

SLNA Newslines

Edition 003

August 2011

Professionalism, Unity & Service



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Reader,

Welcome to the third edition of the Sierra Leone Nurses Association bimonthly newsletter. We were opportune to be observers at a two days session of West African Health Sector Union Network (WAHSUN) in collaboration with Public Services International for which SLNA wish to be affiliated with. As an inherently challenging profession, we need to inform, guide and lead much needed development and change in our healthcare systems. We also need to develop new ways of doing things which will reduce environmental hazards that are detrimental to good health.

Sister Madonna Hill

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SIERRA LEONE NURSES ASSOCIATION NEWSLINE IS A PUBLICATION SUPPORTED BY THE PRESIDENT AND THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TO INFORM NURSES, MIDWIVES AND HEALTH WORKERS ABOUT THE LATEST NEWS IN THE NURSING PROFESSION.

NURSES ASSOCIATION HEALTH PROFESSIONALS AND THEIR REPRESENTATIVES FROM WEST AFRICAN NATIONS ATTEND PLENARY SESSION IN FREETOWN



Group photo taken after the Opening Session. Notable figures from the right; the President of GRNA, Minister of Health and Sanitation Haja Zainab Bangura, and the President of SLNA amongst the nurses.

collaboration with the Sierra Leone Health Workers Union held their Seventh Plenary Session at the Hill Valley Hotel, Signal Hill in Freetown from 13 – 14 July 2011.

The event was attended by the President of the Ghana Registered Nurses Association, Alice D. Asare-Allotey. Representatives attended from West African Nations, including Liberia, Ghana and Nigeria to discuss issues on registered health professionals.

The event welcomed the presence of the Sierra Leone's Minister of Health and Sanitation, Zainab Bangura, the deputy minister and Nurses from different stations all over the country. The session ended with proposal for Nurses Associations in West Africa to collaborate with International Labour Organisations to promote the development of a **healthwise** assessment tool. The event was certificated by the Public Service International (PSI). ■

The West African Sector Unions (WAHSUN), in

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26 NURSES SPONSORED HAVE TRAVELED TO RECEIVE HOSPITAL AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT TRAINING IN CHINA

In collaboration with the Chinese Government, the Ministry of Health and Sanitation, 26 nurses were sent to China to receive hospital and resource management training to develop the skills required to operate the equipment and efficiently run the units now available at the Jui Hospital in Hastings, Kossoh Town.

The Nurses will work alongside Chinese health professionals at the new hospital. The training, which started on the 16th August 2011, will enable the nurses to operate equipment such as ECG machines and paediatric monitoring units.

Upon their return in the second week of October, SLNA will give the nurses the opportunity to share their experiences with other nurses in Sierra Leone. The discussions will be published in the next edition of SLNA Newsline.

SLNA SUPPORTS NURSES' PLEA FOR AUDIENCE AT MINISTRY OF LABOUR AFTER QUESTIONS ABOUT TAX PAYMENTS LEAD TO UNFAIR DISMISSALS

Last month, the Ministry of Labour alerted the Sierra Leone Nurses Association to the unfair dismissal of four nurses who previously worked at a Non-Governmental Organisation in Freetown. The Nurses claimed they were discharged, with no notice after requesting to review their NASSIT payment receipts from their employer.

The Nurses approached the Ministry of Labour with their case, however were dissatisfied with the response of the Ministry who dismissed the case and advised the nurses to return to their former workplace and try to settle the dispute with their employer.

SLNA fights for the fair treatment of nurses in Sierra Leone and therefore calls on employers to adhere to the employment policies of Sierra Leone. The four nurses concerned are seriously grieved at the injustice granted them and continue to appeal to the Ministry of Labour to reopen their cases. ■

PUBLIC NOTICES:

The next General Meeting of the Sierra Leone Nurses Association will be held on the 27th September 2011.

We implore all members and nurses to attend the session as issues which affect the welfare of nurses will be discussed. By uniting, we as nurses can strengthen the workforce and promote better treatment of healthcare workers all over Sierra Leone.

The next meeting will take place at the Faculty of Nursing in the Great hall of Connaught Hospital.

CARNIVAL! CARNIVAL! CARNIVAL

As Christmas approaches, SLNA invites you once again to join us to celebrate the end of the 50th year Anniversary. Keep these dates free in your diary.

Date: 3rd December 2011 @ Youyi Building Garden. Time: 9pm till dawn. Start your Christmas with the best people- 'the nurses'.



