



GHANA STAR
ST. JOHN OF GOD GHANA
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EDITORIAL



Ghana Star is the newsletter for Management Advisory Board (MAB-Ghana). It covers news from all the centres in Ghana; St. John of God Clinic-Amrahia, St. John of God Clinic Oseikojokrom, St. Joseph Hospital Koforidua and St. John of God Hospital Sefwi-Asafo. The idea is to make known the course of events at these centres to St. John of God Brothers, Patients, Staff, Benefactors, Sympathizers and all well-meaning people around the world.

In this edition a number of events and activities took place, however the most touching is the story of the Dutch Priest, Jan Zutt and the work of HospitaalBroeders in Netherlands. It has been extremely difficult for smooth operations of the centres

Br. John Oppong (MAB Chairman) because of the huge financial constraints we face as a result of the undue delay and irregular reimbursement of claims submitted to the National Health Insurance Authority. This is a problem particularly because of the fact that modern healthcare demands huge capital injection in the acquisition of equipment, establishment of new units and employment of more professional staff to help give the desire affordable quality healthcare to the people. Some of the challenges of these centres are;

- Non-existence or obsolete equipment and machinery.
- Inadequate residential facilities for critical staff.
- Frequent electricity outages and unreliable transport system

It is not for nothing that the Provincial Superior with the help of Juan Ciudad ONGD-Spain established the Curia Project Office which will see to mobilizing funds so that some of these challenges could be resolved for the centres to continue providing quality care to clients.

St. John of God Clinic, Amrahia which started its active operations in 2011 has since been providing health services to the people of the Adenta Municipality and its environs. The donations by HOSPITAALBROEDERS in the Western European Province to the clinic was very much appreciated by management and staff since it will go a long way to help enhance the delivery of quality health care to the people.

St. Joseph Hospital Koforidua is putting together all efforts to bridge its staff accommodation gap since management understands that descent accommodation is one way to attract and retain highly qualified professionals.

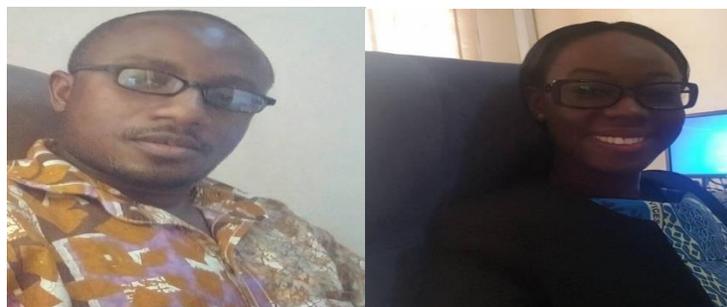
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THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PROJECT OFFICE AT ST. AUGUSTINE PROVINCE, AFRICA



Project Office, Curia



Project Coordinator and Assitant Mr. Emmanuel Awuah and Mrs. Marian Bukola Adeyemi

St. Augustine Province of Africa, supported by JUAN CIUDAD ONGD, Spain has established a project office for the province which officially started its maiden operations in May, 2017. The objectives and functions of the project office are parallel to that of JUAN CIUDAD ONGD, Spain, the pioneers. The significance of the project office as a tool for coordinating projects from all the eight countries in Africa (Ghana, Cameroun, Senegal, Sierra Leon, Liberia, Kenya, Mozambique and Zambia) cannot be underscored, as quality project proposals and project administration are guaranteed.

The functions of the project office, will be that of, but not limited to the following:

- Coordinates projects from all the centers in the St. Augustine Province of Africa, and ensures that the projects are further developed to meet donors' specifications.
- Monitors and evaluate all the projects in the Province and report on them to the Provincial Superior and suggest the way forward.
- Revise and evaluate the project proposals made by the Centers of the Saint Augustine Province, with the aim of including them in the Bank of Projects of the Province, recommending the level of study and revision that is required.
- To ensure that at least each centre within the province sets up a project desk that will liaise with the province project office in terms of project proposal writing and management.
- Guarantee a wider pool of project donors across the globe to sponsor projects from the St. Augustine Province of Africa.
- Others

Apart from the core functions of the project office, it also performs other functions under directions of the Provincial Superior. In view of this, the project office has become the hub for business development in the province, ensuring that there are wider pool of financial resources to support the mission of St. John of God. Under the guide and direction of the Provincial Superior, the project office has ventured into medium scale commercial activities such production of liquid soaps and medicine envelopes. St. John of God Clinic, Amrahia has been the sole beneficiary of the liquid soap production, while St. John of God Hospital, Sefwi-Asafo, St. Joseph Hospital, Koforidua and St. John of God Clinic, Amrahia are the beneficiaries of the medicine envelopes. However, St. John of God Clinic, Oseikojokrom, will be enrolled as beneficiaries soon.

