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# THE HEALTH SERVICES CHRONICLE

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#### STOP PRESS!!

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

#### BIBLE VERSE

“He said, ‘Go and tell this people: Be ever hearing, but never understanding; be ever seeing; but never perceiving.’” ~Isaiah 6:9(NIV).

# Meskine Baptist Hospital Maroua dedicated

The Cameroon Baptist Convention (CBC) has dedicated Meskine Baptist Hospital Maroua. The dedication took place on December 21, 2022 in a colorful event officiated by the Governor of the Far North Region, Midjiyawa Bakary.

*"I am happy with what the Hospital in Meskine has done, and I am sure that the Cameroon Baptist Convention (CBC) Health Services will go even further,"* Midjiyawa Bakary charged.

The Governor made this appraisal during the event in which he pledged his support to ensure that the hospital continues to successfully deliver services to all and sundry in the Far North Region of Cameroon and beyond.

The event that took place at the Hospital esplanade brought together Administrative officials, leaders of the Cameroon Baptist Convention (CBC) led by the Executive President (EP), Rev.

Dr. Nditemeh Charlemagne, and other partners in health care delivery in the Far North Region of #Cameroon.

Also present at this event were the Lamido of Meskine, His Majesty Amadou Dairou and the Lamido of Maroua, His Majesty Bakary Yerima Bouba.



Staff poised to deliver excellent health care services to population of Meskine and beyond



Far North Governor delivering his speech during the dedication

The Governor used the occasion to praise CBC Health Services for extending their work to the Far North Region to ensure that his people are not left out. He lauded plans disclosed by the Director of CBC Health Services, Prof. Tih Pius Muffih for two major projects that will start implementation soon in the region, to reach out with vaccination to #ZeroDose children and improve services for persons with #disabilities. These projects, he announced, are supported

by #Gavi and #CBM respectively.

In his dedication sermon, the EP drew inspiration from Ecclesiastes Chapter 7, Verse 8 "Better is the end of a thing than the beginning thereof: and the patient in spirit is better than the proud in spirit". He buttressed the fact that health services are delivered with wisdom from God, and members of Meskine community are the chosen ones to receive these services and

also that Meskine represents a facility that will bring together the community, other cities and nations from far and near for their health needs.

For more information on the Meskine Baptist Hospital Maroua, please, follow this link: <https://cbchealthservices.org/cbc-health-services-makes-in-root-into-far-north-region/>

## CBC Health Services pioneers Erectile Dysfunction Care in Central African Sub-region

Bamenda, Cameroon – The Cameroon Baptist Convention (CBC) Health Services in its holistic drive of rendering compassionate care to all in need, has added yet another service to the avalanche of medical services she has been rendering for over five decades and counting now.

The new service – erectile dysfunction care, is a novelty in Cameroon and the Central African Sub-region. The service began receiving patients [men] with erectile dysfunction following the acquisition and installation of a machine to handle such issues. Hosted at Nkwen Baptist Hospital, the machine – ED 1000 will "will use the shockwave technology to create new blood vessels around the penile shaft to produce and sustain an erection," says Dr. Oluranti Adekunle, Sex Therapist and CEO of Mediaspec, Nigeria.

According to Dr. Adekunle, erectile dysfunction treatment will involve 12 sessions of the administration of shockwave therapy. Shockwave therapy is painless and requires no anaesthesia, no side effects, and no injection. "On or before the twelfth session the patient will be able to sustain an erection," emphasized the Sex Therapist.

Though statistics on the prevalence of people with erectile dysfunctions are scarce to come by, Dr. Adekunle says repeated studies elsewhere indicate that "50% of mature men" have erectile issues.

Prof. Tih Pius Muffih, Director of CBC Health Services, speaking during the launching of the machine on December 16, 2022, said the erectile dysfunction machine will be "A solution to the cases [they've] had

come in from time to time in hospitals of CBC Health Services."

Despite being a great response to erectile issues, whose root causes are mostly vasculogenic, Prof. Tih called on women to watch out for psychological issues that hamper men's [their husbands] erections and sex drive and not blame it for an erectile dysfunction.

ED 1000 is a Medispec's pioneered technology that came into the market in 2010 and thus far the first and only therapy that addresses the causes of vasculogenic erectile dysfunction.



CBC Health Services' leadership dedicates erectile dysfunction machine

Medispec CEO coach staff of Nkwen Baptist Hospital on operating the erectile dysfunction machine.



# CBC Health Services maintains Tradition as 31 Staff retire in 2022 with 2 from Nkwen Baptist Hospital

A total of 31 workers of various grades and categories retired from the CBC Health Services institutions across the Board in 2022. In keeping with tradition, all the retirees were honoured in public ceremonies in their various stations: Bangolan – 1, BBH – 8, Banyo – 1, Etoug-Ebe – 1, HSC Mutengene – 1, ISFB Kumbo – 1, Kribi – 1, Kumba – 1, MBH – 8, Mboppi – 1, Meskine – 1 and Nkwen – 4.

Mr. Ndosak George Tanah, Personnel Manager of the CBC Health Services made the announcement on December 23, 2022 during the retirement ceremony for Mr. Mbinkar Genesis Duiyebeh, surgical technician and Madam Rebecca Rinyuy, cook (in absentia due to her recent travel abroad). Presiding in lieu of the Director of Health Services, the Personnel Manager hailed the retirees for their tenacity to serve humanity until retirement. "Not everyone is lucky to go through," he quipped, thus, the need for celebration.

