

PRESS STATEMENT
ON THE OCCASION OF THE 4TH ANNIVERSARY WEEK CELEBRATION OF THE
HSWU OF TUC-GHANA

The Health Services Workers' Union (HSWU) of TUC - Ghana is concerned with issues on the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) and those of Teamwork and Collaborative Healthcare.

On the NHIS, the Union notes that it is imperative that an undivided and holistic attention be paid to the implementation of the Scheme given the fact that it is to secure the implementation of the National Health Insurance Policy, that the Scheme was adopted. The purpose being to ensure that all citizens of Ghana have access to basic healthcare services.

The Union notes that healthcare financing in Ghana began with a tax-funded system that provided free public health services to all, after independence but unfortunately, it gradually became unsustainable with economic stagnation in the 1980s. Government subsequently enacted the National Health Insurance Act 2012 (Act 852) to salvage the situation. It also notes that by the National Health Insurance Act, treatment of diseases, diagnostic testing/operations, specialist care, surgeries, oral health and maternity care services are all covered by the Scheme. The Union is however disturbed with the exclusion of certain treatments and services by the Scheme; and states that the situation subjects Ghanaians to some financial difficulties.

The HSWU further bemoans the fact that payments for services provided to the NHIS are overly delayed, therefore putting unnecessary pressure on the Management and staff of Health Institutions. A typical example was where the Christian Health Association of Ghana (CHAG) in March 2013 suspended its services to card bearers of the NHIS until their remittances were paid by the NHIA. In such circumstances, the Union wishes to appeal to Government to reconsider its position on the coverage of diseases as well as remittances to accredited service providers.

With regards to teamwork and collaborative care, the Union notes that improved teamwork and collaborative care have been shown to improve performance in many

aspects of the healthcare delivery system. It has also observed that teamwork, unity and harmony at the facility level, can significantly reduce workloads, increase job satisfaction and retention and reduce patient mortality.

The Union is confident that teamwork and collaborative care impact positively in reducing negative health outcomes for patients. This will help improve the system of healthcare, delivering benefits to all and improving substantially, the health status of Ghanaians. Also on teamwork and collaborative care, the Union would like to appeal to Government and the Health Sector Authorities on one hand and Workers, Unions and Labour Associations on the other, to imbibe the principles of teamwork and collaborative care. This they would do knowing that teamwork and collaborative care are essential for quality healthcare delivery in Ghana.

Concluding, the HSWU would like to take the opportunity of its 4th Week Celebration to appeal to Government and the good people of Ghana to LOVE our dear nation since it is the only country we have. This attitude would help us cherish each other in unity and oneness and with great collaboration, maintain the peace and stability in the country after the final verdict of the elections petition case is pronounced by the Supreme Court.

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GENERAL SECRETARY

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