



# THE HEALTH SERVICES CHRONICLE

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## CBC Health Services benefits from one of its partners – ICAN

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#### STOP PRESS!!

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

#### BIBLE VERSE

*"Go up and down the streets of Jerusalem, look around and consider; search through the squares. If you can find but one person who deals honestly and seeks the truth, I will forgive this city".  
~Jeremiah 5:1 (NIV).*

# Nkwen Baptist Hospital hit by Road Works to give Bamenda City a Facelift

The adage that “Where the road passes, development follows” is rather an affront to Nkwen Baptist Hospital (NBH) that is heavily affected by the current road works to ‘disenclave’ Bamenda City.

Since February 24, 2021 when demolition works began to expand the streets of Bamenda into a double carriage way, the administrations of Nkwen Baptist Hospital and the CBC Health Services have known sleepless nights in their quest to limit the demolition damage.

The outcry by the affected population caused

the Governor of the Northwest region, Lele L’Afrique to descend to the field on March 5, 2021 to understand things for himself. At Nkwen Baptist Hospital, the Governor observed the destruction with sealed lips as the SDO parroted the narration with utmost exaggeration. While waiting for the outcome of the Governor’s outing, the CBCHS’ team led by the indefatigable Director, Prof. Tih Pius Muffih is setting the records straight in its documentation to prove the point as need be.

CBC Health Services Communication Unit approached Mr. Kangong Joce, Administrator of

Nkwen Baptist Hospital to take the pulse of the situation at hand. The downcast Administrator said he is in favour of the new wave of development coming to the City of Bamenda like all other denizens of good faith, but cautioned that the the executing Company should not cause destruction beyond the limits set by the Commission that surveyed the road and paid compensation. Above all, the Administrator is of the opinion that the road should be constructed in record time so that the pains caused by the destruction can be easily and naturally forgotten.



## Nkwen Baptist Health Center suffocating under road works



Quizzed on the damages caused, Mr. Kangong simply said those who have not visited the hospital in the past one to two months would not believe what they will see if they visit now. He lamented that the Indian Bamboo fence planted by the North American Baptist Missionaries, even before the coming of this road, to demarcate and protect the landed property has been razed down to earth. It did not end there. The steps climbing to the hospital and five water stand pipes serving the surrounding population all destroyed with further threats to break the hospital walkway and part of the

newly constructed storey building. The Road Construction Company also carried away good tons of stones belonging to the hospital.

Strategically located at the Finance Junction in Nkwen, the Administrator said Nkwen Baptist Hospital is like the first bus-stop into the City of Bamenda. Conscious of this fact, he noted that hierarchy is taking every effort to provide very specialized services to serve the needs of the population, reason why the government should accompany the strides made by the CBC Health Services by protecting her

structures.

Even with the new buildings and services, Mr. Kangong said Nkwen Baptist Hospital still has need for more space and equipment to amply satisfy the teaming staff. The hospital has close to 400 staff spread in about 20 departments. Among the staff are 12 general practitioners and 8 specialist doctors namely: internist, urologist, ophthalmologist, orthopedist, Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT), gynecologist, 2 dentists and a pediatrician to come in April 2021.

## CBC Health Services on Course with Rehabilitation of Children with Cerebral Palsy



### Physiotherapist assessing child's spasticity rate

The Empowerment and Disability Inclusive Development (EDID) Program of the Cameroon Baptist Convention (CBC) Health Services is more and more present on the field to identify children with Cerebral Palsy (CP). The objective is to rehabilitate them to live more 'independent' lives.

One of such community visits was in Tubah and Bamenda III Subdivisions on March 22, 2021. During the field visit four children with CP were assessed by the lead physiotherapist and a rehabilitation plan developed.

Mufor Daniella, 3, was the first amongst the children to be assessed. She's unable to stretch her legs, move her head and hands, nor sit. "I've had to move from one hospital and specialist to another but no change. Daniella cannot even change her position in bed at this age," bemoans Mrs. Mufor Carine, Daniella's mother. "I've spent a lot yet no improvement," she adds with teary eyes, as she looks through X-rays films

of her child.

From Daniella's story to that of the other three children (Akonwui Asha, 7, Awah Irienne, 10 and Nyuynkenyuy Jennifer, 10) one thing stands out, that their parents and guardians are in a lookout for solutions to have them function independently like other children.