In the words of the DHS through his emissary, "Retirees of the CBC Health Services are a resource pool who act as consultants and VIPs of the system". The DHS' representative charged all Hospital Administrators across the system to find every CBCHS retiree living within their sphere of influence and invite and recognize them every December during the retirement ceremony in their institutions. The Administrators are also to ensure that retirees respect the annual appointment in every February to do a complete physical exam on them for free. "Retirees deserve VIP consultation and treatment every time they visit any CBC Health Services hospital and health center," the Personnel Manager sounded loud and clear.

Similar congratulatory messages to the retirees came from the representatives of the NW Regional Delegate of Labour and Social Security who applauded the healthy social working climate in the CBCHS and the Lord Mayor of

Bamenda III who admired the practice of recognizing retirees in the CBCHS. She promised to transmit the good example to the Mayor so that Bamenda III Council can also emulate the practice.

The lead staff representative for Nkwen Baptist Hospital, Lucha Johnson thanked the CBC Health Services for the opportunity given them as workers to make their careers and livelihood. He doffed his hat to the senior colleagues who could work and retire happily despite the hurdles they went through. He encouraged them to sought for peace in their neighbourhoods and families and avoid engaging in activities that can stress them up during this period of rest. To those still in service, the staff representative challenged them to work in the footsteps of the senior colleagues who are senior citizens today.



**Mr. Mbinkar Genesis, retiree (in white) receives retirement certificate and I.D card from CBCHS Personnel Manager**



**Retiree poses with representative of NW Regional Delegate of Labour**

Responding to all what were said and done in his honour, the man of the day, Mr. Mbinkar Genesis Duiyebeh thanked the CBCHS for providing him a job to raise a family (wife and five children). He paid tributes to all the surgeons that trained him in his line of duty notably: Helen Marie-Schmidt, Krubwa Jean-Pierre, Thomas Coleman, and Nana Christopher among many others. The retiree debunked the allegation that nursing standards are falling. According to Mr. Mbinkar, administration should reconsider

listening to the plight of nurses and give them fair treatment, an opinion that received much applause from the nurses in audience.

The retiring surgical technician joined the CBC Health Services in 1981 in BBH as a ward worker. One year later, he was assigned to the operating room (theater) where he dabbled in the skill and grew through the rank and file via training. He was awarded, Nurse of the Year, by the General Session, in Ndu in 1999. Mr.

Mbinkar served for 40 years in the theaters of BBH, Mbingo, Banyo and Nkwen.

The retirement ceremony in Nkwen was punctuated by the award of 2022 Nurse of the Year to Ngek Mercy Kebul and Staff of the Year to Kuni Valentine Bawe. They emerged winners from hotly contested elections among over 500 staff.

# “BHM Trauma Center to benefit all categories of orthopedic and trauma patients” – Dr. Ndasi

The Trauma Center of Baptist Hospital Mutengene (BHM) went operational in March 2022 on the behest of the increasing number of trauma patients worsened by a disorganized triage and admission pathway. Chief Medical Officer and orthopedic surgeon, Dr. Ndasi Henry says, “This made us see the need for the creation of

a unit where the staff gain experience in the processes as well as provide adequate first line management to trauma patients most especially and to all other emergencies as well”. According to him, it is important to be able to identify the critical signs, do relevant investigations, and institute timely management.

The Center was conceived to have an area for triage, urgent x-ray and ultrasound investigations as well as a mini laboratory and blood bank. This is for the ground floor. The rest of the building is to provide additional bed space.

## **Involvement of Hope and Healing Canada**

Baptist Hospital Mutengene did not have a unit for pediatric orthopedics so children with deformities and trauma who were operated upon, were all cramped together with adults without a child-friendly space. “Through discussions with the Socio-Economic Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (SEEPD) Program Manager, he was able to understand the urgent need for bed space and so identified Hope for Healing International (HHI) Canada as a source for possible funds that could be used rapidly to achieve tangible and measurable results in a short time. That we succeeded to do. As such Hope and Healing graciously made some funds available in May 2022. Unfortunately, it could not extend to the physiotherapy department, which the hospital will find ways to complete when the means are available,” Dr. Ndasi narrates.

disclosed that following an investment of 50,000 Canadian dollars in setting up the completion of the pediatric ward, BHM is poised to increase timely access to treatment and rehabilitation services to an annual average of 200 children at risk of disabling conditions. This would contribute to the documentation of profiles in support of Hope for Healing International’s fundraising strategy.

and laboratory and so the facilities are hosting other departments for now. With the lull in the sociopolitical crisis and the economic depression, there seems to have been a drop in trauma cases so less use of the section. The ramp is under construction while the second and third floors still have a lot of work to be done.

The Trauma Center is actually a multi-storey building with four floors costing over 200 million upon completion. The ground floor has been completed and put to use. It has 4 operating rooms and an observation area. The first floor consists of a 20-bed capacity, pediatric ward with child-friendly space and accessible toilets. In addition, it has a well-conceived physiotherapy unit with an orthopedic workshop, which are, however, uncompleted due to a lack of resources.

The challenge now is getting all the floors as well as the ramp and elevator completed to make it fully accessible. The Trauma Center has only the staircase for now. It will also require beds and furniture. The Center will benefit all categories of orthopedic and trauma patients. It will have 10 private rooms when completed and also provide better patient accommodation space, as well as a library, on-call rooms, and an education /research unit. The front multi-level balustrade will provide additional office space for various services below which will be the ambulance parking and patient landing area.

