**PCN-LaunchDSI PROJECT**

**REPORT OF THE ZONAL ENGAGEMENT MEETING WITH THE STATES PPMVL COMMITTEE (NORTH-EAST GEO-POLITICAL ZONE)**

**Venue:** North-East PCN Zonal Office, Bauchi, Bauchi State

**Date**: September 21, 2017

**Attendance:** (Attached)

1. **Preamble**

The Nationwide zonal engagement meeting with the State-PPMVL Committees is part of the advocacy/sensitization activities of the phase 1 PCN-MSH LaunchDSI project. The meeting was organized between the PCN-MSH LaunchDSI team, State PPMVL Committees and officials of PPMVs associations of the six States of the North-East geopolitical zone of the Country. The meeting was organized to sensitize the participants on the concepts of the LaunchDSI project, garner views, ideas, skills and experiences on ways by which the patent medicine shop and patent medicine vendor can be repositioned to deliver improved healthcare services and also to seek the commitments and collaborative support of the PPMVL committees and representatives of the PPMVs associations towards the successful implementation of the LaunchDSI project.

The meeting was attended by the representative of the PCN Registrar, Pharm N.A.E Mohammed, members of PCN-LaunchDSI team, Directors of Pharmaceutical Services of Bauchi, Borno, Adamawa, and Gombe States, North-East Zonal Officer, PCN officers of Bauchi, Borno, Adamawa, Gombe, Taraba and Yobe States and two representatives of the PPMVs association from each State of the North-East geo-political zone.

1. **Commencement**

The meeting commenced with a recitation of the second stanza of National anthem at 10:00 am. There was self-introduction by the participants followed by adoption of the agenda. The meeting was chaired by the North-East zonal officer, Dr. P.U.K. Gar who also stood-in for the Registrar.

1. **Opening remarks**

The Registrar’s opening remarks was delivered by Dr. P.U.K. Gar. He welcomed all participants, and thanked them for honoring the invitation. He prayed for a meaningful deliberation and encouraged all to contribute meaningfully toward the successful implementation of the project and improvement of PPMV operations. He concluded by stating clearly that this engagement meeting seeks to reposition the operations for the PPMVs by ensuring proper regulatory mechanisms, provision of quality, accessible and safe medicines, which would lead to provision of better pharmaceutical services for the benefit of Nigerians and humanity at large.

The opening remark was followed by a short tea-break:

1. **Presentation sessions**

**i. Title:** PCN Mission on improving Access to Quality Medicines in Nigeria.

**Presenter:**  Dr. P.U.K. Gar

The presentation focused on:

* Background profile of Nigeria
* Background profile of the PCN
* Efforts made by PCN to improve access to quality assured medicines
* Community Pharmacies
* Patent Medicines Shops
* Satellite Pharmacy Concept
* Sanitized Medicines Distribution System
* The Challenges facing the efforts to improve access to quality assured medicines
* Areas of support from/Collaboration with Partners
* Conclusion

1. **Title:** Overview of PCN-MSH Collaboration: the journey so far.

**Presenter:** Pharm Ilupeju Thomas Omotayo

Highlights of the presentation include the:

* PCN-MSH collaboration
* Situation analysis on access to medicines in low- and medium-income countries
* Overview of MSH lead Drug Seller Initiatives (DSI) funded by BMGF
* The major programs under the DSI project
* The MSH ADDO Concept
* Objectives of the DSI
* The Tanzania experience
* Success stories
* Overview of LaunchDSI
* Nigeria: Journey so far.

1. **Topic:** Highlights of the Activities of the 3-Phased Project for Improved Patent Medicines Vendors’ Operation (LaunchDSI Project).