After listening to these parents with rapt attention, Fanfon Timothy, Physiotherapist and Technical Supervisor of the EDID Partner Organisations proposed a rehabilitation plan for each child. With a perfect blend of physiotherapy and psychosocial skills he drilled Daniella's mother through seating technique which will stimulate her muscles. Much to her satisfaction her teary eyes clear off and a smile is what she now wears.

It's worth mentioning that varying as the conditions were, each child was assigned a specific rehabilitation plan.

Quizzed on how long it might take to have these

children function independently, Mr. Fanfon said, "It's going to be gradual; child growth and development is a gradual process. This will be possible if the parents are willing and stick to the rehabilitation plan."

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Cerebral Palsy is a group of disorders that affect a person's ability to move and maintain balance and posture. It's usually caused by abnormal brain development or damage to the brain that affects a person's ability to control his or her muscles.

By that definition, children with CP are greatly incapacitated making them dependent on their parents and siblings for most of their activities. Therefore, the move by the CBC Health Services' Empowerment and Disability Inclusive Development (EDID) programme with financial support from the Liliane Foundation to rehabilitate these children is welcomed relief to parents.

## CBC Health Services benefits from one of its partners – ICAN

The Chief of Administration and Finance (CAF) for the Cameroon Baptist Convention (CBC) Health Services, Mr. Warri Denis has on behalf of the Director of Health Services received a donation from the Infection Control African Network (ICAN). The donation of an endoscope was handed over by the Infection Prevention and Control/WASH Nurse of the CBC Health Services, Mr. Nkwan Jacob. The equipment intends to improve the quality of care to effectively serve the community for diagnostic purposes in the procedure of endoscopy.

Receiving this valuable illuminated optical equipment, the CAF used the occasion to thank ICAN, noting how the CBC Health Services values its partnership with the organization. Through the partnership, he confirmed that the CBC Health Services has benefitted a lot from the ICAN support to provide care for people in Cameroon communities. He appreciated ICAN gesture and Mr. Nkwan Jacob giving them the assurance that the equipment will be put to proper use in one of the CBC Health Services facilities. This will be done after conducting a

need assessment.

ICAN it should be noted is the largest Infection Prevention Society in Cameroon that is coordinating all other infection control societies and has been working with the CBC Health Services for a long time. ICAN has across the years assisted in donating medical equipment and supplies and has the desire to continue to donate to the CBC Health Services, a large health care provider in Cameroon.

## We Ring the Bell Campaign takes New Dimension in 2021



### WRTB 2021 Campaign Planning Committee

The first Planning Meeting for “We Ring the Bell” campaign for 2021 within the CBC Health Services took place in Yaounde from March 10-11, 2021 at the CBC Health Services’ Mvan Resource Center. The key resolve was to limit the commemoration to virtual activities in line with measures to mitigate the spread of the Coronavirus.

The Management Committee members, during the two days of brainstorming, elaborately charted strategies to ensure the successful celebration of this year’s event in Cameroon.

“**We Ring the Bell**” is a global campaign initiated by Liliane Fonds, an organisation supporting children with disabilities. Since 2016, Cameroon has been taking part in this advocacy campaign established as **a strategy to raise awareness and encourage public action to promote the education of children with disabilities**. So far, more than 120,000 decision-makers have already been mobilized in 102 countries, commit-

ted to the education of children with disabilities. This annual mobilization calls on all those in power to take the necessary measures to enable children with disabilities to have access to education.

In Cameroon, the Ministry of Social Affairs (MINAS) embraced the idea and took up the leadership of the initiative and now organises it annually in collaboration with the CBC Health Services and other actors in the education system, particularly the Ministries in charge of Basic and Secondary Education.

The activities undertaken include: awareness-raising meetings with those in power, awareness marches in the streets and main towns, general awareness-raising in the media, the signing of a manifesto by actors declaring or reaffirming their commitment to inclusive education for children with disabilities.

The high-level involvement driven by MINAS

has effectively strengthened the country’s effort towards full inclusion in Cameroon in line with SDG 4 which prescribes to “Promote inclusive education as a key means to achieve sustainable development”. The 2021 campaign is part of a logic of sustainable mobilization.

