

"There were individuals, friends, families and the Ialibu community who contributed towards my trip.

"I also thank the Superintendent of Changhua Christian Hospital, the board members, the Overseas Medical Mission, two Stoma therapy nurses, all the nurses, doctors, Dr Chen and his team who did the 11hour surgery. All Glory goes to God," she said.

Janet, is also the heart and driving force behind the PNG Stoma Association. In sharing her story, she extends a hand, offering insight that may illuminate the path for those seeking cancer treatment in Taiwan.