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STOP PRESS!!

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

BIBLE VERSE

"For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus
to do good works, which God prepared in advance for
us to do" ~ **Ephesians 2:10 (NIV)**

CBC Celebrates Life, Ministry of Outgoing Director of Cooperating Missions

Canadian born, Calvin Hohn has come to the end of his 32 years sojourn to Cameroon and 23 years as Missionary to the Cameroon Baptist Convention (CBC). He served 14 years of his stay as North American Baptist Conference (NAB) Field Director to the CBC. The name of this office would change along the line and Calvin Hohn would become the pioneer Director of Cooperating Missions to the CBC. He resigns from this position to return to Canada for health reasons.

During a colourful ceremony to celebrate the life and ministry of the outgoing Director of Cooperating Missions, CBC Executive President (EP), Rev. Dr. Nditemeh Charlemagne rejoiced that Calvin Hohn came to Cameroon as a single and is now leaving with a big family comprising his wife: Susanane and three beautiful daughters: Ysabelle, Elianna and Michelle. The EP joined the Doyen of CBC Directors, Prof. Tih Pius Muffih, who spoke on behalf of his colleagues, to wish that one of the Hohn daughters gets married to

a Cameroonian to ensure that the family would always come back to Cameroon.

The send-forth ceremony took place on June 16, 2022 at the Baptist Center Main Hall in Bamenda, and attended by CBC Ministry Directors, some Board chair persons, staff of the Baptist Center and friends of the Hohn's family. CBC Education Secretary, Mr. Nyanganji Job Indi sat in for the CBC Chairman, Mr. Yosibom Mkong John who was unavoidably absent.

Mr. Calvin Hohn was celebrated for the impact he created in the various Ministries of the CBC. In their speeches, the Doyen of CBC Directors and the Executive President highlighted key areas where the NAB through Mr. Hohn fostered growth.

In the CBC Health Services, the hydro electric project and the childhood cancer program in Mbingo Baptist Hospital and the chosen chil-

dren program that has supported thousands of orphans to receive education and apprenticeship stood out significantly. Restore the Primary Schools project will remain indelible in the mind of the Education Department. In Evangelism and Missions, Calvin Hohn will be remembered for supporting the Ffulde Ministry with the construction of a Center in Allat and missions to the Baka pigmy community in East Cameroon. The Women's Union will remember him for support to revive the Women's Ministry at CBTS Ndu and the Home Economic Centers in Mfumte and Lingam. The Men's Department, for their part, are grateful to the outgoing Director of Cooperating Missions for support at the Retreat Center in Mile 3 Bamenda and the visibility given to the department during the last Biennial Conference by producing pens for all the participants. A similar gesture was done to the Youth and Students' Department. In addition, Calvin Hohn has supported many young people to get married and transition from being youths into adulthood.



Calvin Hohn Family



The couple received indelible gifts

In tears, the in-coming Director of Cooperating Missions, Mrs. Moody Maureen requested for prayers as she gets into what she sees as an over-sized shoes left behind by Mr. Calvin Hohn. Mrs. Moody brought fraternal greetings from the NAB family and wished Calvin Hohn and family well as they return home in Canada. Rev. Dr. Paul Mokake, CBC Director of Evangelism and Missions prayed for the departing family.

In an earlier devotional thought from Ephesians 2 :1-10, Rev. Minang George, CBC Ministerial Council Secretary said, Mr. Calvin Hohn's 23-year Ministry in the CBC impacted lives for the Kingdom of God. He said our faith must show up in our good works, thus, the need for us to contin-

ue to work in righteousness.

Responding to all the speeches and gifts received, Mr. Calvin Hohn thanked the CBC and every individual that has contributed into their lives during their period in Cameroon. "Our lives have material due to our meeting with each and every one of you," he remarked. Impressed with the number of children he has seen maturing into adults, the outgoing Director of Cooperating Missions admonished the CBC leaders to each identify and mentor one youth into the future. Drawing inspiration from Scriptures, Calvin Hohn admonished the CBC to live together in love.

The Calvin Hohn family suggested that all physical gifts and donation made in their honour should be channeled to one of the following NAB project funds:

Mbingo Child Cancer Fund

Account: 452006-405

Cameroon Crisis Relief Fund

Account: 452030-907

Restore Primary Schools

Account: 471932-907

Donations can be made into these Fund Accounts at any CBC Bursary. If you wish, you can indicate your donation in a note to the Hohns.

CBCHS receives Liliane Foundation and AFAS Foundation



Mr Awa Jacque Chirac makes a reume on the Services of Persons with Disabilities



Prof Tih presenting the institution to the visiting team



The collaboration of the CBC Health Services and supportes of disability work keeps improving

The prowess of the CBC Health Services in the domain of services to children and persons with disabilities has once more been demonstrated to a 5-man team (two from the AFAS Foundation, two from Liliane Foundation and one journalist) from the Netherlands that was in Cameroon for one-week working visit from June 16-22, 2022. Led by the Head of International Partnerships and Programmes of the Liliane Foundation, Anna Donker and the AFAS Director, Gerbern Eversdijk, the team came to see for themselves how funds they supply to the CBCHS are judiciously used to better the lot of children and persons with disabilities in Cameroon.

The other team members comprised: Chiara Beltrami, Communication Officer of the Liliane Foundation, Marko Filipovic, Board Member of AFAS Foundation and Bob van Huet, journalist.

During a meeting with the CBCHS team on June 18 in Bamenda, the foreign partners were given the progress of CBCHS' work in the domain of disabilities since 1952. This overview was made by the CBC Coordinator of Services for People with Disabilities (SPD), Mr. Awa Jacques Chirac and corroborated by Prof. Tih Pius Muffih, Director of Health Services (DHS). Other presentations came from the Baptist Institute of Health Sciences (BIHS) Mbingo and Baptist Training School for Health Personnel (BTSHP) Banzo. These two schools run programs and courses leading to certification in Physiotherapy (PT), Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) and very soon in

Occupational Therapy (OT) with support from AFAS Foundation through the Liliane Foundation.