Due to the COVID-19 health crisis, the 2021 campaign will be purely virtual and will rely on new technologies to achieve its objectives, which aims to:

1. Engage key decision-makers to strengthen their commitment to the education of learners living with disabilities.
2. Raise awareness among the general public on the need and benefits of educating all children equitably without discrimination.
3. Facilitate the sharing of experiences on inclusive education between actors in different countries.

## Project P. I. pays First Visit to Tier One sites in Fako Division

The Principal Investigator (P.I.) of the HIVF Project Zone One, Prof. Tih Pius Muffih has made his first working visit to three tier-one sites in the SW region since the start of COP20. The sites, Regional Hospital Buea, Baptist Hospital Mutengene, and Regional Hospital Limbe were visited on February 25/26, 2021. The purpose of this visit was to see what the staff are doing, identify any gaps, and make corrections to ensure the project achieves its target given by the funders.

In each site, the P.I. was taken through the

main entry points in the hospital and later had a meeting with staff and management of the different health facilities at the Care and Treatment Centres.

With the assistance of the M&E Supervisor, the site-specific data through the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd 95s were looked at. The gaps were identified, while staff enumerated some challenges why they are not achieving their targets. Lapses in case identification were identified in all the sites, especially with index case testing. The P.I. together with the site staff discussed how

things can be done differently to achieve the targets.

At each facility, Prof. Tih lauded the staff for doing the best they can to meet assigned targets. He encouraged them to continue to intensify and improve on strategies that will optimize target achievement. The meeting was brief at each site so that staff can continue work because as the P.I. put it, 'Targets are achieved while attending to patients and not holding meetings'.



**Project Investigator,  
Prof. Tih Pius examining  
records on Site visit**



## BHM Launches 100 Per Day Challenge

Baptist Hospital Mutengene has launched a 100 Per Day Challenge. BHM has been experiencing a progressive decline in Continuity of Treatment (COT) achievement for the last 4 quarters which as a tier one site has had a bearing on the situation of the region. The Site attested that in quarters with COT >90%, retaining clients on treatment was attained under hard struggle and pressure, and with the shift now from 90 to 95%, BHM's COT (Q1 of COP20) stood just at 62%. There was therefore a need to re-strategize to improve on results and lessen end-of-quarter pressure.

Ensuring these clients come also, helps with VL sample collection and coverage. From this background, the 100 Per Day Challenge was

launched on February 12, 2021, to run till March 12, 2021.

The Site lead, Dr. Emerson thinks that "if they can dispense a minimum of 100 clients per working day, after 16 days we would have dispensed 1600 clients which cover our gap and hence can attain 100% retention by March 12th, 2021". Therefore the 100 Per Day Challenge was a strategy to improve continuity of treatment by dispensing to at least 100 clients that matter to the Tx\_curr per day. This was done through intensifying calls to remind clients of RDVs and follow up daily, calling clients who miss appointments and reschedule a new RDV daily, tracking defaulters and LTFUs daily. Nurses will do a daily follow up with their Case Manager and APS,

carry out home visits every Thursday and Friday, daily data verification (DAMA vs Dispensation registers), M&E to ID reachable HFs that have salvaged our clients, then negotiate with them to refund their drugs and update. It is worth noting that thanks to the challenge, 70% of BHM's target was achieved after 8 days of implementation as the staff became more intentional in the challenge.

Intending to attain 100% retention (COT) by March 12 latest, the only working days considered are Tuesdays to Fridays (4 days/week). Saturdays and Mondays are used to "gain bonus clients" or top-up the days they fall below their daily target (if it happens). The annual leave program is suspended till the site turns green.

## True Life Story:

### One Day at a Time



#### Dialysis keeps Cecilia alive

I lived in a rainbow world, enjoying the fragrance of flowers and dreaming how beautiful the world was until one day, everything became tasteless. The world was shattered in pieces and I pondered how this little me could make meaning out of this broken vessel. Then I realized, I had to learn the art of living one day at a time.

My kidney crashed at my prime when all the boys in the neighborhood were still struggling to get a piece of me. I used to roll my eyes and move with shoulders high; after all, I had the world under my feet. Then baaam! My kidney crashed and I had to live one day at a time.

