



CAMEROON BAPTIST CONVENTION HEALTH SERVICES

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**STOP  
Press**

Read the HS Chronicle and  
pass it on to the next person

**Bible  
Verse**

"Do not fear, O Jacob my servant; do not be  
dismayed, O Israel. I will surely save you out of a  
distant place, your descendants from the land of their  
exile. Jacob will again have peace and security, and  
no one will make him afraid". Jeremiah 46:27 (NIV).

## CBC Health Services Leaders, Chiefs of Centre Chart Way Forward in Service Delivery

*continued from pg 1*

**C**hiefs of Centre and Leaders of the CBC Health Services (CBCHS) have examined and devised ways of overcoming the challenges faced in service delivery, especially during difficult moments such as the socio-political crisis hitting the Northwest and Southwest regions of the country. The forum, which is convened annually and regroups all the leaders of the institution, took place this time at Mboppi Baptist Hospital Douala from September 19-21, 2019. The conclave also evaluated the activities in all the facilities including achievements and difficulties.

In his address, the Director of CBCHS, Prof. Tih Pius Muffih acknowledged that the crisis in the two English speaking regions has affected all the other facilities in other regions across the country. In line with the measures in place to enable the institution to sail through this difficult moment, the Director expressed in confidence that "The institution will strive to cope and continue to provide quality care amidst all odds.

**Consequently, there are expectations for all the leaders of the institution to be resilient, focused, dedicated, prayerful, fearless, and also to adopt stringent ways of managing the limited resources available at the moment to serve the population that is dependent on the institution for their healthcare".**

Prof. Tih reported that the bulk of the decisions made in the last meeting that held in 2016 have been implemented. He announced plans of developing more coping strategies during this time of the crisis.

The DHS, however, noted that plans to improve on the infrastructure were hindered by limited finances, compelling staff to work in tight structures especially in the urban areas where client attendance is relatively good. In the rural areas of the two crisis-

stricken regions of the NW and SW where attendance has recorded a significant drop, the DHS called on the institution heads to adopt cost-saving measures to stay afloat. He encouraged hard work and commitment, as it is only through this that recognition comes, be it Divine recognition or human appreciation.

During this meeting, some two deserving staff members of the CBC Health Services received meritorious awards for their services. The awards were received on September 19, 2019, by Mr. Nkwan Jacob Gobte, Infection Prevention and Control/Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (IPC/WASH) nurse; and Mr. Yungseh Peter Nshiom, Supervisor of Nursing Services (SNS) of the Kumba Baptist Health Centre. The Association of Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology (APIC) in Philadelphia USA recognized and awarded Mr. Nkwan for his advocacy and influence in Infection Prevention and Control. This award was granted during the Annual Scientific Conference in Philadelphia that ran from May 12-14, 2019.

Presenting the award to Mr. Nkwan Jacob, the Director of CBC Health Services, Prof. Tih Pius Muffih congratulated him and ordered for a standing ovation for his hard work that earned his facility the first position in an Infection Control and Prevention audit that was conducted in all the Health Facilities of the CBC Health Services in 2019.

Mr. Nkwan, who is a multi-award winner in the same domain, was given the privilege to hand over a similar award from Infection Control African Network (ICAN) to the SNS of Kumba Baptist Health Centre, Mr. Yungseh. He (Mr. Nkwan) congratulated Kumba Baptist Health Center for their work in Infection Control and Prevention, which earned them the appellation of "IPC/WASH Centre of Excellence" in Infection Control. He also called on the other leaders to step up their efforts in order to improve Infection Prevention in their respective facilities.

Adding his voice to the same appeal, Prof Tih challenged all to leave worth-emulating legacies in their respective positions as leaders within the institution.

The 3-day meeting brought together Technical Advisers, Administrators, Chief Medical Officers, Supervisors of Nursing Services, Chiefs of Centre and other Department heads.

As host, the Senior Administrator of the

Mboppi Baptist Hospital Douala, Mr. Nfor Daouda rejoiced that it was a successful meeting with impactful interactions, review of activities, goals and sharing of information about the healthcare delivery system.

As take home, the CBC Health Services Communication Unit gathered the following appraisals from participants:

"This is my first time to attend the CoC's meeting and it has been a living experience for me given the presentations, the devotions that centered on leadership, the role of the leader and different characteristics that would make a leader successful. I also had the opportunity to present the Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD) Prevention and Control Program at the meeting. The other presentations were also very comprehensive and concise and I got a lot of information from them". Dr. Epie Njume, General Physician and General Supervisor of the NCD Program at the Nkwen Baptist Health Center

"It was a great experience for me because I had the chance to meet the other leaders and I learned a lot. I have learned that the leader's vision is usually different from that of the followers and while the followers turn to look back and complain, the leader should have more faith and look forward just as Moses did with the Israelites in the desert," Dr. Kinne Mane Virginie, Internist and CMO of Ekounou Baptist Health Center.

