Government Confirms 3 Officials at the Ministry of Health

Mr. Edward B. Tolbert
MBA, CPA
Deputy Minister for Administration

Prior to his nomination by the President of Liberia, and pending confirmation by the Liberian Senate, Mr. Edward B. Tolbert served as director of Government funds at the General Auditing Commission (GAC), at which time he managed over 15 Au-
doing Finance, Budgeting, Accounting Policy, Reconciliation Audits Readiness and Business Process Improvements.

Dr. Francis N. Kach
MD, MPH, MBA
Deputy Minister for Health Services/Chief Medical Officer R.L.

Profile of newly confirmed Minister of Health and two Deputies

Mr. Edward B. Tolbert, MBA, CPA
Deputy Minister for Administration

Brief Profile
Prior to his nomination by the President of Liberia and pending confirmation by the Liberian Senate as Deputy Minister for Administration at the Ministry of Health (MOH), Mr. Edward B. Tolbert served as director of Government funds at the General Auditing Commission (GAC), at which time he managed over 15 Au-

Partial View of Needowein Community in Margibi County

Phase III Ebola Outbreak: A View from Needowein Community

• The second outbreak of EVD ended on May 9
• A new outbreak was declared on June 29, 2015 after a swab sample of a 17 year old boy tested positive
• A total of six confirmed positive cases were reported
• Four of the cases survived in the ETV (two died the first and last cases).
• The current case fatality rate is 33%
• Over the outbreak, a total of 141 high risk contacts were listed and followed up in Margibi -124 and Montserrat—17
• Three of the contacts became symptomatic (Margibi-2, mont-1)
• List of high risk contacts were securely sent to all ports of entry
• Suspected cases who tested negative from the outbreak and later discharged were followed up for 21 days
• There are no contacts presently under follow up
• Margibi, Mont. And Bong were declared response counties while the other 12 counties were alert counties

14 Health Staff end precautionary observation at Unification Town Clinic

The health workers completed their 21 days observation period when none of them showed symptoms and signs of the Ebola virus Disease. During the period of observation signs and symptoms of the EVD the health workers were provided with food and other psychosocial support.

At a mini ceremony held in Unification Town, Margibi County which was witnessed by a cross section of people including MOH partners, families, friends and the general public. On behalf of the Unification Town Clinic (UTC) staff, the OIC expressed gratitude to government and partners for the level of support and encouragement during their period of observation. She later registered seriously the need for Government to renovate and upgrade the clinic’s triage facility to create shelter for patients awaiting triage route.

A View of Unification Town Clinic in Margibi County

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Dr. Walter Gwenigale Honorably Retired with Distinction

Former Minister of Health, Dr. Walter T. Gwenigale, honorably retired from active duty after providing more than forty two years in the Ministry of Health and dedicated services to Liberia and humanity in the medical field.

Dr. Gwenigale was honored by President Sirleaf during a well-attended Special Program recently at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to recognize his outstanding accomplishments and long service to his country and people. Legislators, Ministers and the Diplomatic Corps, Health Workers, family, friends and well wishes were in full attendance to demonstrate their gratitude and appreciation of his invaluable services to humanity.

Dr. Gwenigale was admitted into the Most Venerable Order of the Pioneers with the Grade of Knight Grand Commander, one of the nation’s highest distinctions, by President Sirleaf who is Grand Master of the Orders of Distinction.

Madam Sirleaf praised Dr. Gwenigale, as a symbolic icon with a commitment and diligence to duty and public service that all must endeavor to emulate in upholding the public trust that has been bestowed upon us as a government.

It can be recall that during the Civil War days, people, some of whom could put his life in danger, trusted and supported the minister to carry out his duties and serve the public. In his statesmanlike persona he has never been swayed from the principles that have always guided his sense of judgment and belonging. Such principles have always been in formed by fairness, hard work, free will, free expression, honesty and bluntness,” she said.

He paid homage to his departed parents and expressed appreciation to his family particularly his wife, Carmen. She raised and educated our children while I served in Liberia and for standing by me when I made those difficult decisions that affected them. Among the audience was Dr. Gwenigale’s eldest son, Walter Jr. and his wife, Carmen. Ogoli. Dr. Gwenigale lauded the Lutheran Church of Liberia for its support in his family’s time of need and expressed gratitude to President Sirleaf for her leadership during the most dangerous time in Liberia’s history.

On behalf of the Cabinet, Foreign Minister Augustine Ngafah, said though they had drunk greatly from the fountain of knowledge of their veteran colleagues, they surely miss his presence during their meetings.

Presenting gifts on behalf of the cabinet was Dr. Dr. Gwenigale as a household farming name as one of the biggest farmers growing a variety of staples not only for sustenance but creating employment opportunities for fellow Liberians who now have profitable livelihoods. You can now go on your farm and drink your palm wine,” the President told her highly appreciated former Health Minister.

In closing, President Sirleaf quoted the late Dr. Gwenigale’s advice to women: “(Dr. Gwenigale) said: “If everybody is thinking alike, then nobody isn’t thinking. It is that which suits your outspokenness,” she concluded.

Community Health Division holds Three days retreat

The Community Health Retreat was conceived by the Community Health Services Division and its partners and was held from May 28-29, 2015 in Gbarnga, Bong County. Over 100 participants from 50 organizations, governmental and non-governmental programs were in attendance, including Ministry of Health (MOH) departments and County Health Team representatives, UN agencies, bilateral and donor agencies, local NGOs, and international NGOs.

The retreat provided an open forum for robust discussion among diverse partners via key government and partner presentations, working group sessions. Ultimately, retreat participants achieved consensus on key issues and made recommendations regarding a national community health workforce program and other relevant policies and plans for the Ministry’s consideration. By engaging stakeholders throughout the policy and program planning processes, the retreat enabled Liberia to envision and plan for a stronger community health program. Via this participatory process, before and during the retreat, the Community Health Road Map was updated to reflect MOH’s health system restoration priorities. The update includes a six-month Action Plan focused on revising the existing Community Health Services Strategy and Plan by the end of 2015 and preparing for the launch of the national community health workforce program in January 2016.

The retreat was successfully implemented with generous contributions from Last Mile Health and International Rescue Committee (IRC) and the PACS project as well as the support of the Liberia Ministry of Health.