

**MINUTES OF AN EMERGENCY MEETING ON COVID-19 HELD ON 18<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2020 AT THE OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT CHIEF EXECUTIVE, NORTH GONJA**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

	<b>NAME</b>	<b>DEPARTMENT</b>	<b>DESIGNATION</b>	<b>CONTACT</b>
1.	Ibrahim Saeed Iddris	GHS	DDCO	0207809031
2.	Bankars K. Mawusi	VSD- MOFA	DVO	0507817413
3.	Abukari Alhassan	GHS	DDHS	0243684828
4.	Abiba Bakari Soale	GES	DDE	0244408711
5.	Mohammed Manan	GES	PRO -GES	0243074273
6.	Soaley Abukari	Dept. of Agric	DDA	0200111929
7.	Asumana Seidu	NGDA	DEHO	0243645579
8.	Mahama Seidu M. Akatia	NADMO	DD-NADMO	0249663265
9.	Mumuni Shaibu	Traditional Aut.	Chief Linguist	0279255676
10.	Adam Eliasu	NGDA	DCE	0209841060
11.	Alidu A. Abukari	NGDA	DCD	0208255740

**ABSENT WITH PERMISSION**

	<b>NAME</b>	<b>DEPARTMENT</b>
1.	<b>Insp. Aminu Yakubu</b>	<b>GPS</b>

**CHAIRMAN:** Hon. District Chief Executive

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>MINUTES</b>	<b>PERSONS RESPONSIBLE</b>
	<p><b><u>OPENING</u></b> The meeting commenced exactly at 3:50pm with an opening prayer from Mr. Ibrahim S. Iddris, the District Disease Control Officer</p> <p><b><u>WELCOME ADDRESS</u></b></p> <p>The chairman welcomed members to the meeting and stated that the global pandemic of COVID-19 and Ghana being a part of it has necessitated activation of the Public Health Emergency Committee</p> <p>He added that, though the district has not recorded any case of COVID-19, It is imperative for the district to prepare for any eventualities. Thus, the meeting has been convened to deliberate on the covid-19 pandemic, the situation of North Gonja District.</p> <p>On this note, the Hon. DCE invited the DDHS to brief the house on the district's preparedness towards COVID-19 pandemic.</p>	

**COVID-19 PANDEMIC, THE SITUATION OF NORTH GONJA DISTRICT**

Addressing the committee, the District Director of Health Services (DDHS) said, the committee is supposed to hold at least four meetings in a year for members to be updated on the health situation of the district.

He added that, since the inauguration of the committee, the district has not recorded any outbreak of Public Health Concern hence the current COVID-19 pandemic is a test case for the committee. Updating the committee on COVID-19 situation, the DDHS indicated that the country has so far recorded 7 cases of COVID-19 and currently tracing about 350 contacts of the cases.

Touching on the district's preparedness on COVID-19, the DDHS expressed that the district is seemingly prepared but there are many more preparations needed. He went further to enumerate some of the steps taken so far;

1. Started public health education
2. Jingles on COVID-19 in the local languages being developed
3. Internal memo served all health staff in the district to encourage and inform them on protocols on COVID-19
4. Procured some limited hand sanitizers for health staff
5. Procured some limited face masks which may only last for 3 days
6. Procured noncontact thermometer for 5 facilities out of the 14 health care facilities in the district

The DDHS went further to state that, the district currently lacks or have not enough quantities of PPEs and Logistics such as noncontact thermometers, face masks and coveralls (in the event of a suspected case). The DDHS however indicated that he contacted the Regional Director of Health who said he was working around the clock to get some PPEs for the districts.

**DCE COMMENTS ON NORTH GONJA PREPAREDNESS**

Commenting on the district preparedness towards COVID-19, the DCE commended the District Health Management Team for the preparation so far and acknowledged the resource gap. He therefore tasked the DDHS to furnish his office with a list of items needed with budget attached.

The DDHS however said, the list of items needed has already been submitted to the District Coordinating Director but his difficulty is the budget since due to the COVID-19 pandemic, prices of goods have been increased exponentially due to high demand.

