

PRESS RELEASE

MINISTER OF HEALTH MEETS STAFF

The Minister of Health, Major Courage E. K. Quashigah (Rtd), has met with staff of the Ministry of Health, to discuss issues relating to the Sector.

The meeting, Major Courage Quashigah stated, had become urgent because of unhealthy developments relating to attitude towards work and interpersonal relationships ,since he took over the stewardship of the Ministry.

According to the Minister, these and other pertinent issues had given the Ministry's stakeholders, especially development partners, a negative perception about the Ministry.

Major Courage Quashigah (RTD) explained that the Ministry and the Ghana Health Services (GHS) were not different entities but one that must work together to promote good health for the people, adding that it was his responsibility to carry forward the vision of the President of the Republic.

He mentioned the three priority areas of the President's vision as Human Resource Development, Private Sector Development and Good Governance.

The Hon. Minister further briefed the staff on the new paradigm on health policy development, which emphasizes healthy lifestyles, daily physical activity, the consumption of natural foods such as fruits, vegetables, nuts, and whole grains that will regenerate our health and the keeping of the environment clean among others.

According to him, these were determinants of good health but were beyond the corridors of the Ministry. He therefore called for close collaboration between his Ministry and other Ministries such as Education, Science and Sports, the Interior, Water Resources, Work and Housing and Local Government, Rural Development and Environment in achieving the paradigm shift to promote good health.

Major Quashigah called for teamwork among staff and advised them to change their attitude towards lateness, absenteeism and apathy.

During an open forum, the staff called for the re-introduction of public information vans as a prominent feature in Health Education, and that the Nutrition Unit should henceforth operate in line with the new paradigm on health policy development and implementation.

The staff also asked for more education on the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS), as well as the need to familiarize themselves with the Ministry's Mission Statement to guide their activities.

In response to the concerns expressed, the Minister promised to have them addressed.

Present at the durbar were the two Deputy Ministers of Health, Hon. Samuel Owusu-Agyei (MP) and Hon. Dr. (Mrs) Gladys Norley Ashitey (MP), the Ag. Chief Director, Madam Salimata Abdul-Salam, Unit Heads and Divisional Directors.

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