



NIGERIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

Member Association of Professional Bodies of Nigeria (APBN), African Medical Association (AFMA)
Commonwealth Medical Association (CMA) and World Medical Association (WMA)

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COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE END OF THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (NEC) MEETING HELD AT THE MARHABA EVENT CENTRE, BESIDE BRISTOL PALACE HOTEL FARM CENTRE, KANO, KANO STATE, NIGERIA FROM 8TH TO 15TH DECEMBER, 2019.

Preamble

The National Executive Council meeting of the Nigerian Medical Association (NMA) was held at the Marhaba Event Centre, Beside Bristol Palace Hotel Farm Centre, Kano, Kano State, Nigeria between 8th and 15th December, 2019. The theme of the conference was "Specialization and Subspecialisation in Medical Practice: Bridging Skills & Technology Gap in Nigeria". The Subthemes were "Panacea for Funding: Public Private Partnership (PPP), Financial Institutions & Health Trust Funds" and " Super speciality in the Nigerian Health System: Reality or Mirage ".

The event was declared open by His Excellency, Dr. Alhaji Abdullahi Umar Ganduje , the Executive Governor of Kano State who was awarded the NMA Health Ambassador award for his remarkable strides and outstanding performance in improving healthcare delivery in Kano State, being the first State Governor to allocate 16% of his budget to health , appropriating over one hundred million naira monthly to State Health Insurance Scheme and being doctor friendly. Dr. Aminu Alhassan Dantata CON , a Philanthropist was given an award for his support to the health sector in Kano State .The Keynote Speaker was the Vice President of National Postgraduate Medical College of Nigeria, Prof. Musa Muhammad Borodo.

The NEC meeting was preceded by a two day medical mission to Hotoro Primary Health Care Centre (Galula), Nassarawa Local Government Area and Gwarzo General Hospital, Gwarzo Local Government Area where five thousand eight hundred and thirty four (5, 834) patients with varied medical conditions were offered free medical consultations and free laboratory tests as well as minor and major surgical procedures.

The NEC meeting also featured a very successful Town Hall meeting on various strategies for engaging the executive arm of government in order to achieve a robust health system.

OBSERVATIONS

1. The NEC observed that specialty and super specialty care are still largely rudimentary and not well developed in Nigeria.
2. The NEC further noted that a conglomerate of factors including critical shortage of specialists, training challenges, inadequate requisite equipment, poor funding of the health sector and lack of political will amongst others; are responsible for the rudimentary state and the huge gap in developing specialty and super specialty care in the country.
3. The NEC noted the exemplary efforts and the commitment of the Kano State Government in bridging the gap in specialty and super specialty care. In this regard, NEC applauded the giant strides of the Government; its policy on specialist training and the on-going training of 100 female medical students, the allocation of 16% of the total budget to the health sector, on-going building of a world class cancer centre, procurement of requisite equipment and measures put in place to ensure accessible and affordable health care in Kano State.
4. The NEC observed that Public Private Partnership (PPP) remains a viable funding option in healthcare financing in the country.
5. The NEC observed that misconception and suspicion by members of the healthcare team in respect of the services and operations of concessionaires is partly responsible for the low acceptance of Public Private Practice by healthcare professionals and the general public vis-a-vis its poor implementation.
6. The NEC also identified lack of commitment and failure of parties to fulfil the various aspects of bilateral agreements as well as corruption as some of the other key factors responsible for the poor performance of Public Private Partnership in Nigeria.
7. The NEC acknowledged and appreciated the proactive ways the Speaker of the Federal House of Representatives, Rt. Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila, and the Chairman of the House Committee on Health Services, Hon. (Dr) Yusuf Tanko Sununu, have been working to prevent disruption of services in Federal Tertiary Health Institutions as a result of the refusal of the Federal Ministry of Health and relevant MDAs and Agencies of Government to fulfil the understanding reached between Government, National Association of Resident Doctors and other stakeholders. The NEC expressed worry over negative disposition of some top officials of Government especially, at the Federal Ministry of Health, which is capable of jeopardizing current gains and stability in the health sector.
8. The NEC expressed dismay with the worsening state of security in the country and the continued incarceration of two (2) medical doctors (Dr. Audu Sule and Dr. Sunday Oduniyi) in Taraba State by kidnappers. The NEC also condemned in strong terms the gruesome murder of Dr Jerome Boluwaji Elutayo Elusiyan, a Professor of Paediatrics and Child Health at Obafemi Awolowo University Ile-Ife and the Chairman Medical Advisory Committee (CMAC), Obafemi Awolowo University Teaching Hospital, Ile-Ife on his way back to Ile-Ife

