
The members of the Ghana Medical Association (GMA), at the 63rd Annual General Conference deliberated on the theme ‘The Menace of our time: Road Traffic Accidents and Galamsey’ and other relevant issues and state the following:

The menace of road traffic accidents

The current menace of road crashes with 11,858 crashes of which there were 2,126 casualties in the first nine (9) months of this year alone is unacceptable. On the average six (6) lives are lost per day in Ghana to road traffic crashes.

Road safety in the country is bedevilled by pre-crash challenges such the general indiscipline of road users, poor road design and construction, exponential increase in motorcycle related crashes and casualties, weak enforcement of road traffic regulations and the absence of a legislative instrument (L. I.) for the NRSA Act, 2019 (Act 993). The post-crash challenges accounting for lives on the roads in Ghana include inadequate trauma care centers in the country and insufficient funding for health facilities to cater for crash victims as well as non-reimbursing of funds spent on crash victims by health facilities.

To curb the current trend of fatalities on the road, the GMA recommends the following:
- Dualization of major highways in Ghana and inter modal transportation
- The conduct of a road safety audit with treatment of hazardous sections
- Provision of rest stops every 80-100km along major highways to manage fatigue.
- Automation of traffic enforcement
- Continuous driver training and training of trainers for motorcycle/tricycle riders
- Regulation of commercial road passenger, haulage, and transport-related services.

We urge all stakeholders in the road safety sector work hard to avert more crashes during the Christmas and New Year festivities.

The menace of galamsey

The degradation of our forest reserves and water bodies by illegal mining activities poses an existential challenge to our present and future generations. While
commending the efforts of stakeholders to stem the tide, we call for increased political will and commitment. Government must ensure an improvement in the Licensing Regime and Resource Allocation in the mining sector.

Job creation through the reclamation of degraded lands and the restoration of polluted water bodies as an alternative source of livelihood for the teeming unemployed youth is imperative in the fight against galamsey. All hands must be on deck to avert the impending catastrophe posed by the activities of galamsey operators.

Institutionalization of Health Impact Assessment

Health Impact Assessment (HIA) serves as a tool to highlight interdependencies between different types of impact assessments (environmental, social and human rights), for the purpose of strengthening collaboration towards health promotion and development.

The GMA calls on Government as a matter of urgency to institute Health Impact Assessment as a requirement in addition to the Environmental Impact assessment conducted prior to the issuance of licenses for mining and related activities. These assessments will inform the preventive health aspects of transportation, mining and all Economic Development projects.

We urge Government to review all existing policies and legislations on impact assessments with the view of incorporating HIA. The GMA stands ready to contribute to HIA through the expertise of our members to ensure the safety of all.

Implementation of conditions of service document

The GMA expresses grave concern over the non-implementation of aspects of its signed conditions of service document. We urge government to pay heed to the National Labour Commission request following engagements with GMA and the employer to forestall any industrial unrest.

Election of new Executives

The General Assembly of the 63rd Annual Conference elected new members of the National Executive Committee to steer the affairs of the Association for the period 2021-2023.

The Executives are:

Dr. Frank Serebour President
Dr. Justice Duffu Yankson Vice President
Dr. Titus Kofi Beyuo General Secretary
Dr. Richard Selormey Assistant General Secretary
Dr. Elizabeth Esi Crentsil Treasurer
Dr. Richard Wodah-Seme Executive Member (Male)
Dr. Selorm Kutsoati Executive Member (Female)
Dr. Frank Ankobea Esq. Immediate Past President

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Dr. Frank Serebour
President

Dr. Titus Beyuo
General Secretary