

Govt Releases GH¢2m For Kidney Patients

BY Vincent Kubi

CHIEF EXECUTIVE Officer of the National Health Insurance Authority (NHIA), Dr. Dacosta Aboagye, has announced that the government will soon disburse GH¢2 million to assist in providing dialysis treatment for the needy.

This move comes after an appeal by kidney patients for government intervention, following an increment in the cost of dialysis at the Korle Bu Teaching Hospital.

The funds, which were approved by Parliament in March 2024, are intended to provide relief to those in need of dialysis treatment.

The Korle Bu Teaching Hospital had recently increased the cost of dialysis from GH¢380 to GH¢491, a move that has been deemed illegal by some members of Parliament's Select Committee on Health.

Dr. Aboagye expressed optimism about the disbursement, stating, "We have made progress on dialysis. The committee that was set up to implement the disbursement has concluded its report and I can say that within the next few weeks, we will begin the disbursement to the various hospitals."

He further clarified that the approved funds are specifically for the needy, and will be used to supplement

the costs of dialysis treatment at Korle Bu, Komfo Anokye, and the Cape Coast hospitals.

In March, Parliament approved GH¢6.87 billion for the NHIA to cover health insurance claims and other activities for the year.

This allocation also included, for the first time, emergency support for needy dialysis patients.

Dr. Aboagye revealed that a committee has been set up to evaluate the actuarial model of absorbing dialysis on the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) and provide recommendations.

The committee has already submitted its report, and enhanced funding for dialysis will be made available once the recommendations are implemented.

The disbursement of the GH¢2 million is anticipated to bring some respite to the needy and ensure better access to essential healthcare services.

No Politics

Dr. Dacosta Aboagye has dismissed allegations that the Authority's planned support of over GH¢2 million for renal patients requiring dialysis is politically motivated.

In an interview with Citi FM on Tuesday, he clarified that the funds had been allocated by Parliament to



Dr. Dacosta Aboagye

aid needy patients, and were not intended for propaganda purposes.

He further stated that the Authority had no interest in participating in partisan politics, but was dedicated to the welfare of all.

"...What I will say is that I am not interested in engaging in any partisan politics on this. Because at the end of the day if it is my sister or my brother or my younger friend who is suffering from this and I am in a position to help, I will not think politics.

"This is a problem we have in this country...for me, Parliament actually asked me to support the needy by the amount of money I have, so I am just looking to disburse the money without any political lens to this," he stated.