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SECRET

JUNE, 2018.

NCH/61/007J

MEMORANDUM OF THE HONOURABLE COMMISSIONER FOR HEALTH ONDO STATE ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CONTRIBUTORY HEALTH COMMISSION

PURPOSE

The purpose of this memorandum is to inform Council on the progress made so far on the establishment of Contributory Health Scheme towards achieving Universal Health Coverage.

BACKGROUND/INTRODUCTION

In a bid to provide accessible, affordable, quality health care to the citizens and achieve Universal Health Coverage, the Ondo State Government set up a committee to look into health service delivery and financing. The committee was saddled with the responsibility for bringing up a bill on the establishment and implementation of the contributory health scheme in Ondo State. The bill was designed to provide a framework for financial risk protection to the residents in the state by reducing out of pocket expenditure (OOPE) and cushion the impoverish effects of ill health and their cost.

There were several advocacy meetings held to sensitize stakeholders on the need for a Contributory Health Scheme. The first stakeholders meeting was held in October 2017 with the Nigeria Labour Congress, Trade Unions, Various Professional bodies, Religious Societies, Schools, Civil Society Organizations, service providers, NHIS, UNICEF etc.

In December 2017, a memo on the establishment of the Contributory Health Scheme was read at the State Executive Council meeting and subsequently forwarded to the House of Assembly. In January 2018, an advocacy visit, and subsequently, a public hearing was done at the House of Assembly complex.

Furthermore a seminar was organized for members of the House of Assembly in January 2018 to intimate them on the best practices as it relates to health insurance and a sustainable financial models for optional health care delivery in Ondo State for subsequent political and legislative buy in.

Also as part of the efforts for insight and capacity building on the contributory health scheme, a study tour was sponsored by UNICEF in January 2018 to Asaba Delta State Contributory Health Commission to understudy their operations. The study tour created an avenue for participants to tap into the wealth of experience Delta State has gathered through the process of conception and implementation of the scheme.

The Executive Governor of Ondo State signed into law the bill to establish the Contributory Health Commission to institute the Ondo State Contributory Health Scheme for all residents of Ondo State and connected purposes on the 6th February 2018. This law is mandatory and is expected to reduce out of pocket expenditure (OOPE) on health among residents of Ondo State. Series of advocacy and sensitization meetings have commenced since signing the bill into law. Meetings have been held with Labour Union Leaders, health care providers both in public and private health facilities, traditional rulers, heads of Ministries, Department and Agencies.

FUTURE PLANS FOR ITS COMMENCEMENT

- Appointment of a General Manager for the Commission
- Appointment of critical key staffs to drive the process
- Functional temporary office for the Ondo State Contributory Health Scheme
- Conduct a baseline assessment for the implementation of the Ondo State Contributory Health Scheme
- Conduct an actuarial studies to determine the premium
- Development of operational guidelines with technical partners like UNICEF, WHO, NHIS, WORLD BANK.
- Develop Monitoring & Evaluation Framework

- Define and Prioritize coverage population
- Continuous Advocacy & Sensitization

The foregoing activities will be concluded before the end of the year 2018.

PRAYERS

Council is hereby invited to note that;

- 1) The Executive Governor of Ondo State signed into law the bill to establish the Contributory Health Commission to institute the Ondo State Contributory Health Scheme for all residents of Ondo State and connected purposes on the 6th February 2018;
- 2) A study tour was sponsored by UNICEF in January 2018 to Asaba, Delta State Contributory Health Commission to understudy their operation and eventual implementation in the state
- 3) Series of advocacy and sensitization meetings have commenced since signing the bill. Meetings were held with Labour Union Leaders, health care providers both in public and private health facilities, traditional rulers, heads of Ministries Department and Agencies;
- 4) There is continuous advocacy, engagement, dialogue and sensitization meetings with relevant stakeholders for the successful implementation of the scheme
- 5) Ondo State is making effort to achieve Universal Health Coverage for its residents through the implementation of the Ondo State Contributory Health Scheme which will commence before the end of year 2018.

Hon. Commissioner for Health, Ondo State

JUNE, 2018.