

Minutes of the Meeting

As usual, the 20th PRCM was held on 10th March, 15.30 Hours in the Hon'ble Lyonpo's Chamber.

Agenda 1 - Opening Remarks:

1. In his opening remarks, after welcoming the members, the Hon'ble Chair presented a brief update related to the recent tour undertaken in the Central and Eastern Dzongkhags. He made the floor aware that the tour went well and was a good learning experience.
2. In line with this, the Hon'ble Chair directed that the Headquarter Officials should go for tour (various dzongkhags) time to time, which apart from strengthening monitoring and evaluation in general will personally learn and gain more insight related to the ground realities/situations.

Agenda 2 – Bachelors of Public Health (BPH) Status

A brief up-date related to the BPH Status was presented, which are as follows:

1. It was pointed out that the BPH Programme in RIHS will be officially launched on 13th of April 2010, and preparation to invite dignitaries from outside is underway.
2. The house was appraised that the selection of candidates for BPH has been carried out. However, it was pointed out that 26 candidates has to be selected (unlike the agreed 25 candidates), since the marks of the 25th and 26th candidates were equal.
3. It was reported that the BPH curriculum has been finalized and the fine tuning of the program of study is being carried out in Paro (9th – 12th march).
4. The issue, related to the stipend for the BPH candidates was also discussed. It was discussed that based on the policy of RCSC, Nu. 8000 per months has to be paid to the candidates along with their regular salary. However, some of the members felt that subject of sustainability has to be taken into consideration as the BPH candidates will be getting their own salaries. To this, the Hon'ble Chair clarified that the RCSC has indicated that Nu.8000 + Salary has be taken into consideration to encourage all government employees to undergo further training/studies inside Bhutan (In-Country Training).

Agenda 3 – Update on the 16th SAARC Summit

1. It was informed that during the upcoming SAARC Summit scheduled from 24th of April, the MoH has been assigned 2 major tasks:
 - 1.a Provide Emergency Medical Services (EMS)
 - 1.b Protocol Duty for Maldives and Myanmar Delegates.

2. The DMS and PPD presented the update related to EMS and Protocol respectively.
3. After the presentation, the Hon'ble Chair instructed that instead of calling most of the Doctors from the field (avoid disruption of services), some of the services of the Doctors from the Ministry (Dr. Gembo & Dr. Lungten) can be utilized. – DMS

Agenda 4 & 10 – Issues related to Gelephu Regional Referral Hospital:

1. It was felt that the Ministry has to identify one senior medical officer as the Superintendent of GRRH. However, while deliberating, it was justified that among the pool of doctors, most does not qualify due to grade or experience and the only option was to identify one of the specialist as the Medical Superintendent (MS) of GRRH.
2. In line with this, the Hon'ble Chair voiced concern related to the functioning of GRRH. The Chair stated that due to lack of a capable leader (Superintendent), all the staff right from the specialists to technicians are not forthcoming and even the working atmosphere /culture is not good. Thus, the Chair once again reiterated the need to depute one medical officer as the Superintendent at the earliest.
3. Based on the concerns raised by the Hon'ble Chair, the house felt that there is a need to identify a senior medical officer as the Superintendent. The following issues were deliberated and recommended.
4. It was discussed that as an interim measure till the incumbent superintendent who has gone for masters programme (Dr. Lobzang) comes back (July 2010), either Dr. Gembo, NCD PO or Dr. Garjaman Rai can be identified as the MS for GRRH.
5. However, based on the directives of the Chair, it was agreed that a MS for GRRH will be identified during the Human Resource Committee (HRC) Meeting and submit the proposed name to the Chair for final approval. – HRD/HRC

Agenda 5 – Issues related to Tala BHU

1. It was appraised that Aerekha BHU had requested DMS to provide medicines and other medical equipments to man the BHU. However, it was found out that the BHU was run by Tala Hydro Management. Thus, till the Tala Management does not hand over the BHU to MoH, nothing can be initiated or done. – DMS
2. The Hon'ble Chair directed the DMS to write a note-sheet (proposal) through the Secretary to come to a certain consensus related the request made by the BHU. – DMS

Agenda 6 – Appraisal of Annual Dzongdags' Conference 2010

The Hon'ble Chair was updated on the issues raised by the Dzongdags during the Annual Dzongdags' Conference 2010.

1. It was informed that the major issues raised during the Dzongdags' Conference were related to RWSS, the new BHU designs and HRD which will be further reviewed and followed up by respective divisions. – DoPH/DMS/HRD
2. Apart from that, the house agreed with the Hon'ble Chair that there is a need to strengthen the District Health Services (DHS) and resolve the issue related to the problem between DMO and DHO (related to administration) by DMS at the earliest and submit a status to the Hon'ble Chair. – DMS

Agenda 7 – Update on BIMS

1. It was brought to the notice of the floor that the 5th core technical committee meeting was conducted to discuss and draw timeline for implementation of activities as mentioned in the Memorandum of Understanding.
2. It was stated that the following issues were discussed during the 5th core technical committee meeting:
 - a. Education Process
 - b. Bill of Bhutan Institute of Medical Sciences
 - c. Organogram
 - d. Human Resource
 - e. Condition of Services
3. Further, the house was updated on the following issues:
 - a. Presentation of BIMS Bill – 19th Feb' 2010
 - b. Revision of the Draft Bill – 24th Feb' 2010 (at Paro)
 - c. Project Implementation Authority (PIA) Meeting
 - d. Additional land
 - e. Staffing of PIU
 - f. Laying of foundation stone

Agenda 8 – Annual Health Conference (AHC) – 2010

1. Initially, it was proposed that the AHC 2010 will be held in the month of May 2010 at Mongar. Hence, the subject of AHC – 2010 was brought up to receive directives from the house i.e. when to conduct the AHC?

2. The House along with the Hon'ble Chair directed that due to tight schedule, the AHC 2010 be postponed and conduct either in October or November 2010. However, the house pointed out that the Annual Clinicians' Conference can be conducted within this fiscal year. – PPD/JDWRH
3. Before the adjournment of the 20th PRCM, the Hon'ble Chair once again reiterated the importance of team work, if the MoH is to provide quality health care. The Hon'ble Chair also directed the need and importance to provide guidance to the aspiring young officers by the unit/division/department heads.
4. Finally, the Hon'ble Chair extended his appreciation to the house for the updates provided along with active participation.

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