My mum was a farmer and we didn't have car owners in my family. Eating three square meals daily was a miracle for us; talk less of attending decent schools. Yet money was what I needed to

live one day at a time.

Becoming a skillful beggar was an art I learned fast. I got used to people refusing to pick my calls, insulting and looking down at me. I saw doors of opportunities closed on my nose. I saw scares in-print themselves on my ebony right hand as tubes forced themselves in and out of my body on weekly bases to make sure I stay alive. When the pain was unbearable, I'll close my eyes and take a deep breathe. After all, it's a journey of one day at a time.

It's a life of sacrifice, putting my life on the line to be a mum was a battle I won. Forfeiting my dreams of always travelling was something I had to let go. It's a life of intentional choices because we live it one day at a time.

Becoming a weird prayer warrior was something I learned to do. I prayed for my dialysis machine to be functional, for blood donors to be readily available and for my health personnel to be healthy. I needed them to ride on. That's my journey of one day at a time.

It's been 11 years since I felt it'll be my last day, yet I'm still counting my days diligently, making use of every opportunity as I brighten my corner while putting smiles on the faces of those I can even with a crushed kidney. I have learned the art of taking it one day at a time.

Life is short, live it; love is rare, grab it; some anger is bad, dumb it; fear is real, face it; memories are sweet, cherish them. Remember it's a journey of one day at a time.

## Baptist Hospital Mutengene

### Kumba Baptist Health Center gets Pioneer Assistant Administrator



BHM Administrator, Mr. Loke Samuel Mbome charges incoming Assistant Administrator for Kumba HC, Mr. Yungsi Peter

The saying that 'hard work pays' could be applied to Mr. Yungsi Peter, erstwhile Supervisor of Nursing Services (SNS) who becomes pioneer Assistant Administrator of the same institution, Kumba Baptist Health Center (KBHC). Mr. Yungsi was installed into his new function on February 19, 2021.

In his charge to the new Assistant Administrator, Mr. Loke Samuel Mbome, Administrator of Baptist Hospital Mutengene (BHM) on behalf of the Director of Health Services charged Mr. Yungsi Peter to uphold the vision and the mission of the CBC Health Services. The BHM

Administrator congratulated Mr. Yungsi on his brilliant appointment, which according to him, is proof of his hard work in uniting the staff and keeping KBHC stable.

Meantime, Madam Yuniwo Dephine takes over from Mr. Yungsi Peter as Supervisor of Nursing Services. She was also installed alongside the Assistant Administrator.

## **BHM Trauma Center on Course**

Work on the Trauma Center of Baptist Hospital Mutengene is well on course. Construction work is progressing on the third floor while the ground floor is completed and ready for use. At the time of this report, some equipment for the Trauma Ward had arrived Douala while others were still being awaited.

Relatedly, a 3-bed ICU went operational at BHM on February 16, 2021. BHM Administrator, Mr Loke Samuel lauded the internist who worked in collaboration with the CMO to set up the Unit.

The canteen is doing well following innovations that could emulated by other institutions across the Board. Patients in ward now pay up-front for the canteen staff to serve their meals

at their bedside three times a day.

Reports say the rate of the COVID-19 spread is alarming even among staff. For this reason, the hospital has set up a 2-bed ward to isolate and treat staff who by any chance are infected. According to the Administrator, this move is to avoid the situation that the staff is referred elsewhere where care is limited.

In other news, Dr. Munoh Adie Eveline is Staff of the Year 2020 in BHM while Widzi Belinda, SRN, was voted Nurse of the Year. The duo and their runners up were honoured with cash prizes during morning devotions on March 10, 2021. Meantime, continuous efforts are being made to improve on patients' waiting time. Consultation at the OPD now begins at 6:30am

with a doctor already at work so that patients who come early return home early. Two additional cash windows have been created to lessen overcrowding in a single window.

Elsewhere, the Performance Based Financing (PBF) initiative is helping the hospital a great deal. Reports say, the funds are used in motivating staff and also in purchasing equipment or carrying out renovation works.

The principal challenge for BHM at the moment is low voltage and power outages. The Administrator lamented that this breaks down equipment, sometimes costing a great amount of money to repair or replace.

