

Nationwide primary healthcare programme rollout March

• President Mahama announces



By Joshua Bediako Koomson

PRESIDENT John Dramani Mahama has announced that the government will roll out a nationwide free primary healthcare programme this year, aimed at early detection and prevention of non-communicable diseases through community-based health screenings.

Under the programme, he said trained community coordinators would go from house to house to conduct basic medical checks, including blood pressure and blood sugar tests, to help identify people at risk and refer them for timely treatment.

"The initiative will be supported by the availability of affordable generic medicines at community pharmacies so that people can begin early treatment to

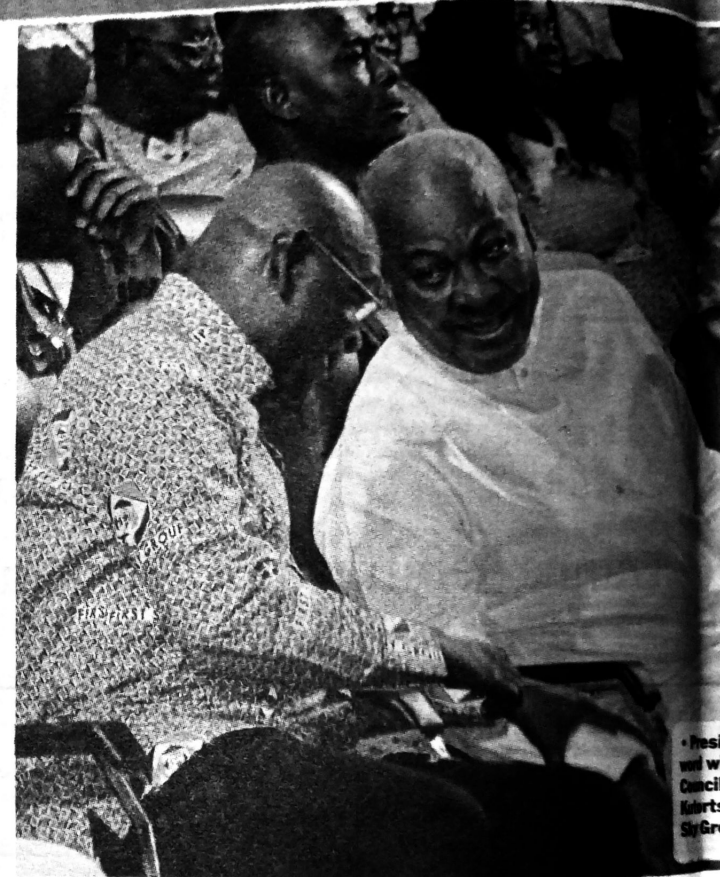
prevent complications," the President said.

President Mahama made the announcement in Accra yesterday at the 23rd anniversary thanksgiving service of the First Sky Group.

The event which was on the theme, "Proclaim the Mighty Deeds of the Lord," brought together senior clergymen, including the Founder of Action Chapel International, Archbishop Nicholas Duncan-Williams; Founder and Apostle General of Royalhouse Chapel International, Rev. Sam Korankye Ankrab; the General Superintendent of Assemblies of God, Ghana, Reverend Stephen Wingham, as well as senior pastors of Assemblies of God.

Non-communicable diseases

President Mahama expressed concern about the growing incidence of non-



• President Mahama will visit various parts of the country to promote the rollout of the primary healthcare programme.

communicable diseases such as hypertension, kidney failure, stroke and cancers.

He attributed the trend partly to changing lifestyles, reduced physical activity and unhealthy dietary habits, stressing that many Ghanaians only sought medical attention when their conditions had worsened.

"One of the major causes of kidney failure is hypertension, and many people have never even checked their blood pressure. Continuous high blood pressure eventually destroys the kidneys, which is why early detection is critical," he said.

President Mahama mentioned that treatment for such conditions was often expensive and could impoverish even well-to-do families, making government

and private sector support critical.

He revealed that the 2025 Budget had allocated GHe2.1 billion to the Mahama Care programme, which would focus on supporting patients suffering from non-communicable diseases, including stroke, kidney disease and various forms of cancer.

The President, therefore, commended the First Sky Group for its philanthropic interventions, particularly its support for kidney dialysis and transplants, and urged other organisations to emulate the company's example.

The economy

Touching on the economy, President Mahama attributed the country's recent