

The 6th Progress Report & Coordination Meeting (PRCM) was convened on the 30th of October 2008 at the Hon'ble Lyonpo's Chamber at 1500 Hours. The Hon'ble Lyonpo and the Secretary co - chaired the meeting.

General Discussions:

- At the onset, the Chair pointed out that he has received positive and good reviews regarding the way the Ministry of Health (MoH) is conducting the PRCM. He expressed his gratitude to the floor and further reiterated that complacency should not come into picture rather he indicated that the MoH has to further perform better and be a model for other Ministries to follow.
- The Chair recommended that all the members of the PRCM should maintain a separate file (PRCM) for convenience of the respective members and urged that the files should be brought along with the members while attending the PRCM.
- The floor agreed that the findings of the internal audit should be presented during the next PRCM but suggested that the internal audit should guide what the MoH has to do to rectify the findings, in the spirit of improving the system.
- Based on the recommendation made by the Vice-Chair (Secretary), the forum agreed that all the minutes and agendas for the coming PRCMs be posted on the health web – www.health.gov.bt. Further, the Vice Chair also encouraged the members to use the internet optimally. This he pointed out will be one of the measures to cut cost through promoting paperless work.
- In line with the Secretary, the floor also recommended that the Bhutan Medical & Health Council (BMHC) will not be the member of PRCM due to the autonomy of the council but agreed that the BMHC will be invited as and when required.
- The members of the PRCM directed the PPD, that the minutes of the PRCM should be signed by Hon'ble Chair after incorporating necessary comments within a span of one week upon completion of the PRCM and post it in the web.

- The Chair also recommended that the PPD should maintain a register for availing signatures of the PRCM Members for logistical purposes.
- The forum deliberated on the issue of recognizing JDWNRH as the teaching hospital and directed that the BMHC should immediately develop a protocol with minimum benchmark (criteria) to enable the JDWNRH to be recognized as a teaching hospital.
- The Director, DoPH informed the floor that as per the royal command by the UNFPA Goodwill Ambassador, Her Majesty the Queen Mother Ashi Sangay, the UNFPA and MOH should jointly discuss and find an appropriate dzongkhag to celebrate the World Aids Day – December 1st.
- The CAO reported that all the programme officials have been briefed on issues related to financial aspects like releases and the floor acknowledged the effort made by the CAO. Further, he reported that cost cutting measures along with the use of pool vehicles have been conducted.
- Once again, the CAO urged the members to reduce the use of stationeries, electricity, heaters. He informed that some of the officials have the habit of keeping the heaters and computers on even while going out and pointed out that the MoH is paying a minimum of Nu. 75, 000 as electricity bill every month. To this, the Chair and the Vice Chair also urged the members to disseminate the information to their respective staff.
- With the upcoming celebrations – the Chair pointed out that no one should avail leave from the 1st to 14th of November 2008.
- Though the mechanism of PRCM was agreed upon during the 1st PRCM, the floor agreed with the Secretary that every 3rd Monthly PRCM will be the Quarterly PRCM where more issues will be deliberated and every 6th Monthly PRCM will be half yearly PRCM and a full day has to be dedicated to this half yearly PRCM. During the half yearly PRCM all the departments and divisions have to present the achievements and constraints in detail for follow up and necessary action.
- The house directed that the QASDs' CPO should present the findings of visits to private diagnostic centers in Phuntsholing.

- In the PRCM, the Hon'ble Lyonpo and the Secretary shared with the members their findings during the visits to east and south respectively. The tour reports are posted in the web for further reference and follow up¹.
- The Secretary pointed out that one of the major findings during his tour to the Samtse was how to develop and foster a working environment in joint hospitals (corporate and government) like Gomtu and Gedu Hospitals. He informed that a concept paper has to be developed for effective functioning of the Corporate-Govt. Hospitals.
- The CPO, DVED, briefed the forum on the responsibilities during the upcoming coronation of the 5th Druk Gyalpo from the 1st of November. The Secretary directed that the CAO has to come up with a mechanism to guard the Ministry Building during the upcoming coronation celebrations.