The Center doesn’t yet have the x-ray, ultrasound,

Quizzed about BHM’s participation in the Hope for Healing International projects portfolio, Dr. Ndasi

## **Hope and Healing International Canada – A Valuable Partner to CBC Health Services via Non-Cash Resource Project**

The genesis of the Hope and Healing International Non-Cash Resource (NCR) project dates back to 2018. It began as an expressed and felt need of the CBC Health Services (CBCHS) to facilitate access to healthcare and rehabilitation for people with disabilities and those at risk of disabilities accessing services in CBCHS facilities.

Mr. Nwang reveals that while these items are donations from Canada, the CBCHS, he notes, is responsible for the shipment clearing and transportation from the Douala autonomous port to the end user who is the client.

and also paid medical bills for some from the Non-Cash Resource fund at the level of the hospital. This is done more with physiotherapy patients,” Mr. Nteff explains.

On this premise, the CBCHS signed an MoU with Hope and Healing International Canada within which, in addition to NCR, other cash-based projects are being supported.

Currently, the NCR project has two principal challenges: the need for a biomedical technician staff to ensure that all equipment sent to CBCHS institutions have been tested and validated, and the expiry of items due to bottlenecks at the level of Customs during clearing.

A similar testimony comes from Joce Kangong, Administrator of Nkwen Baptist Hospital. As a young and fast-growing hospital, we needed many beds, machines and other equipment, which we could not readily afford within the period of transition from a health center to a full-fledged hospital. “We remain indebted to Hope and Healing for standing by us as a true partner,” Mr. Kangong remarks.

Today, NCR is very necessary and useful in fostering the aspirations of the CBCHS toward persons with disabilities. The project consists of donating medical supplies and consumables and rehabilitative and assistive technology to the CBCHS based on a request. Donations range from drugs, equipment, medical supplies commodities, laboratory commodities, eye supply commodities, physiotherapy commodities and many other useful items like hospital beds and mattresses, examination tables, and mayor stands just to name a few.

Through the voice of the Program Manager of the Socio-Economic Empowerment Persons with Disabilities (SEEPD) program, the CBC Health Services is thankful to Hope and Healing International, Canada for this longstanding support to the people of Cameroon through the Non-Cash Resource project. Mr. Awa Jacques Chirac disclosed that since 2021, aid from Hope and Healing International includes cash-based support through specific projects. According to the SEEPD Program Manager, over 90 percent of hospital beds in Meskine Baptist Hospital Maroua are from Hope and Healing Non-Cash Resource project.

Awa Jacques Chirac observes that the market for mobility aid in Cameroon is scarce and expensive, thus, a huge challenge for persons with disabilities and their families, were it all left for them to pay. A prosthetic leg in the market costs between 200-300,000fcfa but it is given to us for free by our donor. To further buttress the point, it is hard to find wheelchairs in government hospitals but we’ve them in all CBC Health Services facilities, thanks to provision and support from Hope and Healing International Canada.

These items and many others are received in the Central Pharmacy (CP) Mutengene. A constituted list of the items received in containers is forwarded to the various CBCHS facilities to indicate their needs. More often, the needs are indicated by the CBCHS institutions from an inventory list received from Hope and Healing International. NCR Project Officer at the CP Mutengene, Nathan Nformi Ngwang remarks that once indicated, the inventory list now becomes our demand list.

Jonathan Nteff, erstwhile Administrator of Baptist Hospital Banyo corroborates that the hospital received hospital beds, stretchers, a blood bank, bedside cupboards, mattresses, lifting equipment for the management of patients on the bed, crutches, and wheelchairs, among others. “We assisted poor patients with these assistive devices

The impact of Hope and Healing Non-Cash Resource on the CBC Health Services is felt more by the client, who is the end user, especially children with disabilities age 0-18 years. Funds from the NCR project account at the Central Pharmacy Mutengene are sometimes used to pay for their medical bills, much to their satisfaction. The funds are also used to cushion some deficit situations within the system.

# Partners sought for Improved Emergency Critical Care in Cameroon and Beyond



**Official opening of the 5-day training**



**Partners in the MoU pledge to work towards Quality Health Care**

Training on Emergency Critical Care is currently taking place at the CBC Health Services Mvan Resource Centre in Yaounde, Cameroon. The 5-day training from December 12 – 16, 2022, under the auspices of the Cameroon Association of Critical Care Nurses, brings together participants from all the regions of Cameroon, including a participant from Dubai.

Critical Care Nurses are a set of Health Care practitioners and specialists who take care of people with life-threatening conditions. The workshop with a focus on emergency critical care will effectively drill participants both in theory and practice, following international standards in emergency critical care.

Before launching the training, the Cameroon Association of Critical Care Nurses and their

partners from the ROBINAID Foundation in Germany signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the CBC Health Services, with the singular intention to have all patients receive proper care wherever they find themselves in Cameroon. The training and partnership with CBC Health Services are thanks to #ROBINAIDFoundation. This partnership will also lead to the setting up of Intensive Care Units within the CBC Health Services and support their proper functioning and services rendered therein.

According to the founding Chair and President of the Cameroon Association of Critical Care Nurses who doubles as the President of the African Federation of Critical Care Nurses, Mr. Ntogiwachu Daniel, CBC Health Services stands as one of their best partners to enable them to

attain their objective of Quality Health Care. All participants at the training are expected to “go back to their various facilities and implement what they have learned. This training will drill them how to manage patients having problems with breathing, circulation, trauma, shock, cardiac arrest, etc.