"It was a great success for the three days we have been here in Douala. It has been a blessing coming together as leaders and to be challenged that as leaders, we are there to influence our followers and to carry on the vision of the CBC Health Services and to cause our followers to join hands together with us to make the services sustainable in a crisis moment like this. So I am going home trusting God to help me to fear not and to be a leader that others can look up to," Nkeh Jenny Tawah Ajimsimbom, Supervisor of Nursing Services of Ekounou Baptist Health Centre, Yaounde



# Child Abuse in Cameroon: CBC Health Services Charts New Course

**T**he Cameroon Baptist Convention (CBC) Health Services has sounded the alarm on the various types of abuse perpetrated on children, especially those living with disabilities in Cameroon, which further undermines and deters normal growth and development.

The solemn reminder was made at the first-ever National Symposium on Child Abuse, which took place in Yaounde, Cameroon on September 25, 2019.

The symposium presented an opportunity for the Cameroon Baptist Convention (CBC) Health Services to present detailed qualitative-based research on the abuse of children with disabilities in the Northwest Region of Cameroon.

According to Mrs. Agho Glory, Lead Researcher and EDID (Empowerment Disability Inclusive Development) Program Manager, the research was motivated by the high prevalence of child abuse in Cameroon. "From the (our) findings, over 50% of children in Cameroon are reported to have been abused. Amongst children with disabilities, child abuse is 3-5 times more than their peers without disabilities," revealed Mrs. Agho.

She regretted that despite lots of underground work done by the Government and the Cameroon Baptist Convention (CBC) Health Services to protect children and prevent child abuse, there were still cases of abuse reported in the country. Hence "We sought to know what is contributing to the ever-increasing cases of abuse," she said.

The research revealed that there are several contributing factors to child abuse; ranging from alcohol consumption, communication problems (especially with children with hearing impairment), religious beliefs, discriminating attitudes, inaction, and ignorance to lack of proper systems that prevent child abuse.

Addressing the Press at the symposium, Prof. Tih Pius Muffih, Director of Health Services underscored that the symposium was a forum to talk to and with stakeholders about the rampant child abuse recorded in everyday life in the country and the continent at large. "We, by this wanted to enlist their support and actions towards preventing child abuse in our [the] society,"

he added.

**"There are lots of policies and frameworks towards preventing abuse in the country. However, it was time for all stakeholders to move from policy to action. They should be able to identify where there is child abuse and take perpetrators to account for their actions," noted Prof. Tih. The public health expert advocated further that the rule of the law should be used to prosecute those who abuse the rights of children physically, emotionally or mentally; thereby protecting children who cannot defend themselves.**

The National Symposium on Child Abuse, a brainchild of the Cameroon Baptist Convention (CBC) Health Services was organized, thanks to funds from Liliane Foundation Netherlands in partnership with Cameroon's Ministry of Social Affairs (MINAS).

Declaring the symposium open, Pauline Irene Nguene, Minister of Social Affairs called on all the participants to take advantage of the meeting to propose effective strategies that will enable government and stakeholders to improve on the national response on child protection in the country. She appreciated the Cameroon Baptist Convention (CBC) Health Services for their generous efforts and actions towards protecting the vulnerable in Cameroon.

"I will like to thank the Cameroon Baptist Convention (CBC) Health Services, not only for her actions aimed at protecting the rights of persons with disabilities through hospital-based and community interventions but especially for organizing the symposium," she said.

The plight of abused children is catered for at the Cameroon Baptist Convention (CBC) Health Services under the direction of the Child Protection component of the Socio-Economic Empowerment of Persons with Disability (SEEPD) Programme.



Ms. Nsono Josephine, Child Protection Officer at the SEEPD Programme says many of the children the program has intervened for have suffered sexual abuse. "We find cases of incest that happen right within the home. In the advent of the Anglophone crisis, many children have been displaced and residing with family members who rape them daily."

Having witnessed many child abuse cases, Ms Nsono says fighting child abuse is a collective responsibility; starting with medics who have to take care of the health of the abused children, the legal persons, psychotherapists and community members who have to surround the child and ensure their proper integration and development into the society after justice has been served.

The National Symposium on Child Abuse folded up with a resolve by participants to educate the people more and more on the rights of children, facilitate the harmonization of child protection activities and policies by all, and a dire need to create a secure environment for victims to speak out.