Specific Discussions and Recommendations for follow up:

- ❖ The Medical Director, JDWNRH, informed the house that from October all cancer patients have been referred to selected hospitals in Siliguri and the feedback from the patients have been positive. The Chair instructed that the Medical Director and the Chief Adm. Officer (CAO) of the MoH should jointly work out and submit a cost comparison between the patients referred to Calcutta and Siliguri as soon as possible – **MD, JDWNRH & CAO, AFD, MOH**
- ❖ The floor instructed that any policy related to Human Resources should be shared with all the executive level officials to keep them aware of the HR policies – **HRD/M**
- ❖ The Chair shared that 30% of the Civil Servants across ministries and agencies are found to have no or less work. In line with this, the floor directed the HRD/M to review and carry out a detailed study and submit to the forum as early as possible - **HRD/M**
- ❖ The Floor also directed that the HRD/M should put up the list of Health Officials who have been nominated to go for training/seminars/workshops through the HRC along with the

¹ All the necessary officials are requested to visit the health web for necessary follow up (www.health.gov.bt)

- criteria in the web as decided in the earlier PRCM Meeting - **HRD/M**
- ❖ The issues related to transfer was also discussed and it was recommended that the HRD/M should transfer the right person for the right services to enable the person to utilize his knowledge gained optimally - **HRD/M**
 - ❖ The house in conjunction with the recommendation from the Secretary directed that the HRD/M should work closely with PPD when deploying health workers in various hospitals and BHUs as per the approved technical guideline agreed upon by the MoH and RCSC - **HRD/M & PPD**
 - ❖ Keeping in mind the cost cutting measures, the Secretary stated that the Out Reach Clinics (ORCs) should be utilized as multipurpose hall in the villages. He pointed out that the ORCs can be used as Non Formal Education Hall, election hall etc. To this, the Chair fully agreed and instructed that it is time for the Government has to recognize the multipurpose function of the ORCs and directed that the Ministry should write to the GNHC and Cabinet – **DG, DMS**
 - ❖ The Chair pointed out that during his visit to the Eastern Dzongkhags, he had the opportunity to talk with the health workers and found out that some of the Health Workers have not availed any training (ex-country). He instructed that HRD/M to scrutinize and nominate health workers who have worked for more than 10 years, put up in the HRC and send them for study tour – **HRD/M**
 - ❖ The house was informed that some equipment sent to the dzongkhag hospitals are either not utilized or not functioning. He directed the DMS to carry out a detailed study and submit the findings to the ministry – **DG, DMS & CPO, DVED**
 - ❖ The Chair directed that Hospital Based Waste Management Guidelines needs to be distributed to all Hospitals and BHUs, if not provided, as soon as possible - **DMS**
 - ❖ The forum also discussed on the issue of staff quarters in the hospitals. Some members suggested that a clear guideline has to be developed by the Ministry. The floor agreed that a team consisting of officials from DMS/AFD/HRD and QASD has to be formed to carry out a feasibility study regarding the occupation of staff quarters in the hospitals. It was mentioned that preferences

- should be given to essential staff whose service is required 24/7 – **DMS to initiate and form a team**
- ❖ The house felt that there is a need to develop policy guidelines for availing health care services of the doctors by big five star hotels if necessary – **PPD/DMS to initiate and form a team**
 - ❖ As per the recommendations of the 5th PRCM, the forum directed that the committee formed to undertake cost cutting measures within the MoH should immediately convene and carry-out studies to develop mechanism for cost cutting – **PPD to initiate**
 - ❖ The Vice Chairman pointed out that the Director, ITMS should revisit the proposal submitted by Ex-Drungtsho Pema Dorji to establish herbal steam treatment and submit the findings to the ministry – **Director, ITMS**
 - ❖ The house directed the media spokesperson of the Ministry (CPO) to conduct a sensitization workshop for the programme officials, since information sharing is given major impetus by the Chair and Vice Chair for effective coordination and functioning as a team – **CPO, PPD**
 - ❖ The Vice Chair once again informed the house that some of the recommendations of the 5th PRCM has not been carried out and stated that henceforth any recommendations have to be carried out by respective departments – **All PRCM Members**