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STOP PRESS!!
Read the HS Chronicle and pass it on to the next person

BIBLE VERSE

“Look up to the heavens and see: gaze at the clouds so high above you”
~Job 35:5 (NIV).
The CBC Health Services in collaboration with the Ministries of Social Affairs (MINAS), Secondary Education (MINESEC) and Basic Education (MINEDUB) have organised the “We Ring the Bell” annual campaign under the theme “Leave no child with a disability behind in education”. The three-day virtual campaign which ran from April 19-22, 2021 aimed at raising awareness and encouraging public actions to promote the education of children with disabilities.

The campaign was hosted at the CBC Health Services Resource Center of Excellence, Mvan, Yaounde and presided over by the Minister of Social Affairs, Mme Pauline Irene Ngene and the Director of CBC Health Services, Prof Tih Pius Muffih. Other key dignitaries included: the Empowerment and Disability Inclusive Development (EDID) Program Manager, Mrs. Agho Glory and the Director of the Department of Persons with Disability and the Elderly at MINAS, Mrs. Ambe Angelica, members of the organizing bodies (MINAS, MINESEC, MINEDUB, CBC Health Services) and members of some implementing partner organizations.

Taking the front seat to advocate for inclusive education for children with disability in Cameroon, the Minister of Social Affairs, Pauline Irene Ngueune extended a call to stakeholders and the general public to take the lead as well in ringing the bell to ensure that over 90% of children with disabilities who do not go to school have access to education.

The MINAS boss emphasized that the 2010 law on disability and its 2018 text of application intends to bridge the gap and promote inclusive education for children living with disability. In this wise, the Minister resolved to equip educative and training facilities with resource centers, assistive devices and trained staff to be able to deliver inclusive learning. She also resolved to ensure that new schools constructions are accessible to children with disabilities.

In a bid to remove barriers in the educational environment, the Director of CBC Health Services (DHS), Prof. Tih Pius Muffih said, the CBC Health Services has remained committed in infrastructural modifications to provide access for children with disability. The public health expert added that the CBC Health Services also provides specialized equipment, audio and other relevant devices, Braille and sign language to enable children with disability study effectively.

The DHS further emphasized that the campaign will engage key decision-makers to strengthen their commitment to the education of learners with disabilities and raise awareness among the general public on the need and the benefits of equitably educating all children without discrimination.

The Director of the Department of Persons with Disability and the Elderly at MINAS, Mrs. Ambe Angelica used the occasion to stress that government have put in place structures to address the needs of persons with disabilities, citing a 2015 agreement with MINEDUB with which MINAS created 68 pilot inclusive schools in Cameroon.

The “We Ring the Bell” campaign provided a forum for experience sharing among beneficiary structures and actors on inclusive education, the practical implications involved in the implementation as well as in-country support to inclusive education from partner organizations such as UNICEF, UNESCO, CBM, Sight Savers and Liliane Foundation. Notwithstanding, the online conferences also stimulated the implementation of innovative strategies to optimize and promote the access to education of children with disabilities and thus contribute to speeding up the achievements of SDG4 in Cameroon.

Since 2016, the CBC Health services through the support of the Liliane Foundation has been organizing the “We Ring the Bell” campaign. In 2020, MINAS took over the leadership of the campaign and now organizes it annually in collaboration with the CBCHS and other actors in the education system.

We Ring the Bell Campaign is sponsored by the Liliane Foundation to advocate for education of children with disabilities.
April 25 is observed annually as World Malaria Day, to bring global attention to the efforts being made to end malaria, and encourage actions to reduce suffering and death from the disease. World Malaria Day is an occasion to highlight the need for continued investment and sustained political commitment for malaria prevention and control. It raises awareness about malaria prevention and highlights the need for funding and support to work towards eradicating the disease.

It’s also a day to celebrate the great steps that have been taken in recent years to control the disease and help those affected by it. This year’s theme is, “Zero Malaria - Draw the Line Against Malaria”. This theme seeks to unify and build on the ‘Zero Malaria Starts with Me’ movement of last year’s theme and to connect malaria elimination in high-burden settings by sharing experiences and reflections on efforts to reach the target of zero malaria for each community.

In 2019, there was an estimated 229 million cases of malaria, resulting in over 400,000 deaths from the disease. A large proportion of these cases happened in sub-Saharan Africa, though the disease is found in many counties across the globe, with poorer areas being the worst affected. Within the CBC Health Services facilities, during the same period, we recorded 70,525 suspected cases of malaria with 28,090 confirmed by parasitological testing and 38 deaths. Due to the fantastic steps that have been made in recent years, countries previously affected by the disease have been certified to now be malaria free. Because of this, many charities and organizations such as the World Health Organization (WHO) are optimistic that, with appropriate disease coordination and support from governments and other stakeholders, a world free from malaria is possible.

