

DISTRICT HEALTH DIRECTORATE

MINUTES OF DISTRICT HEALTH COMMITTEE (DHCM)

MEETING HELD ON 5TH OCTOBER, 2022

VENUE: DISTRICT ASSEMBLY CONFERENCE HALL, SABOBA

DO NOT COPY

DISTRICT HEALTH COMMITTEE MEMBERS (DHCM)

ATTENDANCE

<i>S/N</i>	<i>NAME</i>	<i>DEPARTMENT</i>	<i>SIGNATURE</i>
<i>1</i>	<i>Mr. Abdulai Haruna</i>	<i>DCD, District Assembly</i>	
<i>2</i>	<i>Mr. Braimah Mustapha Farouk</i>	<i>DDHS, DHD</i>	
<i>3</i>	<i>Mr. Tibormor Jonathan</i>	<i>Information</i>	
<i>4</i>	<i>Mr. Issah umar</i>	<i>Chief Imam Rep.</i>	
<i>5</i>	<i>Mr. Samuel Bonney</i>	<i>PPA AG. Hospital</i>	
<i>6</i>	<i>Mr. Joseph K. Mahama</i>	<i>L.C.C Chairman</i>	
<i>7</i>	<i>Mr. Nabgbija Ehis Pehipeh</i>	<i>Koya Secretary</i>	
<i>8</i>	<i>Hon. Kumbumdgma K. Joseph</i>	<i>Presiding Member</i>	

IN ATTENDANCE

<i>S/N</i>	<i>NAME</i>	<i>DEPARTMENT</i>	<i>SIGNATURE</i>
<i>1</i>	<i>Mr. Abdulai Tahiru</i>	<i>GHS- DHD, HR</i>	
<i>2</i>	<i>Mr. Eric Quayson</i>	<i>Assistant Director, SDA</i>	
<i>3</i>	<i>Mr Haruna Yahuza</i>	<i>GHS- DHD, PHN</i>	
<i>4</i>	<i>M Pual Magban</i>	<i>AG. Hospital</i>	
<i>5</i>	<i>Mr Offori Arthur Eric</i>	<i>DPO</i>	

ABSENT WITH PERMISSION

<i>S/N</i>	<i>NAME</i>	<i>DEPARTMENT</i>	<i>SIGNATURE</i>
<i>1</i>	<i>Hon. George K. Bingrini</i>	<i>District Chief Executive</i>	
<i>2</i>	<i>Mr. Bonan Y. Prince</i>	<i>Traditional Authority Rep</i>	

1. **OPENING PRAYER**
The meeting started at exactly 9:30am with an opening prayer by Mr. Issah Umar, the Chief Imam of Saboba. This was followed by self-introduction of members.

2. **WELCOME ADDRESS**
The District Coordinating Director (DCD), Mr. Haruna Abdulai, who was also acting as the Chairman to the committee, welcomed all members to the maiden meeting. He used the opportunity to apologise for the absence of the Hon. District Chief Executive (DCE) who was out of the district on an equally important assignment at the national level. He further entreated members to contribute meaningfully to make the meeting a success.

The District Coordinating Director mentioned that, the purpose of the meeting was to discuss health related issues in the District. He further stated that the committee meeting is supposed to be held once in every quarter in a year to brief members on health issues in the district. He said an emergency meeting could be called at any point in time if the need arises.

The DCD then called on the District Health Director to throw more light on the composition of membership of the health committee.

3. **OPENING REMARKS BY DDHS**
The District Director of Health Services, Mr. Braimah Mustapha Farouk, admitted that the District Health Committee meeting is supposed to be held once in every quarter. However, the unavailability of all members of the committee members has made it impossible to hold the meeting as expected.

The DCD stressed the importance of the committee as health issues are the key in the district, hence the need the hold meeting as scheduled.

The DCD mentioned that the composition of Health Committee members are:

S/NO	NAME	POSITION
1	District Chief Executive	Chairman
2	Islamic Religious Leader	Member
3	Christian Religious Leader	Member
4	National Health Insurance Manager	Member
5	District Information Officer	Member
6	District Director of Health Services	Secretary
7	Traditional Leader	Member
8	District Director of Ghana Education Service	Member
9	Medical Superintendent	Member
10	KOYA President	Member
11	Presiding Member	Member
12	Co-opted members	Members

The DCD further advised members to put in place Standing Orders of the committee to ensure its smooth running and to improve on the quality of health services delivery in the district.

<p>4</p> <p>5.</p> <p>6.</p> <p>7.</p>	<p>BUSINESS OF THE DAY</p> <p><i>The District Director of Health Services informed members about the top ten (10) diseases common in the district. These include: Malaria, Upper Respiratory Tract Infections, R & J Pain, Diarrhoea, Anaemia, Typhoid Fever, Intestinal Worms, Skin Disease, Urinary Tract Infections and Hypertension.</i></p> <p><i>The District Director of Health explained that necessary steps are being taken to fight malaria, and the SMC will ensure that malaria cases are reduced in the district. He added that malaria infections are accompanied by anemia.</i></p> <p><i>He encouraged committee members to support the fight against these top ten (10) diseases in the district.</i></p> <p>DISCUSSION</p> <p><i>The DDHS opened the floor for members who had contributions in respect of the fight against the top ten (10) diseases in the district to make their submissions.</i></p> <p><i>The District Information Officer, Mr. Jonathan, explained that the distribution of mosquito nets for use by people was the best way to reduce malaria. However, many people who received these nets used them for different purposes such as fishing, gardening and others used them on motorbikes. He called for the proper use of the mosquito nets as it prevents mosquito bites and eventually prevent malaria infections. Parents will save some money since children do not fall sick and will not visit the hospital.</i></p> <p>COVID-19.</p> <p><i>The Covid-19 vaccination exercise is an important national assignment and people are willing to participate in it. However, a lot of education is still needed to encourage people go in for the jab.</i></p> <p><i>The District Public Health Nurse explained by sharing an experience with committee members. He said someone claimed that after taking the COVID-19 vaccine, there was blood on his stool and attributed this to the vaccine he had taken. The DPHN said upon explaining to him, the person was convinced it could be as a result of constipation.</i></p> <p><i>The District Planner wanted to know whether the District Health Directorate was still ensuring that people adhere to the wearing of nose mask.</i></p> <p>DISCUSSION ON TOP 10 DISEASES</p> <p><i>Mr. Joseph and The District Information Officer wanted to know whether malaria is transmitted through only mosquito bites, or one can get it from other sources.</i></p> <p><i>Mr Samuel Boniface, Principal Physician Assistant explained that, it is not possible to get malaria without mosquito bites. He said when some people get malaria, instead of first going to the hospital, they will resort to local treatment and when the condition starts to deteriorate, they then visit the hospital.</i></p>	
--	---	--