The symposium held at the Yaoundé City Council (Hotel de Ville) under the theme: "Awareness to Action"



**Cameroon's Minister of Affairs calls for child friendly policies to curb the ever-increasing cases of child abuse.**



## Service Providers Trained on BLSO Techniques During Child Birth

Over 20 Services Providers of the CBC Health Services have successfully undergone a 3-day training workshop to improve skills needed to better manage complications that arise during pregnancy and childbirth. The training took place from September 22-25, 2019 at the Nkwen Baptist Center Bamenda.



With a simultaneous study of theory and practice, the trainees were equipped on the steps that lead to **preventing deaths during childbirth**



*Statistics from 2015 show that at least 596 women in every 100,000 delivery cases die during childbirth.*

Reports say the training is a subset of the Advanced Life Support in Obstetrics (ALSO), particularly called, Basic Life Support in Obstetrics (BLSO) which is structured to train service providers working with Maternal and Child Health services.

A key facilitator in the program, Munjoh Anthony Viji, Supervisor of Nursing Services in Mboppi Baptist Hospital Douala (MBHD), told CBC Health Services Press that the training aims to reduce mother and child mortality rate in Cameroon and beyond.

“Statistics from 2015 show that at least 596 women in every 100,000 delivery cases die during childbirth. Government and CBC Health Services have therefore initiated this program to train midwives and other health personnel involved in emergency services to better handle delivery cases when need be,” the Nursing Supervisor said. “The target is on Community Mother and Child Health Aides (COMCHAs) that are found in the peripheries, which are not accessible to the

mainstream hospitals”, he added.

With a simultaneous study of theory and practice, the trainees were equipped on the steps that lead to preventing deaths during childbirth and also improve on the quality of health care given to mothers and their babies.

Some of the trainees at the end of the program expressed happiness in the new skills they have acquired in the program. “The training has refreshed my memories on some key issues I have neglected. I will take back these new developments such as resuscitating a baby to my community. I have learned how to manage Post Partum Hemorrhage (PPH) among other things. I came here with a different experience but now I have acquired more skills to remedy this kind of situation of pregnant women and their babies during delivery” 39 years old Mibunwe Happiness, a trainee of the BLSO program recounts.



### Advanced Life Support in Obstetrics (ALSO)

While BLSO is Basic Life Support Obstetrics, ALSO is Advance Life Support Obstetrics, a training program that equips the entire maternity care team with skills to effectively manage obstetric emergencies’ so as to ensure better safety of mother and child during child birth.

## CBC Health Services' Technical Services Department Gains New Leadership

Mr. Nyuonquo Kenneth has been officially installed as the new Administrator of the Technical Service Department (TSD) of the CBC Health Services. He takes over from Mr. Kangong Joce, who currently serves as Administrator of the Nkwen Baptist Health Center in Bamenda.



Mr. Nyuonquo Kenneth takes over from Mr. Kangong Joce as New Administrator of the **Technical Service Department**.

The installation ceremony took place on August 8, 2019 at the TSD office in Bamenda and officiated by the Assistant Administrator at the CBC Health Services' Central Administration, Mr. Wango Barnabas who represented the Chief of Administration and Finance, Mr. Warri Denis. Mr. Wango charged the in-coming TSD Administrator to ensure the smooth running of the activities of the department that has staff strength of over 200.

Corroborating, the outgoing Administrator, Mr. Kangong Joce called on TSD staff to work collaboratively with the in-coming Administrator in meeting the department's objectives.

In response, the in-coming Administrator pledged his determination to coordinate the activities of the TSD in conformity with the mission statement of the CBC Health Services.

It should be noted that the new TSD Administrator has held various positions in the department, the last being Procurement Supervisor, which he has handed to Mr. Ndishe Victor Mondeh from Mbingo Baptist Hospital.

## Young Nurse to be Trained by Global Program on Enhancing Fight Against Cancer in the Regions

**M**anjuh Florence, a Women's Health Program nurse who works with the Cameroon Baptist Convention (CBC) Health Services has been selected for a global program to enhance the fight against cancer in the Regions. The selection took place in Yaoundé, Cameroon, September 1, 2019 by the Union for International Cancer Control (UICC) supported by Roche, an initiative to combat cancer in Cameroon.

Florence is one of the young leaders selected across the globe to benefit from broad/expert support skills intended to equip them to enhance the fight against cancer in their regions.

As a CBC Health Services Women's Health Program (WHP) leader and Family Planning Provider/Advocate, the skills acquired during the training will enable her function effectively and efficiently in fighting cancer in Cameroon in general and the CBCHS in particular.