Opening this Workshop, the Director of the CBC Health Services, Prof. Tih Pius Muffih called on participants to use their time purposefully, gain valuable knowledge and work hard to become trainers in their respective institutions. He thanked the organizers for the collaboration, reminding them of the Mission Statement of the institution which is rendering “Quality Care to All who need it as an expression of Christian Love”, a mission that properly ties in with the objective of the training.

## CBCHS Director Leads 6-Man Delegation to Niger for Capacity Strengthening Conference

The Director of CBC Health Services has led a 6-Man Delegation to Niamey, Niger for a Capacity Strengthening Conference to Facilitate the Implementation of the ZIP Project in Cameroon. CBC Health Services RAISE Team joins the Zero-Dose Immunisation Program (ZIP) Consortium (GAVI, WORLD Vision, ACHAP, FOOD FOR THE HUNGRY, Coregroup and ZENY-SIS) in Niamey-Niger for a one-week capacity strengthening conference.

This conference, which ran from November 28

to December 2, 2022 at Noom Hotel sought to enhance the appraisals of the inception phase which started in July 2020 and put the teams on the right track for the implementation phase which would run from January 2023 to June 2024.

According to Dr. Foyeth Eugene, the RAISE4ZDC Program Manager, the meeting was timely as it gave Cameroon the necessary guide to commence the implantation come January 2023. “This would help our leads to know exactly

what is expected of them. We also received more guidance from the funder on how to effectively manage the funds and optimise the reach of Zero Dose children in communities out of government reach in Cameroon,” Dr. Foyeth explained.

It is worth noting that this aforementioned consortium is implementing the ZIP Project in seven countries in the Sahel Region (Cameroon, Nigeria, Chad, Burkinafaso, Niger, Mali and CAR).



**Cameroon R4S leaders strategising after new learning**



**Family photo with consortium and implementing partners in Sahel**

# Nkwen Baptist Hospital puts New Ambulance at Service of Population

Since taking up the status of a hospital, Nkwen Baptist Hospital (NBH) is constantly on the move in acquiring state-of-the-art medical paraphernalia and raising modern structures to better serve clients who are seeking medical care there.

One of its recent moves is the acquisition of a medicalized ambulance. Dr. Nana Christopher, Chief Medical Officer says, "Ambulance is an important part of medical care". What we do, is

usually to refer patients to other centres where there might be better structures to take care of particular diseases, he said.

"In the past, we've had challenges getting patients to those areas [due to lack of an ambulance]. Also, we have specialized services [here] that people might need to access, but they'll be in places where they cannot easily come to us. So, the ambulance will not only serve in taking patients from here but, will equally bring

patients to us for some of the services we provide," emphasized Dr. Nana.

Prof. Tih Pius Muffih, Director of the Cameroon Baptist Convention (CBC) Health Services while handing over the emergency bus to NBH's Chief Medical Officer, instructed him to ensure that the vehicle is in a good state all the time. "Use this vehicle uniquely to meet the needs of the sick in the Northwest Region [and beyond]" he said.



Staff and population welcome the new Ambulance



The medicalized ambulance, which at the time of this report is already in use was dedicated on December 10, 2022.

Being a major service in medical care, CBC Health Services is hoping that someday all its

hospitals have an ambulance. "We have the need all over. We're supposed to have this in all our hospitals – because we have emergencies in all hospitals. So, it is a real need," he stressed.

The medicalized ambulance was acquired,

thanks to funds from MIVA through the Empowerment and Disability Inclusive Development (EDID) Programme. MIVA is a Dutch-based charity that provides vehicle grants to support health outreach and pastoral ministry in the developing world.

## West Regional Delegation of Health hails CBC Health Services' Strides in Disability Prevention

Dr. Chinmoun Daouda, West Regional Delegate of Health has saluted the valuable contributions of the CBC Health Services in the region to ameliorate the condition of persons with disability, especially children below 18 years. The Regional Delegate made his feelings known on December 28, 2022 after listening to a presentation from the Hope and Healing International funded activities through the Socio-Economic Empowerment of Services for People with Disabilities (SEEPD) programme of the CBC Health Services.

Speaking on behalf of the Director of Health Services, SEEPD senior staff, Mr. Tamon James presented an overview of the CBC Health Services' Hope and Healing International funded projects targeting the treatment of 200 chil-

dren with musculoskeletal deformities and 65 girls and women with fistula in the Adamawa and West regions within a period of one year running from July 2022 to June 2023.

"The CBC alone cannot achieve these targets without the involvement and active participation and leadership of the Delegation of Public Health," Mr. Tamon told the West Regional Delegate and his 15 District Officers present out of 20 in the region charged with the implementation of health policies at the grassroots.

Faced with this challenge and given the time frame of the project, the West Regional Delegate of Health committed his Delegation to facilitate the activities of the CBC Health Services in the region to meet her targets of assisting

children and adults with disabilities. The Delegate and his District Officers requested for training and other means to enable them factor these activities into the existing structures of sensitization and immunization campaigns within the region. The SEEPD Assistant Program Manager flanked by Rev. Ekwo Emmanuel promised to transmit this request to hierarchy for approval.

According to Mr. Tamon, this meeting with the West Regional Delegation of Health is indicative that much will be accomplished in the West region in the days ahead with the active involvement of the District Officers for Health.