However, the COVID-19 pandemic has placed incredible additional strain on health systems across Africa. Countries must work to maintain routine health services, even as they try to manage the added burdens. Communities have adopted new behaviours to protect themselves, wearing masks and observing social distancing. So, while it is urgent that Africa benefits equally from the latest advances in treating and preventing COVID-19, we must also ensure that our underlying health systems are strengthened to combat the many other infectious diseases that currently attract less attention, but not fewer fatalities or less strain on health systems like malaria.

Unlike COVID-19, malaria is easily treatable and preventable. If we can muster just a fraction of the effort inspired by COVID-19, we can rapidly accelerate progress to save lives and livelihoods. So on World Malaria Day 2021, CBCHS joins the RBM Partnership to “Draw the Line Against Malaria” to keep malaria high on our agenda, mobilize additional resources, and empower communities to take ownership of malaria prevention and care.

Therefore, as we celebrate World Malaria Day 2021 in this very special context, I would like to stress on the following key recommendations:

• Ensure the protection of health care workforce, clients and patients through a rapid response to malaria prevention and case management in all facilities.
• Continue to provide core preventive and case management interventions for malaria in all facilities while maintaining all COVID-19 precautionary measures.
• Ensure continued information, education and communication on malaria in the Out-Patient Departments and mobile clinics for community sensitization.

With the right medical equipment and precautionary measures, malaria is highly treatable and preventable. Front-line health institutions like the CBC Health Services and workers are the backbone of any country’s health system and are essential to tackling malaria, improving health outcomes, and preparing us for the next pandemic.

So, join us in this effort to “Draw the Line Against Malaria” in all our institutions.

“The Nkwen Baptist Hospital has launched an Epilepsy Clinic aimed at “Empowering people living with Epilepsy through the provision of Holistic care”. The clinic was launched on April 3, 2021, at the premises of the Hospital.

The event brought together service providers at the Nkwen Baptist Hospital, some epilepsy patients and the Administration of the Hospital. The event was officiated by Director of the CBC Health Services Prof. Tih Pius who underscored the dire need for an epilepsy management center in Cameroon to fill the 90% treatment gap that exists in the country. The Nkwen Baptist Hospital which has qualified to render this service to the population is strategically located in the city of Bamenda, and there are plans to have this treatment extend to other facilities in the region and in Cameroon at large.

Professor Tih also used the occasion to reiterate that epilepsy is a medical condition that can be medically handled and people in the communities should make use of the opportunities put at their disposal. He called on people in the communities to also desist from the stigmatization of people living with this medical condition.

Cont. pg 4
The Life Abundant Primary Health Care Program (LAP) has strengthened the capacities of its staff to offer inclusive health in the communities.

By definition, “inclusive health is a service, research, and policy agenda that aims at preventing and redressing health and social inequities among the most vulnerable and excluded populations. Given that the LAP work are carried out in remote and sometimes hard-to-reach communities where there are gross inequalities as regards access to healthcare, it was necessary to enhance the capacities of staff to match the gaps by offering comprehensive and holistic care.

Kakute Peter, LAP Administrator says lack of access to care by persons with disabilities (PWDs), convulsing patient or touching the foam from their mouth can lead to contracting epilepsy, getting married to an epilepsy patient can lead to the spouse contracting epilepsy and epilepsy is a generational curse or witchcraft.

It is estimated that 11 out of 1000 persons in Cameroon suffer from epilepsy. The CBC Health Services which has been championing many initiatives and courses in health, has passionately embraced epilepsy treatment as part of its medical interventions.

The medic in-charge also debunked all the myths and misconceptions about epilepsy. These myths in the context of Cameroon include the beliefs that getting in contact with a convulsing patient or touching the foam from their mouth can lead to contracting epilepsy, getting married to an epilepsy patient can lead to the spouse contracting epilepsy and epilepsy is a generational curse or witchcraft.

It is estimated that 11 out of 1000 persons in Cameroon suffer from epilepsy. The CBC Health Services which has been championing many initiatives and courses in health, has passionately embraced epilepsy treatment as part of its medical interventions.

The capacity-building training was unfolding at a time many Primary Health Centres of LAP are operating in crisis-plagued zones, further compounded by the COVID-19 crisis. Given that emergencies arise in such situations needing timely interventions, the staff were also drilled on providing psychosocial first aid (PFA).