The project office has successfully resuscitated the poultry farm at the Curia, ensuring that there will be chicken for the Christmas celebration and beyond. Plans to produce poultry eggs together with quails on large and medium scales respectively are underway at the Provincial Curia.

The project office is being managed by a project coordinator, an expert in project management, Mr. Emmanuel Awuah. He is a professional project manager, (PMP), BSc. Finance, MBA Finance, and pursuing a terminal paper in risks and project management. He has been in the finance and project management industry for more than seven years. He is assisted by Mrs. Marian Bukola Adeyemi.



The resuscitated poultry farm at the Curia

ANA MEYER GARCÍA-SÍPIDO (JUAN CIUDAD ONGD-SPAIN)

Ms. Ana Meyer García-Sípido of Projects Department; Juan Ciudad ONGD-Spain came to Ghana on 18th of July, 2017. She participated in the Provincial Conference, Elmina (Central Region) on the 19th July, 2017 to share ideas about their activities in Spain; Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). On the 21st July she organized a training program at Curia (Accra) on how project managers at the various centres can use the European Logical Framework to identify and write up projects. Ms. Ana further discussed operations and activities of Juan Ciudad with participants who were; Mr. Asensu Mensah (St. John of God, S/Asafo), Mr. Ntiamoah (St. Joseph Catholic Hospital, Koforidua), Ms. Nsoh Claudette (Cameroon), Bro. Paulinus Toh, (Provincial Secretary Curia, Accra), Mr. Emmanuel Awuah, (Head project office - Provincial Curia, Accra), Marian Adeyemi (project office Provincial Curia, Accra). Ana conducted a project inspection at St. Joseph Catholic Hospital-Koforidua on 22nd of July, 2017 and finally left for Spain on 23rd July, 2017. Participants who were presented with certificates expressed that the program was very much insightful and had given them better understanding on how to write excellent project proposals.



Participants showing their certificates Provincial, Provincial Secretary and others in a group picture with Ana

DR. MARIA JOSE QUILES BLANCO (PEDIATRICIAN SPAIN)



Dr. Maria, a pediatrician from Spain was in Ghana from 2nd August, 2017 to 8th September, 2017 to volunteer at St. John of God Hospital, Asafo. This was her first time in Africa and Ghana for that matter.

Maria was happy to be in Ghana, she expressed that the country is endowed with a beautiful environment; trees and mountains, “Ghana has potentials to develop and you can see they are working on it”. About the hospital she said “is amazing how an enormous number of patients are being taken care of everyday with the limited resources they have”.

HOSPITAALBROEDERS NETHERLANDS DONATE EQUIPMENT TO SAINT JOHN OF GOD CLINIC AMRAHIA (ACCRA)

The HOSPITAALBROEDERS of Saint John of God from the Western European Province donated two suction machines, one for emergency and one for maternity, an ultrasound machine and two LG 32 inches televisions for the St. John of God Clinic, Amrahia. The staff expressed their sincere gratitude for these items; they will go a long way to improve the quality of healthcare delivery especially at the maternity, emergency and the waiting area at the OPD. The management is very grateful to Mr. David Heyer who facilitated the realization of this project by making available the amount of **€2,885**.



CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW HOSPITAL STAFF BUNGALOW (ASAFO)

Asafo is currently facing a huge accommodation deficit since its staff strength in the past few years has more than doubled. This is because the hospital keeps upgrading and expanding its services, especially in accordance with its mission and vision. Being located in a rural environment, the hospital finds it very difficult to secure decent accommodation facilities for its staff. Meanwhile management understands decent accommodation serves as incentive to attract professional staff. This has necessitated the need to build a new staff residential facility. Even though management intends to apply part of its Internally Generated Fund to cover eligible payments under contracts for the construction of a 3-Storey staff bungalow, the hospital is still seeking external funding to support its efforts in this important building project.



