

Minutes of the 26th PRCM

On 1st October 2010, from 2 pm to 6 pm, the PRCM members of the Ministry of Health met at the Conference Hall of the Ministry for its 26th meeting. The meeting was chaired by the Hon'ble Lyonpo Zangley Dukpa.

26.1 Opening Remarks – Hon'ble Chairperson

In the opening remarks Hon'ble Chairperson welcomed all members of PRCM and vendors who were present to update the forum on the progress of the Health Help Center (HHC).

During the meeting following deliberations were made:

26.2 Updates on “Accelerating Bhutan’s Socio-Economic Development Project: Health Sector Part” by charter owners

(a) Presentation by the vendors for the Health Help Center (HHC):

The vendor presented its progress and declared that they will launch the service on 17th December, 2010. PRCM reminded them that their services must reach the rural folk and their HHC training should be medical training oriented. Regarding the personnel that the Ministry has to provide to them PRCM directed the HRD to confirm it by Monday, 4th October, 2010.

After the vendors left PRCM had further discussion on the Health Help Care.

- i. The Hon'ble Director General (DG) informed the forum that 60 ambulances will have GPS tagging, and each Dzongkhag will at least have two ambulances with GPS tagging. The Hon'ble DG also reminded the forum, since 60 ambulances have to be equipped with drugs and equipments it could have cost implications. However, the Hon'ble Secretary clarified that the drugs to be used in those ambulances will be from the district hospitals.
- ii. PRCM decided **triple seven “777” as the toll free number for HHC**. The number was chosen keeping in mind the Buddhist beliefs.
- iii. On the concern of CPO, PPD, regarding the possible conflict between Medical Officers in hospitals and the HHC the Hon'ble Secretary clarified that the HHC will contact Medical Officers and not the ambulance drivers.

- iv. Further, Hon'ble DG pointed out the need of utility vehicle for the hospitals; PRCM directed the Hon'ble DG to put it as an agendum for the next PRCM.
- v. PRCM reminded Ms Gaki Tshering to seriously look into the issue of maintenance and resources for the post project period.
- vi. The Hon'ble Secretary reminded the forum that the HHC must be an integral part of normal healthcare system. PRCM, therefore, directed the HHC Project to come up with an operational manual to harmonize the HHC with the existing healthcare system and submit it to the Ministry at the earliest.

The Hon'ble Chairperson further clarified that the services HHC is expected to provide already exist in our healthcare system but the HHC is introduced to facilitate and expedite the process.

(b) Charter 1:

Dr Pandup Tshering, Medical Superintendent, JDWNRH updated on the progress of Charter 1. He said the progress on Charter 1 is satisfactory.

- i. Dr Pandup highlighted the idea of using booklets instead of prescription forms; to which Hon'ble Chairperson said that it's a noble idea and it must be implemented.
- ii. The Charter Owners expressed following problems they face while implementing the ABSED Project;
 - a. It was reported to the forum that when the compact was signed Ministry of Health had agreed to achieve the efficiency of 10-15%. However, of late the figure of 60 million is added as a target. But the Ministry of Health does not know from where the figure 60 million came.
 - b. Other issues raised were the constant change of consultants and changing of KPIs by the consultant without the knowledge of the Charter Owners.

Therefore, the 26th PRCM directed PPD to send a letter to GNHC Secretary seeking clarifications and guidance.

- iii. PRCM directed DVED, DMS and McKency to present the detail approaches and areas (drugs, equipment, capital) from where the saving would be made in the next PRCM.

(c) Charter 2:

Mr. Mindu Dorji, Dy. Chief HRO, updated on charter 2. He reported that the raw data collection is completed and three HR consultants through DANIDA will be in Bhutan by October 18, 2010. He also reported that HRD in consultation with PPD and GNHC has submitted a proposal regarding the additional budget requirement for administration purpose, printing & publication.

The Hon'ble Chairperson highlighted the importance of HR Master Plan and reminded the HRD on the need of standardization of human resources deployment and training.

(d) Charter 4 & 5:

Ms Sangay Wangmo, Sr. Planning Officer, presented on the progress of Charter 4 & 5. On Charter 4 she reported that some of the areas like defining basic health, PPP and FDI in health and assessment of payment mechanism will be long term policy changes as they entails lots of studies. However, PPD is currently doing in-depth studies on referral system and a preliminary study is already initiated for charging non-Bhutanese.

Since Charter 4 is something to do with studies and looking for alternatives the PRCM decided that there is no need of hurrying with it but keep on studying and looking for alternatives.