According to Prof. Tih, Director Health Services (DHS), the CBCHS crossed path with the Liliane Foundation in 2014 when the Foundation chose the CBCHS as a credible organization to continue running its projects in Cameroon. With enormous support from Liliane Foundation and later on AFAS Foundations to identify, treat and rehabilitate children with disabilities, the CBCHS-EDID run program relocated from Bamenda to Yaounde to work closely with the Ministries of Health and Social Affairs in developing policies, protocols, curricula and intense advocacy. The support from AFAS Foundation and Liliane Foundation also expanded services to children and persons with disabilities from an initial one region to nine regions today. This expansion has come along with an additional need of trained personnel to render quality services to children, youths and adults with disabilities in the communities. The ongoing training of professionals in PT, CBR, and OT is thanks to the professional expertise and guidance of the Liliane Foundation and the financial support of AFAS Foundation. This joined cooperation of the two Netherlands-based organizations collaborates with the CBC Health Services and the Ministry of Social Affairs in Cameroon for effective implementation. This collaboration also works to realize a dream for persons working in the rehabilitation sector in building their capacities, and most importantly the dream of people in communities looking up to quality services. With the

mentorship and continuous supervision of the Liliane Foundation, all personnel trained at this center will meet international standards, and sustainably.

The DHS assured the visiting partners that the CBCHS has no problem of sustainability. "We have a struggle to surmount challenges as a team and not a struggle for leadership," the public health expert boasted. Rather, Prof. Tih appealed on his foreign partners to link Cameroon up with other developing countries where they operate in order to foster South-South cooperation by sharing knowledge on how to prevent issues of disability, especially in Africa.

Responding, Gerbern Eversdijk said the CBCHS is just the perfect organization for AFAS Foundation to partner with. He said, it is rather AFAS Foundation to thank the CBCHS for doing the work on the ground and not the other way round. Gerbern praised the CBCHS for excellent organization, believe in God, clean structures, which are ingredients for a strong partnership. He, however, challenged the CBCHS to transform the program into a movement which should involve more people to benefit from it.

The Liliane Foundation and AFAS Foundation team also met with members from the coordinating unit of the association of PWDs, undertook field visits to Mutengene, Bafoussam, Ngounso and Yaounde where they had audience with the Minister of Social Affairs in the company of Prof. Tih Pius and Agho Glory, Manager of the EDID program.

Agreement reached in favour of PWDs

An agreement between the Cameroon Government, the Cameroon Baptist Convention (CBC) Health Services, and the Liliane Foundation in cooperation with the AFAS Foundation is being brokered with its primary goal to render quality services to children, youths and adults with disabilities by ensuring quality services through training. With training already going on at the Baptist School for Public Health (BSPH) in Mutengene, the Baptist Training School for Health Personnel (BTSHP) in Banzo and the Baptist Institute for Health Sciences (BIHS) in Mbingo, the parties are working to secure an enabling and comfortable environment for the training by constructing a center for excellence.

The Minister of Social Affairs, Mme Pauline Irene Nguene has wholeheartedly pledged the support of her Ministry for the realization of the construction project intended to host the training of rehabilitation specialists in Physiotherapy (PT), Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) and Occu-

pational Therapy (OT). The Center for Excellence previewed to be constructed in Mutengene in the Southwest Region of Cameroon is the brainchild of the CBC Health Services under its Rehabilitation Compass for Inclusion (RCI) Project. The RCI project focuses on the training of PT, CBR, and OT and is supported with funds from AFAS Foundation through the Liliane Foundation. The Liliane Foundation it should be noted has continued to support the CBC Health Services in all aspects, and in different domains. With regards to the RCI project, while the AFAs Foundation supports financially for its realization, LF is working to ensure that students acquire professional knowledge that meets international standards. All the parties in this project are working together for a solid foundation in the training, and the support of the Ministry of Social Affairs will go a long way to boost expected high standards, numbers and eventual integration into service.

The Minister's support was pledged during an audience with the Liliane Foundation and AFAS Foundation teams led by the Director of AFAS Foundation Gerben Eversdijk, and the Head of International Partnerships and Programmes of the Liliane Foundation Anneke Donker, all from the Netherlands. Accompanying them were the Communication Officer for Liliane Foundation Chiara Beltrami, a Board Member of the AFAS Foundation Marko Filipovic, and a Netherlands-based journalist Bob van Huet. Gerben Eversdijk during this audience disclosed the intent of the AFAS Foundation which is to help needy populations in countries all over the world. He also revealed that the purpose of AFAS Foundation in helping people around the world is because they have realized how difficult it is for them to make a living without external assistance. Getting this assistance through an established organization in disability work in Africa, the Liliane Foundation will go a long way to reach their expected target group.



International and National collaboration yielding fruits



MINAS unites hands with AFAS and CBCHS to work together

From pg 3

he visit of the team to communities where work is ongoing to improve the lives of children, youths and adults with disabilities, revealed a positive outcome, with the funders appreciative of the work the Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) workers are doing in the communities. They also commended the expertise of the CBC Health Services workers, the love and support from families and communities where children with disabilities live.

When constructed, the Center of Excellence will train students from Cameroon and beyond to render professional rehabilitation care to children, youths, and adults with disabilities in the communities. This center will be of great relief, given the need for a center to train specialists in these cadres. "The need is huge. If there is another institution in Mutengene, it will be a good thing for all the South area of Cameroon. It is a good thing especially as it is a zone of crisis," said Minister Irene

Nguene.

Also present at this Ministerial audience were the Director of the CBC Health Services, Prof. Tih Pius Muffih and the Program Manager of the Empowerment and Disability Inclusive Development (EDID) Program, Mrs. Agho Glory.

Center for Excellence in Rehabilitative Services in Cameroon in view!

The Director of AFAS Foundation, Gerbern Eversdijk, in a Liliane Foundation led team visited the Baptist School for Public Health (BSPH) on June 17, 2022 as part of their visit to Cameroon to witness ongoing activities on the Rehabilitation Compass for Inclusion (RCI) Project, funded by the AFAS Foundation through the Liliane Foundation. The RCI project focuses on the training of Physiotherapists, Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) workers, and Occupational Therapists. This is to ensure the availability of Trained Professionals in these cadres of specialization that have been limited in numbers and training in Cameroon.

The Liliane Foundation/AFAS Foundation team accompanied by the Programme Manager of the Empowerment and Disability Inclusive Development (EDID) Programme of the CBC Health Services, Mrs. Agho Glory, made its first stop at the BSPH which is currently hosting a 2-year Rehabilitation Technicians course.