**Presenter:** Pharm Ilupeju Thomas Omotayo

The highlights of the presentation include:

* The activities under phase I, II and III of the PCN-LaunchDSI project.
* Target objectives of each activity

1. **Topic:** Report of the Situation Assessment of the Operation of the Patent Medicines Vendors

**Presenter:** Pharm. Ibrahim Babashehu Ahmed

The outline of the presentation includes:

* Background information
  + Profile of Nigeria
  + History of Patent and Proprietary Medicines Vendors (PPMVs) in Nigeria
  + The Place of the PPMVs in the Healthcare Delivery System
* Regulatory Mechanisms
  + Registration and Licensing
  + Orientation Programme and Continuing Education Programme
  + Monitoring and Inspection
  + Activities of PPMV Inspection Committees
  + The PCN PPMVL-Sign Post
* Records of Licensure/Enforcement Activities
* New Strategies to Re-Positioned PPMV Operations in Nigeria
  + New Partnership for Projects Initiatives
  + Review of Approved Patent Medicines List
  + Partnership/Collaboration with Development/Implementing Partners, NGOs and other Agencies
  + Strengthening Regulation of PPMV Operations.

**v. Title:** Presentation on Identified Gaps and Emerging Opportunities in the Operation of the PMVs in Nigeria.

**Presented by:** Pharm. Ologe Viona

The highlights of the presentation include:

* Identified gaps in the operation of PPMVs in Nigeria
* Emerging opportunities identified

1. **Pledge of Commitments and Collaborative support by the DPSs and NAPPMED officials.**

This session was anchored by the Pharm. Y.R Yohanna. The enlistment of commitment and collaborative support was made by each of the DPSs and the NAPPMED officials present. All the participants expressed their appreciation and commended the PCN for initiating this interactive stakeholders meeting and also applauded the PCN-MSH LaunchDSI initiative for the efforts towards repositioning the operations of the PPMV which they strongly believe will better improve the delivery of pharmaceutical services and also positively impact on the health indices of the Nigerian Populace. All participants pledged their commitment and support towards the LaunchDSI project.

**6**. **Key point discussed**

* A suggestion that PCN improve on interactive sessions with key stakeholders with emphasis on the NAPPMED due to the important role they play in the healthcare delivery. It is believed that this would also help in bridging the communication gap and eliminating any perception of bias with often leads to unnecessary court cases.
* Majority of the participants wished for the speedy commencement/implementation of the project and also hoped that appropriate structures would be put in place for its sustainability
* Complaints about multiple taxation as a reason why some vendors refuse or shy away from renewing their annual licenses and mounting the sign post. They hope that PCN would be able to look into the situation and help out in ways possible
* There was call for PCN to standardize the entry qualification of would-be vendors and possibly initiate a dress code to be adopted by all vendors
* PCN should also improve on the enforcement activities and also provide supportive monitoring after the exercise. This they believe will enhance compliance to regulatory activities.

1. **Response by PCN**

Pharm. Ibrahim Babashehu Ahmed responded to most of the issues raised:

* He stated clearly that the current leadership of the PCN places much emphasis on operating an open-door policy which was the spirit behind signing of the MoU. It was also emphasized that PCN strategically made efforts to ensure that NAPPMED leadership at the State level are members of the State PPMVL Committee.
* On the issue of multiple taxation, he advised the State PPMVL Committees to effectively engage the State revenue boards with a view to educating them on the level of service being rendered by the vendors.
* On the suggestion to adopt a dress code for the PPMVs and an entry qualification for would-be vendors, he advised that these amongst other pertinent issues would be discussed and carefully analyzed at the larger stakeholders meeting

8. **Closing remarks**

The representative of the Registrar, Dr. P.U.K. Gar thanked all the participants for the peaceful deliberations and pledge of commitments and supports, He added that PCN is dedicated to effectively deliver on its mandate and would do all within the ambient of its power to provide appropriate solutions to the challenges discussed.

**Closing prayer**

The meeting ended at 03:55pm with a recitation of the second stanza of the National anthem.

The group photograph was taken and all participants had lunch.

Thank You



**Pharm. Ologe Viona**

*Ph (PP)/ Desk officer PCN-LaunchDSI Project*

*22/09/2017*