from Ekpoma as an external examiner for Medical Students examination at Ambrose Ali University, Ekpoma, Edo State.

9. The NEC further expressed its disappointment with the failure of both Federal and State Governments to effectively check security lapses and the ravaging incidence of banditry, armed robbery, kidnappings and endless killings of innocent Nigerians.

10. The NEC observed that the 2nd National Health Summit and 25th Triennial Commonwealth Conference were successful, and applauded the input of the Central Planning Committee, Local Organising Committee, the support and participation of membership of the Association and all stakeholders including Government, in this regard

11. The NEC noted the election and installation of a Past President of the NMA, Dr Osahon Enabulele, as the President of the Commonwealth Medical Association. The NEC also noted that Dr. Osahon Enabulele is the first Nigerian to occupy this position and appreciated his positive contributions as an Ambassador of the NMA at the global arena of medical politics.

12. The NEC acknowledged the progress made so far by the Dr Francis Adedayo Faduyile led NOC in ensuring harmonious inter-professional relationship in the health sector and expressed satisfaction with the participation of the Pharmaceutical Society of Nigeria and the National Association of Nigerian Nurses and Midwives in the 2nd National Health Summit.

13. The NEC expressed satisfaction with the preparation for the hosting of the NMA Games 2020 and the 2020 Annual General Conference/Annual Delegates Meeting (AGC/ADM) "tagged Tin City 2020" by the Rivers State and Plateau State Branches respectively.

14. The NEC reiterated the need to build a befitting edifice for the NMA and applauded efforts of the leadership of the Association and understanding of the membership in this regard.

RESOLUTIONS

1. The NEC urged Government at all levels to prioritize specialist and super specialty care as a key measure to improve the country's poor health indices. NEC implored the NMA to take the lead in sensitizing the Government, organized private sector and other stakeholders in articulating strategies to achieve this in the overall interest of all Nigerians.

2. The NEC is convinced that commitment to full implementation of Medical Residency Training Act and National Health Act, and increase in budgetary allocation by the Federal and State Governments to health sector to the minimum benchmark of 15% of the total annual budget in line with the Abuja Declaration by African Heads of State in 2002, would impact positively on specialty and super specialty care in Nigeria. The NEC implored Government to demonstrate political will in this regard.

3. The NEC strongly recommended that other State Governments should emulate the Kano State Government in areas of specialty and super specialty training, optimal budgetary

allocation to the health sector, well-funded State Health Insurance Scheme and increased accessibility and affordability to specialized care especially by the less privileged.

4. The NEC reiterated that Public Private Partnership (PPP) should form a core option in Healthcare Financing as it has a great potential in revamping of the healthcare infrastructures.

5. The NEC emphasized that education and involvement of all stakeholders in policy formulation and planning, clear and unambiguous definition of the primary role of members of the healthcare team, safeguarding the interest of health consumers through implementation of the consumer protection act; are vital to acceptability and successful implementation of Public Private Partnership.

6. The NEC reaffirmed that commitment by parties and transparency are fundamental to an enduring Public Private Partnership.

7. The NEC reaffirmed the commitment of the NMA to the stability of the sector and sustenance of current industrial harmony, and urged the Federal House of Representatives under the pragmatic leadership of the Speaker, Rt. Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila, to further deploy strategies to fast track the resolution of outstanding matters between the Federal Government of Nigeria and the National Association of Resident Doctors. The NEC also implored the Federal Ministry of Health to be committed to the full implementation of the Medical Residency Training Act.