The team was received in Mutengene by the Dean of studies of BSPH, Mr. Nkuoh Godlove and Mr. Ngang Paul, the Administrator of the Health Services Complex (HSC) Mutengene. They took the visitors in a tour of the classrooms at BSPH, a construction project at the Health Serves Complex which is supported with funds from AFAS Foundation. The tour also included walks to the skills lab at the Baptist Hospital Mutengene, and at the new site intended for the con-

struction of a school to train Occupational Therapists and other professionals to render better services for children, youths and adults with disabilities in Cameroon.

The height of the tour was the visit to the construction site of the school at Mutengene-Ombe road in the South West Region. Two out of 4 hectares of land owned by the Cameroon Baptist Convention (CBC) Health Services has been allocated for construction of the Baptist Training School of Excellence.

The structure will have classrooms, workshop space, a dormitory amongst others. After the tour, the visiting team was expressly happy. The AFAS Director appreciated all for the warm welcome. He noted that he is impressed with the way the school is being operated and the fact that they have intense faith in God. He reiterated the fact that the AFAS Foundation has the same focus with the CBCHS which is helping the poor and the vulnerable in the world. He reminded everyone of the importance of giving. As a Christian, he encouraged the BSPH and the CBC Health Services as a whole to continue to uphold the faith that God will always provide.

Quizzed about his dream, the Dean of Studies for the BSPH, Mr. Nkouh Godlove noted that his dream is to have a training center for rehabilitation services in Cameroon with the help of the funding partners. He expatiated that this centre will be one of its kind in

the country; an integrated centre and one stop-shop for rehabilitation services.

Worthy of note is the fact that the Rehabilitation Technician Course is one of the courses under the Rehabilitation Compass for Inclusion (RCI) Project funded by the AFAS Foundation through the Liliane Foundation. The Liliane Foundation has been working with the CBC Health Services for several years and its support to the wellbeing of children in Cameroon through the Empowerment and Disability Inclusive Development (EDID) program is commendable.

With the new project, the Liliane Foundation has laid all underground work for the effective start of the courses, including the assurance of available professional trainers, course instructors and course material. The passion of the Liliane Funds to realize this project and ensure its sustainability, supports their endless zeal to improve lives in Africa and ensure that all children, youths and adults with disabilities are included in all aspects of life.

Other members of the visiting team included Chiara Beltrami - Communication Officer of the Liliane Foundation, Anna Donker - Head of International Partnerships and Programmes of the Liliane Foundation, Marko Filipovic - Board Member of AFAS Foundation, and Bob van Huet - a Journalist. The Dutch team rounded up its working tour on June 21, 2022.



View of the skills lab for Occupational Therapists



Allocated land for the Rehabilitation Training School

Director of CBC Health Services Launches Sports Tournament for Staff Across Cameroon

With a keen sense of the power of sports, the Director of Cameroon Baptist Convention Health Services has continued with efforts to make sports a culture of the organization by launching a "Keep Fit Tournament" on June 17, 2022 at the Baptist center, Nkwen Bamenda.

This marks the beginning of a new season of fun

tethered sports among staff in all CBC Health Services facilities in Cameroon. At a time when Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) are the leading cause of deaths in the world, accounting for up to 41 million deaths every year, with physical inactivity being one of NCDs' major risk factors, a tournament like this couldn't be more apt.

While opening the gaming season, the Director of the CBC Health Services, Prof. Tih Pius Mufih said, the tournament will end in December with several trophies to be won for the different disciplines. "As we end in December, another season will begin in January, this is to ensure that sporting activities run throughout the year" he announced.



DHS declares Keep Fit Cup Competition open

It is worth noting that, the CBC Health Services (CBCHS) has over five thousand staff in all her facilities in the nine Regions of the country. The Director, called on all the staff and administrators to boost their morale and socialise by engaging in these exercises. "The keep fit tournament is here to inform one of our corporate goals of enhancing people's lives through sports and fitness. It is a pleasure to see staff more active, relaxed and healthy. Studies have proven that physical activity plays a very important role in employees' health, well-being, and quality of life. Prof. Tih Pius Mufih, Director of CBC Health Services said while declaring the games open.

The kick off ceremony spawned lots of euphoria among staff and administrators of the CBCHS, with exciting activities and games like the aerobics, fan club, balloon pop, table tennis, volleyball, handball and football. The highlight of the

day was the balloon game played between ten ladies versus ten gentlemen of the Baptist Center in which the ladies emerged victorious

According to the CBC Health Services' Sports Coordinator, Monju Elvis, the fixtures have six polls, i.e. North West, South West, Littoral, Centre, West and Adamawa and all facilities will play under the polls where they are located. "But teams will travel out of their polls during the quarter finals. Facilities will form both male and female teams to compete in all the disciplines. The tournament has been structured in such a way that no one is left out; if a staff is not playing football, volleyball, handball or table tennis, they can still be in the fan club, fun games or three hundred meter races," CBC Health Services' Sports Coordinator, Mr. Monju Elvis Tinseh noted as he painted a picture of the tournament.

Prior to the launching of the Keep Fit Tournament, CBC Health Services' staff had intentionally been having physical exercises every Friday as a way of fighting against NCDs and improving productivity at the work place. With the high momentum surrounding the start of these games, there is no doubt that the keep fit tournament will nourish the sporting culture of the CBC and inspire other corporate bodies to engage in physical exercises for health.

The launch was a unique opportunity for the DHS (Director of Health Services) to appreciate the tournament's planning committee. "Thank you for putting resources together to have this sports jamboree begin." We invite every worker to be active, wear their sports attire and be out there on the various turfs participating, he emphasized.