Quizzed on the take-home from the capacity building training, George Njini, Education Advisor said "I have been equipped with tools to assess people with impairments and disability in our communities, in a bid to meet their health needs." Going back to my community now, I am confident that I can identify impairments and provide the needed care, and if they need to be referred or linked to other specialized services, I will do so, he assured.

Tamanjong Abel, a Nurse at Mbamti Katarko-Tibati Primary Health Centre remarked, “At first, I could not identify someone who has been abused. But after this training, I will be able to identify children who been abused and those who have gone through gender-based violence”.

The capacity building training ran from April 26-28, 2021 held at the Baptist Centre Nkwen-Bamenda.
UBa Pledges Renewed Commitment with CBCHS to Ensure Inclusive Education

The CBC Health Services under its Socio-Economic Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (SEEPD) program has officially donated infrastructural and material equipment to the University of Bamenda (UBa), aimed at facilitating the teaching and learning environment for lecturers and students with disabilities in this institution. The ceremony took place at the University premises on April 28, 2021, and officiated by the Director of the CBC Health Services, Prof. Tih Pius Muffi and the Deputy Vice-Chancellor in charge of Teaching, Professionalization, and Development of Information and Communication Technology, Prof. Suh Cheo Emmanuel who represented the Vice-Chancellor of UBa.

The donated infrastructure consisted of access ramps measuring 57 meters, one to a refurbished Resource Center at the University, another to the faculty of Health Sciences, and a third to the Infirmary. The University also received accessible toilets for learners with disabilities.

Material equipment worth about 7.9 million CFAF donated to the University from 2017 up to this moment comprised of 8 computers, a Perkins Braille machine, a projector, Digital Recorders, Talking Calculators, Magnifiers, a 3-in-one Scanner, Photocopier and Printer, 9 Talking Watches, and Footballs with jingles etc.

These donations are part of fulfilling the terms of a Memorandum of Understanding between the CBC Health Services SEEPD program and UBa, and will greatly be of service to the more than 65 students with disabilities who study in this University.

Prof. Suh, on behalf of the entire University body, appreciated the CBC Health Services for ensuring the successful implementation of this MoU signed on May 26, 2020. This MoU is aimed at fostering cooperation and collaboration in the advancement of knowledge and the provision of opportunities to enhance education for all. Through this MoU, staff, and students have been provided with skills to facilitate the teaching and learning of persons with disabilities in the University of Bamenda.

The donated infrastructure included accessible toilets for learners with disabilities and other installations.

The work of the SEEPD program in line with education in the Northwest region, according to the Program Manager, Mr. Awa Jacques Chirac. He said, this can be traced back to 2009 with the aim of promoting inclusion. This has led to functional partnerships with the Regional Delegations of Secondary and Basic Education. The project, the Program Manager noted, now focuses on System Strengthening to ensure that all learners with impairments are without barriers. Mr. Awa remarked with pride that the Northwest Regional authorities are respecters of the constitution and promoters of the 2010 law that protects the rights of persons with disabilities.

It should be noted that this work has been achieved, thanks to funding from the Australian Government through Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP).
Clubfoot Statistics to Appear in Cameroon Health Management Information System

The Health Management Information System (HMIS) of the Ministry of Public Health will henceforth contain statistics on clubfoot diagnosis and treatment. This comes after a 2-day workshop for the insertion of clubfoot indicators into the District Health Information System (DHIS) that took place at the CBC Health Resource Center at Mvan in Yaoundé from March 18-19, 2021.

The Ministry of Public Health organized the workshop in collaboration with the CBC Health Services Cameroon Clubfoot Care Project following an official partnership for the management of clubfoot in Cameroon. The workshop was an outcome of the CCCP Management Committee meeting, which agreed that clubfoot indicators should be inserted into the DHIS 2 and clubfoot therapists trained on the entry and analysis of clubfoot data.

Eight participants selected from 7 CCCP clubfoot Ponseti Treatment clinics in the 6 regions (coverage area of the project) attended the workshop. They will in turn train other treatment staff in the rest of the clinics in their respective regions. The workshop was coordinated by officials from the Ministry of Health and their counterparts of the CCCP. Dr. Nko Ayissi Georges, Director of the Sub Department in charge of Malaria and Neglected Tropical Diseases made valuable inputs on the indicators. Mr. Mohamed Sadat in charge of Data at the Sub Department of Neglected Tropical Diseases, the Clubfoot Focal Person at the MOH, Kort Kingsley, CCCP Manager, Awa Jacques Chirac, and the CCCP Coordinator, Tamon James also contributed from their areas of expertise.