The Union for International Cancer Control (UICC) unites and supports the cancer community to reduce the global cancer burden, to promote greater equity, and to ensure that cancer control continues to be a priority in the world health and development agenda."

# HIV-Free Team II Leaves No Stone Unturned for Better Results in Technical Assistance Sites

Like any other community, the people of Ntui are exposed to health challenges like malaria, cholera, non-communicable diseases, and HIV and AIDS amongst others. To guarantee the wellbeing of the inhabitants, over 10 health facilities are planted in the District with the District Hospital (DH) as a reference hospital in the locality.



A permanent staff was placed at the Ntui District Hospital to offer **direct support**

**N**tui is the divisional headquarters of “Mbam et Kim” in the Center Region of Cameroon. With a surface area of over 430 km<sup>2</sup>, Ntui is host to over 28,000 inhabitants. The fertile land of this plateau attracts migrants from different parts of the country and beyond, making it a booming city with several businesses and agricultural activities. Like any other community, the people of Ntui are exposed to health challenges like malaria, cholera, non-communicable diseases, and HIV and AIDS amongst others. To guarantee the wellbeing of the inhabitants, over 10 health facilities are planted in the District with the District Hospital (DH) as a reference hospital in the locality.

With the advent of the HIV-Free project in 2018, the team offered quarterly technical assistance in the delivery of HIV related Care and Treatment services in Ntui Health District via supervision. Notwithstanding this move, implementation of project activities was suboptimal with persistent challenges such as insufficient HIV case identification, low Antiretroviral therapy (ART) initiation, high defaulter/Lost to Follow Up rates and insufficient TB/HIV integration. Twelve months' retention in care was around 70% only in the District Hospital Ntui. With the reorganization of the HIV-Free Centre Project into Teams I & II, several strategies have been put in place to harness and consolidate efforts already implemented by the project.

A permanent staff was placed at the Ntui District Hospital to offer direct support to the team in place in the implementation of project activities, which include; HIV Testing services, ART initiation of clients who test

HIV positive, follow-up of clients on ART, proper use of standard data collecting and reporting tools, and use of data generated to improve quality of services rendered.

**This strategy yielded fruits almost immediately as ART Registers were formatted properly, DAMA (HIV Management Software) introduced active search of defaulters and lost to follow-up (LTFU) which has become everyone's concern while clients who test Tuberculosis (TB) positive are followed up for HIV testing and ART initiation. This “volte-face” can be confirmed by looking at the performance of retention for District Hospital (DH) Ntui which moved from 21% in Q2 of FY19 to 81% in Q3 of FY19.**

To further improve performance at this site, a team from HIV-Free Centre Team II led by the Manager, Dr. Kum Walters visited the District Hospital Ntui in June 2019 to monitor the implementation of the project activities and provide technical support for improvement.

After a courtesy visit to the Director of the Hospital, the team visited the different entry points of the Hospital which included ANC, In-Patient, Out-Patient, Laboratory, Minor Surgery, CDT and the ART (UPEC) units. The team propped in questions to better understand the step by step approach of patient flow at each entry point. While the staff elaborated on their work, the team listened keenly and each time supportively came in to clarify doubts or explain what should be done at each step. The visit to each entry point ended with the consultation of registers to ensure that the service

providers walked their talks.

After a thorough supervision with the use of a guide developed for the purpose, the following recommendations were made to guide improvement in service delivery so that Ntui can attain 90 90 90 targets by 2020; Ensure Multi-Month ART dispensation, reduce turnaround time for HIV testing by separating the HIV Tests from other tests while respecting the national algorithm, follow national protocol on the administration of Nevirapine to HIV Exposed Infants (HEI), properly fill all Patients' Medical records (adult files and HEI files) and systematically test all patients diagnosed with TB for HIV.

The visit ended with a debrief with the Director of the Hospital who expressed his satisfaction for such visits which are a learning opportunity for them. He appreciated the support of the CBC Health Board via the HIV-Free project and pledged to work with the District Clinical Mentor to implement all the recommendations made.



A guide developed, and recommendations were made to guide improvement in service delivery so that Ntui can attain 90 90 90 treatment **targets by 2020;**



## I finally got married despite my Status

I was diagnosed HIV positive at the age of 26. It was a terrible experience for me coupled with the fact that I was jobless. I informed some close friends who later on became a great source of motivation as they encouraged me to accept my status and do follow up for treatment. I also mounted the courage to seek advice from my cousin who is a medical doctor. He responded to most of my worries and clarified my doubts before referring me to the Health District (HD) of Cite Verte where I was counseled again properly and placed on treatment.