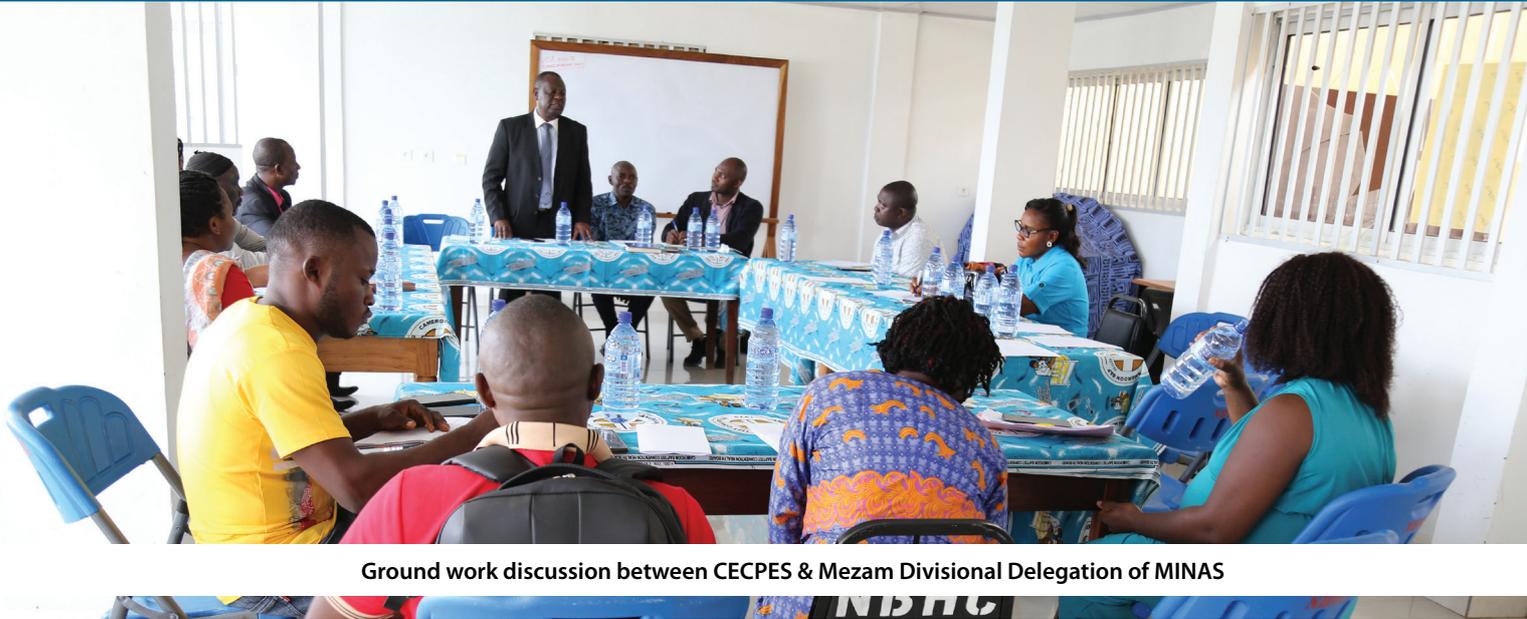


Handball engagement



Fan zones making the most of every resource to stay active

Divisional Delegation of Social Affairs Mezam, CBCHS - CECPEs lay Foundation to Partnership



Ground work discussion between CECPEs & Mezam Divisional Delegation of MINAS

A meeting with the site supervisors from the Divisional Delegation of Social Affairs Mezam and the CBC Health Services' Community Counselling Clinic (CCC)/ Centre for Clinical Pastoral Education and Social Services (CECPES) been held at the Baptist Centre Nkwen, Bamenda recently. According to the Director of CECPEs Rev. Mbu Julius, the meeting was intended to deepen and strengthen relationship between the CBC Health Services CCC/CECPES and the Ministry of Social Affairs (MINAS) that can lead to a partnership and Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in the days ahead.

The discussion of the day focused on creating awareness about CCC and MINAS services; how to build good referral part ways with CBCHS/ CCC CECPEs and MINAS, how to train future social workers to meet government standard. This arrangement would include MINAS in the training of social workers in CECPEs so that at the end of the training, their certificates will be signed by the Minister of Social Affairs and the CBC Health Services, all in a bid to ensure the

creation of more opportunities for graduates in the job market. Participants also brainstormed on duration of Course, course contents, and the length of time for practicum experience.

The CCC/CECPES are two of the CBCHS programs that train social workers, chaplains, and carry out counselling of staff and members from the community. While CECPEs takes care of capacity building as an educational program, CCC builds lives that are shattered by some realities, giving those lives hope again.

Since creation, CCC/CECPES has trained over 1000 Cameroonians including social workers who are being used by both the CBC and national/international nongovernmental organizations.

The Director of CBC Health Services, Prof. Tih Pius Muffh commended the cooperation that has been existing between the CBC Health Services and Ministry of Social Affairs while emphasizing that this long-lasting relation-

ship should be harnessed especially within the context of the war in the Anglophone regions which has given rise to increasing need for psycho social counsellors and social workers to meet dire needs. Pointing out that mental health issues, depression, suicidal thoughts, abuse, etc stemming from the crisis have become so realistic that the need for well-trained specialists to help these victims and survivors has become an emergency.

The Regional Delegate of Social Affairs, Mme. Nkwato Rebecca in a response, said, she is really happy with the collaboration between MINAS and CBCHS adding that the CBC Health Services is the highest shoulder on which MINAS leans on not only in the North West Region but in the whole country. She pledged that the continuous collaboration of this government department with the CBC Health Services is in view of having future MoUs.

6 TIPS TO DEAL WITH ANXIETY

Finding little ways to reduce your stress and anxiety throughout the day will make you happier and will leave you feeling more in control with your life.

Use deep breathing techniques.

Exercise, even if it's just to go for a walk.

Eat a healthy balanced food.

Sleep for 6 to 8 hours every night.

Laugh is the best medicine.

Create a daily routine.

“A Home with a Hypertension Patient is a Healthy Home” - SNS Nkwen Baptist Hospital

Nkwen Baptist Hospital (NBH) together with Persons Living with Hypertension have commemorated World Hypertension Day (WHD) on June 15, 2022, under the theme, “Measure Your Blood Pressure, Control it, Live Longer”. The day was marked by fun activities such as health walk, aerobic dances, fun games, role play, and testimonies of success stories among others.

Welcoming participants, the Supervisor of Nursing Services (SNS) for Nkwen Baptist Hospital (NBH), Mrs. Chimi Emerencia Ngong Nassah said, any home having someone living with hypertension is a healthy home. “If you have a hypertensive person at home, you’re a healthy family because you eat from the same pot with little or no salt and oil,” she said adding that, having a hypertensive patient at home is an opportunity for family members to make healthier choices by benefiting from the patient’s health tips as recommended by the doctor, hence avoiding Non Communicable Diseases.

