St. Dominic Today
9th Edition

A quarterly bulletin from
St. Dominic Hospital, Akwatia



St. Dominic Hospital Attains NHIA Secondary Facility Status

In this edition:

Time with the Hospital Administrator -
Rev. Fr. Ebenezer Kenneth Abban, PhD

2022 at St Dominic Hospital,
A year under review

St.Dominic Hospital
is SafeCare
Level 4 Certified

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EDITORIAL

Hurray, 2023 is here!
This is thus far the Lord had brought us.
We are grateful to God for his mercies.
Welcome to the 9th edition of St Dominic Today.

The end of 2022 was packed with various exciting activities such as the carols night and the end of year Christmas party. This edition brings you highlights from these activities. An exclusive interview with the Hospital administrator Rev. Fr. Ebenezer Kenneth Abban, PhD was conducted. Check out his responses here. Did you know that St. Dominic Hospital is now an National Health Insurance Scheme(NHIS) accredited Secondary Care facility and has also attained SafeCare Level 4 certification? Find out more about this in this bulletin.

Other articles captured here include a special collaboration between St. Dominic Hospital and Medtronic Labs to celebrate the World Diabetes Day as well as a review of the year 2022. The St. Dominic Basic School is not left out. Various achievements attained by the school which include winners of the 2022 STEM quiz as well as the most improved school in Eastern Region have been highlighted here. The newly introduced Pupils' Representative Week (PRC)celebration has also been captured.

This will make an exciting read. On behalf of the Editorial Team, I wish you a happy and prosperous New Year!

Dr. Foster Osei-Poku
(Editor-in-Chief)

A MESSAGE FROM THE HOSPITAL MANAGEMENT TEAM

"What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits toward me?..." **(Psalm 116:12-14 NKJV)**. Indeed, the Lord has been kind to St. Dominic Hospital (SDH). This is acknowledged, and we are sincerely grateful.

During the quarter under review, a lot has happened. The NHIS granted the Credentialing of SDH as a Secondary Level Hospital effective 1st December, 2022. Also, after assessment by SafeCare in September, 2022, SDH was marked 70%, the result of which is SafeCare Level 4 healthcare facility. The Intensive Care Unit of the Hospital was fully equipped in October of 2022. To conclude the year, an End of Year Dinner and Awards Night was held on 30th December, 2022.

Having achieved such a milestone, Management is deeply grateful to the general staff population for their sense of commitment to duty and every effort contributed towards the achievement of such huge success - the fourth in the CHAG Network after Holy Family Hospital, Techiman, Holy Family Hospital, Berekum, and Presbyterian Hospital, Agogo.

At the unveiling ceremony to officially announce the achievement of this feat to the public, one thing stood out as stellar. That, a lot more lies ahead than has been achieved. Therefore, every staff was called upon to continue to learn on the job, even as diligence at post and team work became the enviable core madate for all. Each staff must bring on board their expertise.

May the year 2023 and beyond be a blessing unto all stakeholders and their families.

Rev. Fr. Ebenezer Kenneth Abban, PhD
(Hospital Administrator)

CEREMONY TO COMMEMORATE OFFICIAL UNVEILING OF NHIA SECONDARY LEVEL STATUS

by Emmanuel Dogre



St. Dominic Hospital, Akwatia, has always endeavoured to provide quality care to patients who visit the hospital. The results of consistent hard work, dedication, and growth in quality healthcare delivery were realized with St. Dominic Hospital, being credentialed as a Secondary Level Hospital by the National Health Insurance Authority. This status took effect from December 01, 2022.

An official unveiling ceremony was held at the forecourt of the OPD on December 20, 2022 to commemorate such feat. The ceremony was graced by numerous high profile persons which included the Catholic Bishop of Koforidua, District Chief Executive of Denkyembour District, Executive Director of Christian Health Association of Ghana, Director of National Catholic Health Service, Chiefs of Akwatia and Boadua, District Director of Health Services, District Director of NHIS, Management Team members and staff of the Hospital.

Management and staff of the Hospital were entreated not to rest on this achievement, but to continue work harder in order to sustain the current feat and progress thereafter.



Dignitaries at unveiling ceremony

St. Dominic Hospital Attains Safecare Level 4 Certification

by Evelyn Amoako

St. Dominic Hospital has attained a SafeCare Level 4 certification in the latest advanced assessment conducted in the hospital as part of the SafeCare Quality Improvement Programme by Pharmaccess Foundation in partnership with the Christian Health Association of Ghana (CHAG) for all CHAG facilities. This is an improvement on the SafeCare Level 3 attained in the baseline assessment conducted in 2020. St. Dominic Hospital remains committed to improving quality metrics and providing the best care to patients who visit the facility.

