

22nd February, 2017.

**A CALL FOR PROPER ENFORCEMENT OF LAWS MEANT TO
REGULATE THE PRACTICE OF TRADITIONAL MEDICINE.**

DELIVERED BY HON. ANNOH-DOMPREH, FRANK, (MP, NSAWAM ADOAGYIRI)

Right Honorable Speaker, traditional herbal medicine is an ancient medical system that has provided the world's population with safe, effective and affordable medicines over time. There is still high patronage of Traditional medicines for varied reasons and it is important we take a critical look at its advancement to the benefit of the Ghanaian people. The potential of traditional medicines cannot be underestimated and I am particularly happy successive Governments have recognized that.

Mr. Speaker, in Ghana, efforts to promote traditional medicine practice ^{have} been transitional, starting with the creation of the Ghana Psychic and Traditional Healers Association in 1961 by Dr. Kwame Nkrumah followed by the establishment of Danfa Health Centre which aimed at training traditional birth attendants in 1964 with assistance from the United States Agency for Development (USAID).

In 1975, ^{the} Center for Scientific Research into ~~P~~ ^Rlant ~~M~~ ^Medicine (CSRPM) now ~~C~~ ^Renter for Research into ~~P~~ ^Rlant ~~M~~ ^Medicine was established at Mampong-Akuapem in the Eastern Region of Ghana to conduct and promote research for the improvement of phyto-medicines or plant medicines.

Positive events have consistently occurred all geared towards ensuring delivery of excellent traditional medical care from then through to 2000 when the traditional medicine practice Act 575 was promulgated and became fully operational when the Traditional Medicine Practice Council (TMPC) was set up in 2010.

Right Hon. Speaker, having come this far even to the level of integrating and synchronizing the clinical herbal medicine practice into the main health care delivery system in Ghana since 2012, it is important that we ensure full enforcement and strict compliance of laws regulating traditional herbal medicine practice.

Mr. Speaker, to the best of my knowledge, the enforcement, especially, ^{of} ~~the~~ ~~dictates and~~ provisions of the laws regulating the practice of traditional medicine is not satisfactory. There is more to do.

Respectfully Mr. Speaker, I am simply unable to fathom or come to terms with why there always seems to be some kind of inertia when it comes to implementing some of these very important policies. I think we can do better.

Sections nine (9) and (17) deal with registration and licensing respectively. Possession of those two documentations qualifies a person to practice and operate under law. ^{However, many} ~~But most~~ of the situations ~~as~~ we find today clearly contradict the dictates of the Act. How many of our traditional medical health care providers have obtained such certificates to allow them operate in full swing under law?

A number of people practice traditional medicine and deliver health care without any such approval from the Traditional Medicine Practice Council.

Mr. Speaker, a quick reference to the Act also provides for training and support in traditional medicine practice. This comes under Section 2 of the Act and it specifies the objectives and functions of the Council as far as the practice of Traditional medicine is concerned.

Again, collaboration with the appropriate agencies for large scale cultivation of medicinal plants and for the preservation of bio-diversity is key according to Act 575. What have we done to ensure implementation of some of these provisions?

Mr. Speaker, ensuring compliance of the principles and tenet of the code of ethics of Traditional medicine practitioners is a very important thing to consider because that will in no doubt ensure discipline, promote professionalism and improve the quality of their services. ^{and protect the lives of the individual users.} ~~Our~~ ^{AM} laws must work and we must ensure that, respectfully.

Rt. Hon. Speaker, health is wealth and I expect that we take keen interest in this and improve the system as required by law.

To conclude, I strongly suggest and advocate also that cost of services of traditional herbal medicine practitioners be absorbed or covered by the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) as most patients who patronize their services are

NHIS card bearers and are often unable to afford payment. As Government seeks to strengthen the (NHIS), this call is well placed and timely. It is unfortunate that these service providers in the Health Delivery sector are left out. Once there exists an Act, I believe it is enough basis to call for its inclusion in the NHIS and hence I strongly advocate for immediate plans to put into action to ensure that. Respectfully, I submit.

presentation to DR. ✓ — there are some at
potential danger ✓

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FOR INQUIRY
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