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MEMORANDUM OF THE HONOURABLE COMMISSIONER FOR HEALTH KOGI STATE ON THE USE OF HEALTH RANGERS IN THE REDUCTION OF MATERNAL MORTALITY IN KOGI STATE UNDER THE HEALTH CARE PLUS PROJECT

Purpose:

The purpose of this Memo is to inform the Council of the use of Health Rangers in the reduction of maternal Mortality in Kogi State under the Health Care plus Project, and to seek Council's approval for its replication in all States of the federation and the FCT.

Introduction:

Health Care plus is a Maternal and Newborn Health Intervention Programme designed to end Preventable Maternal and newborn Deaths in Kogi State in a political dispensation.

Background:

The Persistently High maternal and Newborn Mortality in Kogi state which stand at 576/100,000 live births and 37/1000 live births respectively (NDHS 2013) have necessitated the need to use Health Rangers in the reduction of Maternal Mortality.

Health Rangers are community Health Extension Worker and social workers trained to follow up on registered pregnant women under the health Care Plus Project

They serve a link in rural communities between pregnant women and the Health facilities.

Once a pregnant women registers under the Health care plus Project, she is attached to a Health Ranger who immediately obtains the contact numbers and address of the women in order to trace her to her place of residence of the physical verification. They also carry out periodic visitation to the residence of the Pregnant woman to monitor her wellbeing and respond to calls from any registered pregnant woman who need urgent medical attention and make emergency arrangement for the transfer of the client to the Health Facility whenever the need arises which has significantly reduced the second delay with respect to maternal mortality

Furthermore, Health rangers also follow referred pregnant women to the referral Hospitals and Provides social supports needed.

Prayers

Council is invited to note that:

- i. Health Care Plus was approved by the state Executive Council on 25th July 2016 and officially flagged off by the Honourable Minister of Health, Prof Issac Adewole on 25th January, 2018
- ii. Since the flag off Health Care plus Project, we have commenced implementation on February 13, 2018 in 2 Primary Health Care Centres (PHCs) and so far so good 500 Pregnant women have registered in

the 2 centres with 64 spontaneous vaginal deliveries and 28 Caesarean section with no Maternal Mortality.

- iii. With the successes we have recorded so far, 10 other PHCs will be activated by June 2018 to cut across the state so as to tackle our persistently High Maternal Mortality.

Council is further invited to approve:

- i. The use of Health Rangers as a link in rural communities between pregnant women and Health facilities in the reduction of maternal Mortality in Nigeria
- ii. That all states of the Federation to adopt the use of Health Rangers as a measure for the reduction of Maternal Mortality in Nigeria using the Health care Plus Model of Kogi State.

Honourable Commissioner of Health, Kogi State

June, 2018