The SafeCare Programme uses internationally recognized standards to conduct quality assessment of healthcare facilities and supports them to improve through capacity building, use of innovative approaches and digital solutions. It is the belief of the programme that health care facilities irrespective of wherever they are located can be inspired, empowered and supported to provide quality care. The SafeCare quality standards contain thirteen (13) service elements and evaluates all aspects of the healthcare facility (both clinical and non-clinical). The SafeCare standards are accredited by the International Society for Quality in Health Care External Evaluation Association (ISQuaEEA).

TIME WITH THE HOSPITAL ADMINISTRATOR - REV. FR. EBENEZER KENNETH ABBAN, PhD

by Vida Eshun.

Rev. Fr. Ebenezer Kenneth Abban PhD has been the hospital administrator at St. Dominic Hospital since September 2017. His ternure has witnessed a lot of infrastractural development in the hospital. He recently received his PhD from the Texila American University. The Editorial Team caught up with him for an exciting interview. The abstract of one of his published articles in a peer-reviewed international journal is captured at the end of the interview. The full write-up can be found in the link attached.



Rev. Fr. Ebenezer Kenneth Abban, PhD

Fr, what inspired you to become a Hospital Administrator?

My inspiration was rather to become a priest. Becoming a Hospital Administrator was in obedience to a call by my Bishop, Bishop Joseph Afrifa-Agyekum who asked me to study Health Service Administration to take up when the Dominican sisters leave. I went to the United State to study but remained there until he called again in 2016 to come home and start work at the St. Dominic Hospital.

You recently obtained your PhD which most of the staff are proud of. Can you tell us about your academic journey?

As a priest, I had graduated with a first degree in Philosophy and a Master's in Theology according to the World Education Services (WES), New York evaluation of my transcripts. In the US, I was required to study some prerequisite courses in the sciences before going ahead with the MSc in Health Care Administration. I excelled in these so much that I was given the opportunity to combine an MBA with the MSc at the St. Joseph University in New York. I immediately wanted to continue with my PhD, but my Bishop needed me to come home. He agreed to still allow me to pursue my PhD along the way. I was fortunate to have the opportunity to study for my PhD while working full time at the Texila American University. I went to the US during the summer holidays to do the course work. I would have submitted my thesis in 2021 to complete the programme but unfortunately, I lost my dear friend Rev. Fr. Owusu Frimpong which was so devasting I had to ask for an extension and to the glory of God I have now completed successfully. I dedicate my PhD thesis to the memory of my dear friend Rev. Fr. Owusu Frimpong and that of my senior brother Mr Richard Abban who died in 2020. It's a PhD in Health Service Administration and I am excited to have been able to do it while working full time.

How has working here at St. Dominic Hospital been?

As a priest, I have grown up with the concept of hard work, that no condition is permanent, and everything is possible. While I give credit to my predecessors, I must admit that there was a lot of work to be done. I thank God for blessing me with very supportive management team members and professionals. It's been quite challenging but at the same time very rewarding. Together we can sing the Gloria to the honour of God for how far he has brought us over these past 5 years.

How are you able to combine being a priest with the Koforidua Diocese of the Catholic Church and at the same time the hospital administrator of this big hospital so fluidly?

Really, it's been challenging. I call it bitter-sweet. Although I had played a role as chaplain to a hospital in the past, this was a totally new area for me. Due to the daunting nature of the work, the Bishop decided to relieve me of all pastoral commitments. However, I am supposed to minister to the people every Sunday. I have mass at the convent every morning. One thing which has helped me is "planning' and 'commitment to the work'. Sometimes my priestly character comes in when I need to make certain tough decisions, which gets troubling because obviously any decision I take on any staff affects their families as well. But thank God I always take those decisions with full recourse to the law over these past 5 years.

What are your future plans for the hospital?

The next immediate plan is to complete the Physician Assistant School to train more PAs for the country. The school will be purely private and staff who qualify can take on a second job-teaching to earn extra income. By 2024, we should have completed it. We also intend to engage more specialists across the different fields i.e., doctors, biomedical scientists, nurses etc. to render varied services to match the current status of the hospital.