<p>DCE reiterated the need for the DDHS to add a budget which the DDHS promised to do so</p> <p><b><u>MONITORING COMPLIANCE THE PRESIDENT’S DIRECTIVES</u></b></p> <p>The district coordinating director requested to know if there was a committee established to monitor compliance of the presidential directives.</p> <p>Responding to this, the DCE said, monitoring compliance falls under the domain of the DISEC for which he will specifically discuss with the BNI and Ghana Police Service (GPS) who are members of the DISEC to ensure the public comply with the president’s directives on COVID-19.</p> <p><b><u>OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS</u></b></p> <p>Contributing to the discussion on compliance, the District Disease Control Officer suggested a dialogue meeting with the religious leaders. Upon further deliberation, the committee impressed upon the traditional authority to lead the dialogue with the religious leaders to ensure compliance with the president’s directives on ban on social gathering.</p> <p>The Director, GES requested that though the GES have done some sensitization on COVID- 19 for the 2020 WASSCE candidates, she invites the GHS to further educate the candidates on the COVID-19.</p> <p>The DCE tasked the Director, GES to furnish GHS with the number of candidates in the district so that steps will be taken to provide them with some hand sanitizers.</p> <p>Director of Agric, suggested that the GHS dialogue and reach the Nomads with education on COVID-19</p> <p>Veterinary (Vet) Officer requested GHS to involve the Vet department to support especially when it comes to matters of the Nomads. He further appealed to the DCE to involve Vets whenever a meeting is to be held with the Nomads.</p> <p><b><u>CHAIRMAN’S REMARK</u></b></p> <p>Having discussed all the relevant issues, the chairman brought the meeting to a close at 5:10pm with a closing prayer from the District Veterinary Officer</p> <p><b>RECORDED BY IBRAHIM SAEED IDDRIS (DDCO)</b></p>	<p>DDHS</p> <p>Wasipewura</p> <p>GHS</p> <p>GES</p> <p>GHS</p>
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**DIALOGUE MEETING WITH THE CLERGIES OF NORTH GONJA DISTRICT ON COVID-19 AT THE OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT CHIEF EXECUTIVE, 19<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2020**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

	<b>NAME</b>	<b>DESIGNATION</b>	<b>ADDRESS</b>	<b>CONTACT</b>
<b>1.</b>				
<b>2.</b>				
<b>3.</b>				
<b>4.</b>				
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**CHAIRMAN: Hon. DCE**

**OPENING**

The meeting started at 5:09pm with a prayer from the representative of the Chief Imam.

**PURPOSE OF THE MEETING**

Under the instruction of the Hon. DCE, the Deputy Coordinating Director briefed the clergies on the purpose of the meeting. The briefing was done in the local language. In his briefing he said the spread of the disease compelled the government to take steps to protect public health and critical among them is the ban on social gathering. He indicated that the meeting therefore was to dialogue on how to comply with the president's directives for public good.

On this note, the DCE invited the DDHS to brief the house on COVID-19.

**DDHS REMARKS ON COVID-19**

The DDHS thanked the DCE for the opportunity to address the house. He went further to indicate that the COVID-19 is a novel disease that was first detected in China and has subsequently spread across the globe. The disease, he said has no known cure and has affected a lot of people resulting in over 8000 deaths. More than 2000 of the deaths were recorded in Italy. He went further to state that Ghana has already recorded cases of the disease and there was the need for the district to prepare towards any eventualities. He was quick to add that though the district was prepared, the preparation is not optimum hence prevention is critical for everyone.

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The DDHS then educated the house on the signs and symptoms of the disease such as; difficulty in breathing, cough, runny nose, high temperature (>38 degrees celcius)

On how to prevent catching the disease, he said the following need to be observed by all;

- Frequent hand washing with soap under running water
- Avoiding hand shakes
- Frequent use of hand sanitizer containing at least 70% alcohol
  - Addressing misconception especially among some Muslims on alcohol in hand sanitizers, the DDHS indicated that, the alcohol in sanitizers are not drinkable and different from drinkable alcohol
- Avoiding overcrowding areas.

The DDHS therefore underscored the need for all to comply with the president's directives on social distancing so that all can be protected against the deadly COVID-19.

**DCE'S COMMENTS**

Briefing the house on the decision of the Public Health Emergency Management Committee, the Hon. DCE said, the PHEMC reaffirm the president's directives and the need to comply hence took a decision that the traditional authority meets with the clergies to dialogue with them to suspend Friday congregational prayers for 4 weeks. He added that, the directives of the government have now become a law hence any person who flaunt could be penalized.

He went further to say that, the district is at high risk of disease transmission due to frequent immigration especially nomads. Hence, he encouraged all to comply with the president's directive for all to stay safe.

**CONTRIBUTIONS**

Rev. Seth Ampomah indicated that his outfit has already started communicating with their followers to comply with the president's directives for public good.

- Mallam Alhassan also acknowledged the importance of adhering to the president's directives as the president meant well for the public. He therefore indicated that he has agreed to comply with the directives

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- Mr. Abubakari also said, since the government will not take any steps to harm public interest, he encourages all the Muslim clergies to comply with the ban especially when it affects only Friday prayers
- The representative of the Chief Iman called upon all to pray for God's mercy to heal the country and the world of the COVID-19 pandemic. He also encouraged the imams to use the opportunity during Magrib and Isha prayers to communicate to the public on the decision to suspend Congregational prayers for four (4) weeks.
- The Deputy Coordinating Director also encouraged the clergies to communicate the decision to their affiliate mosques and churches in Lingbinsi, Bawena, Mankarigu and the entire district.
- The DCE directed the Coordinating director to write to all mosques

**CLOSING**

Having reached an agreement to comply with the president's directives on COVID-19, the meeting was brought to a close at 5:54pm with a prayer from Rev.