Mr. Mohamed Sadat opened the workshop representing the Director of the Sub Department in charge of Malaria and Neglected Tropical Diseases. He welcomed the participants and urged them to pay maximum attention during the workshop and master the DIHS 2 as they are going to change the dynamics of clubfoot in Cameroon.

The participants were drilled on identification and configuration of clubfoot indicators for the DHIS 2 and a practical session on inputting clubfoot data into the DHIS 2 was facilitated by Mr. Deffo Paul Yvan and Mr. Boudougon Tsade Raphael from the Health Information Service at the Ministry of Health.

It was a successful workshop that ended with great enthusiasm shown by the trained clubfoot therapists who pledged to train other clubfoot therapists in the regions on the effective use of the DHIS 2 and its monthly reporting form before the end of the month of March. With this successful training, DHIS 2 will start reporting on clubfoot from January 2021.

CBCHS-SEEPD Program assists Students Union to foster Inclusion in UBa

The Director of CBC Health Services has challenged some students of the University of Bamenda to continue mainstreaming disabilities in their studies. Prof. Tih Pius was speaking while handing over some equipment to some students in the University. These students were successful candidates who took part in a story writing contest last year organized by the Association of Communication and Development Studies at the University of Bamenda. The equipment was handed to the students recently in the presence of SEEPD Program staff at the Baptist Center Nkwen Bamenda.

According to the Student Union President of the Faculty of Arts, Nji Nelson Chefor, the objective of the story writing contest which received stories from 17 students, was to test the ability of the students on Journalism practices. After going through the stories, Amabo Chris and Atiefor Nana Virgiline succeeded but the Department did not have a prize to award them. Also, given that classes are mostly online, the Student Union President of the Faculty saw the difficulties through which the lone student with impairment in the Faculty, Fuh Asaah Bertrand was facing.

It is against this backdrop that the Faculty President carried out an advocacy visit to the SEEPD Program to advocate for equipment that could be awarded as prizes to the winners of the contest and the student with visual impairment. In a meeting with the SEEPD Program Manager, Nji Nelson expressed his desire to collaborate with the SEEPD Program to promote inclusion in the University of Bamenda. As the President of the Association, Nji Nelson is committed to ensuring that the voices of students with impairment in the University of Bamenda are heard.

At a time when the CBC Health Services has signed a partnership with the University of Bamenda to promote Community Based Inclusive Development (CBID), the SEEPD Program Manager noted that supporting the Student Union to promote inclusion in the school is the right step in the right direction. Thus, the provision of the award by the SEEPD Program to the successful candidates of the contest and a student with visual impairment was one of the many strategies to promote inclusion in UBa.
The Cameroon Clubfoot Care Project (CCCP) now has an electronic data base to improve on reporting, monitoring and management of clubfoot treatment in Cameroon. The development process of the data base was completed in December 2020 and went operational in January 2021.

Since 2014, the CBC Health Services in partnership with CBM through the Cameroon Clubfoot Care (CCC) Project has facilitated the treatment of clubfoot in Cameroon using the Ponseti technique. Using different strategies, the project has expanded its scope in coverage and has recorded tremendous success with 1,075 children accessing care. This progress, however, came with gaps in the reporting and data management of the project.

It is against this backdrop that the CCCP decided to develop its first ever electronic database to improve on reporting, monitoring and management of clubfoot treatment in Cameroon. This innovation was introduced into the project management stream through the training of two Clubfoot Therapists each from the 17 project management stream through the training of two Clubfoot Therapists each from the 17 clubfoot clinics in the country. The trainings, which were done at the regional level, took place recently across five regions of the project coverage area. The training was conducted by a CCCP team of experts made up of Kimbi Clay – IT expert, Tamon James – CCCP Coordinator and Marion Ndifon – CCCP Officer.

At the end of each training, a Laptop, Android phone, Database manual (Clinic module) and a patient file were handed to the administrators of each of the 17 clubfoot clinics involved in the Cameroon Clubfoot Care Project.

It is hoped that the use of this data base is going to improve on data quality and consequently facilitate reporting, monitoring and overall management of the project.

### Cameroon Clubfoot Care Project Launches First Ever Data Base

The 3-day-workshop paid particular attention to key changes on international funding which the SEEPD Program receives through the Christian Blind Mission (CBM). The key issues centered around compliance, fraud prevention, safeguarding policies, and security.

“Given that these changes are inspired by funding partners who are more and more imposing stringent responsibilities on implementing partners like the Cameroon Baptist Convention (CBC) Health Services, it was incumbent for us to strengthen the capacities of our team,” explained Mr. Awah Jacques Chirac, SEEPD Program Manager.