BLESSING OF THE FOUNDATION FOR CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW HOSPITAL STAFF BUNGALOW ON THE 4TH SEPTEMBER, 2017

On the 4TH of September, 2017 there was a blessing ceremony of the foundation for the construction of the new staff bungalow. The building which will house eighteen (18) people is a two-bedroom “self-contain” three-storey staff residential facility. This project is in accordance with hospital policy to reduce the huge accommodation deficit. On the 27th September, 2017 Accommodation Project Monitoring Committee was set up and inaugurated. The committee which comprises of Mr. Asensu Mensah (Executive Secretary); Madam Helen Ghartey (Hospital Administrator); Mr. Jacob Kwami Tetteh (Acting head, Accounts); Mr. Kofi Ayeh (Pharmacy-In-Charge); Madam Eva B. Ayorkor (Nurse-Psychiatry); Nana Albert Nkuah (Records) and Mr. James Baah (Maintenance-In-charge) is to monitor the progress of the construction project.



A visit to the construction site by the accommodation project monitoring committee on the 27th of September, 2017

In a related development, the new mortuary project was handed over to Hospital Management on the 27th September, 2017.



The proposed staff residential facility



The completed new mortuary structure

On the 18th October, 2017 Br. Bartholomew Kamara (Provincial, St. Augustine Province of Africa); Br. John Oppong (Hospital Director) as well as the accommodation monitoring committee paid a visit to the project site, this was for the Provincial to see for himself the progress of works. A visit was also made to the new mortuary project site for inspection of the completed building.



Provincial at the accommodation project



and The New Mortuary project sites

CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW STAFF BUNGALOW AT SAINT JOSEPH HOSPITAL KOFORIDUA

On the 14th September, 2017 St. Joseph Hospital Koforidua witnessed a sod cutting ceremony by the Provincial Superior and assisted by the Director of Health at the National Catholic Health Service, Lawyer George Adjei for the construction of a new two-story staff bungalow. This ceremony was patronized by management and some staff members of the hospital.



DAVID HEYER MANAGER HOSPITAALBROEDERS IN NETHERLANDS



Mr. David Heyer, Manager HospitaalBroeders in Netherlands (West-European Province) didn't want to do politics even though studied Political Science. He rather chose to work with NGO's and has since the past ten (10) years been with the Hospitaller Brothers of St. John of God. David who wants to change the world says this is his longest stay on a job and loves it. David arrived in Ghana on the 14th of October, 2017. This is his third visit in Ghana, second in Asafo and first in Oseikojokrom where on the 19th October, 2017 in the company of the Bishop of the Sefwi-Wiawso Diocese, Most Rev. Francis Kwaku Essien; the Provincial, Br. Bartholomew Kamara, the Clinic Director, Br. John Oppong and other Brothers inaugurated the laboratory and pharmacy he helped found sponsorship for. On the 17th October, 2017 he inspected a poultry farm project currently being managed by the Project Office, Curia at Armahia (Accra). At Asafo he conducted interviews of the Hospital Director and two other staff to help support his projects back home in Netherlands. When asked of his impression of the country he said, of all the African countries, Ghana has got the most warm, friendly and hospitable people. "I feel relaxed in Ghana and very welcome". "For the hospital facilities, not much has changed, however services have improved, am very much impressed about the number of inpatients and outpatients.