I never took my treatment for granted. I always take my treatment with me wherever I go. Accepting my status was not a problem. Instead what kept me at the thinking-spot regularly was the fear of never getting married. Would a woman ever accept me with my status? Would I be able to have healthy and uninfected children? Would I live long enough to take care of my family? These rhetorical questions kept bothering me.

I later got a job and joined a Support Group of Persons Living with HIV (PLHIV). During one of my Support Group meetings in 2017, I confided my worries to the group members and they promised to assist me to get a wife. It's been 14 months today since I got married and I am enjoying the company of my companion to the fullest.

From all these experiences, we don't have to be discouraged because we have a virus called HIV. Taking your treatment is the utmost thing to be done because, since 2010, I haven't been ill. I am strong and healthy so I believe with treatment, we can all stay healthy.

## MBH Cancer Program gets Giant Leap

The Cancer Program of Mbingo Baptist Hospital (MBH) will soon be a reference in Cameroon and the African sub-region. Dr. Dennis Palmer, Director of the Christian Internal Medicine Specialization (CIMS) program, through who the transformation is coming, announced that the Cancer Program will in the days ahead be the only one in the country where a patient can be diagnosed of cancer and receive all the care and treatment without being referred to continue elsewhere.

Dr. Palmer made it known that the Cancer program has acquired funding to set up a radiation unit in Mbingo where cancer

patients needing radiology will no longer have to travel to Douala or Yaounde as is the case now. The professor of internal medicine lamented that most patients who are ordered this treatment would rather go home to die than travel elsewhere.

According to the CIMS Director, the funding, obtained via the Africa Oxford Harvard Trial Group with the facilitation of Cameroonian born, Dr. Ngwa, will enable the building of two bunkers to contain the machines which are already available and waiting in Wales, UK. "The walls of the bunkers will be 3 meters thick to neutralize radiation emissions in the treatment process," Dr.

Palmer emphasized.

The funding will also train and hire skilled personnel such as medical physicists, oncologists, engineers, technicians, and other related staff to handle this sophisticated outfit. Presently, Kelese Standley is undergoing 2-year Master's program in medical physics in Germany.

It is hoped that the take-off of this component of cancer treatment in Mbingo will greatly enhance the research arm of the CIMS program.

## Ekoundoum Baptist Health Center (EBHC)

### EBHC Theatre goes Operational Soon

The theatre of Ekoundoum Baptist Health Centre (EBHC) in Yaounde, Center Region of Cameroon will go operational soon. According to the Assistant Administrator, Miss Tangwa Faith, the theater will hopefully open its doors to the public by the end of September 2019.

Medical cases that used to be referred for operation in other health facilities in Yaounde will soon be attended to in the health center, which is being transformed into a full hospital. At the time of this report, the Center has put in place all the paraphernalia required for the theatre to go operational as soon as an anesthetic machine expected from Mbingo Baptist Hospital (MBH) arrives.



## EBHC Eye Department Setting the Pace

*Clients who deserve glasses after diagnosis choose and pay for their frames from the optical workshop. Meanwhile, the glasses are ordered to fit into the frames.*

The optical workshop of the eye department of Ekoundoum Baptist Health Center stands out as one of the most outstanding in the entire CBCHS as well as in the country. The workshop is spacious, clean and well-arranged to display the various frames. Salle Issa, Optic and Refraction Technician with several years of experience heads the unit to manage the workshop.

In a chat with CBCHS Communication Unit, Mr. Issa explained that clients who deserve glasses after diagnosis choose and pay for their frames from the optical workshop. Meanwhile, the glasses are ordered to fit into the frames. He further disclosed that the frames are either fabricated at the optical workshop or ordered.

About other updates, the head of the department, Olivia Muyang said patients' attendance is on the increase due to quality care offered by the trained and dedicated staff led by the ophthalmologist, Dr. Kamsang Pius. The ophthalmologist welcomed the setting up of the theater, which was due to go operational by the end of September, as a stitch in time to enable him function to near capacity by providing major



**Different lenses in the eye department to fit different eye defects**

At the moment, he is limited to carrying out minor surgeries. The ophthalmologist devotes two days a week (Thursday and Friday) to consult at Etoug-Ebe Baptist Hospital Yaounde.

## Ekoundoum Baptist Health Centre is Experiencing Increase in Staff, Patients

The Assistant Administrator, Miss Tangwa Faith says there has been a marked improvement in patients' attendance that stands at an average of 200 patients seen daily. The high patient turnover is matched by the addition of two doctors namely: Dr. Tangong Caleb Nkemta transferred from Bansa Baptist Hospital and Dr. Nkengla Sirri Eni, fresh from the Faculty of Health Sciences in the University of Bamenda. They both took up services Ekoundoum Baptist Health Center on September 1, 2019. Meanwhile, Dr. Nkeagu Fomengia Joseph left to pursue further studies for a Master's degree in Public Health.

