



# SAINT JOHN OF GOD HOSPITAL SERVICES IN CAMEROON



**St. John of God Batibo, Douala and Nguti  
North West, Littoral and South West Regions of Cameroon.  
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## THE "HOSPITALER ECHO" - CAMEROON SERVICES MAY, 2017

### FROM THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR'S DESK

Dear Friends,

I send you warm greetings from Cameroon where St John of God carries out its health services in Batibo, Boko and Yassa. The month of May is the month that the Church reserves special devotion to our Mother of the Holy Rosary. It begins with the Feast of St Joseph the Worker and more particularly St Richard Pampuri. For this reason, the first of May is devoted worldwide to the Workers in what is commonly known as International Labour Day.

Apart from our regular health activities, many activities took place within our St John of God health services in Cameroon such as:

- The visit of the Archbishop of Douala Msgr Samuel Kleda to our community house in Yassa.
- Piggery and Poultry Farms opened in Yassa and Batibo for sustainability. Part of the fence measuring 17.5m
- Yassa is broken down due to heavy rains.
- Boko health centre is approved by the lo-

cal ministry of Public Health in Cameroon as a treatment centre for HIV/AIDS.

- St John of God hospital in Batibo opens a mini orthopaedic workshop to produce callipers for handicapped children.
- St John of God Hospital Batibo receives donation 4,615 euros from Hospitaal Broeders in Holland for the purchase of a theatre bed.
- Food is being served to children on admission at our hospital in Batibo on daily basis to complement treatment.

We continue to thank all our donors for supporting our services in Cameroon and making us to feel part of the global Order of St John of God Hospitality. May our Holy Founder St John of God bless you with more.

*Bro. Linus Tangu  
Regional Director*



### FOOD FOR BETTER HEALTH

The feeding situation especially when patients are admitted at the hospital is very difficult. Patients, relatives and staffs hardly find food around the hospital premises to buy and this has a great impact on their recovery. The situation worsens

when the patient will stay in the hospital for long. It is for this reason that the hospital management with the assistance from Bro Jesus Gonzalez started a feeding programme at the paediatric section of the hospital. Children on admission are served two meals (breakfast and lunch) per day during their stay at the hospital.

In the month of May a total of 441 meals were served to children. This has accelerated their healing process and has also increased the number of admissions. On the other hand, adult patients, relatives and staffs also patronise the canteen on cost recovery basis as a way to sustain the assistance.



*Vaccinators on Campaign in Boko village*

The centre can offer more but the limited structure to improve and expand on our quality care is greatly hampering progress. A parcel of strategic land is at hand nearby the centre but lack funds to carry on the structure.

**ARCHBISHOP SAMUEL KLEDA VISIT OUR STRUCTURE IN YASSA**

On the 31<sup>st</sup> May, 2017 on the solemnity of the Visitation, the Metropolitan Archbishop of Douala Monseigneur Samuel KLEDA made a maiden

visit to our house in Yassa. During the visit, he installed the Blessed Sacrament in the community chapel during a solemn holy mass and also blessed the loco of the community



*Eucharistic Celebration in the chapel*



*Blessed Sacrament Installed*

It should be recalled that the visit of the Archbishop to bless our community house has been on agenda for quite some time now. The Archbishop also visited the apostolic works in Yassa and blessed the patients and staffs at the centre. The archbishop encouraged the brothers and the staffs for their good works and assured us of his prayers in our apostolate.



*Archbishop bless the community house*



*Group picture with the Archbishop*



*Bro Jesus working on a child with disability*



*Visiting the Centre*



*Orthopaedic workshop*

### **ORTHOPAEDIC WORKSHOP IN BATIBO**

St John of God hospital in Batibo opens a mini orthopaedic workshop to produce callipers for children with physical disability. This is because since 2015, the orthopaedic program is gradually taking a very steady dimension within our services in Batibo. Many children suffering from polio, clubfoot etc have successfully been operated and corrected at our facility. This year alone 15 children have undergone operation at our hospital partly sponsored by the Lilian Funds Foundation and EDID program. Their callipers are now being produced **St John of God Orthopaedic workshop** in Batibo. More materials and equipment are needed,



*Orthopaedic workshop technician at work*

### **PIGGERY AND POULTRY FARMS OPENED IN YASSA AND BATIBO.**

The sustainability project on Piggery and Poultry farming is established in Batibo and Yassa with the interest free loan obtained from the St John of God development Company and HospitalBroeders in Ireland.