Quizzed on what is expected of attendees at the close of the workshop, Mr. Awah said all team members should understand the broad nature of the concept of fraud and corruption as well as translate it in the management of funds, improve their understanding of safeguarding and compliance requirement and demonstrate it in their routine activities. Above all, the Program Manager said the workshop should establish better work relationships which are vital ingredients in implementing development initiatives.

The workshop was a unique time for the SEEPD team to gain firsthand skills in team building and dynamics, communication, effective reporting, travel policies, and budgeting which are pivotal in the attainment of program goals.
**ENT Department**

The Ear, Nose, and Throat (ENT) department of Nkwen Baptist Hospital (NBH) went operational on November 30, 2020 with two pioneer staff, Chin Virginia, an ENT Clinical Officer and Dr. Bonko Neville, ENT surgeon.

According to the ENT Clinical Officer, the new department is already gaining much ground, seeing an average of 50 clients some of the days. She attributes the influx of patients, perhaps, to the crisis that makes movement to Mbingo Baptist Hospital challenging and difficult some of the time. This makes the workload very heavy on her, especially because the ENT surgeon works in the theatre on Mondays and Fridays and in Mbingo on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

**NBH Eye Department**

According to the head of department, Mr. Lucha Johnson, they are offering comprehensive eye care services namely: OPD consultation, glass dispensation, low vision services and minor surgeries conducted by the ophthalmologist, Dr. Kamsang Pius. The HOD explained that since the theatre in Nkwen is not fully equipped yet, the ophthalmologist refers and does major surgeries such as cataract, glaucoma etc in Mbingo Baptist Hospital.

Reports indicate a steady increase in patients’ attendance. The department has seen over 5000 patients from January 2021 for diverse eye care services namely: OPD consultation, glass dispensation, low vision services and minor surgeries conducted by the ophthalmologist, Dr. Kamsang Pius. The HOD explained that since the theatre in Nkwen is not fully equipped yet, the ophthalmologist refers and does major surgeries such as cataract, glaucoma etc in Mbingo Baptist Hospital.

**NBH Physiotherapy Services blossoms with more Spacious Work Space**

The Physiotherapy (PT) department of Nkwen Baptist Hospital (NBH) has witnessed tremendous progress in the recent past months. Before now, two tiny rooms hosted the department. Today the story is different. Due to the infrastructural development that is ongoing at NBHC, the PT department has moved into a spacious and accessible area large enough to contain its paraphernalia and provide quality services to all in need of physical therapy.

Ngum John, PT Assistant, and Head of Department says the new work area has enabled them to attend to many patients at a time. “We consult four patients concurrently and this has gone a long way to reducing patient waiting time in our unit. We commend the administration for providing such a spacious and airy environment for work,” he added.

It is worth noting that within the first quarter of 2021, the PT department attended to as many as 1,314 patients. Mr. Ngum attributed this increase in patient turnout to the quality of infrastructure and the other quality care offered.

**Bonaberi Baptist Hospital Douala**

**BBHD Canteen faring Well**

The new canteen has brought a new impetus to Bonaberi Baptist Hospital, thanks to support from the administration. The canteen head, Mr. Ngum Luke says the administration provides money on time to enable him plan and execute the menu throughout the week. He noted that the canteen serves not only the staff and the patients, but also open the general public. For this reason, there is need to improve on the menu as many clients ask for other foods apart from the regular ones on the menu.

To meet up with this challenge, Luke says there is need for three additional staff. For now, the canteen has three permanent staff and the fourth is on orientation. The canteen is clean and the good food attracts many clients from the public. The regular foods on the weekly menu include: fufu corn and vegetable, ka-ti-kati, fried rice, cocky beans, salad and drinks.

**BBHD Physiotherapy Department**

This two-year old department is manned by two staff seeing an average of 150-200 clients per month. Yungong Berard, Advanced PT Assistant says they recruit their clients through health talks at the OPD, referrals and there is plan to initiate home visits, especially for children with cerebral palsy as prescribed by the STEP project.

The Advanced PT Assistant named acute limited space as their principal challenge resulting in patients’ waiting time. However, the department needs an additional treatment bed. The next challenge for the department is the fact that the implementation of the PMEL project has more demands with expanded columns, that were not envisaged in the pilot phase. Yungong lamented that this renders data collection tedious and time consuming.

**BBHD Care & Treatment Center**

The lone staff at the department is overladen with responsibilities of serving a total of 69 active patients and a cohort of 81 patients excluding those lost to follow up. Zeou Brenda Kum also initiates newly diagnosed cases and link them to care.

Due to limited staffing, the department is yet to consider taking care of HIV infected children although the representative of the WHO has requested the hospital to begin taking care of children.