**Mr. Tamon James presenting CBCHS' strategy to persons with disabilities**



**West Regional Delegate of Public Health & collaborators pose with CBCHS team**

## Hope and Healing International Stakeholders trained on Child Protection, Rights

"Children have rights that must be protected," says Josephine Nsono, Child Protection Supervisor of the CBC Health Services. She echoed this declaration in a workshop, which took place on December 28, 2022 to train social workers, CBR field workers and physiotherapy staff on child protection, child rights and psychosocial support. They came from Tibati, Banyo, Allat, Ngounso, Bamenda and other far off places to converge on Bafoussam.

Opening the workshop, Mr. Fabombi Dickson, Administrator of Bafoussam Baptist Hospital charged the participants to stay alert throughout the training to gain additional skills that should improve their work in the field.

Rev. Ekwo Emmanuel Jato, Hope and Healing International Coordinator gave an overview of the project, consisting seven components. He said four of the project components will be addressed in this workshop, thus the need for participants to be keen.

As main facilitator, Josephine Nsono drilled participants on the following lessons: Understanding of Safeguarding concepts and context, Parenting, Participation of children in games and other activities, Building child advocates using role models and Practical use of parenting guidance tools and reporting. Group discussions and a video portraying girls treated of VVF shed light on the presentations. Josephine stressed on rights of the child, basic elements of quality care for children, and selfcare

for caregivers of children with disabilities. Che Jessie presented on Providing psychosocial support while Che Manasseh and Yesmine Ajenika handled issues of identification, confirmation, referral, treatment, post-intervention follow up and referral pathway, and present tools required for reporting.

Before the workshop rose, participants identified current challenges impeding their maximum operation in the field. Paramount among the challenges are the vast terrain, distant suburbs and inadequate means of transportation to reach out to clients. They also resolved to improve on communication between stakeholders, and networking in the identification and referral of clients.

## Technical Services Department Administrator obtains PhD in Business Administration

After four and a half years of learning, research, thesis writing and defence, Dr. Nyuonquo Kenneth Nsom was conferred the highest academic title by the Unicaf University Zambia. This was during a graduation ceremony that took place in Lusaka Zambia on December 16, 2022 for over 701 graduates from all levels of academia drawn from many countries around the world. Amongst the three PhD graduates for this ceremony was the Administrator of CBC Health Services Technical Services Department (TSD).

The CBCHS Communication Unit quizzed him on the nature of his training and the expected impact of his work as an Administrator with the CBCHS.

“The training which started in 2018 entailed effective studies, research and thesis writing. Course work and training were conducted through tutorial online lectures with a blended traditional classroom face-to-face state of the art approach, and the different examinations taken before completion. We were trained on Research methods, Current issues in managing research, Strategic management, Leadership skills and applicability etc. Each course ended with an evaluation including the thesis writing which was defended before a competent authority in a face-to-face or Viva voice. My PhD thesis topic was entitled, “Measures of Improving Business growth in Sub-Saharan Africa; the case of Cameroon”, explained Dr. Nyuonquo.

He expatiated further that “My studies have improved my functionality in the assignments I am carrying out as the Administrator of the CBC Health Services Technical Services Department. Approaches to some leadership demands would normally have improvement strategically considering the realities. I noticed some limitations in my performance that needed enhancement, and believe strongly that I am now more equipped to handle them”.

As Shakespeare says, “We’re all learners yet in a lower school”, I am still learning and will put to use all the skills I have acquired to “brighten the corner of leadership in the Technical Services Department of the CBC Health Services where I have been called to serve”.



**Dr. Nyuonquo Kenneth, being conferred PhD in Business Administration**



**Dr. Nyuonquo Kenneth, being conferred PhD in Business Administration**

Knowledge is meant to provide solutions to problems. When we fail to provide the necessary solutions to problems, alternatively, we are a problem or contributing to the organization, society and nation's problems. I am once more challenged to continue to sharpen the activities of the Cameroon Baptist Convention Health Services (CBCHS) in the assignments God has laid in my hands as long as I serve, now in a more effective and efficient way while holding on to the mission and

vision of the CBC Health Services of providing holistic quality health care to all as an expression of Christian love, in the discharge of my assignments.

Dr. Nyuonquo ended our chat by thanking the leadership of the CBC Health Services through its visionary Director, Prof. Tih Pius Muffih, who have entrusted him with a corner to brighten in the Technical Services Department of our organization. “I once more pledge my unflinching deter-

mination, and hard work to continue working as a team in ensuring the vision of the CBCHS is being met”.

While a formal occasion to celebrate this achievement is still being planned by Dr. Nyuonquo, he was, however, recognized and appreciated by the Deputy Director of Health Services, Mr. Warri Denis during morning devotions recently.

## UBa Student Union Leaders empowered to join Students with Disabilities to push for Inclusion

Recently elected Student Union leaders of the University of Bamenda (UBa) have been trained to advocate for disability inclusion in the University. The capacities of the Student Union leaders from the different Faculties and Schools alongside their peers with disabilities were built on advocacy strategies in a two-day workshop organized by the CBC Health Services' Socio-Economic Empowerment of People with Disabilities (SEEPD) programme. The workshop that took place at the Baptist Center Main Hall from December 21-22, 2022.

Welcoming the students to the workshop, the SEEPD Programme Education Advisor, Mrs. Fobuzie Bridget on behalf of the SEEPD Programme Manager, among other things, said the aim of the workshop was to build their capacities on disability concepts and advocacy strategies so that they should go back and facilitate disability inclusion in all the University services.

