



EITD Research

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The Revival of Justice and Judiciary Reform (RJJR) Programme

To: H.E. André Mama Fouda

Minister of Public Health

Yaounde, Cameroon.

Subject: Request that You Urgently and Thoroughly Investigate a Particular Case of Public Health Centre Underperformance, and Increase Public Trust in our Public Health Services and Related Government Policies

Sir,

On 12/10/09, a patient, Cameroonian (name and other identification details withheld), who had been suffering from fever, vomiting, insomnia, and other discomforting symptoms for three (3) days, visited our government run Preventive Health Centre, situated at Preventive Street, in Kumba. Blood and stool specimens were taken and tested in the laboratory at the Centre. Results were negative for malaria parasites and typhoid fever. Nothing unusual was seen in the stool specimen. Blood pressure was recorded as high. Antibiotics, anti-malaria, paracetamol, anti-worms, vitamins and rest were prescribed. (*See attached copy of consultation records from the public health centre*).

The patient returned home feeling no better and deteriorated in subsequent days. On 15/10/09, the patient (now, hardly able to move or talk) was rushed to a privately run clinic in Kumba. Blood, stool and urine specimens were again taken and tested in the laboratory there. Results for malaria parasites and typhoid fever were all positive. Gastric was also diagnosed and blood pressure was recorded as normal. The patient was swiftly admitted and only discharged to continue treatment at home on 19/10/09. (*See attached copy of consultation records from the privately run clinic*).

How come, the huge discrepancy in performance? Why the apparent wastage of resources and putting of human life in jeopardy in our public health centre? Such performance lapses appear widespread in our public health service system. The time is now to put an end to the performance lapses and bring about improvements in the competitiveness of our public health services.

Hence our appeal to you, that you urgently and thoroughly investigate the case of this patient in Kumba, and do all within your power to increase public trust in our public health services and related government policies.

Yours sincerely,

Mesue Ngome Ebongole (Intern)

The RJJR Programme

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Cc. - The District Medical Officer (DMO), Kumba.

- The Media and Public.