The nurse in charge stated with satisfaction that drugs are now available for her clients. She revealed that due to increase in the number of patients, the District referred her to henceforth get drugs from the Delegation of Health in Bonanjo. Normally, the Site receives medications from the District at the end of the month after submitting the monthly statistics.
BBHD Transitioning into Full Hospital

Barely two years of existence, Bonaberi Baptist Health Center is growing like a baby born with teeth in the mouth ready to walk and run rather than crawl and creep. During the second anniversary of the health center in November 2020, Prof, Tih Pius Muffih, Director of CBC Health Services (DHS) admonished the staff and audience to henceforth refer to the health facility as hospital. “If anyone questions you about the new status for Bonaberi, send the person to ask me,” the DHS announced to the excited staff.

In a chat with Rose Fon Nyimeh, Assistant Administrator of BBHD said such strong assurance from the DHS caused them as a hospital to begin the year 2021 with a new mindset. She explained to CBC Health Services Communication Unit that the hospital management had to restructure her goals to fit into the context of a hospital. Some departments were displaced to align with others with a similar line of operations for easy management. A theatre went operational on February 16, 2021 with a resident gynecologist, who assumed duty on April 1, 2021 with a resident gynecologist, who assumed duty on April 1, 2021.

The theatre comprises of four staff including the surgeon, a nurse anesthetist, a scrub nurse and a circulating nurse. Over 70 operations have been conducted in the new theatre, the first being a C-section delivery of a set of twins, male and female while the pioneer surgical case was that of a boy in his early 20s suffering from acute hernia pain around the testis.

The coming of a theatre and a gynecologist has also led to marked increase in attendance at the maternity. The number of patients each clinic day sky-rocked from over 40 before February to over 90 today.

The Assistant Administrator noted the shortage of nurses in almost all the key departments of the hospital to meet up with the overflow. The hospital sees an average of 170 patients per day at the OPD alone. The hospital has 145 staff and 6 others on orientation. Among the staff are 12 doctors; 6 general practitioners and 6 specialists as follows: a gynecologist, a pediatrician (CMO), a cardiologist, a general surgeon and two dentists.

Corroborating the shortage of nurses, the Supervisor of Nursing services, Mr. Manye Lucas confirmed that the hospital received 7 new nurses out of 24 requested from hierarchy and two transferred. Freshly from school, the nursing office has the additional task to orientate the new nurses on the organization’s culture, Mission Statement, infection prevention basics and some nursing procedures. Due to the shortage of nurses, some key units at the OPD have been suspended such as Know Your Number and taking of vital signs.

The nursing office has been on its feet in the first month of March but the fourth staff left for further training. The HOD noted that outreach visits was envisaged to begin in the month of March but the fourth staff left for further training. The HOD noted that outreach will necessitate Doctor’s Support Visit thus, the activity is planned to begin in the days ahead in churches.

BBHD Women’s Health Program

Another department with one staff who is up to task. Akechu Wouba Derrick, BNS/midwife is motivated in women and children’s health. Newly transferred to the Unit, he depends on referrals from doctors, the ANC and during his health talks at the OPD to recruit his clients. The unit sees an average of 80 clients per month; 30 for women’s health and 50 for family planning.

Akechu has two main challenges. The single room unit is not good enough to provide for confidentiality during screening. In addition, a majority of the clients do not yet know the importance of this service. This calls for more awareness creation.

BBHD Eye Department

The head of department, Nwungong Julius Tatau says challenges increase as the number of patients increase. He makes allusion to the need of a pulse air machine to facilitate patients’ waiting time. For now, he uses the one on the slit lamp which is tedious and time consuming for use on each of the growing number of clients.

The 3-man department does health talks at the OPD to create awareness on the services being provided. Reports say community outreach visits was envisaged to begin in the month of March but the fourth staff left for further training. The HOD noted that outreach will necessitate Doctor’s Support Visit thus, the activity is planned to begin in the days ahead in churches.

Always Have Your Face Mask On
MBHD gets New CMO, other Leaders

Dr. Akumbom Caroline is the new Chief Medical Officer (CMO) for Mboppi Baptist Hospital Douala (MBHD) effective April 15, 2021. She takes over from Dr. Guy Molessa who has served in this position for about a decade and now transferred to Baptist Hospital Banyo in the same capacity.

The new CMO is an experienced general practitioner with a special heart for children’s diseases. She has served in Mboppi for over 10 years and contributed immensely to the growth of Mboppi from a small health center to a gigantic hospital today. She is humbled by her appointment and has as vision to enforce teamwork, reduce patients’ waiting time, ensure the right diagnoses and above all, inculcate in the clinicians politeness and respect for the patients.