INAUGURATION OF THE NEWLY CONSTRUCTED LABORATORY AND PHARMACY AT ST. JOHN OF GOD CLINIC, OSEIKOJOKROM



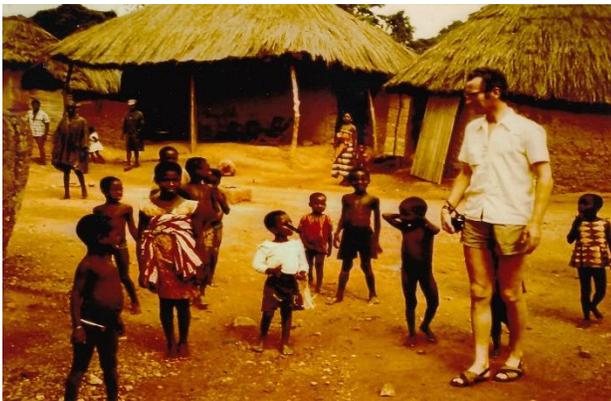
In order to improve on the healthcare delivery at the clinic, management through the support and efforts of the Project office of the St. Augustine's Province of Africa secured sponsorship from HOSPITAALBROEDERS, Netherlands to embark on a laboratory and a pharmacy project. The facility which was completed and inaugurated on the 19th of October, 2017 saw a huge patronage from people of all walks of life, including the Bishop of Sefwi-Wiawso Diocese, Most Rev. Francis Kwaku Essien, Mr. David Heyer (Manager HospitaalBroeders in Netherlands) the Provincial Superior, Br. Bartholomew Kamara and several other Brothers and religious leaders from other churches, staff, security personnel, traditional leaders, Administrative heads of institutions and bodies, churches as well as members of Oseikojokrom community.

In their goodwill messages the Bishop among other issues urged Catholics to endeavor to contribute money to support activities and projects. He also encouraged the chief and elders as well as members of the community to contribute to such projects of such nature.

The Provincial thanked management and urged Br. Oppong and his team to continue working hard for the good of the people, he again thanked David Heyer, the Wiawso Diocese and the people of Oseikojokrom for their support. Among other things he said "we are moving the hospital to the people where they are, we want this place to be a centre of its own, however your patronage of the facility will give us more reason to provide more".

Mr. David Heyer gave an account of one priest in Netherlands, late Jan Zutt who visited Ghana some time ago and as a result of his delight in the Ghanaian hospitality chose to bequeath his wealth to the HOSPITAALBROEDERS, Netherlands. This Priest co-funded the project with the HOSPITAALBROEDERS, Netherlands. The blessing and commissioning of the new facility was done by the Bishop, Provincial and David Heyer after which inspection of the facility by all present took place.

STORY OF DUTCH PRIEST JAN ZUTT NETHERLANDS (HOSPITAALBROEDERS)



Jan Zutt in Ghana (1975)

Our office got a telephone call from a notary. The notary told us that a Dutch Priest had died and that we were the only heir of his belongings.

In our database we found out that Jan Zutt had given more than 70 gifts with a total worth of €4,500 to HospitaalBroeders. But we didn't know him.

The friend told us the story that Jan was invited by a friend to Ghana in 1975 to spend 6 weeks. He was amazed by the beautiful and nice people. Everywhere he went he encountered friendly people. He also went to several masses in church. The way the masses were celebrated, was an eye-opener for him. It was so different from what he did himself as a priest in the Netherlands. People were dancing and singing. Jan loved it! He had a great time. Jan also visited the hospital in Asafo. Back in those days some white (Spanish) Brothers were there. Back in the Netherlands he often talked about his time in Ghana.

In the Netherlands he decided to become a benefactor of HospitaalBroeders as they were the Dutch representation of St. John of God in Africa. He gave small gifts during a period of 15 years. At the end of his life he went to a notary to write down his last will. He decided that HospitaalBroeders would get everything.

Therefore, after having received the money, we decided to use his money for a project in his beloved Ghana. That way the people from Ghana, that he liked so much would benefit from his legacy.

THE DEATH OF WISDOM BONI - PHARMACY TECHNICIAN AT ST. JOHN OF GOD, ASAFO



Wisdom's demise happened on the night of the 5th November, 2017 when he was rushed to the emergency unit. Boni who was born on the 18th May, 1986 had been working for the hospital since 1st January, 2012.

The Executive Secretary, Mr. Asensu Mensah and Pharmacy In-Charge, Mr. Kofi Ayeh who regarded Boni their personal friend expressed great shock at the news. All staff especially those who worked closely with him at the pharmacy have been thrown into a state of mourning. All recount fond memories of the quiet but hard working young man. Boni's death has come at a time when the hospital needs more hard working pharmacy staff. May his soul rest in peace.