Hypertension, commonly known as High blood pressure occurs when a person’s Blood Pressure is persistently high. About 1.3 billion adults aged 30-39 years live with Hypertension worldwide, and the majority of these persons live in low- and

middle-income countries, including Cameroon. In Cameroon, 1 in 5 persons have Hypertension; only 24% take antihypertensive medicines, and just 11.2% have controlled Blood Pressure. Whereas controlled Blood Pressure is indispensable in avoiding complications of Hypertension like stroke, heart failure, and kidney failure, reason why the theme for this year couldn’t be more apt.

Prior to this commemoration, the hospital has been raising awareness by giving health talks in churches, outpatient units, radio and social media. NBH runs a monthly hypertension clinic for persons living with hypertension every third Wednesday of the month with over 400 hypertensive patients attended to every month. This clinic provides individualized lifestyle modification counselling, an essential aspect of managing Hypertension.

During the WHD commemoration, the patients elected a leader to coordinate their activities. Mr Janvier Fomukong the newly elected president is a business man who has been living with hypertension since 2016 and confirmed that the clinic has helped him tremendously in managing his condition.

“Before joining the clinic, I used to be overweight with over 90kgs and I ate just about anything that came my way at any time, be it late at night. But now I am more intentional about controlling what I eat at what time. I exercise regularly too. This has helped me to keep my weight and blood pressure stable”. President of Persons Living with Hypertension, Nkwen Baptist Hospital, Mr. Janvier Fomukong said, it is really an honour and a huge task that has been put on me today as president of the Hypertension Association. “I will work with my peers and Hypertension Educators to see that we manage our conditions properly,” he declared.

It is worth noting that in like manner, awareness activities in respect to WHD were done in several facilities of the CBC Health Services across Cameroon. The Director of Health Services, Prof. Tih Pius in his address on World Hypertension Day, called on everyone to seize this awareness opportunity to remind someone to measure their blood pressure and follow medical advice on how to control their blood pressure.

World Hypertension Day is usually commemorated worldwide on May 17, but awareness raising and screening continues way beyond that day.

Sports, an antidote to hypertension



Cameroon commemorates World Clubfoot Day on heels of Ministerial Decision to introduce Clubfoot Module in training of Health Personnel

Cameroon joined the global world on June 3, 2022 to commemorate World Clubfoot Day under the theme, “Increasing Early Identification and Referrals of all Children born with Clubfoot”. Clubfoot is a foot deformity that a child is born with a foot or feet twisted inwards. Before the commemoration, clubfoot partner clinics across Cameroon have been raising awareness in hospitals, schools, churches, media, and other social gatherings with an emphasis on early identification and treatment.

In a circular by the Director of CBC Health Services, Prof Tih Pius Muffih to all CBC Health Services institutions, the goal of the commemoration is to raise awareness about the clubfoot deformity and treatment using the Ponsite Technique. Emphasizing the theme of the commemoration, Prof. Tih said, early identification can only be achieved if all

healthcare workers especially Midwives and Nurses, systematically examine the feet of all newborn babies and refer those with clubfoot to the Ponsite treatment centers. He noted that the Clubfoot service delivery in Cameroon is provided within the framework of the Cameroon Clubfoot Care Project, funded by CBM approved and supervised by the Ministry of Public Health. Prof Tih appreciated CBM for funding the project through the Cameroon Clubfoot Care Project.

Following the fruitful collaboration between the CBC Health Services and the Ministry of Public Health, a module on the management of clubfoot and Ponsite method has been inserted into the curriculum for the training of Nurses, Midwives, Physiotherapists, and Medical Doctors. This move has been applauded by the Management of the Cameroon Clubfoot Care Project and the CBC

Health Services Director who noted that it has been thanks to the advocacy by the CBC Health Services and CBM over the previous years of the project. The Project Manager, Mr. Awa Jacques Chirac, while commending the decision, described it as the right step in the right direction

Speaking during the morning devotions at the Baptist Center Nkwen Bamenda, the Coordinator of the Cameroon Clubfoot Care Project, Mr. Tamon James noted that the clubfoot is no longer only the business of the CBC Health Services as it was in the past years but it is now championed by the Ministry of Public Health. He noted that there is still ignorance amongst some health care providers who are supposed to promote early identification. He, thus, calls on everyone to be a clubfoot ambassador by raising awareness at all levels.

UBa/CBCHS Partnership: Reaping the Fruits of Capacity Building



Promoting inclusion at UBa is a collective responsibility

Academic and support staff of the University of Bamenda (UBa) have underlined the benefits and importance of inclusive practices in the University of Bamenda borne out of capacity building workshops organized by the CBC Health Services (CBCHS) under the partnership framework with the University. The appraisal was made recently during two separate outcome monitoring workshops organized by the Socio-Economic Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (SEEPD) Program of the CBC Health Services at the Baptist Center Nkwen in Bamenda.

The workshops came on the heels of earlier sessions organized in 2021 to strengthen the capacities of the UBa academic and supplementary staff on disability mainstreaming in pedagogy practices and services delivery in the University community. The objective of the workshop was to see changes in inclusion practices in UBa as a result of actions plan and commitments developed during the initial workshop.

According to Mrs. Fobuzie Bridget, lead facilitator of this year's workshop, the workshop offers an opportunity for experience sharing, achievements/outcome documentation, and challenges recorded in mainstreaming disability in policy and practice.

At the start of each of the workshops, the SEEPD Education Advisor, Mrs. Fobuzie expressed the CBC Health Services' value for the partnership with the University of Bamenda, noting that there cannot be development without persons with disabilities, thus, the reason why the University has opened its doors to mainstream inclusion in its development endeavors as a University of the future. She underlined that it is not very common to have a University in Cameroon that embraces and promotes inclusive practices.

During group reflections, participants shared disability mainstreaming experiences such as the provision of extra time during exams to students with disability, identification of over 300 students with disability during admission on the University Portal, recruitment of a brailist to facilitate learning for learners with visual impairment, creating awareness on the rights and needs of persons with disabilities during different school activities. They also noted some of their challenges like physical access barriers for learners with disabilities, and insufficient assistive devices for learners with disabilities. Based on the challenges and experiences shared, presentations by the different facilitators provided ways forward on how to address some of the challenges.