## **BHM Chaplaincy**

A retreat for leaders and administrative staff of BHM held on February 13, 2021 at the Olembe New Layout CBC Church. Drawing inspiration from Matthew 6:33, the speaker, Bantar Eric Njoya, himself a staff, expounded on the theme, "Seeking the First Things First". Mr. Bantar challenged the 44 participants in at-

tendance to seek over all else, especially within the current context of our nation plagued by multiple crises.

The head chaplain, Rev. Timlak George acknowledged that many people including staff are going through stress due to the ongoing

challenges of the times. He noted that the need for the staff to contribute to the Drug Revolving Fund, the worries over the ongoing crisis in the Northwest and Southwest region and the phobia of the Coronavirus pandemic keep the staff on the edge.

## **BHM Security Department coping with Challenges of Insecurity**

The security chief, Mr. Nkuh Ignatius says the heightened security challenges in the junction town of Mutengene are challenging his elements to adopt new methods of dealing with the situation. He notes that the situation is compounded by the fact that the department is left with fewer staff following the departure of four staff; three are now finance clerks after their training

The few left find it difficult to cope with the security challenges posed, especially by the military that quite often force themselves into the hospital to take out patients whom they describe as 'separatist fighters' right from the wards. The security chief lamented that the military have forced their way into the hospital over 25 times since January 2021. For this reason, he is obliged to constantly educate his elements on how to deal with situation.

Reports say, the security also face the challenge of ensuring that the staff put on their face masks all the time. Mr. Nkuh says nobody enters the hospital without the face mask on but as soon as they get in they remove it, which is dangerous to them and others. Another challenge for the security is controlling the inhabitants who come in to fetch water given the water scarcity in the whole of Mutengene.

## **BHM Dental Department**

At the time of this report, 5 dental students from the Baptist Training School for Health Personnel in Bansa were on practical experience at BHM dental department. Two dental therapist students spent three months from January to March while three dental auxiliaries will

spend two months from March to April 2021. The head of department Mrs. Moyeh Mercy said the students are gaining experience from the seven staff at the department including the dentist. The department sees an average of over 300 clients per month.

In the area of challenges, the HOD noted the need for new dental chairs to replace the old and obsolete ones as well as other items in short supply.

## **BHM Physiotherapy Department**

The head of department, Mbanwe George has noted with satisfaction the fact that patients' turnout has once more noticed an upward trend. He rejoiced that the number has tripled

to about 300 per month up from 100 in the recent past.

The HOD remarked that the increasing patients

keep the 4-man staff and two PT Assistant students on orientation busy. The department needs more space to enable the staff offer better PT care befitting for BHM.

## **BHM Maternity remains a Reference despite Challenges**

Although the maternity has been witnessing a decline in the number of deliveries as compared to the past two years, BHM Maternity, nevertheless, remains a reference in the Southwest region. Reports say, the maternity receives more premature babies from facilities that do not have incubators. The head of department noted a very good survival rate for

these babies when they get to BHM. At press time, 7 babies were in the incubators in BHM.

Quizzed on the reason for the decrease in the number of deliveries, the HOD said many pregnant women come for ANC at BHM but prefer to deliver elsewhere where it is cheaper. Some complain that without a gynecologist in BHM

for the moment, they prefer to go and deliver where they can have the services of one in case of any complication. Meantime, the head nurse revealed that the hospital administration is working towards recruiting another gynecologist to replace the one that left.

## **CIACP Program on the Move despite Challenges**

Priestilia Bieche, Assistant Manager says the Community Initiative AIDS Control and Prevention (CIACP) program is forging on with its activities in spite of the impediments imposed on them by the deadly Coronavirus pandemic and the raging war in the Southwest and Northwest regions. She says these challenges have drastically slowed down outreach activities but provided an opportunity for them to focus on office chores.

During this period, the program staff have been busy putting together reports of the World AIDS Campaign (WAC) 2020 from the six divisions of the Southwest region. They have also been preparing reports for Bread for the World (BFTW), which is CIACP's principal funder, and attending to ongoing program audits. Review meetings also held with CBC Health Services Accountant for Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) during which the pro-

gram was reviewed for the next six months.