### **FENCE PARTIALLY BROKEN DOWN**

Part of our fence measuring about 17.5m in Yassa is broken down due to heavy rains. It is envisaged that more walls on the same side will collapse in the future due to the topography of the place. This collapse has increased the vulnerability of the premises and property. The cost of replacing it is yet to be established.



*Partially broken fence –Yasa*

## STAFF OF ST JOHN OF GOD CLEAN THE HOSPITAL PREMISES

In all our centres staffs devote one day in the month or week to do general cleaning within the health premises. It has become a tradition that all staffs within the facility irrespective of age or level do general cleaning. In Batibo it's every last Friday of the month while in Douala it is every Saturday. The purpose is to keep patients' environment clean at all times and also to give more support to management. Brother Jesus Gonzalez (in white) captured on camera busy cutting grass during general cleaning.



*Staff doing general cleaning in Batibo on 27<sup>th</sup> May, 2017*

## CONTINUOUS FORMATION ON THE VALUES OF ST JOHN OF GOD

**(School of hospitality)**

Continuous formation has been going on in all the centres in Cameroon on the core values of St John

of God during this month of May to commemorate international labour day celebration.. This has to do with trying to encourage Co-Workers on how to integrate the values of St John of God with their professional life.

We need to interiorize the values of St John of God and make them part of us. These core values are **hospitality, compassion, respect, justice and excellence**. We can add on these values in our own context, time and place as long as they remain positive values and not vices such as hostility, indifference, disrespect, injustice and mediocre.

Tuning casual or personal values of Collaborators to work values in the manner of St John of God is vital in reshaping our Hospitaller services today. St John of God values are unique and therefore make us different from others health institutions.

Every new recruit into our health service is expected to leave the old self in order to embrace the new self. In other words one has to learn the new culture or get to adapt to the new culture. Failure to do so will always bring cultural conflict in the workplace. Trying to bring the old ways of doing things into the new place will bring conflict especially when they can't easily be adapted.



*Interacting on values during Friday classes*

## A NEW BORN BABY

On the 7<sup>th</sup> May, 2017 a pregnant woman being

transported by our Toyota Hilux from our centre in Yassa to a referral centre and delivered before arriving the centre. We thank HospitaalBroeders and Mi-va for donating this vehicle to our centre in Boko vil-lage that has been used to saved the life of this pregnant woman and the unborn child.

The bouncing baby was delivered successfully in the car by a nurse accompanying the client to the refer-ral hospital. The baby is health and doing fine. This actually brought us to the fore of a great need for an ambulance in the centre.



### NEW THEATRE BED

The St John of God hospital in Batibo has been blessed with a new theatre bed donated by Hospital-Broeders in Holland. This comes at a time when the old one was completely obsolete and broken down after so many repairs. We thank the management of HospitaalBroeders in Holland for the financial dona-tion of **6,415 euros** which has been judiciously used to purchase a new theatre bed for the hospital. The

bed has been installed and made operational in the hospital. It should be recalled that our theatre in Batibo has been very busy since 2016 more than ever before. We perform general and ortho-paedic surgeries with the help of a resident doctor.



*Old theatre bed*



*New bed acquired being installed*

### Our pressing needs for St John of God out-reach health post:

- Solar energy for St John of God Health Post in Elum Village = 2,300 euros
- 2 Medical diagnostic microscope (Olympia CH21) for Elum and Ashong = 1,384.62 euros



*For any donations:*  
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