Meantime, Dr. Kinne Mane Virginia, internist, has been appointed as Chief Medical Officer (CMO) of the Ekoundoum Baptist Health Centre. The Assistant Administrator rejoiced the appointment of a CMO gives the health center an added status and makes the task of coordinating the doctors easier. Miss Tangwa also revealed that a gynecologist and a surgeon may soon be provided for the health center, which is rapidly being transformed into a hospital.



## Newly Created EBHC Mental Health Department Picking-up Steam

*Plans and resources are being galvanized towards training more staff, and storming homes and communities and public gatherings for sensitization campaigns on the services.*

The Mental Health Department of Ekoundoum Baptist Health Centre that took off some five months ago, sees an average of 40 patients per month. The new department offers psychiatric mental health care services to the public.

Tikem Hermine Nadege, Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse and lone staff of the department, posits that awareness creation on the availability of the service at the health center is her major preoccupation. She adds that at the

moment, enough sensitization is being carried out at the level of the hospital.

Together with the CBCHS Supervisor of Mental Health services Tikem Hermine disclosed that plans and resources are being galvanized towards training more staff, and storming homes and communities and public gatherings for sensitization campaigns on the services.

# Mboppi Baptist Hospital Douala (MBHD)

## MBHD to Commence WHO Standard Central Sterilization Unit



*the unit will ensure effective sterilization of equipment used in the hospital and provide a mechanism to trace the source of a problem in case of any eventuality.*

**Mboppi Baptist Hospital Douala (MBHD) is setting up a Standard Central Sterilization Unit from where all hospital equipment will be sterilized. This will no longer be done in the theater and in other units as is the case now.**

According to the Supervisor of Nursing Services (SNS), Mr. Monjuh Anthony, the unit will ensure effective sterilization of equipment used in the hospital and provide a mechanism to trace the source of a problem in case of any eventuality. "This unit will be set up to meet the WHO standard and to the best of my knowledge, it is

currently the lone centralized sterilization unit in the country," he added.

The construction of the Unit's building which will host the Autoclave for Sterilization is due completion. The Unit is demarcated to have two change rooms, an instrument processing room, a Linen processing room, a Gauze folding room, an Instrument cleaning room, a Sterilization room, and a common room where inventories are recorded.

## MBHD Nursery Ward Saving Lives of Premature Births

Premature babies are not fully equipped to survive the first few days, weeks and months of life. They need constant heat supply to prevent them from any infections. Medical Technology has made it possible for incubators to nurture their fragile bodies until they can survive on their own. Duration in the incubator is dependent on how many weeks early they are born and their progress after birth.



**This year 2019, 130 premature babies out of 170 premature babies place in the incubator have survived including two sets of twins**

**M**boppi Baptist Hospital Douala has 9 incubators, the highest in the city to take care of premature babies. This gives the hospital a referral status where premature babies are referred to from both government and private hospitals. At the time of this report, 8 babies (3 males and 5 females) were in the incubators among them a set of twins. Penn Shella Makah, Nursing Assistant revealed to CBCHS Communication Unit team

that the survival rate of premature babies in the hospital stands at 80%. "In 2018, the hospital registered over 204 babies who survived premature birth. This year, out of the 170 premature births, 130 have survived including two sets of twins," she added. She was emphatic the babies that die in the MBHD nursery are mostly those referred from other health facilities exposing them to harsh weather in the course of transit.

The Nursery Department of MBHD is dedicated to providing quality medical care to premature babies born in the Health Centre. The staff is made of 10 persons who work 3 stretched shifts to ensure that clients get the best services. The nursery is now located in a separate and spacious ward, a dramatic improvement over the space challenge the unit faced in its former site in the general ward.



**The survival rates of premature babies in the Mboppi Baptist Hospital has given the hospital a referral status in the country both from government and private health facilities in Cameroon**

# Baptist Health Centre Kribi

## South Regional Delegate of Health Commends Baptist Health Centre Kribi for Quality Healthcare



**D**r. Bidjang, South Regional Delegate of Public Health has hailed Baptist Health Centre Kribi (BHCK) for exemplary services offered to the population of the South Region and beyond. The commendation was made during an impromptu visit to the health centre on September 10, 2019. On hand to receive the Delegate was Mr. Mbeng Frankline, Chief of Centre (COC).