Mrs. Fobuzie told participants that the SEEPD Programme in its collaboration with the University has done a lot to enhance disability inclusion

but there are still gaps seemingly resulting from non-participation of students to push for disability inclusion. She told students with disabilities that they have a significant role to play to advocate for their inclusion but that this cannot be possible without their non-disabled peers. She noted that it is for this reason that they were invited for the training to be empowered with skills and strategies to push for disability inclusion in the University in an assertive and systemic way.

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Presenting on Advocacy strategies, the CBC Health Services Policy Advocacy Advisor, Dr. Foyeth Eugene guided the participants to identify areas that will require them to apply the strategies learned to advocate for effective disability inclusion to become more effective in the University of Bamenda. After reflections, the students realized they will need to advocate for a disability service and improvement in the following areas; pedagogic practices, access to supplementary services, access to Infrastructure and build-up environment, and hygiene and Sanitation in the University toiletry system.

For her part, the National President of Associations of Students with Disabilities in State Universities, Mme Angeline Evina told participants especially those with disabilities that their destiny

is in their hands when it comes to their inclusion in University activities. She revealed to them that the take off point for successful advocacy for disability inclusion is taking positive actions to make their presence felt in the University. She cautioned them that success does not lie in making only requests and demands but by being dynamic, being committed, and actively participating and contributing in the University's activities.

During the workshop, participants also received knowledge on disability concepts and models, barriers to inclusion in the University, national framework promoting inclusion in Cameroon and disability etiquettes.

In his closing remarks, the SEEPD Programme Manager, Mr. Awa Jacques Chirac called on the

participants to go back and be change makers in the University of Bamenda. He told the Student Union leaders that given the opportunity they have to serve their peers, they should use the knowledge gained in the workshop as motivation to implement resolutions arrived at. This, he said, will improve the wellbeing of their peers with disabilities and enable them to participate effectively and actively in the learning process and community life of the University.

For their part, the students appreciated the SEEPD Programme for the workshop, saying it was an eye opener and promising to go back and use the knowledge gained to influence change towards the effective inclusion of students with disabilities in the University.

## Kumbo Indigenous Community advised to guard Against NCDs

Muslims in Kumbo, Northwest Region of Cameroon have been encouraged to join the fight against Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) in their families and community at large. Takwi Boniface, Programme Manager at the Cameroon Baptist Convention (CBC) Health Services' NCD Prevention and Control Programme made the call recently at Rogasa, Kumbo during a fund raising to improve community water supply.

In a health talk captioned, "Reducing your children's stress and tears from NCDs after marriage", Mr. Takwi stressed on the importance of premarital screening – testing couples who are planning to get married for common inherited blood disor-

ders like sickle cell anemia as well as infections as hepatitis B, C and HIV.

"Premarital screening is recommended by the WHO (World Health Organization). It's a vital process to prepare your child or children for a successful and happy home, so don't neglect it," Mr. Takwi cautioned.

While acknowledging that there is need to preserve cultural values, Mr. Takwi advised that practices that can negatively affect health of the next generation may need to be modified, if [they] we desire to see our children happy in their homes.

Apart from the emphasis on premarital counseling, Mr. Takwi hammered on one the programme's vital service – KYN (Know You Numbers). "KYN is a service offered to the population where an apparently healthy individual's vital health numbers are assessed to know if the client has developed or is at risk of developing NCD(s) as a result of the altered numbers," explained Mr. Takwi.

Apart from assessing the vital health numbers during KYN screening, a lifestyle assessment of each member is assessed and counselling on lifestyle modifications given according to the numbers to reduce disease risk. He emphasized that the aim of this is to reduce the risk of NCDs.

## World AIDS Day across CBC Health Services

### CIACP leads World AIDS Day Commemoration

OTHER HEALTH INTERVENTION				
SN	CATEGORY	NO SCREENED	NO REFERRED	% REFERRED
1	BP	3,548	457	12.9
2	Malaria	1,655	406	24.5
3	Visual	2,331	479	20.5
4	BMI	1,085	624	57.5
5	BS	679	82	12.1

In the build to World AIDS Day (WAD) 2022, the Community AIDS Care and Prevention (CIACP) program has been out in 83 communities in the SW region throughout the month of November; Fako - 45, Meme - 31, Kupe Maneguba - 4 and Ndian - 3 with the exception of Lebialem and Manyu where the volunteers there are unable to function normally and submit reports.

Interventions carried were malaria testing and treatment for those tested positive, blood sugar, blood pressure, body mass index (KYN), visual acuity at HSC for staff and students and HIV testing. A total of 8,157 were screened for HIV (3,465 males, 4,692 females); total positive -141 representing 1.7 percent (males – 1.2 percent and females – 2.1 percent). Out of the positive number 70 were known cases and 69 new cases.

The WAC culminated with the WAD on December 1, 2022 with the following activities carried out on this year's theme, "Equalize": musical presentations and dances, drama, quizzes.

The CIACP Program Manager, Mrs. Ngum Lauretta presented the WAC report for 2022 depicting the HIV situation in the region, which was well received and appreciated by the audience.

The HIV Free SW Manager, Dr. Atembeng Bernard encouraged Support Group members to adhere to treatment as the only way to suppress their viral load and stay healthy. He stressed on the 95 95 95 targets by 2030.

The celebration ended with the finals of the following games: football HSC defeated BHM, female handball HSC won over BHM and in volley ball BHM carried the day over HSC.

