



LIHEDE • 2285 Rothwood Acres Drive Greensboro, NC 37406 • phone: (336) 456-8075 • fax: (336) 334-7433 • web: WWW.LIHEDE.ORG

Rampant Selling Of Fake Drugs On The Liberian Market?

Greensboro, NC: 9/4/2006: In response to growing concern about the rampant selling of fake drugs on the Liberian market, health practitioners, county officials and representatives of health institutions are expected to participate in a workshop on Wednesday, September 6, in Monrovia to address the problem under the theme: "Fake Pharmaceutical Drugs on the Liberian market: the impact on the delivery of quality health in Liberia."

The workshop is being organized by the Liberian History, Education and Development, Inc. (LIHEDE) in collaboration with the National Malaria Control program and the Pharmacy Division of the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare.

Dr. Syrulwa Somah, Executive Director of LIHEDE, and Lt. J. Kessel Tarley, MS, RN, Military/Health Consultant of LIHEDE, are already in Liberia to assist in facilitating the workshop. The two officials left the United States last week and arrived in the country over the weekend.

According to a Memorandum issued by the organizers of the workshop, each county is expected to be represented by a representative from the health sector of the counties. Among health institutions expected to be in attendance are St. Joseph Catholic Hospital, ELWA Hospital, Redemption Hospital, S.D. A. Hospital, Phebe Hospital and Firestone Hospital. Teaching Institutions invited to participate are A. M. Dogloitti College of Medicine, School of Pharmacy, Tubman National Institute of Medical Arts (TNIMA), Mother Pattern College of Health Sciences and Synthe Institute of Health Sciences.

The registered pharmacies listed as participants are Charif Pharmacy, Abeer Pharmacy, B-Kay Pharmacy, NATCO Pharmacy, Shree Pharmacy and Lucky Development Pharmacy. Recognized Pharmacists invited to share their

experiences about the fake drugs situation in the country during the workshop are Joseph N. Jimmy, Rev. Tijle T. Tyee, Sr. Duredoh F. George, Beyan Johnson, Jah C. Weah, J. Nyenkan Cisco and David Mulbah.

It is anticipated that at the end of the workshop, the participants will develop a concept paper and recommend to the Government plans to address the issue of fake drugs to protect the health of the consuming public and the Liberian people.

In a related development, the LIHEDE officials in Monrovia are expected to join officials of the Ministry of Health & Social Welfare, LIHEDE-Monrovia-based Planning Committee, representatives of the World Health Organization (WHO) and other concerned parties for a one-day Consultative Meeting to review the status of the planning process of the National Health Conference slated to be held on December 14- 19, 2006.

The Meeting, which will be held in Monrovia, will review the issues of logistics and other resources, covering finance, accommodation, transportation, media coverage, venue and participants as well as the agenda for the Conference.

The LIHEDE officials, following the end of the Meeting, will later hold follow-up discussions with selected government officials, civic groups, school officials and Liberian artists to strengthen the collaborative relationships between these groups and LIHEDE and further cement their participation in the Conference.

Plans are also being made for the LIHEDE boss to pay a courtesy call on the Liberian President, Madam Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, and express LIHEDE's regrets for the recent fire incident at the Executive Mansion and discuss further on the pending National Health Conference. Besides the official contacts, Dr. Somah is expected to deliver a speech at program to be organized by the Liberian Women Initiative (LWI), the LIHEDE delegation will also engage the Liberian public through series of radio talk shows to continue to create awareness for the National Health Conference and the effects of malaria on the socio-economic activities of the country.

The delegation is expected to return to the United States in a reasonable time frame to participate in the pending Pre-Malaria Conference Rally scheduled to be held on the campus of the NC A& T State University in Greensboro, NC on September 30, 2006 and being organized by LIHEDE.

All members and officials of LIHEDE, Liberians and friends of Liberia are being encouraged to come to Greensboro to participate in the Rally as a show of their support for the eradication of malaria and for the National Health Conference in Liberia under the slogan: "We Want No More Malaria in Liberia."

Signed:

Togba Slewion
Director of Publications-LIHEDE