What are some of the challenges you face in your line of work?

The greatest challenge is marrying my priestly role with being an Administrator. It gets difficult especially if I must call people to my office to talk to them the hard way. My primary focus is to be a priest. Being an Administrator met me on the way. I will like my employees to see me first as a priest. It's disturbing when I lay in my bed to reflect on the day, and I think of instances where I feel I did not show Christ enough to certain staff. On the other hand, I cannot also look on for things to go wayward. Sometimes I even cry. However, there is a lot of fulfillments although it cannot be compared to that of being a full time pastor of souls.

There has been so much improvement since you became the Hospital Administrator. E.g., Infrastructural, external assessments such as SDH being at SafeCare level 4, Secondary level status by NHIA. What motivates you to achieve so much?

Thankfully I have a committed team that believe in my leadership who support me with their professional knowledge. One thing I have done is to review all files I met in office to know the mind of my predecessors. Through this I got to know achieving the secondary status by NHIS was already preconceived. Through this I even found a huge sum of money that been invested by the founding sisters in 1980 that my predecessors probably did not know about. This was the money I used to buy the two brand new pickups when I assumed office, and everybody wondered where I got the money. I also set up a team that developed a ten-year strategic plan which is guiding our decisions and thankfully we have even overachieved what should have been attained by now.

Congratulations to you, the Hospital Management Team, and the staff for working to achieve the secondary level status by the NHIA. What does this mean to the hospital?

It means a lot. Our clients will enjoy improved quality services. At the primary level, we could not render certain services that could be paid for by NHIA although we had the specialists to do that. They are now at liberty to prescribe and render services within the secondary level. It also means our rates from NHIA will increase. This gives me joy because I can have more money to increase the allowances of my staff.

What do you do to unwind from the obvious stress of being a hospital administrator?

I read a lot. All kinds of materials. I don't watch TV much, but I watch football sometimes. I also occasionally watch wrestling which gets me shouting in my room when opponents are being hit on the floor. I also like to exercise. I jog a lot from the hospital to staff village but had to stop on security advice. I also like to laugh a lot. What stresses me is the inability of some staff to get close to me. Hence, I try to smile and laugh a lot with the few who manage to draw close. I support Liverpool Football Club.

You inspire a lot of people. Any message for those who look up to you?

Before I went to the US, my Bishop encouraged me to maintain my habits of consistency and determination. Every young person should be determined to become somebody. Dream big; for your dream to even scare you. You haven't experienced it until you work for it. If you want to be perfect, you will never experience it. If you haven't experienced it, you don't know anything, but determination and consistency will bring you there. Certainly, keep praying every step of the way. Commit your dreams to God. If you are a Catholic, add the Holy Rosary. My life has been on the line, but God has delivered me every single time. Also, I will never the sacrifice the interest of staff into building bricks and mortar. But we need to build those into getting more revenue. Don't cheat the system so that we can all share what we gain. I want to bless each staff and members of the management team. God bless you all.

IMPACT OF LENGTH OF STAY ON BOTH FINANCIAL HEALTH AND MEDICAL OUTCOMES OF MISSION HOSPITALS IN RURAL GHANA

by **Rev. Fr.** Ebenezer Kenneth Abban, Ph.D

Abstract

One of the major key clinical indicators of hospital performance is length of stay (LOS). This denominator is calculated in averages. The role of this measure could be dual (as medical outcome or financial health indicator). Regardless, it can also be observed as either positive or negative variable depending on how it is measured. By this study, LOS was assessed on both counts: as a measure of financial health and also as medical outcome of hospital. The investigator concludes, after thorough evaluation of available data, from both structured interviews and responses to a set of questions in a survey, that truly length of stay impacts positively on medical outcomes and also could be a measure of the financial healthiness of hospital.

Continue reading.....

2022 AT ST DOMINIC HOSPITAL, A YEAR UNDER

by Richard Ahorlu Kwame

It's a wrap for the year 2022 and for St. Dominic, 2022 has been a remarkable year marked by many notable accomplishments, a few downsides and a renewed pledge to improve the quality of health care we provide to our clients. In this column, we take a look back and highlight some key activities in 2022.

Leader's Retreat

The year began with what has become a tradition and part of the Hospital's Culture – Leaders' Retreat. A total of 72 departmental and unit heads met at the Koforidua Diocesan Pastoral and Training Centre to deliberate to the theme: BUILDING RELIABLE TEAMS; TRANSFORMING WORK CULTURE TO ACHIEVE GOALS. After the retreat, a Programme of Work was developed to guide the Hospital's activities in 2022.

