



NIGERIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

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THE COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE END OF THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING OF THE NIGERIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION (NMA) HELD AT HOTEL SEVENTEEN IN KADUNA, KADUNA STATE FROM 13TH – 20TH AUGUST 2017.

PREAMBLE

The National Executive Council Meeting of the Nigerian Medical Association (NMA) tagged “Crocodile City 2017” held at Abyssinia hall of Hotel Seventeen Kaduna, Kaduna State from 13th -20th August 2017. The theme for the event was **Preparing for Epidemics in Nigeria: The role of Healthcare Financing.**

The Chairman of the occasion was the Honourable Minister of Health Prof Isaac F. Adewole, the Special Guest of honour was his Excellency, Mallam Nasir El – Rufai Executive Governor Kaduna State, ably represented by the Permanent Secretary State Ministry of Health, Alh Mohammed Mahmud Shuaibu, the Royal Father of the day was His Royal Highness Alh. Dr. Shehu Idris, CFR, Emir of Zazzau, ably represented by Madaukin Arewa Zazzau Alhaji Mahmud Zubairu, the Chief Host was the President Nigerian Medical Association, Prof Mike Ozovehe Ogirima, the Host was the NMA Chairman Kaduna State, Dr. Shehu Abdulrahman. The Keynote Speaker was Prof Mohammed N. Sambo, Provost, College of Medicine Kaduna State University. Other dignitaries present included the President Association of Professional Bodies of Nigeria (APBN) Dr. Omede Idris, Hon. Mohammed Usman Deputy Chairman House Committee on health Services, Member representing Makarfi/Kaduna Federal Constituency of Kaduna State.

ACTIVITIES

- Free Medical outreaches to Makarfi, in Makarfi Local Government Area and Gwamna Awan General Hospital Kakuri, Kaduna State during which over 200 surgeries including Thyroidectomies were done and over 2000 patients with different medical conditions were seen and treated, Eye glasses were also distributed after refractions were made.

- Courtesy visits to His Royal Highness Alh. Dr. Shehu Idris CFR, Emir of Zazzau, the Chief Medical Director of Ahmadu Bello University Teaching Hospital Zaria, Professor Lawal Khalid mni , the Acting Medical Director of National Ear Care Centre, Dr. Umar Grema Sambo.
- Nigerian Medical Association Continuing Medical Education/ Continuing Professional Development (CME/CPD).
- Launching of Doctors stamp by the Honorable Minister of Health.

OBSERVATIONS

1. NEC observed with joy the safe return of our dear President Muhammadu Buhari from Medical vacation in London.
2. The NEC observed with dismay the continuous low budgetary allocation to health leading to declining health care service delivery in the country.
3. The NEC observed with dismay the worsening availability, distribution, development and utilization of human resources for health within Nigeria's health system.
4. The NEC observed the increasing trend of brain drain especially affecting the already weakened man power base in the country.
5. The NEC observed that Doctors and other health workers are overworked as a result of man power shortage in both private and public settings.
6. The NEC observed the current increase in hemorrhagic fever outbreak coupled with few Infectious Disease Hospitals (IDH).
7. The NEC expressed concern over the recent decline in immunization coverage throughout the country.
8. The NEC noted with sadness the manner with which various State Governments are handling communicable diseases outbreaks and expressed concern on the poor data collection in order to ascertain the magnitude of the outbreaks.
9. The NEC observed with dismay the widespread quackery in medical practice with its attendant negative consequences to the nation.
10. The NEC expressed serious concern over the non reconstitution of Medical and Dental Council of Nigeria and other boards of tertiary health institutions despite repeated calls by the Association.
11. The NEC observed the efforts of the House of Representatives in strengthening Residency Training Programme (RTP) through the provision of legal framework for Residency Training Programme in Nigeria.
12. NEC expressed concern over the delay in commencement of central recruitment and posting of House Officers for housemanship to accredited hospitals by the Federal Ministry of Health.
13. The NEC noted with concern the current trend of irregular payment of salaries and arrears at Federal, State and Local government levels.

14. NEC observed with dismay the increase in the spate of kidnapping of Medical Doctors and other health care workers in the country. Equally NEC also observed the increased terrorism in some part of the country which has adversely affected the performance of their lawful duties.
15. NEC observed with deep concern, the level of hate speeches in the country, with the risk of dire consequences.
16. NEC observed with sadness the loss of lives resulting from mudslide and floods in Sierra Leone and commiserates with the government and good people of Sierra Leone.

RESOLUTIONS

1. The NEC calls on the President to utilize his positive experience in the health systems of other climes to impact on the health care system in Nigeria.
2. NEC calls on the government to implement the Abuja Declaration of at least 15% budgetary allocation to health and ensure timely release of funds with effect from 2018 budget.
3. The NEC urges the Federal Government to conduct NEEDS assessment of Human Resource for health in order to ensure an optimal and productive health workforce.
It also calls on government at all levels to improve the working conditions of Doctors and other health workers to stem brain drain in the sector.
4. The NEC Calls for improvement in Epidemic control, Preparedness and the establishment of more Infectious Disease Hospitals (IDH) throughout the country.
5. The NEC calls on government to intensify efforts to improve funding on immunization services and further strengthen the collaboration between government and non- governmental agencies. It also expressed its readiness to collaborate with the National Primary Health Care Development Agency (NPHCDA) to improve immunization services across the country.
6. The NEC calls for transparency, improved data collection and proper handling of outbreaks of communicable diseases.
7. The NEC calls on MDCN to support the efforts of Nigerian Medical Association in stemming quackery by making it mandatory for all registered medical and dental practitioners both in public and private settings in Nigeria to use Doctor's stamp in all official medical correspondences.
8. NEC appeals to the National Assembly to fast track the passage of the bill on Residency Training Programme (RTP) in Nigeria.
9. The NEC appeals to the Federal Ministry of Health to commence the central recruitment of House Officers without further delay.
10. The NEC calls on Federal Government to immediately address issues of salary shortfall as it affects federal tertiary health institutions, the States and Local Governments to use the available resources to offset salary arrears.

11. NEC advises the Federal Government as a matter of urgency, to address the demands of the National Association of Resident Doctors of Nigeria (NARD) to avoid unnecessary disruption of services.

APPRECIATIONS

NEC expresses her profound gratitude to the Executive Governor of Kaduna State Mallam Nasir El-Rufai and the good people of Kaduna state, the Honourable Minister of Health, Prof Isaac F. Adewole, His Royal Highness, the Emir of Zazzau, Alh. Dr. Shehu Idris CFR, Hon. Mohammed Usman, Deputy Chairman House Committee on Health Services and Member representing the good people of Makarfi/Kudan Federal Constituency, the Keynote Speaker, Prof Mohammed Nasir Sambo, All heads of tertiary health institutions in Kaduna State and the local organizing committee ably led by the chairman of Kaduna State branch of NMA.



Prof Mike Ozovehe Ogirima
President



Dr Yusuf Tanko Sununu
Secretary General