

Message to our staff members for 2019

Firstly, I would like to convey my sincere token of appreciation to all of you serving our population residing in all states and regions, far and near, urban and rural, easy to reach as well as hard to reach areas. You have done great jobs in spite of the fact that not all working conditions are fully favorable. We have distributed all the resources that we have for carrying out health care activities with the sole aim of improving the health status of the population, irrespective of the creed, race, religion, social status, and residence of stay. We will try our level best to get more budgetary resources from the government in 2019-2020 financial year, which is starting soon. After all, we need to stand on our own feet. External resources will come and go and it is unpredictable. Incoming resources will depend on several factors and some or many are beyond our control.

We need to do more out-of-the-box thinking, field innovative approaches, also look forward and above the horizon and consider challenges as opportunities. We should discern issues from positive perspectives with a compromising attitude. To the extent possible, we will not do business as usual in the coming two years.

We have made several changes and improvements in our health care delivery system during the first three years of this government as per the demand of the evolving situations. This is very much in line with one of the basic principles of public health, i.e., change or modify the strategy or our mode of work as per the changing epidemiological situation.

I would like to give an analogy of the railway system to that of our health system. We have put in place many things on track during the first three years and now we need to move ahead with confidence like an engine of the train, moving on the path that we have created. We can stop or slow down the train whenever there is a need. In addition, we may do some slight track changes and we can even put additional tracks, if need be.

We are successful to a certain extent in overcoming the challenges, both expected and unexpected. Senior management is generally satisfied with the works of our staff given the fact that we have limited resources in terms of budget, human resource for health, working environment, existing capacity and capability of our staff and increasing demand from the population at large.

As the head of the Ministry of Health and Sports, I would like to put on record my sincere appreciation to all my staff members starting from the lowest to the highest level of the echelon. This is particularly more so because you have shown your devotion or commitment to your work in spite of the fact that we could not be able to give all the demand that you have put forward.

We will continue to work more cohesively, proactively, respecting, teaming, helping and cooperating each other more so than before. We will also inculcate the spirit of compromise whenever there is a contentious issue on any health and health related activities in the context of general, medical, research, public health, nursing and midwifery ethics, etc.

In the coming two years we will do more, among others, on

- (1) monitoring our activities using check lists,
- (2) evaluating our projects and programs as and when required,
- (3) working more closely and systematically with INGOs, NGOs, CBOs, EHOs, like-minded organizations, development partners and UN agencies,
- (4) allocating and spending our available health budget more wisely and judiciously – including procurement of supplies and equipment,

- (5) conducting more implementation research,
- (6) doing joint capacity building activities electronically (with Myanmar Medical Association) starting the latter part of 2019 through the use of tablets already distributed to basic health services staff and medical doctors,
- (7) making the best and optimum use of our tablets on many perspectives – data transmission using DHIS II, monitoring medicine availability at health institutions, conducting survey research on many aspects,
- (8) implementing program activities by way of cross referencing the strategies of various programs already formulated,
- (9) upgrading and fine tuning financial management of departments under our ministry,
- (10) enhancing the quality of medical services rendered at various health institutions as well as improving clinical and surgical acumen of our doctors working in various health institutions,
- (11) improving data availability and data management system in the field of public health and hospital information system – including cancer registry
- (12) conducting less number of meetings and making every meeting effective and finishing in a shortest possible period of time and resulting in an effective, output or outcome oriented meeting,
- (13) developing and establishing electronic in-house memo transmission system,
- (14) making our supply chain management system simple yet responsive and dynamic,
- (15) concentrating and prioritizing more on reducing the burden of non-communicable diseases,
- (16) promoting nutrition status of children as a priority area of work by way of proactively collaborating with relevant ministries,
- (17) making our health and hospital information system dynamic, responsive, and compact yet comprehensive,
- (18) continuing the slogan “Year of Housing” and “Year of Information”,
- (19) continuing vigorously the activities of our NHP 2017-2021 in a systematic manner,
- (20) producing specialist doctors, nurses and para medical professionals as per the specific requirement of respective disciplines, and last but not the least,
- (21) seriously pursuing the theme “Exercise is Medicine” with objective of achieving “Healthy Myanmar”.
We will further heighten the momentum of our school health and health literacy promotion activities applying various modus operandi.

One crucial aspect is that each unit or section or division or department in the Ministry of Health and Sports should review its own work and output with reference to respective set objectives or goals. Are we achieving as per the intended direction? If each entity is going in that direction, there is no way that we cannot be successful. As time left for this government is only two years, we need to step up or increase our momentum of work and also carry out our duties systematically. We should also not lose sight of efficient utilization of resources while at the same time reducing the wastage to the minimum.

I am looking forward to have a compact, sustainable and efficient health care delivery system covering both public health and clinical domain so that we can serve our population effectively and efficiently. Let us work together as a closely knitted team. We will not forget our population living in remote and hard-to-reach areas. Let us also follow the notion of “United we stand” and “Divided we fall” and “Helping each other is the best approach to achieve our ultimate objectives of the Ministry of Health and Sports in no time”. Combined action is synergistic and progressive and progress can be observed exponentially and geometrically rather than arithmetically.

Dr Myint Htwe
Union Minister for Health and Sports