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**BOX GP 2133
BAATSONA
ACCRA**

28th May, 2025

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

URGENT APPEAL FOR FINANCIAL CLEARANCE TO ENGAGE PHARMACIST HOUSE OFFICERS AMIDST IMPENDING HEALTHCARE CRISIS

The Government and Hospital Pharmacists Association (GHOSPA) a practice group of the Pharmaceutical Society of Ghana (PSGH) issues an urgent appeal to the Government of Ghana, particularly the Ministry of Finance, to immediately grant financial clearance for the posting of 599 pharmacist house officers whose deployment has been delayed. This comes at a critical time when 333 pharmacist house officers are completing their tenure at the end of this month, threatening to create a dangerous vacuum in pharmaceutical care delivery across Ghana's healthcare facilities.

This is at the back of a worrying development where, there has not been permanent recruitment of pharmacists for the past five years into the Ghana Health Service and its allied Agencies.

Impending Crisis in Pharmaceutical Care

Pharmacist house officers play an indispensable role in ensuring the safe and effective use of medicines, patient counseling, clinical pharmacy services, and medication management in hospitals. The simultaneous exit of 333 house officers—without immediate replacement—will:

- Overwhelm remaining pharmacists who are already understaffed, leading to medication errors, delayed treatments, and compromised patient safety.
- Disrupt essential clinical 24-hour pharmaceutical services, including antimicrobial stewardship, chronic disease management, and emergency care.
- Further strain an already overburdened health system, worsening healthcare outcomes nationwide.

A Call for Immediate Action

The 599 qualified pharmacist house officers awaiting posting have completed their training and are ready to fill these critical roles. However, their deployment is unjustifiably stalled due to pending financial clearance. GHOSPA strongly demands that the Ministry of Finance:

1. Expedite and grant financial clearance IMMEDIATELY to prevent a collapse in pharmaceutical services.
2. Prioritize healthcare workforce sustainability by ensuring seamless transitions between outgoing and incoming house officers.
3. Engage with the Ministry of Health, Pharmacy Council, and GHOSPA to resolve this and future delays proactively.

The Consequences of Inaction Are Dire

Any further delay will:

- Endanger patient lives due to avoidable medication-related harm.
- Increase workload and burnout for already stretched pharmacists.
- Undermine Ghana's healthcare system, eroding public trust and worsening health outcomes.

GHOSPA wishes to remind the government that pharmacists are not just dispensers of medicines but critical healthcare providers whose absence will cripple hospital operations. We cannot afford bureaucratic delays when lives are at stake. By granting clearance, government will safeguard the continuity of high-quality pharmaceutical services and affirm its commitment to the health and well-being of all Ghanaian citizens.

Conclusion

GHOSPA calls on the Ministry of Finance to act NOW to avert this looming crisis. We also urge the media, civil society, and the public to join us in demanding urgent resolution to this pressing issue.



Dr. Emmanuel Owusu Owiafe
(National Chairman)



Frederick Yiadom Darfour
(General Secretary)

For media inquiries, contact:

National Chairman (0245434262)

General Secretary (0244562527)