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**SECRET**

**JUNE, 2018.**

**NCH/61/003K**

**MEMORANDUM OF THE HONOURABLE MINISTER OF HEALTH ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF TRADITIONAL,  
COMPLEMENTARY AND ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE DEPARTMENT**

**1. PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this memo is to inform the Council that approval has been granted by the Head of Service of the Federation for the establishment of Traditional, Complementary and Alternative Medicine Department in the Federal Ministry of Health, and to seek Council's approval for States of the federation and the FCT to establish their respective Traditional, Complementary and Alternative Medicine Department to facilitate the integration of Traditional Medicine into the main healthcare delivery system for the benefit of the populace.

**2. BACKGROUND:**

The World Health Organisation (WHO) estimates that about 80% of the world population use Traditional Medicine as primary form of healthcare. Across the world, traditional medicine (TM) is either the mainstay of health care delivery or serves as a complement to it. Nigeria is no exception.

The WHO in its effort to promote the safe use of Traditional Medicine (TM) has put in place various strategies; The WHO Traditional Medicines Strategy 2002 – 2005 and The WHO Traditional Medicine Strategy 2014 -2023. These strategies are effective and proactive response to World Health Assembly (WHA) resolution on TM which encourages member states to consider T&CM as an important part of the Health system.

The African Union (AU) in 2000 developed a plan of action and declared the period 2001 – 2010 as the Decade of African Traditional Medicine, with the African Traditional Medicine Day celebrated on August 31<sup>st</sup> every year. The plan of action was renewed in 2010, from 2011 – 2020 to develop, recognise, accept and institutionalise Traditional Medicine (TM) and Complementary Medicine (CM) into the main healthcare delivery system.

Experience from the last 10 years of operation as a division shows that for Nigeria to facilitate the realization of the objective and goals (Health and Economic) Traditional Medicine Policy 2007 there is need for a strong political will to focus attention and resources on Traditional Medicine Development and its integration into the Health care delivery system of the Country.

**3. CONTENT:**

As the Ministry's determination for achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC), the Ministry proposed for the upgrading of the Traditional Medicine Division into a full-fledged department which was subsequently approved by the Head of Service of the Federation. Currently the Ministry has reached an advanced stage in the proposed bill of Traditional, Complementary and Alternative Medicine Council for final legislation by the National Assembly. This will promote research, job and wealth creation, and availability of herbal medicines for the management of diseases.

#### **4. PRAYERS:**

**Council is hereby invited to note that:**

- i. The Federal Ministry of Health established the Division of Traditional Medicine Development in 2007 and launched the Traditional Medicine Policy.
- ii. A herbal product initially used by a Traditional Medicine practitioner and submitted for further scientific research to National Institute for Pharmaceutical Research and Development, has been produced into NIPRISAN which is used in the management of Sickle Cell disease.
- iii. The determination of the Federal Ministry of Health to promote Traditional, Complementary and Alternative medicine led to the establishment of the Traditional, Complementary and Alternative Medicine Department.
- iv. The Traditional, Complementary and Alternative Medicine Department will enhance the regulation and control of Traditional, Complementary and alternative medicines, discovery of new herbal medicines, establishment of alternative medicine hospitals in the country, facilitate research for intervention in the area of priority diseases, and facilitate the documentation of Traditional, Complementary and Alternative medicine practices.
- v. This new Department will foster better collaboration with national and international stakeholders.
- vi. The Federal Ministry of Health has reached advanced stages in forwarding of the bill for the establishment of the Traditional, Complementary and Alternative Medicine Council.

**Council is further requested to approve and encourage** all states to establish their respective Traditional, Complementary and Alternative Medicine Department to facilitate the integration of Traditional Medicine into the main healthcare delivery system for the benefit of the populace.

**Honourable Minister of Health**

**JUNE, 2018**