## Bonaberi 'equalizes' with the World

"The inequalities which perpetuate the AIDS pandemic are not inevitable; we can tackle them". Commemorating the World AIDS Day this 1 December 2022, UNAIDS and BBHD is urging everyone to address the inequalities which are holding back progress in ending AIDS. The theme "Equalize" is a call to action.

Data from UNAIDS on the global HIV response reveals that young women in Africa remain disproportionately affected by HIV, while coverage of dedicated programmes for them remains too low. Since the beginning of the epidemic, 84.2 million people have been infected with the HIV virus and about 40.1 million people have died of HIV.

Challenged by these statistics, BBHD through the Care and Treatment staff tackling clients with HIV and AIDS propagated the "Equalize" message across. Understanding that those living with HIV and AIDS suffer the scourge of marginalization and stigmatization in Cameroon as the ripples are

felt among individuals and societies, the Treatment Center took the sensitization to communities in Bonaberi more especially in Bonabomé (a hard to reach community in Bonaberi with a lot of IDPs).

From communities to the hospital, they educated pregnant women and breastfeeding mothers on clinic/vaccination days and on the importance of knowing their HIV status which is very crucial for both their babies and themselves the mothers. The same exercise was equally conducted at the OPD where posters carrying educative information of all types about HIV were pasted.

Reports say, the World AIDS Day itself in BBHD was celebrated in grandeur, marked by a challenging, heart touching and emotional drama from the hospital's Gospel Drama Club during morning devotions at chapel on HIV and AIDS and their misconceptions. The afternoon was marked by power point presentations centered around measures

and ways to end HIV and AIDS.

"We want a society where people living with HIV AIDS should boldly say they have it as those with other chronic diseases like diabetes" giggled madam Nges Tecla, HIV screener at the Treatment Center. She added that everyone should play their part and get involved in the fight against the pandemic.

In her salutations, Madam Fon Rose Nyimeh, Hospital Administrator apprised the entire staff to spread the good message about HIV and encourage those living with this virus as the stigma is on the surge.

A series of quizzes followed the presentations with winners going home with awards. It was really a day of learning as a majority of staff though health workers learned a great deal about HIV and AIDS.

## Mboppi Care and Treatment take Center Stage on World AIDS Day

Staff of the Care and Treatment of Mboppi Baptist Hospital Douala (MBHD) did an amicable presentation in the hospital chapel as they all appeared in their colourful t-shirts bearing the caption, "Achieving Equality to end HIV". The head of department, Mrs. Kongnyuy Praccidis spelled out the purpose of this year's world AIDS Day celebration as a day to create awareness, show love and show people how to prevent the virus.

In her presentation, Mrs. Praccidis said, the theme of this year is to encourage people globally to eliminate the disparity and inequities that create

barriers to HIV testing, prevention and access to HIV care. She called on all staff members of the hospital to stop stigmatization and put on the right attitude towards those infected. The HOD went further to enumerate five ways to help end HIV and AIDS which are: know, talk, protect, test, and treat.

Our Mboppi based correspondent, Nanyongo noted that the HOD frowned at the way people look at HIV and AIDS patients, which according to her, is a call for concern of equity to end HIV. In one of her statements, she said, "The first treatment to

this pandemic is the psychology". She gave a run-down of activities carried out in the department such as: HIV testing, linkage to care, psychosocial/religious care, monitoring and evaluation meetings and many more.

Mrs. Praccidis ended her presentation by outlining some challenges faced in the department such as staff shortage and lack of space, hindering confidentiality. The Care and Treatment staff ended their presentation with a standing ovation and lifting up of hands while reciting the slogan, "Equalize, a call to action".

## BHM fetes World AIDS Day

Baptist Hospital Mutengene (BHM) joined the international community on December 1 to commemorate this year's World AIDS Day (WAD) under the theme, "Equalize". Michelle Fri, head of the Care and Treatment Unit in BHM otherwise called, M+ led her department staff in a series of activities and presentations during morning devotions.

Highlights of the day included: quizzes and songs encouraging all to know their status and the need to treat everyone equally irrespective of race, age,

sex and colour because everyone has the right to life and to live in accordance with this year's theme.

Michele Fri emphasized on the fact that HIV is still a major health concern but the good news is that treatment is available to sustain life if adherence is respected. To buttress her point, she revealed that the prevalence rate for the Southwest region is 2.7 percent thus, the need for everyone to remain conscious of this fact.

Michele stressed on the fact that continuous efforts are joined to ensure that the UNAIDS target of 95 95 95 is achieved. By this, the aim is to ensure that 95% of the population should know their HIV status and 95% of those diagnosed should be placed on ART and 95% of those on treatment should achieve viral suppression and finally eliminate new HIV infection in children and adolescent by 2030.

# Baptist Hospital Mutengene

## BHM Administration

The CMO and orthopedist, Dr. Ndasi Henry has been conferred an award as the best surgeon in Cameroon. He received the award recently during the 5th Leadership Health Excellence Award 2022 in Yaounde. The Hospital Management Committee acknowledged and congratulated the astute surgeon during their meeting on November 30, 2022 in the presence of Limbe Field Pastor, Rev. Yem Nicodemus.

In a related development, BHM has started a novelty in knee replacement surgery. Visiting doctors from India in collaboration with BHM orthopedic

surgeons carried out the procedures on the first five cases within one week in November. At the time of this report, all five patients had been discharged and responding to treatment at home.

In other news, the children's ward has relocated into the first floor of the Trauma Center, thanks to funding from the Hope and Healing International, HHI Canada. Relatedly, the hospital has secured support from the Socio-Economic Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, SEEPD program to construct ramps linking the Trauma Center and the main hospital building.