In perspective, the program has a major goal to work with IDPs in the West and Littoral regions. Plans are underway as well to train community workers from programs such as Partner Notification, Men as Partners, Support Groups of people living with HIV and other community leaders.

## **HSC receives Soppo Field Exco**

The Cameroon Baptist Convention (CBC) Soppo Field Pastor, Rev. Dr. Liombe Timothy and his exco members visited Health Services Complex (HSC) Mutengene recently. Our HSC based correspondent, Namondo Ewane says the visit aimed at encouraging and praying for the staff during this difficult period. Reports say the Field Pastor used the visit to congratulate CBC Health Services workers in their frontal

lead in the fight against the Coronavirus which has taken an accelerated wave.

In other news, specifically the Canteen, the Supervisor Ms Keng Glory says they are always ready to provide best services to clients if given the necessary items to function. She opined that the Rest House restaurant is functioning except for the popular Canteen that lacks basic

items to better serve customs who in the majority are staff. She laments that the Canteen is in dire need of plates, spoons, forks and chairs and a refrigerator in the Rest House kitchen to keep things like salad, tomatoes etc. The Canteen has 11 staff and three students are on orientation for six months.

## **HSC Security braving Odds**

HSC security chief, Beyeng Grace is thankful to God for keeping her elements safe from contamination from the Coronavirus disease despite their exposure to the public. She recounted that their role of interacting with people at the gate by collecting their personal items like I.D cards and collecting and filling of forms have all been without contamination in spite of the fact that more than 30 cases of COVID-19 had been tested at HSC Mutengene at the time

of this report. "Only God could vindicate us from this," the security chief acknowledged.

Although fate is in their favour, Beyeng Grace lamented that it is difficult controlling people to put on their masks constantly. She decried the fact that they wear the mask at the control gate but remove it when they are inside the compound.

She also said distributing letters in offices is a risky activity as it could be a mode of transmission.

In spite of these challenges, the security chief is grateful to the administration for providing them with gears such as enough masks, face shields and hand gels.

## **CP Mutengene making Strides in Challenging Times**

A two days quality system gap analysis took place the Central Pharmacy (CP) Mutengene recently. Munfi Francis, CP Production Pharmacist revealed to CBC Health Services Communication Unit that the exercise aimed at enabling them to pursue ISO-9001 certification for Central Pharmacy. CP is working with an external quality consultant, Enterprise Upgrading Of-

fice (BMN) for technical assistance.

In other news, the challenges at HESCO Water production persist. Quizzed, Pharmacist Munfi said the equipment is old and breaking down frequently. He noted that the manufacturer of some of the equipment no longer provide spares for those that break down. Currently,

the compressor is broken and needs replacement but delays in payment remain a major challenge.

Meantime, the other Units at CP are doing well despite regular day to day challenges such as inadequate raw materials and packaging materials.

## **EID Lab now does COVID Test**

The Early Infant Diagnosis (EID) laboratory in Mutengene has joined the government in her effort to mitigate the spread of the Coronavirus pandemic. The laboratory now does the COVID-test since June 2020. According to Mr. Masha Roland, the EID Lab Supervisor, "The state supplies reagents and some supplies which we complement from our own resources".

are travelers. "We receive clients from other towns like Douala and the test is done free of charge as per government instruction," Mr. Masha revealed.

In July 2020, the lab received an additional accreditation, that of viral load to the first one of DBS-PCR for early infant diagnosis of HIV. The staff number has grown from 8 to 15 to cope with the expanding services. The lab also acquired a new vehicle and driver.

In other news, a modern incinerator has been bought and was being shipped from UK at the

time of this report. Reports say, this will take care of the medical waste generated during operations. Because of its capacity to handle all the waste generated at the lab, this service will be opened to the public at a fee still to be determined. Meantime, a shelter to host the incinerator is under construction.

The Supervisor remarked that the EID Lab is looking for more opportunities to grow. This means doing more sophisticated testing and research.



# REGIONAL TRAINING CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE (RTC) MUTENGENE

The Cameroon Baptist Convention (CBC) Health Services' Regional Training Centre for Excellence (RTC) is a special institution for the training of Leaders of all walks of life and Health personnel in Cameroon. The RTC partners with international institutions including Mildmay Institute of Health Sciences, Uganda, and Amref Africa, Kenya, to run courses on campus at the Health Services Complex, Mutengene and online.