Participants appreciated the CBC Health Services

and its partners for working hard with the University to ensure inclusive education and inclusive access to services is a reality. According to one of the participants, Prof. Fai Lilian who attended the workshop last year said, staff have been more intentional in making their services and lessons more accessible for learners with disabilities. "We are not yet there as far as inclusion is concern but I think we are taking the right step in the right direction slowly but surely," she said.

At the close of the workshop, one of the facilitators, the SEEPD Program Officer, Lohshie Eugene, on behalf of the Program Manager, appreciated the participants for the little steps they are taking in fostering inclusion in UBa. He emphasized that the workshop was not only to recount successes but also to share knowledge. To drive across inclusion is not something through appointment but it is a cautious effort by individuals because if policies have to change to favor inclusion it is an individual that does it, the Program Officer noted. He implored them to be the ambassadors of the inclusion drive within the University community.

In promoting inclusion in the University of Bamenda in the Northwest Region of Cameroon, the SEEPD Program acknowledges the support of the Australian Government through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP).

Women treated of Fistula empowered to develop Livelihood Plans

Some 20 out of 24 women treated of obstetric fistula have been trained on hygiene, sanitation, protection and development of livelihood plans. The women were trained in Bamenda and Nkambe on June 1 and 4, 2022 respectively. The trainings were organized by the Socio-Economic Empowerment of Females with Fistula (SEEFF), a project implemented by the CBC Health services with support from Hope and Healing International and UNFPA.

The 5 months (February to June 2022) pilot project is being implemented in the North West and South West Regions of Cameroon with activities aimed at mobilizing the treatment of 34 females with fistula. Since the start of the project in February 2022, 28 females have had their fistulae repaired with a high rate of success according to

the CBC Health Services, Urologist and Obstetric Fistula treatment expert, Dr. Ebogo and his collaborators.

Obstetric Fistula is a childbirth injury which occurs when a woman or girl suffers prolonged or obstructed labour or some other trauma without timely medical intervention and which leads to incontinence or constant and uncontrollable leaking of urine and/or feces through the vagina. While some of the beneficiaries have experienced a complete halt of urine/faeces leakage, others have witnessed a reduction in the rate of leakage with all of them gaining total or partial continence.

It was a happy group of women who after undergoing surgeries for the repair of their fistulae,

turned out to receive knowledge that will help them reintegrate into their communities. This is because before treatment these women have faced a litany of challenges including shame, stigma, discrimination, divorce and, rejection that caused most of them to isolate themselves from other community members. This has resulted to over a long period of time, loss of self-confidence and self-worth, and consequently loss of social status at all levels within their communities. They also experienced deepened hardship due to their loss of livelihood as a result of the obstetric fistula. More so, many of these women have lived in ignorance and have suffered abuse and violence at different points in their lives that has compounded their issues.

Cont pg 9

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It is for the above reasons that during the training, the Main Facilitator, Mrs. Boyo Maurine, the Psychosocial Support Focal Point for the SEEFF project, among other things, drilled participants on self-assertiveness skills and positive coping mechanisms. She encouraged participants to brace up for the future as advocates for women in similar situations and to use their stories to encourage them to take up services. Mrs. Boyo reiterated the place of self confidence, assertive communication and the power of positive energy in the process of reintegration.

The participants were also exposed to knowledge on the rights of women and girls and gen-

der-based violence response. They were assisted to develop livelihood plans with most of them planning to engage in business and acquisition of skills in different trades to strengthen their socio-economic empowerment. Once their plans are assessed and properly analyzed in the days ahead, the project will assist them with start off capital in the form of conditional cash transfer.

One of the beneficiaries, Achuo Irene disclosed that she has lived with obstetric fistula for close to 20 years and avoided all social gatherings including family gatherings because of stigma. She lamented that she was often referred to as smelling thing and was avoided. She also depended

largely on the goodwill of her parents for survival. With excitement, she says, she has started going to different types of social gatherings and plans to start a business to sustain a living and lead an independent life.

Nandze Regina, for her part, says she has started going to social gatherings during the day unlike before when she could only go to gatherings like funerals at night because of fear of being embarrassed by urine leakage.

The project comes to an end on June 30, 2022 with hopes of a second phase.

SEEPD Partner Councils in NWR record Great Achievements in promoting Inclusion

Mayor of Bafut sharing strides made from inclusion in his municipality



Decentralized local authorities in partnership with the Socio-Economic Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (SEEPD) Program of the CBC Health Services Northwest Region have shared testimonies, challenges, and experiences in the promotion of inclusion in their municipalities. This was during a 2 day "Outcome Monitoring" Workshop organized by the SEEPD Program recently at the Baptist Center Nkwen, Bamenda. The workshop was aimed at promoting inclusion in the Council Development Plans, Policies and Actions of decentralized support structures by strengthening the institutional and organizational capacity of the Councils and Regional decentralized structures.

The workshop was organized one year after the first workshop in 2020 which targeted Mayors and Secretary Generals, Leaders and operation persons of the Councils and other technical structures accompanying Councils in the process of decentralization to introduce participants to the concept and principles underpinning inclusive local governance. The workshop ended up with commitments made by Councils and technical structures to take little steps in promoting inclusion in their respective communities.

This year's workshop had as lead facilitator the CBM Regional Program Quality Manager for West and Central Africa, Mr. Mue Peter. Following their action plans developed in 2020, participating structures presented progress reports and challenges. Key accomplishments

included: the establishment of birth certificates for children with disabilities, inclusion of some persons with disabilities in poverty alleviation programs such as the World Bank funded Social Safety Net project, provision of assistive devices and essential medicines to persons with disabilities, provision of sign language interpretation services in public events, facilitation of legalization of marriages for persons with disabilities, payment of medical bills for some persons with disabilities, and construction of ramps into public buildings.

Despite these achievements recorded, the Councils noted some challenges including but not limited to the slow implementation of some municipal orders, incomprehensive data on persons with disabilities, and high cost of remodeling public buildings.

In addressing the aforementioned challenges, the facilitator further emphasized the centrality of the April 10, 2010 Law, its 2018 Degree of Application and 2021 promulgation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCPRD) as basis for action. He encouraged decentralized local authorities to promote inclusion as a human rights requirement as opposed to acts of charity done in the interest of a minority group.