*Dr. Bidjang was overjoyed that such a health facility exists in his area of command. He requested a document indicating the performance index of the facility in the Ministry of Health.*

During the visit, the South Regional boss for Public Health appreciated the staff for their good work and orderliness. He called on the authorities of the Cameroon Baptist Convention Health Services to consider upgrading the health centre to a full-fledged hospital in the near possible future to accommodate more services.

Dr. Bidjang was overjoyed that such a health facility exists in his area of command. He requested a document indicating the performance index of the facility in the Ministry of Health.

In other developments, the staff of Baptist Health Centre Kribi has warmly welcomed their new Under Shepherd, Chaplain Wainden Rudolf. He was received during the morning devotions recently.

Also, two machines have been brought to the Haematology and Chemistry laboratory to upgrade the effectiveness and efficiency of work in these respective units. Our correspondent in Kribi, Anna Futzi, reported that the head of the laboratory, Carine Ndzewiyi said their work was so challenging without the machines. "After securing this equipment, work has greatly improved to enable us to provide effective and efficient services to our clients," she rejoiced.

Elsewhere, the Eye Department has embarked on an eye screening campaign to bring more patients to the clinic. At the time of this report, some 31 patients had been screened for various eye defects. Reports say the response from the population has motivated the department staff to extend the screening to other villages.

## Bafoussam Baptist Health Center Coping with Challenges

The influx of people into Bafoussam fleeing from the restive Northwest and Southwest regions is having a direct consequence on the institutions in the West region as a whole including the Bafoussam Baptist Health Centre (BBHC). The ultra-modern health center, which is in the process of being transformed into a hospital is up to the task in terms of staffing and services to cope with the challenges imposed by the influx.

The Administrator, Mr. Fabombi Dickson leads a staff of over 200 strong, among who are 5 doctors (2 on surgical practice orientation), 140 Nurses and many administrative and support staff. The Administrator said there is a need for proper orientation for the 40 new staff either transferred or posted to the center, especially because 60 percent of those posted are fresh from school with a diverse orientation of training. Given that many of the staff is English speaking, the administration has organized French language classes for staff to better attend to the majority of French-speaking clients.

To corroborate, Mr. Kibang Eric Nkwain, Supervisor of Nursing Services (SNS) noted that the health centre has experienced an upsurge in patients' attendance of about 5000 on a monthly basis. He explained that malaria, hypertension, diabetes and frequent accidents are the most common of the ailments patients present with at the facility.

Newly introduced services in the facility include; Ear, Nose, and Throat (ENT), Social Work, Mental Health, theatre, and training ground for the CBCHS security department.



**BBHC has experienced an upsurge in patients' attendance of about 5000 on a monthly basis**

Many types of equipment have also been bought to facilitate processes.

In summary, the health center faces three principal challenges: bill pending especially by IDPs who cannot pay for their medication, language barrier for English speaking staff given that 80 percent of the clients are French-speaking and the rising cost of accommodation as a result of the influx into town. With the increase of services and staff, the Administrator foresees the resurfacing of the challenge of working space.

### New Services at BBHC

Newly introduced services in the facility include; Ear, Nose, and Throat (ENT), Social Work, Mental Health, theatre, and training ground for the CBCHS security department

## BBHC Laboratory Procures New Paraphernalia

The laboratory department of Bafoussam Baptist Health Center sees between 80 to 100 patients daily and 2500 patients on a monthly basis. Dzeem Frankline Dzeila, Laboratory Technician, explained the functions of some new paraphernalia procured to carry out diagnoses. He explained that the Chemistry Machine called Randox Daytona Analyzer is used to do serum chemistries like creatinine, urea, uric acid and glucose. The Analyzer also measures haemoglobin A1c (a test used to determine whether diabetes is properly controlled).



Other newly acquired equipment used to ease work at the department include; a Lipid Profile machine, a Unit-3000plus Haematology Analyzer (used to measure complete blood count) and a Blood Mixer machine (used in mixing blood before running the sample in haematology analyser). There is also the Biolyke 2000 Electrolyte Analyzer machine (used to measure sodium, potassium and chloride) and a Chemwell Chemistry Analyzer (used to measure blood chemistries in organ function tests).

## ENT Services Breaking New Grounds in Bafoussam

People are called to rush and get Hearing Aids at BBHC given out by the CBC Health Services for jus given out by the CBCHS between 200,000FCFA and 300,000FCFA, instead of 750,000FCFA to 1.4 million FCFA sold in other hospitals in Cameroon and elsewhere.