## PROGRAMS

### Diploma Programs

- Diploma in Public Health: 18 months (Modular) Validated by Mildmay Institute of Health Sciences Uganda.
- Diploma in Medical Records and Informatics (Modular): Validated by Mildmay Institute of Health Sciences Uganda.
- Diploma in Pediatric Palliative Care: 12 months (Validated by Mildmay Institute of Health Sciences Uganda.
- Diploma in Human Nutrition and Clinical Dietetics: 2 Years (Modular) Validated by Mildmay Institute of Health Sciences Uganda.
- Diploma in Community HIV and AIDS Care and Management: 18 months (Modular) Validated by Mbarara University of Science and Technology Uganda.
- Diploma in Health Logistics and Supply Chain Management

### Certificate Programs

- Certificate in Biomedical Engineering Technology and Management (BMET) Accredited to the University of Ngaoundere.
- Certificate in Leadership and Governance
- Certificate in Research Methodology

### BSc Programs

- BSc (Hons) A Health Systems Approach to Health and Social Care and Management: 36 & 18 Months (Modular) Validated by the University of Manchester UK.
- BSc (Hons) Biomedical Engineering Technology and Management (BMET) Accredited to the University of Ngaoundere.
- BSc in Human Nutrition and Clinical Dietetics: 4 Years (Modular) Validated by Mildmay Institute of Health Sciences Uganda.



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## BBHC Beef up Precaution as COVID-19 Upsurges

Bafoussam Baptist Health Centre (BBHC) has intensified prevention measures to bar-the-way to the Coronavirus. Making an entry to the facility, you are greeted with a loud spot emanating from a speaker. "The coronavirus is amongst us and is real. Many have been infected and some have died. As you are coming into the health centre, wash your hands with soap and water or use alcoholic hand je1ls served by staff on standby 24/7," echoes the recorded message.

Besides instructing all to wash hands, the message further calls on all to respect the recommended social distance while in the facility as well as wear a facemask throughout their stay. Upon leaving the health centre, wash your hands. "Protect yourself and protect others,"

cautions the spot.

According to the Administrator, Fabombi Dickson, the prevention measures against COVID-19 were strengthened due to the recent upsurge of reported cases in the country, including some of his staff. "Within two weeks we have recorded 15 cases amongst our staff body," revealed Mr. Fabombi. "Therefore there is every reason to ramp up prevention," he stressed. "I am happy that most of our staff tested positive have shown no serious symptoms of the disease and will come out of quarantine as the mild symptoms they exhibited subsides," he said.

Despite all what the facility is doing, Mr. Fabombi regrets that test kits are largely limit-

ed. "Cases are increasing yet kits which ought to be made available by the government for testing are insufficient to meet the demand for testing," he said.

"Apart from test kits, drugs used for COVID-19 treatment have equally not been made available." To remedy the situation we have gone a step further to purchase the drugs. However, given that we are dispensing these drugs for free as recommended by the government; we are running on a deficit," bemoaned Mr. Fabombi.

Nonetheless, he says they are liaising with the health district and West Regional Delegation of Public to supply the drugs and test kits for COVID-19.

## BBHC Gets Pioneer CMO, Dentist



Dr. Armand Koudjou,  
Pioneer Chief Medical Officer  
Bafoussam Baptist Health Center

Dr. Koudjou Armand, Internist is the new Chief Medical Officer (CMO) of Bafoussam Baptist Health Centre (BBHC). He assumed duty as CMO on January 27, 2021. At the time of this report, he had served as CMO for a month, Dr. Koujou says his time in office has been to mobilize clinicians especially to work in synergy to improve the quality of care they offer to clients.

"One of my first tasks was to manage and schedule staff to sit in for those who were hit by COVID-19," he said. For the entire period that some of them were on quarantine, work has not suffered which is a great success," he added.

As CMO, Dr. Koudjou said he is looking forward to making BBHC a reference in health care in the region. "As of now, we are mobilizing to acquire x-ray equipment which will go a long way to aid in the diagnoses."

Dr. Koudjou is one of the finest internists in the Cameroon Baptist Convention (CBC) Health Ser-

vices. He has served as an internist at Mbingo Baptist Hospital and Mboppi Baptist Hospital Douala (MBHD). He is expected to bring his rich experience to make BBHC a citadel of health care delivery in the West Region and beyond.