Besides the construction of the ramp for the trauma block, BHM also showcases the following goals for 2023: Recruit a pediatrician and a gynecologist, Consciously clear off of debts to the Drug Revolving Fund, Renovate dilapidated sections of the wooden building structure and Embark on community sensitization for Ekondo Titi Baptist Health Center and Drill a borehole for Bafia Baptist Health Center.

## **PMEL Zonal Coordination Meeting evaluates Progress in BHM**

Qualitative and quantitative feedback on the services provided in Baptist Hospital Mutengene (BHM) and her satellite health centers have been presented to the Performance, Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (PMEL) Zonal Coordination meeting that held on December 1, 2022 in BHM. The meeting, which held for its third quarter receive presentations from the PMEL team from Bamenda.

The presentations analyzed services utilization and customer feedback in the third quarter (Ju-

ly-September) in keeping with PMEL's core mission of "Quality". Participants interacted and made further inputs for improvement.

The Coordination Meeting resolved that each institution in the BHM zone should take the PMEL feedback to their management meetings for better assessment and implementation, feedback sessions to be held regularly for better appreciation, the management of the different institutions should organize feedback sessions to the departments and the necessity for more than one staff

should master the compilation of reports in each unit to avoid discrepancies in the absence of the lead person.

Participants of the PMEL Zonal Coordination Meeting in BHM included the Administrator, Assistant CMO, SNS, heads of department, representatives from Kumba and Bafia Baptist Health Centers with the exception of Ekondo Titi that missed the boat to cross over.

## **BHM Dental Department**

The head of department, Mrs. Moyeh Mercy says all is going well at the department, seeing an average of over 400 patients per month. The surgeon

is doing a great job and collaborating well with the staff.

At the time of this report, Mrs. Fonyuy Bernice was on maternity leave while Mrs. Ekema Gladys was on annual.

## **BHM WHP Services**

The Women's Health Program (WHP) team undertook an outreach to Ekondo Titi during their Bible Conference. BHM WHP Coordinator, Tangi Gracious blames the low services uptake during the outreach to poor mobilization and sensitiza-

tion by the local team. According to her, only 16 women were attended to: 14 for cervical cancer screening and 2 family planning uptake.

The program staff carried out sensitization to women of the Support Group during this year's World AIDS Campaign. The program staff are also visiting churches for sensitization on the administration of the Gardasil vaccine for girls 9-14 years.

## **BHM Social Services forging in midst of Challenges**

In spite of the visible difficulties standing on their path, the acting head of department, Susung Germaine says, they cannot relent reaching out to their clients. The department intends to hold a Single's Conference before the year runs out. They also have as goal to have one-on-one counseling sessions with the staff who are most often left out in their activities. She said counseling every staff

is an important goal today given the current pressures on the ground leading to diverse mental disorders.

Other goals for the department are to initiate bedside counseling with clients and to have onsite refresher workshops to keep them up-to-date.

The acting HOD, however, decried that these good intentions are short-circuited by a number of challenges. There is no office for the counselors, making issues of confidentiality very difficult. There is no computer for the office to help in reporting. "To have an office that is not equipped makes work difficult," Ms Susung lamented.

## **BHM Security upbeat to beat Rising Insecurity**

Barely three and half months in office, the new chief of security for BHM, Mr. Ngum Joel says they will leave nothing to chance to bring down the rising insecurity in and around BHM. In spite of limited elements to cover all the strategic points in the hospital at all times, he assures that he is working out other undisclosed strategies with the administration to nip the cankerworm in the bud.

Mr. Ngum revealed that bandits are devising other modes, sometimes coming in disguised as

patients only to have access to the wards. They steal phones, handbags with money, and phones inside and even dupe patients coming to consult. "All these must stop if everyone is alert to report to security any suspicious action. See something, say something," the security chief admonishes. He disclosed that some culprits have already been picked and are helping in investigations or have signed an understanding never to trespass on the BHM compound without any purpose.

The security department has plans to reduce the rate of bill penders who abscond. They need a bike for follow-up when this happens. Other plans include; the beginning of department socials to enhance bonding and cohesion, revamping sports activities for fitness, and reinforcing collaboration between compound guards (CPGs) by meeting every Monday for weekly planning.

## **BHM Eye Department**

Evon Mayou Nformi, Ophthalmic Medical Assistant (OMA) is sitting in for the head of department, Tukah Happiness who is in further training in Yaounde together with the ophthalmologist.

In more staff news, two OMA students ended their internship on November 11 and the second group of two OMA students started on November 21 to last for 10 weeks.

The department joined the Community AIDS Care and Prevention (CIACP) program to take an active part in this year's World AIDS Campaign. During the one-month campaign period, the eye department team carried out daily community screening for diverse eye conditions, near vision testing and prescription of reading glasses, treatment of common diseases like allergies, dry eyes, and mild infection, and health education.

In October, the department joined the international community to commemorate World Sight Day under the theme, "Love your Eyes". activities carried out were community screening, vision testing, school screening, and health education in churches and hospital OPD.

# STAY SAFE



1. Thank God for taking us throughout 2022 as individuals and as an organization.
2. We lost a number of staff in 2022. Pray for the bereaved families that God will grant them comfort and resilience to pick up the pieces and march on.
3. The system retired over 30 workers in 2022. Pray for the retirees who turn a new phase of life, that they would cope and have a restful time.

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