

Microbank to empower rural economy

BY GRACE SALMANG

FORTY-FIVE wards in Gumine district of Simbu Province will now have their ward accounts opened to carry out their economic activities.

The accounts opening will enhance business activities such as trade stores and small scale vegetable and livestock farming activities.

This comes under the recent Ward Empowerment Strategy Model rolled out by MiBank for the Gumine district, where local member for Gumine Mr Nick Kuman will make funding available for these wards under his District Services Improvement Program (DSIP).

Nationwide Microbank Limited managing director Mr Tony Westaway, yesterday said to compliment such a strategy, the bank has already opened these accounts with signatories comprising of elected ward councillors and appointed ward committees comprising of the community sectors such as business, church and women representatives.

"The funding available to the district will be allocated and deposited into individual ward accounts and drawn have been formally signed off by the Gumine district administrator, and are deemed ready for funding," he said.

Mr Westaway understands that such activities mentioned above have already been pre-identified through the usual Ward Profile exercise undertaken by the Gumine district management team.

MiBank will assist the district management team in monitoring progress of the various ward projects and will provide scheduled reports on the conduct of banks accounts.

"We look forward to not only extending our training to the ward members, but seek to reach out to the people in Gumine and more widely in Simbu province."



FROM right to left: Head of Mobile Banking Trudi Egi, managing director Mr Tony Westaway and local MP Nick Kuman signing necessary documents to roll out the program.