On the other hand, Dr. Batchou Astrid has commenced work as pioneer Dentist at BBHC's Dental Department. Speaking to Health Services Press, Dr. Batchou said she will immediately go to work to ensure that the patient turnout to the department is increased. "We see barely 10 patients and I think the coming of a dentist will bolster the confidence of clients to come for care," she said. Also, we will now handle more cases in the unit due to my expertise, unlike in the past where many complicated cases were often referred elsewhere, she said.

Dr. Batchou is coming to BBHC after a year at the Dental Department of Mboppi Baptist Hospital Doula reputed for offering painless dentistry.

## BBHC Takes Healthcare to Communities

The Women's Health Programme (WHP) of Bafoussam Baptist Health Centre (BBHC) is more than ever committed to the fight against all cancers in women. This is done through community visits given that voluntary turnout for screening is still a major challenge.

"Going to meet the women in their community is the strategy we have adopted," says Ndzi Meible Malah, WHP Coordinator. One of such visits was our recent trip to Kossam, a locality in the West Region of Cameroon. During our stay in that community, we screened 11 women for breast and cervical cancer. Though the number seems small, to us it is a breakthrough because Koussam is a Muslim dominant com-

munity. By their attachment to their culture, accepting to come for screening services is not an easy ride," she said.

The WHP Coordinator is convinced that the few screened will act as a liaison to their peers back in the community when next we go for screening there. The visit to Koussam was within the context of the doctor's support visit.

It should be noted that Cervical Cancer is more and more on the rise in the community. Hardly does a day pass by without us testing a woman positive for it in our unit, quipped Meible while perusing her daily registers.

The World Health Organization (WHO) says 99-percent of Cervical Cancer cases are linked to infection with the high-risk of human papillomavirus (HPV) transmitted through sexual contact. Cervical cancer is the fourth most common cancer in women and claimed the lives of about 311,000 women in 2018 alone, states WHO.

Following such a gloomy picture, Meible says more sensitization, early screening, and treatment of precancerous lesions will prevent many women from developing cervical cancer.

## BBHC ensuring Eye care everywhere

Muyang Olivia Munju, Ophthalmic Clinical Officer at Bafoussam Baptist Health Centre (BBHC) says the department is on course in ensuring eye care everywhere in the West Region. "Apart from providing curative care for eye defects at the level of the health centre, the department is also involved in community eye health out-

reaches.

Through our community outreaches, we meet clients on the ground in the community where we screen and treat eye defects as well as sensitize them on proper eye health.

"We were in Koussam Baptist Health Centre during the doctor's support visit for March. During that visit, I dished out an elaborate health talk to the Koussam populace. We believe that many blinding conditions and eye defects can be prevented if the population has the right knowledge about eye health," says Mrs. Muyang.

# PREVENTION OF COVID-19

Some safety measure to minimise the exposure to COVID-19 include:

1

## Wear Mask

Every time before entering and during in the store



2

## Clean Your Hands

Use handsanitizer before and after shopping



3

## Temperature Check

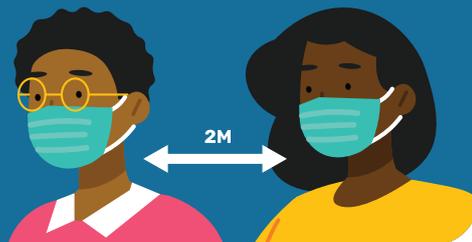
Check the temperature before entering



4

## Keep Safe Distance

Keep 2 metre of safe distance



# Be safe, for you, and others

# STAY SAFE



1. Thank God for blessings of life, courage and safety to us in times of difficulty as of now within the context of multiple crises.
2. Pray God to bring an end to these crises; the war in Anglophone Cameroon and the Corona-virus pandemic.
3. Pray for persons and children with disabilities as God leads you to pray.
4. Thank God for the services in place to reach out to persons and children with disabilities. Pray that these services will not divert attention and resources meant for the betterment of this category of persons in society.
5. Pray that persons with disabilities will also make conscious efforts to develop their potentials rather than relying solely on charity.

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