Appraising the Workshop, the Mayor of Bafut, Ngwa Lawrence said, the Bafut Council can be highly rated for mainstreaming inclusion, thanks to the capacity building from the SEEPD

Program. He, however, noted that much still needs to be done and he is mapping strategies on how to get some actions done such as, ensuring that all schools in Bafut become inclusive. He noted that this will be done by making provision in the Council's 2023 budget for the construction of schools. He expressed that with capacity building they will put in place different methods of collecting quality data.

On his part, the Secretary General of Wum Council, Ekome Ivo Smith stated that one of the goals of the Wum Council is to ensure the inclusion of persons with disabilities in all development plans and that even though they are not yet there, the Council in collaboration with the SEEPD Program is doing its best to promote inclusion at all levels.

As the Council continues to take their little steps toward inclusion in their communities, the SEEPD Program on its part is putting in place strategies to provide them with the technical expertise needed to realize their commitments. Their actions will be further recognized during the Award of Excellence for Best Councils Promoting Inclusion which is scheduled to be launched in November 2022.

In promoting inclusion in local development in the Northwest Region of Cameroon, the SEEPD Program acknowledges the support of the Australian Government through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP).

Religious Leaders, DIHA Project Volunteers empowered on Disability Inclusive Humanitarian Actions, Disaster Risk Preparedness

Some 35 religious leaders from the Baptist, Catholic, Presbyterian and Moslem faiths together with some persons with disabilities have been empowered with knowledge on Inclusive Humanitarian Aid and Disaster Risk Preparedness. The training that took place from June 7 – 9, 2022 at the Pastoral Center, Bamenda and was organized by the CBC Health Services in collaboration with CBM within the context of the Disability Inclusive Humanitarian Action (DIHA) Project.

With the ongoing crisis in the North West Region, the DIHA project is fostering disability inclusion in humanitarian actions and religious leaders are playing a critical role in providing humanitarian relief in the communities. Given the widespread presence and critical roles that religious leaders play in providing humanitarian relief in the communities, the workshop was therefore organized to strengthen their capacities on inclusive humanitarian Aid and Disaster preparedness.

During the workshop, the religious leaders were told that the Disability Inclusive Humanitarian Project is out to promote inclusive access to humanitarian services by affected populations with special attention on the rights and needs of persons with disabilities. Among other things they were told that the project partners with stakeholders including them as they are key to ensuring that persons with disabilities benefit from the activities of all humanitarian activities in the communities.

The clergy also received knowledge on disability

types and models, the rights of persons with disabilities as enshrined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) and safeguarding in the crisis context.

Presenting on Humanitarian Principles and Inclusive Humanitarian Aid, the CBM Country Office Humanitarian Coordinator, Isaac Nyengue - Bahanak told participants that to ensure that persons with disabilities benefit from humanitarian aid, they should take measures such as including persons with disabilities in decision making meetings, collecting disability disaggregated data, ensuring access to venues, structures and information, assessing and meeting the specific needs of persons with disabilities, etc. The expert encouraged the religious leaders to respect humanitarian principles as they carry out their activities.

Luma Innocent Itoe, National Instructor and Disaster Manager with the Cameroon Red Cross, guiding participants on Disaster Risk Management, explained that a disaster is a calamitous event resulting in loss of life, great human suffering and distress, and large-scale material damage. He noted that disaster preparedness is very important within the context of the ongoing crisis and that community stakeholders are supposed to put in place operational measures to deal with disasters in order to save human lives, alleviate human suffering and reduce the effects/consequences.

On the sidelines of the workshop for religious leaders was that for some 71 Volunteers working with

the DIHA Project who received the same knowledge with the same objective. The workshop, which held in the same venue was also aimed at refreshing the capacities of the Volunteers on inclusive humanitarian aid. They are expected to use the knowledge gained on disaster Risk preparedness to communicate and sensitize their communities on potential risk occurrence and assist in identifying mitigating strategies.

Welcoming participants to both workshops, the DIHA Project Manager and CBC Health Services Coordinator of Services for Persons with Disabilities, Jacques Chirac Awa thanked them for sacrificing time to attend the workshops. He urged them to take advantage of the facilitators at their disposal to gain knowledge that will be helpful to their communities.

At the end of the workshop, the participants agreed to go back and share knowledge gained with their colleagues and influential stakeholders, liaise with DIHA field staff and OPDs for the identification and inclusion of persons with disabilities and carry out advocacy at institutional levels for the inclusion of persons with disabilities.

In his closing remarks, the CBM Country Humanitarian Coordinator thanked the participants for the time they sacrificed to attend the training. He called on them to make the training meaningful by putting to practice in their communities, knowledge gained during the workshop. He told them to be the first psychologists in their communities.

LAP Thrills, Challenges in Recent Times

The Life Abundant Primary healthcare program (LAP) is the backbone of the CBC Health Services given its mission of taking quality healthcare to hard-to-reach communities in Cameroon. "We have not deviated from that mission," says Kakute Peter, LAP Administrator.

The LAP mission seeks to glorify God by promoting knowledge of his saving grace and by teaching sustainable spiritual, physical and emotional health. This is guided by its purpose, which is to enable communities to initiate, administer and sustain a programme of better health for all in their environment and culture.

According to Mr. Kakute, LAP has stayed glued to its mission in spite of the odds. As a grassroots project, he said LAP has suffered its share of the brunt yet stayed above waters. The crisis in the English speaking regions of Cameroon, which started in 2016 reached its apex in 2018 forcing the programmes' head office in Bamkikai-Kumbo to relocate to safer zones, first to Bamenda and later to Bafoussam.

The program operates in 6 out of 10 regions in Cameroon namely: Northwest with 41 Primary Healthcare Centers (PHCs), Southwest – 6, Adamawa – 5, West – 4, and Center – 2 giving a total of

56 PHCs. Out of this number, 11 PHCs have been temporarily closed; 6 in the Northwest and 5 in the Southwest due to the ongoing crisis that turned into a full blown war wrecking havoc on the PHCs and sending thousands to flee from their communities.

During the LAP Management meeting that held on May 6, 2022 in Bamenda, the Administrator paid tribute to the rest of the LAP team for their sacrifice, bravery and courage in their abiding presence in the LAP compound in Bamkikai, an area that turned into a battle ground for the warring factions. The brave staff include: the security guards, the catering staff, day watch, the bursar, administrative staff, data clerk, driver, and drug store keepers. This recent LAP Management Committee was held after the last one in 2018.

