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**MINISTRY OF HEALTH
P O BOX M-44
ACCRA**

DECEMBER, 2005

REPUBLIC OF GHANA

REF. MPR/9/013

PRESS RELEASE

NHIS MONITORING TEAMS COMPLETE WORK

The three teams set up by the Ministry of Health to monitor the activities of District Mutual Health Insurance Schemes (DMHISs) whose operations are behind schedule, have completed their assignments.

The programme, which started on December 16, 2005, is in line with the Ministry's objective to ensure that all the 123 schemes established are operational by the end of this month.

The exercise was undertaken to ensure that the Government's promise to the nation that the National Health Insurance Scheme would be fully implemented throughout the country by the end of the year, is fulfilled.

The monitoring teams which were composed of officials of the Ministry of Health (MOH) and some Journalists were to find out why the Schemes had not taken off when they will take off and what challenges they were facing.

Some other issues they were to look at were the Scheme's institutional arrangements, the availability of Management Teams, number of people so far registered out of the total population and the financial status of the various Schemes.

The team that was responsible for the Great Accra, Volta and Western Regions observed that most of the Schemes had put in place all the requirements necessary for the take off but for the challenges they were facing.

On registration, it was observed that even though many people responded, few had paid up fully whilst others paid partially.

It was also noticed that premium collected was still intact in the bank accounts but seed money from the National Health Insurance Council was used for administrative purposes.

However, the delay in actual take off of the Schemes was attributed to the over politicization of the programme, lack of funds to intensify the sensitization of the people and training of Management Teams and Board Members, poor road networks coupled with lack of means of transport, no clearly spelt out conditions of service for the Management Teams, inadequate logistics and office accommodation.

It was further observed that all the Boards and Management Teams had the full compliment of members.

Indeed, it must be emphasized that all the Schemes visited had the full support of the various District Assemblies and were all set to take off in the middle or by the end of January 2006.

**DAN OSMAN MWIN
PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER AND
MEMBER OF THE TEAM**