The Public Health Nurse of the District Health Directorate explained that, the claim by many people that you can malaria through sunshine is untrue. He emphasised that it is through mosquito bite that one can get malaria.

Mr. Paul Mabgban, a member from the AG Hospital suggested that, the DDHS could continue with the publicity on radio stations to educate people on the need to use mosquito nets to prevent malaria infections.

The District Coordinating Director expressed concern with regard to the use of mosquito nets. He said community volunteers could serve as watch dogs on people who use the mosquito nets for their gardens, fishing and those who used them on motor kings, and ensure that the nets are used for the right purposes to reduce malaria in the district.

The DDHS raised an issue with regard to records on cases of snake bites in the district. He informed the committee members that there is enough stock of anti-snake at the Regional Medical Stores and requisition will be made for the district.

The DDHS expressed worries about staff attrition in the district and informed the committee members that the staff situation in the district is serious. He said the district has already released some of the staff and the number of applications for transfer is still many.

The DPHN explained the programme activities in the district as compared to the SMC activities. He mentioned that the district has 44 facilities, 4 health centres and a hospital.

He added that most of the challenges in running activities in the district is that, the district has 155 hard to reach areas and as stakeholders in this meeting, support should be given to the health directorate to run most of the activities in the district.

He mentioned that the district is currently running three programme activities: SMC, NoPV, and COVID-19 in all the six (6) sub-districts. He said the district is doing well in terms of performance of the activities in the district.

*The SMC1, the district had 95.9% and the SMC2 the district had 97.1 % **SMC3, SMC4**. The NoPV, was 100% and the sub-district coverage was Kpalba Sub-district performance was 112%, Sambuli Sub-district was 115%, Natagu Sub-district was 95.9%, Wapuli Sub-district was 107% Gbangbanpong Sub-district was 95% and Saboba Sub-district was 98%, representing the district performance to 100%.*

The COVID-19 vaccination coverage in the district is 44,109. For the situation in the hard to reach areas, getting the people there to vaccinate is the problem because the canoe paddlers always demand for fees payment before crossing with the supervisors. So, stakeholders of the district who are committee members can support the district health directorate to provide quality health service delivery to the people in the district.

He further complained about the inadequate number staff at the district health directorate to occupy most of the facilities in the district to carryout outreach exercises in the communities.

<p>8.</p> <p>9</p> <p>10</p> <p>11</p>	<p><i>The District Information, Mr. Jonathan informed the committee that the matter about canoe paddlers will be taken up to ensure lasting solution.</i></p> <p><i>The Coordinating Director informed the District Health Director to furnish the District Assembly with the District Health Directorate Action Plan and progress reports in the district.</i></p> <p><i>The Coordinating Director explained that there will be a project the District Assembly will be embarking on very soon in the district starting from 2022 to 2025. He said this urgent information requested for will be factored into the project.</i></p> <p><i>He mentioned that the project will include road networking and the construction and rehabilitation of health facilities.</i></p> <p><u>ANY OTHER MATTERS</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. The DDHS informed committee members about the private laboratory in the district which will be situated at the market area in the Saboba town.</i> <i>2. He again informed committee members to help get pharmacy stores in the district which will be ready to use the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) for the collection of drugs and for later reimbursement. This will cater for the shortages of drugs at the health facilities and the hospital. For instance, he said PK in Tamale is very helpful in this regard so, if someone in Saboba can also help like PK that will be good.</i> <i>3. The Secretary for KOYA explained that the one who started this idea in Saboba has been transferred, that is why it has taken the district a long time to get someone to continue.</i> <p><u>CLOSING REMARKS</u></p> <p><i>The District Coordinating Director, Mr. Haruna Abdulai, who acted as Chairman of the committee thanked all and sundry for honouring the invitation and also for their various contributions. He remarked that we should be cautious with the people we are serving to ensure that we deliver quality health care to our people.</i></p> <p><i>He informed committee members that the next meeting is scheduled for 22nd December, 2022 and the committee will be visiting the Agenda 111 site.</i></p> <p><u>MOTION</u></p> <p><i>The motion was moved by Mr. Pual, the Administrator at AG Hospital in the absence of further discussion and was seconded by the KOYA Secretary Saboba</i></p> <p><u>CLOSING PRAYER</u></p> <p><i>The meeting ended successful 11:35am, and the closing prayer was given by Mr. Joseph K. Mahama, Pastor of the Local Council of Churches (LCC), of Saboba</i></p> <p>COMPLIED BY</p> <p><i>Mr Abdulai Tahiru (Principal Executive Officer)</i></p> <p>APPROVED BY</p> <p><i>Mr. Abdulai Haruna (District Coordinating Director)</i></p>	
--	---	--