Presenting on Charter 5 she reported that works are in progress to outsource some of the non-clinical services. To begin with the patient diets and maintenance of the hospital will be outsourced. As a preparatory phase patient diet has been upgraded from one system diet to three system diets. However, proper studies on benefits and implications will be thoroughly studied before outsourcing them.

26.3 Presentation on the up-gradation of Biomedical Engineering Services to a Division

Mr Tshering Dorji, Head of Biomedical Engineering Services presented the proposal of the up-gradation of BES to a division.

The PRCM decided that the proposed Biomedical Engineering Division will be a workshop based division and tentatively it will housed in DVED building. PRCM asked BES to make the proposal 2-3 pages long and to provide good justifications in the background.

The Hon'ble Chairperson also kindly shared a lot of insights on what the Cabinet expects in such proposal.

26.4 Establishment of Training Unit and Status

Ms Yangchen Chhoedon, Chief HRO, reported that the Training Unit has been established as per the directives of 25th PRCM with Mr Mindu Dorji as an Officer Incharge of the Unit. Since the Unit had finished compiling the training proposal from all programs she reported that the Unit will be very soon meeting with the Chiefs to resolve some pertaining issues.

PRCM decided that henceforth all trainings, in-country, out-country, short term and long term, shall go through the newly established Training Unit.

26.5 Long Term Training issue

The Chief HRO requested for the directives regarding the issue of shortages of medical officers because of many medical officers going for long term training.

- The Hon'ble Chairperson reminded that priority is specialists and GDMOs; not the super specialists. So, the PRCM decided that the number of GDMOs going for further studies should be equal to or less than the new GDMOs joining the Ministry.
- Further, the Hon'ble Chairperson reminded HRD and HRC of the need to develop a guideline to send specialists for super specialization bearing in mind the need of training a team, need of equipments and technology for super-specialists.
- Since the Gynecologist of Deothang Hospital is expected to routinely visit Pemagatshel and the Gynecologist of Trashigang Hospital is expected to routinely visit Trashiyangste PRCM directed DMS and HRD to scheduled their visit to the respective Dzongkhags with date. Further, the PRCM requested Hon'ble Chairperson to appraise the Government for their TA/DA.
- The Hon'ble Chairperson also asked HRD to find out how many Dzongkhags have more than three doctors.

26.6 Presentation of In-house developed web based diseases surveillance and PHL's functions and future direction proposal for comments and directives:

Mr. Sonam Wangchuk, Head PHL, demonstrated the web and requested for approval for pilot testing it. PRCM appreciated the web and it directed PHL to further discuss the web with the Director DoPH focusing on the long-term plan for maintenance and harmonization with health web. PHL was also directed to get it approve through note sheet.

On PHL's functions and future direction proposal the Hon'ble Chairperson directed PHL to discuss it with the Director, Director General and Dasho Secretary; and appraise the Hon'ble Minister on 8th October, 2010.

26.7 Information of Anthrax outbreak in Zhemgang Dzongkhag:

All the members of PRCM including the Hon'ble Chairperson are aware regarding the Anthrax outbreak in Zhemgang Dzongkhag and every possible intervention are already undertaken. So, for the want of time this agendum was done away.

26.8 & 26.9 Supervisory Checklist for Supervision of Primary Health Care at the Dzongkhag level: To seek endorsement of the PRCM for effecting utilization in the Dzongkhags & Monitoring and Supervisory Visits to Hospitals: A Team Approach:

Since these two agenda were already presented to the 25th PRCM and a copy each were distributed to all the CPOs for feedback and comments PRCM directed Mr Rinchen Namgay to put up a notes sheet for approval.

26.10 Any Other Issue

Hon'ble Secretary informed the forum that Dr. Pandup Tshering will be very soon joining BHMC as its new Registrar. The Hon'ble Secretary also directed HRD to explore the possibilities of multitasking Drungtshos as Adm. Officers in hospitals.

Further, the Hon'ble Chairperson reminded everyone to put up only the major issues to PRCM for directives and guidance.

PRCM also directed HRD and PPD to explore the possibilities of creating new department in the ministry. The Hon'ble Chairperson, further, reminded the forum of the need of a department for the traditional medicine.

26.11 Closing Remarks

In the closing remarks Hon'ble Chairperson thanked all the presenters and encouraged everyone to work harder. The Hon'ble Chairperson also briefed the forum on his recent visit to Gasa Dzongkhag. During the visit he had met the Dzongkhag Officials, Health Workers, people of Gasa, students and Potential Local Government Candidates.