Slightly over a month when Conso Marie Claire, Ear, Nose, Throat (ENT) Clinical Officer began offering services as the pioneer staff, the response has been rapid as she sees an average of 10-15 clients per day. This calls for an additional consultant and space to fully attend to the teeming number of patients.

CBCHS Communication Unit team, on September 9, 2019 met Dr. Acha Evaristus, ENT surgeon from Mbingo Baptist Hospital at the ENT Unit in Bafoussam during one of his routine visits to see clients with difficult cases. In a chat, Dr. Acha said he is impressed with the patients' attendance to the new Unit. He revealed that the beginning of an ENT Unit in Bafoussam was because a majority of the patients that come to Mbingo for ENT services are from the West region. The ENT surgeon spends a full week at the

facility once every two months but given the encouraging and increasing turn-out, he said he would subsequently come for support visit every month to attend to the many needs of the public.

Dr. Acha announced that the hearing aids are now available in limited supply. In the past, the hearing aids have been distributed at Mbingo Baptist Hospital, Baptist Hospital Mutengene and Mboppi Baptist Hospital Douala. People are called to rush and get affordable prices. These aids, which are sold by some people in Yaoundé between 750,000FCFA to 1.4 million FCFA is being given out by the CBCHS between 200,000FCFA and 300,000FCFA. The CBC ENT department also offers services after sales in that if the hearing aid develops a problem, it is received and fixed.

## BBHC Dental Department



The department that has 5 staff; 3 dental assistants, one auxiliary and one therapist, sees an average of 10 patients on a daily basis. Evelyn Yaffe Tata, dental therapist and head of the department says they have a challenge in the absence of an X-ray machine. She laments that patients who consult are currently being referred to other hospitals for an X-ray, which some find it discouraging while others go and never come back.

The news, she noted, is that the administration is working on acquiring an x-ray machine for this department. She calls on the population of Bafoussam to come for painless dental services at the centre; teeth cleanings, extractions, canals, artificial teeth, etc.

# Mamfe Baptist Health Center Joins Queue in beating NCDs

**M**amfe Baptist Health Center like other facilities of the Cameroon Baptist Convention Health Services has taken a firm stand towards the fight against Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) in the community. This is through community sensitization, education and the organization of major sporting events.

Ngome Vivian, NCDs Focal Person at the health center has been on move to churches and meetings (njangi groups) to school the population on the need to adopt healthy lifestyles; not to be at risk of developing any of the NCDs. Besides, she is equally providing care to those already living with any NCD.

To keep the staff from developing NCDs, Mamfe Baptist Health Center has instituted a physical exercise program to keep the staff physically active. The event holds every Monday and Friday.

The move by the Health Center has and is already witnessing a spillover to the community as the Mamfe Area Pastor recently launched sports competition to step up the fight against NCDs in the area. Three teams were part of the competition with one of them made up of the staff of the Health Center. During the crowning of the competition, Berean Baptist Church emerged champions after edging the team

from the Health Center by two goals to one (2-1).

Speaking during the award of trophies, Mr. Ndukong Godlove, Chief of Center (COC) said winning a trophy in a sports competition is good but winning the fight against NCDs is better. He urged participants to keep being active even after the competition.

According to Henry Tohtuh, Sports Coordinator at Mamfe Baptist Health Center more people through the sports event now have a wide knowledge of NCDs and how it can be fought through regular physical exercise.

## Call to Tender



Bread for the World is looking for consultants to provide consultancy and support services to our partner organizations in Cameroon. The service to be delivered is geared towards building the capacities of partner organizations to comply with funding requirements. This will be done through advice, training and coaching in the area of financial management (lot 1) and outcome-and-impact-oriented planning, monitoring and evaluation (lot 2). Further details are found in the procurement documents, which can be downloaded through the following link: <https://www.brot-fuer-die-welt.de/fr/pain-pour-le-monde/offre/>. Tenders must be submitted by 11 October 2019, 12:00 UTC +2 (Europe/Berlin). More information about the Bread for the World organization: <https://www.brot-fuer-die-welt.de/fr/pain-pour-le-monde/>

## Prayer Concerns

- 1.Thank God for keeping the system afloat in the midst of difficulties as expressed in the reports from the recent Chiefs of Center and CBCHS leaders' meeting that held in Mboppi.
- 2.Thank God for the committed and hard-working leaders of the CBCHS.
- 3.Continue to pray for CBCHS institutions in the Northwest and Southwest regions that are badly affected by the ongoing socio-political unrest in these two regions.
- 4.Pray for vulnerable groups; women, children, persons with disabilities that are most affected in times of crisis.
- 5.Continue to pray for the nation, Cameroon.

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