The good side of the crisis, according to the LAP Administrator, is that, it has precipitated LAP's goal of expansion into the other regions. Out of the eight new PHCs earmarked for this project cycle, five have already gone operational namely: Mambioko, Mbioko and Makanene in the Center region, Mbirijoum in Adamawa and Pinyin in the Northwest.

In terms of challenges, the Basic training for health promoters and CoMCHAs now takes place in Allat

and Ngounso with very limited facilities than at the LAP Center. Other challenges are that some PHCs have not been supervised due to the ongoing armed conflict, frequent attacks on PHCs and field staff, out of stock of some essential drugs thus, demotivating some clients from accessing care and difficulty to get staff from the CBCHS pool to relief PHC nurses going on annual leave.

A major innovation in the LAP programme is the addition on the staffing of LAP physician on secondment in-charge of special community outreach activities. Dr. Neolar Mundih, medic in Nkwen /Baptist Hospital assumed this position in January 2022. Her role is to lead special health teams to improve access to quality health service delivery in the rural communities and also to build the capacity of PHC nurses and Village Health Workers (VHWs) for best practices and better health outcomes.

Mr. Kakute Peter who has led the LAP programme since 2007, wishes a stronger LAP to emerge even after the crisis. He wishes to see LAP remains a reference in championing primary healthcare in Cameroon in line with the SDG number 3, which stresses on universal health coverage.

Bafoussam Baptist Hospital

Bafoussam Baptist Hospital has witnessed general increase of patients' attendance recently. The hospital Administrator, Mr. Fabombi Dickson attributes the rise, perhaps, due to the transition period with upsurge of various disease conditions send many patients to the hospital. He said the regular visits of the ophthalmologist, Dr. Beri Ngong is also bringing patients to the eye department. In addition, the eye department has been carrying out a campaign in the Noun division to screen river blindness under the supervision of Community Eye Care program led by the Program Coordinator, Mr. Tamon James.

In other news, the West Regional Coordination meeting for CBC Health Services institutions in

the region held on May 21, bringing together the Administrators, chiefs of center (COCs), and chaplains. The meeting holds twice a year to evaluate progress, challenges and to share and learn from one another's experiences for better performance.

BBH works closely with the UNFPA to support IDPs who cannot pay for their medical bills. This collaboration is, according to the Hospital Administrator, is thanks to the Director of Health Services' Office that created the link. In the last three months, the program has assisted in the payment of hospital bills for over 100 IDPs costing over a million francs. This has greatly improved their conditions of access to quality healthcare.

Due to the increasing patients' attendance at both the OPD and inpatient, efforts are being to secure funds for expansion. For this reason, the hospital is working closely with the Grants Department to write funding grants for the construction of an additional building.

The two key goals to be achieved before the month of May in Bafoussam Baptist Hospital was the purchase of a visual field analyzer machine in the eye department and a vehicle for the hospital. Due to financial constraints, the vehicle remains a vision while an order has been placed for the visual field analyzer to arrive in two weeks by the time of this report.

Makanene Baptist Health Center goes Operational

Makanene Baptist Health Center open its doors to the public on May 2, 2022 with Mr. Kendong Chrisantus as pioneer chief of center. Reports say although Makanene is located in Ndikinimiki Sub-division in the Center region, the supervision has been placed under Bafoussam Baptist Hospital

due to its proximity, which is about an hour's drive from Bafoussam as opposed to about 2-3 hours drive to Yaounde. Moreover, the people of the area do business more with Bafoussam than Yaounde.

According to records, the successful creation of

the Center is thankful to initiation and ground-work of the Life Abundant Primary Healthcare that began the health center a primary healthcare center in fruitful collaboration with the local church, Salvation Baptist Church.

Ngounso Baptist Health Center



Ngounso Baptist HC



Ngounso Baptist Health Center (NBHC) continues to serve as a point of reference in the provision of quality healthcare in outpatient and inpatient services. NBHC is located in the Malantuen Health District but receives patients from far off places like Fouban, Gambe towards the Center region, Malantuen, Bankim in Adamawa region, Forangian and Mbonso in the Northwest region. According to Mrs. Nkfusai Eveline, nurse/screener who sat in for the COC at the time of this report, this is proof of how much these communities appreciate our services.

NBHC sees an average of 1200 patients per month by a total of 89 staff excluding casual workers headed by Mr. Shifola Emmanuel as chief of center (COC). The center has two resident doctors namely: Dr. Vefemeh Ntangsia and Dr. Teuwo Fortune.

The inpatient services include the maternity and wards for male, female and children and the theatre while the outpatient services are provided at the OPD, pharmacy, laboratory, ultrasound, chaplaincy, eye, physiotherapy, security, canteen, shop, finance and the Technical Services Department (TSD). The center also has a palm plantation, which is already producing oil for the Central Pharmacy in the production of soap and detergents.

The center conducts an average of 27 deliveries per month and an average of 24 minor and 15 major surgeries per month, including cesarean section, appendectomy, and hernia repairs.

In terms of challenges, many staff contract malaria given that the area is an endemic zone. Reports say, sometimes, 3-4 staff are consulted for malar-

ia. Typhoid is also creeping in due to reasons that cannot be understood for now given that the center supplies good water to the community.

Some depts have limited staffing such as ultrasound, pharmacy, laboratory. The issue of bill penders is common thus putting a debt burden on the center.

NBHC has eight major goals in 2022 among which are; follow up the upgrading of the center to a full-fledged hospital, improve the health center lighting system, improve on the quality of services in theatre and imaging unit, improve on the quality of water supply, and improve on community awareness and disease prevention.

STAY SAFE



1. Thank God for leading, guiding and guarding us as individuals and as a system through the first half of the year.
2. Thank God for sending Missionaries and partners to come and work with us in the advancement of the Kingdom and the provision of quality health care to all.
3. Pray for efficiency and effectiveness in our services as we engage the second half of the year.
4. Thank God and rejoice with staff who have been promoted through appointments. Pray that they would serve the staff entrusted to their care with diligence and in the fear of God.
5. Pray for those who will be moving to new stations by way of transfer and posting. Pray for their good health, their families and for those receiving them that all will go well.

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