JOIN THE UN CAMPAIGNERS FOR HEALTH

With less than 72 hours to go to the UN meeting, campaigners want other countries to follow example of Germany which has agreed \$3.1m to help fund new health workers and Norway which is per capita the most generous donor for health. Developing countries like Vietnam and Sri Lanka, by investing in health workers, have achieved impressive child survival rates. As these examples show, progress is possible with political will. "The world needs 3.5 million more health workers. The campaign needs you," says SLNA



JULY 2011 ASSESSMENT TOUR IN MATTRU REVEALS UNSATISFACTORY LIVING CONDITIONS FOR HEALTH WORKERS



Staff at their PHU Centre in Mattru with SLNA President

When posted to work outside Freetown, nurses have to leave the comfort of the city, and at times leaving their families behind, to work in mostly rural areas. For health workers such as these, sent to work in the provinces, their expectations include adequate living and working conditions.

This has not been the case for these nursing professionals in Mattru (inset), who have been living in substandard housing for up to 6 years. In the picture inset, up to 12 people live in the household, including an SECHN and an MCHN, both living in the house with their families.

A visit to the PHU Centre in which they worked, by the President of SLNA revealed that a large number of health workers working in the area were less than satisfied with the conditions of the housing in which they were placed upon arrival.

Most nurses are aware that if they refuse to live with these conditions, the patients will have no-one to care for them, so they remain in the deplorable conditions. SLNA continues to lobby the government for better support for hardworking nurses who are committed to their work and patients. ■



Inadequate Staff housing for health workers. Substandard construction with unfinished walls.

ASSAULT ON NURSE OF THE MONTH CAUSES HEALTHWORKERS TO CALL ON MOHS TO IMPROVE HOSPITAL SECURITY

Over the past few weeks, health workers have called the Ministry of Health and Sanitation (MOHS) to ensure adequate security at hospitals after a nurse was assaulted by the parent of a child at Ola During Children's Hospital on the 28th August.

The health worker Musu Kula Conteh, who was named 'Nurse of the Month' in the last edition of the SLNA Newslines, was attacked after explaining to the parent that her child needed to be placed in the Out-patients Department (OPD).

The call to the Ministry comes after several attacks on members of staff at different hospitals in Freetown over the last few weeks. Health workers have also called for the policies on public order to be reviewed, in order to ensure patients and their families are fully aware of their rights and responsibilities when visiting the hospital.

As the Nurses Association strives to promote and foster good relations between health workers and patients, we support this call to improve hospital security to protect both Nurses and patients while in and out of the wards. We therefore also call on the MOHS to review these policies in a timely manner. ■

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and receive full benefits

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SUPPORT S.L.N.A

+ JOIN OUR ARTel CUG
and call other NURSES
FOR 3 UNITS/MINUTE

Note to readers: The next *Nurse of the Month* will be announced in the next edition of SLNA Newslines. Please contact the Office if you would like to nominate a member of staff at your hospital.



OBITUARIES

This quarter, we bid farewell to health workers within our community who dedicated their working life to serving society on the frontline of the healthcare service.

UPCOMING EVENTS

2011

Oct

Tue 25th General Meeting, Princess Christian Maternity Hospital

Nov

Tue 29th General Meeting, Faculty of Nursing, Lightfoot Boston Street

Dec

Tue 6th General Meeting, Princess Christian Maternity Hospital



MRS. HAWA EVELYN VOONU NEE TARAWALLY
9th SEP 1959 – 22nd JUL 2011
AGED 52 YEARS



MRS. EDNA VESTA CAREW
26th DEC 1963 – 10th JUL 2011
AGED 75 YEARS



MRS. MADINATU EVELYN ALLEN
Passed Away in AUG 2011
AGED 36 YEARS



MRS. BEATRICE WILLIAMS
Passed Away on 13th AUG 2011
AGED 69 YEARS

GET INVOLVED

REPRESENTATIVES: SLNA would like representatives from all hospitals and health units in Sierra Leone. If you would like to represent your hospital, contact Foday at the SLNA Secretariat on 077588222.

ADVERTISE: If you would like to Advertise in the next edition of this newsletter, contact Sylvester on 077588222

JOIN OUR TEAM If you are interested in writing an article for SLNA Newsline, or want to share a story, picture or event with us, please call 078818839 or email us on slna_03@yahoo.co.uk

SLNA PARTNER IMAGES