Commenting on the new changes in leadership, the Assistant Administrator in-charge of Personnel, Mr. Kouamo Alain and the Supervisor of Nursing Services (SNS), Mr. Monjuh Anthony said only change is constant and inevitable. The duo welcomes the new leaders and promised their readiness to embrace their contributions for the growth of the hospital.

MBHD Care & Treatment Center

The Care and Treatment Center of Mboppi Baptist Hospital Douala (MBHD) has developed a working style to keep their clients from the risk of contracting COVID-19. The site nurse, Tecla Fitela Ndichia says conscious of the fact that HIV clients have co-morbidity that put them at high risk in the face of the Coronavirus, they make it a point of duty to see them faster so they can go back home.

This site nurse observed that 80 percent of the clients have their viral load except in the months of March and April 2021 when their results delayed to come from the three approved laboratories in Dschang, Mutengene and Laquintine.

At the time of this report, there were a total of 5,200 active cases on register with average daily attendance of between 80-130 patients. There is enough drugs to give 3 months for the first line and 3 weeks and one month for the second line.

The Treatment Center faces a number of challenges paramount including limited space for quality service provision and counseling. There is need for a decentralized laboratory at the site to minimize patients’ waiting time at the general lab.

The Center works closely with the social workers and chaplains for psychosocial support. The Treatment Center has 8 CBC regular staff, 14 support staff from the government and 24 project staff, of which 14 are directly involved in statistics.

Quizzed on the collaboration among the staff, the site nurse noted with optimism that they work and collaborate as a team. She noted however that, the challenge for some of them is the difficulty to inculcate into the CBC work culture such as coming to work early for morning devotions and dressing properly. She rejoiced that most of them are changing for the better.

MBHD Eye Department, a Reference in the City

The head of department, Mr. Tontu Zik says statistics at the department are indicative that people are gradually coming out of the fear of the COVID-19 pandemic. His opinion is based on the fact that a total of 2,153 patients were seen in March 2021 up from 1,999 in the same period last year.

Curiously, the HOD announced that the department is becoming a referral center with many surgeries in Baptist Hospital Mutengene.

Mr. Tontu lamented that this progress cannot be sustained given the acute space challenge. He said there is urgent need to create more and better space for the department in order to attract VIP clients who have the potential to bring in more income that can in turn cover up for needy clients.
**MBHD Mental Health Unit**

The presence of a psychiatrist now in the CBC Health Services based at Ekoumdoum Baptist Health Center is a major relief and booster to mental health services in the system. One of the two mental health nurses in Mboppi, Nyambo Odilia Mboh says they now have someone who can help with challenging cases.

**Etoug-Ebe Baptist Hospital Yaounde**

At the time of this report, the other staff, Scholastica Macoba was in Bamenda to attend training on Psychological First Aid on April 11, 2021. The Mental Health Supervisor of the CBCHS, Ngwen Franklin organized the one day training.

**PBF: EBHY Scores 98-percent for Exemplary Services**

Etoug-Ebe Baptist Hospital Yaounde (EBHY) has been scored 98% (percent) in Community Evaluation by the Regional Technical Group for Performance-Based Financing (PBF). According to Ngek Promise Kwakia, Statistician and PBF Focal Person at EBHY, the Community Evaluation or rating is one the indicators of PBF where points are accrued based on an inquiry made in the community on quality services offered to clients by the health facility.

The inquiry is usually to ascertain that clients receive standard care while in the facility beginning with diagnoses to treatment. “Following the inquiry done in the last quarter of 2020, we scored 98%, up from 94%,” revealed Mr. Ngek.

This evaluation is informed by statistics collected by clinicians and consultants daily and tallied by the statistics office. The statistics are collected with the aid of a factsheet containing 40 indicators inter-alia hygiene and safety, qualified human resources, and drugs.

Reports say, the move by the hospital to meticulously meet every indicator has attracted some finances, which have been used to add more in-patient wards in the facility.

**EBHY Adopts Evidence Statistics Collection System**

One of the major tools used to measure performance as well as draft future benchmarks that can improve quality in health care is statistics. Mindful of the cardinal role statistical data play in health care, Etoug-Ebe Baptist Hospital Yaounde (EBHY) is leaving nothing to chance in ensuring that data is collected methodically.

Dr. Tantoh Zonepoh Theresa, Chief Medical Officer (CMO) says every department in the hospital has been charged to come up with tools that will enable the collection of statistics.