8. The NEC demands that the President, Federal Republic of Nigeria, His Excellency, Muhammadu Buhari, steps up his commitment to the security of lives and property as the incessant killing of Nigerians on Nigeria roads is unacceptable, and urged the security agencies to unearth the perpetrators of the barbaric and brutal killing of our dear colleague, Dr Jerome Elusiyan, and forestall future occurrences. The NEC also urged the Inspector General of Police and other security agencies to intensify efforts to apprehend the perpetrators of this heinous act within the next two weeks, and the perpetrators brought to book and to ensure the release of our colleagues kidnapped in Taraba State and all other Nigerians in the den of kidnappers. The NMA cannot continue to watch its members molested and hacked down in this country. The NEC called on Governments at all levels and the security agencies to urgently do the needful in addressing this menace.

9. The NEC implored the National Officers Committee of the NMA to work with Government and other stakeholders to ensure diligent implementation of the recommendations that emanated from the 2nd NMA National Health Summit, and tasked the Government of the Federation to fulfil the promise made through the Hon. Minister of Health on ensuring that the recommendations are tapped into in setting new agenda for the health sector.

10. The NEC affirmed the confidence of the NMA in the ability of Dr. Osahon Enabulele, President of the Commonwealth Medical Association (CMA), to surpass past records

in the administration of the CMA and pledged to accord him the needed support to fly the flag of the continent and the CMA to an amiable height.

11. The NEC reiterated the need to strengthen on-going bilateral and multilateral understanding between the NMA and sister professional bodies and utilize this avenue in reaching out to other professional Associations in the health sector to ensure lasting inter-professional harmony.

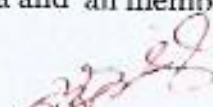
12. The NEC reaffirmed the hosting rights of the NMA Games 2020 and the 2020 AGC/ADM of the Association by the Rivers State and Plateau State Branches, and enjoined all stakeholders to work towards the success of the events.

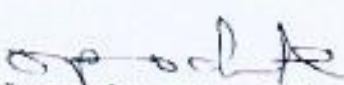
13. The NEC enjoined all Nigerian Medical and Dental Practitioners to continue to support the NMA House initiative and contribute their quota to the successful execution of the project.

APPRECIATION:

The Nigerian Medical Association is immensely grateful to the following:

Speaker, House of Representatives, Rt. Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila, our Special Guest of Honour, Honourable Minister of Health, Dr. Osagie Emmanuel Ehanire, Minister of State for Health, Senator Olorunnimbe Mamora, Executive Governor of Kano State, Dr. Abdullahi Umar Ganduje, Chairman Senate Committee on Appropriation, Senator Barau Jibrin, Chairman, House Committee on Healthcare Services, Hon.(Dr.) Yusuf Sununu Tanko, Chairman of the Occasion, Prof. Abdulhamid Isah Dutse, Former Chief Medical Director, Aminu Kano University Teaching Hospital, Kano; our Keynote Speaker, Vice-President, National Postgraduate Medical College, Prof. Musa Muhammad Borodo, Emir of Kano, His Highness Muhammadu Sanusi II, Alhaji (Dr.) Aminu Alhassan Dantata, a Philanthropist and very successful business man, Commissioner of Health, Kano State Dr. Aminu Ibrahim Tsanyawa, Commissioner for Higher Education, Dr. Mariya Mahmood Bunkare, the Acting Chief Medical Director, Aminu Kano University Teaching Hospital, Kano, Kano State, Dr. Aminu Ibrahim, Dr. T.A.B Sanusi, Registrar Medical and Dental Council of Nigeria (MDCN), Speakers at the NEC, Chief Medical Directors and Medical Directors of Federal, State and Private Hospitals, special appreciation to the local Organizing Committee led by Dr. Sanusi M. Bala and all members of the State Officers Committee of NMA Kano State .


Dr. Francis Adedayo Faduyile
NMA PRESIDENT


Dr. Olumuyiwa Peter Odusote
NMA SECRETARY-GENERAL