

As Sierra Leoneans in the diaspora lifts President Koroma's Health Care Priorities, ASCOVIME Provides Free Health Care for over 2,000 in Bo

Bo, June 6, 016 (MOHS) - Sierra Leoneans in the diaspora touched painfully with the Ebola outbreak disaster and tragedy over the lives of people across the country, leaving children, the young, adults and health professional dead with an unpredictable human resource gaps in the country's health care system, became inspired by President Koroma's Post Ebola Recovery priorities and committed to the challenge in restoring life for the poor, the destitute and vulnerable people in Bo and other districts in the country.



Cross section of patients seeking health care (destitute, and vulnerable)

ASCOVIME is the Medical Mission of medical specialists from the USA in partnership with a group of Cameroonian medical specialists and a strong group of Sierra Leone health care workers in the diaspora who volunteered their time and skills to contribute to Sierra Leone government's Post Ebola development of the health sector from various perspectives.



Patients awaiting surgical operation

Led by Sierra Leonean born Mrs. Josephine Garnem since their presence in Bo district on May 30, 2016 targeting the outskirts of Bo where there are farmers and greater needs for health interventions have provided free medical treatment and surgeries to over 2,000 people seeking health care at three treatment sites: the Bo Government Hospital, Gila's Children's Community hospital and Paupers Clinic.

Team Lead, Josephine Garnem reported a team of 24 Surgeon Specialists and doctors comprising Gynecologists, Pediatrician, General Surgery and Medicine, Anaesthetist nurse and public health specialist among others.. At these clinics where more than 2,000 were registered, triaged and screened, free consultations, examinations, medications and surgeries as necessary or diagnosed were provided. "It is my hope that this will serve as a need assessment strategy in further mapping an expanded areas various health professionals in the diaspora can contribute to effectively strengthening the health systems of Sierra Leone on a more sustainable basis as we prepare for any further resurgence of Ebola and other infectious disease", opined Garnem.



Team Lead, Mrs. Josephine Garnem proud and happy over successful mission

She lauded the efforts of the Deputy Minister of Health and Sanitation, Madam Madina Rahman for her role in making the visit possible, and pledged to continue exploring possible areas of assistance from partners in the diaspora.

Deputy Health and Sanitation Minister 1, Madina Rahman reiterated government's commitment in building a resilient health system for the nation, and thanked the Team Lead and other Sierra Leoneans in the diaspora including the ASCOVIME Mission for the invaluable humanitarian gesture rendered to the country.



Deputy Health and Sanitation Minister, Madam Madina Rahman excited

She noted the big sacrifice made by paying their flights, bringing their equipment, personnel and medical supplies, and expressed gratitude and appreciation for the transfer of skills to their local counterparts.

Madam Rahman on behalf of the President Dr. Ernest Bai Koroma, the government and people of Sierra Leone registered her profound gratitude to the Mission, hoping that other Sierra Leoneans in the diaspora would emulate the initiative of Team Lead, Sierra Leonean born Josephine Garnem.

Other highlights include testimonies from post-operative patients about their health, and messages of appreciation to the government and the visiting team by family members who were in their hundreds at various treatment sites.

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