“Unlike in the past where statistics were collected passively just to track the number of clients consulted over a period, we want this to be intentional in the collection and utilization of statistics. This evidenced approach will enable the various departments at any time to easily identify resources, needs, and why not lapses standing on the way of quality,” explained Dr. Therese.

“Evidenced-based collection and utilization of statistics will go a long way to improve the quality care offered at EBHY and to a larger extent in the Cameroon Baptist Convention (CBC) Health Services,” she emphasized.

According to Mr. Yongwa Zacks, EBHY Administrator, the Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (PMEL) Tool for the collection of statistics (data) was already in use at EBHY. “We have submitted our first report to the PMEL office following the systematic collection of data in departments,” he said.

Meanwhile at various departments, though clinicians complain that collecting statistics following many indicators at a-go is not an easy ride, many have attested to the fact that it is a good initiative. “Like they say work done and not reported is no work done, we must grapple with this in a bid to report what we do daily though it is overwhelming,” noted one of the clinicians in a chat with CBC Health Service Communication Unit.

**CBCHS’ Technical Advisers Exhort EBHY to Improve in Patient Care**

The staff of Etoug-Ebe Baptist Hospital Yaounde (EBHY) have been urged to make a turnaround in patient care and financial management. The call came out loud and strong during a general staff meeting on March 23, 2021 convened as part of a two-day working visit of Mssrs. Ngam Joseph Ful and Wirba Samuel, Technical Advisers No. 2 & 3 to Director of Health Services (DHS) respectively.

Speaking in turns during the meeting, the duo encouraged EBHY staff to be assiduous and be good stewards as they serve Cameroonians and the Health Services.

According to Dr. Tantoh Zonepoh Theresa, the staff meeting has awakened a consciousness of their duties to the Health Services and patients in general. “We were encouraged by their visit,” she added.

Apart from meeting with the general staff body, the advisers equally had sessions with the EXCO, Supervisors of Nursing Services (SNS), and Heads of Department (HOD). The Technical Advisers’ visit spanned from March 22-23, 2021.

On a separate note, supervisors of EBHY have had their skills enhanced as far as facilitative supervision is concerned. This comes on the heels of training on facilitative supervision on March 16, 2021, at the hospital premises. According to Justine Fombe, Lead Trainer and Maternal Child Health Supervisor, facilitative supervision is aimed at ensuring that supervisors work along with the supervisee, making sure that expectations are communicated clearly to avoid tension and conflicts at work.

The training culminated with COPE excise where attendees were charged to identify problems within the hospital and provide solutions. One of the problems identified was loose electricity cable on the walls which could jeopardize safety. After that assessment, the cables were covered with conduits.
Ekoumdoum Baptist Health Centre has celebrated Easter. Easter is a Christian fiesta commemorating the resurrection of Jesus from the death. The celebration at Ekoumdoum Baptist Health Centre was marked with a musical concert.

The concert organized by the health centre’s choir rallied other choristers from neighboring churches and sister health institutions in the country. Yaounde implored God to endow the choristers with what it takes to render hallelujahs that will edify and bless lives. The concert had the presence of Administrators and Chiefs of Center from Cameroon Baptist Convention Health Services’ facilities in Yaounde.

Ekoumdoum Fetes Easter

The Women’s Health Programme (WHP) of the Cameroon Baptist Convention (CBC) Health Services has been designated to be part of research on Cervical Cancer in Cameroon.

The study dubbed “Implementing and identifying barriers and challenges in setting up a pilot Cervical Cancer programme based on a single visit (see and treat approach)” is being conducted by the Ministry of Public Health in partnership with the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC).

Manju Florence, WHP Supervisor says the study which will span for two years targets to screen 500 women for Cervical Cancer in four sites in Cameroon. Amongst the four sites are two facilities of the CBC Health Services namely: Etoug-Ebe Baptist Hospital Yaounde and Ekoumdoum Baptist Health Centre.

The choice of the CBC Health Services’ to be part of this research is proof of effective service rendered in the treatment of Cervical Cancer and other cancers affecting women over the past 15 years in Cameroon, bragged Florence. She said Cervical Cancer is and has remained a major cancer worldwide responsible for a large number of premature deaths, especially in African countries.

Key Points:

1. Thank God for the successful organization of the “We Ring the Bell Campaign” that took place this year, 2021 virtually in respect of the COVID-19 measures.
2. Praise God that the Government through her Ministry of Social Affairs has embraced the WRTC Campaign, which is now an annual event spearheaded by the Minister in collaboration with the CBCHS and Liliane Foundation.
3. Pray that the message of this Campaign will sink into implementation by the various stakeholders.
4. Pray that persons with disabilities will take advantage of this new dawn by taking responsibilities to better their lot.