Appointment of Clinical Supervisor

As part of efforts to strengthen supervision on the job, Management appointed a seasoned public health graduate, as "Clinical Supervisor", to complement the efforts of ward in-charges.

Mortuary Expansion

The hospital mortuary was expanded and rebranded increasing its capacity from 150 to 384. The Mortuary has been modernized with an in-built 2.0 horse-power refrigeration system. It has also been expanded to have a VIP and a VVIP suite. The mortuary is now known as "Bells of Farewell".

Optical Coherence Tomography at the Eye Clinic

An Optical Coherence Tomography (OCT) Computer with a table Visual Field Analyzer has also been procured to augment the fleet of eye care machines.

Resumption of Mobile Clinic

The Mobile Clinic – Outreach Programme –resumed this year after it was suspended in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Reassessment by the Health Facility and Regulatory Agency (HEFRA)

The Hospital was re-evaluated by the Health Facility and Regulatory Agency (HEFRA) and maintained its Secondary Status.

AKOMAPA Project

The Hospital embraced the Akomapa Project from CHAG, GIZ, Medtronic Labs, and Novartis and incorporated it into our Lifestyle Clinic initiative. The AKOMAPA Project aligns with the Lifestyle clinic initiative which is aimed at supporting preventive measures for diabetes and hypertension, appropriate management of the conditions, and improving the health of individuals living with diabetes and hypertension in underserved communities. The Hospital has been able to reach out and enroll more than 4000 clients on the project, the highest in the Eastern Region.

Menstrual Hygiene Awareness

The Hospital used the occasion of the World Menstrual Hygiene Day, to sensitize and support young girls in underserved communities by donating sanitary pads to those who could not afford in some comms within the Denkyembour and Kwaebibirem districts.

Urology Programme

The Hospital through its partnership with the Doctors of Afrika, received several Urologists. These team of specialists visited the Hospital in February, June and November. The team carried out series of procedures for many of our clients all over the country.

NHIA & SafeCare Accreditation

After assessments by the National Health Insurance Authority and SafeCare, St. Dominic Hospital is now certified as a Secondary Hospital and a SafeCare Level 4 facility respectively.

The Hospital is very grateful to all its stakeholders, both internal and external for the various roles they played in bringing the Hospital this far.

Implementation of Common Core Programme at St. Dominic Junior High School

The Common Core Programme (CCP) for Junior High Schools has been fully implemented at St Dominic R/C Basic School. The Common Core Programme (CCP) is a carefully designed

curriculum for learners as part of the learning experiences necessary to prepare them for further education and the world of work.

At the end of the CCP, learners have the option of branching into either the academic pathway or the career pathway. The CCP has the following key features:

1. Prepare learners adequately for career and academic pathways
2. Nurture values such as respect, diversity, equity, commitment to excellence truth, and integrity. Focus on assessing knowledge, skills, attitude, and value with an emphasis on what learners can do.
3. Produce a new generation of high school graduates with the requisite 21st-century skills, work ethics, and employable skills.

Pledge for the future

The Hospital will continue working to meet the needs and expectations of patients in order to provide the best medical outcomes for our clients and patients.

JOYCELYN N. ODEI WINS MOST PROMISING NURSE AWARD

by Evelyn Amoako



Joyclyn receiving her award

Miss Joycelyn Ntiriwaa Odei, the Nurse-In-Charge of the Male Surgical Ward was adjudged the Most Promising Nurse in the Denkyembuor District in 2022 by the Ghana Registered Nurses and Midwives' Association (GRNMA), Denkyembuor Zone. She also emerged the second runner-up for the same award category in the Eastern Region. She received a Citation of Honour and a cash award from the General Secretary of the Ghana Registered Nurses and Midwives Association, Dr. David Tenkorang Twum at a ceremony organized at Koforidua in December. He congratulated her for this feat and urged her to do her best to provide quality care to her patients.

The ***'Mary Acheampong Most Promising Nurse Award'*** has been instituted by the Eastern Regional GRNMA in honour of one of the founding executives of the Association in the region who played a vital role to ensure the establishment of a sustainable association. The award is given hardworking nurses with work experience of one to three years after a selection and interview process.

AKOMAPA WORLD DIABETES WEEK CELEBRATION

by Mercy Kafui Amegbor

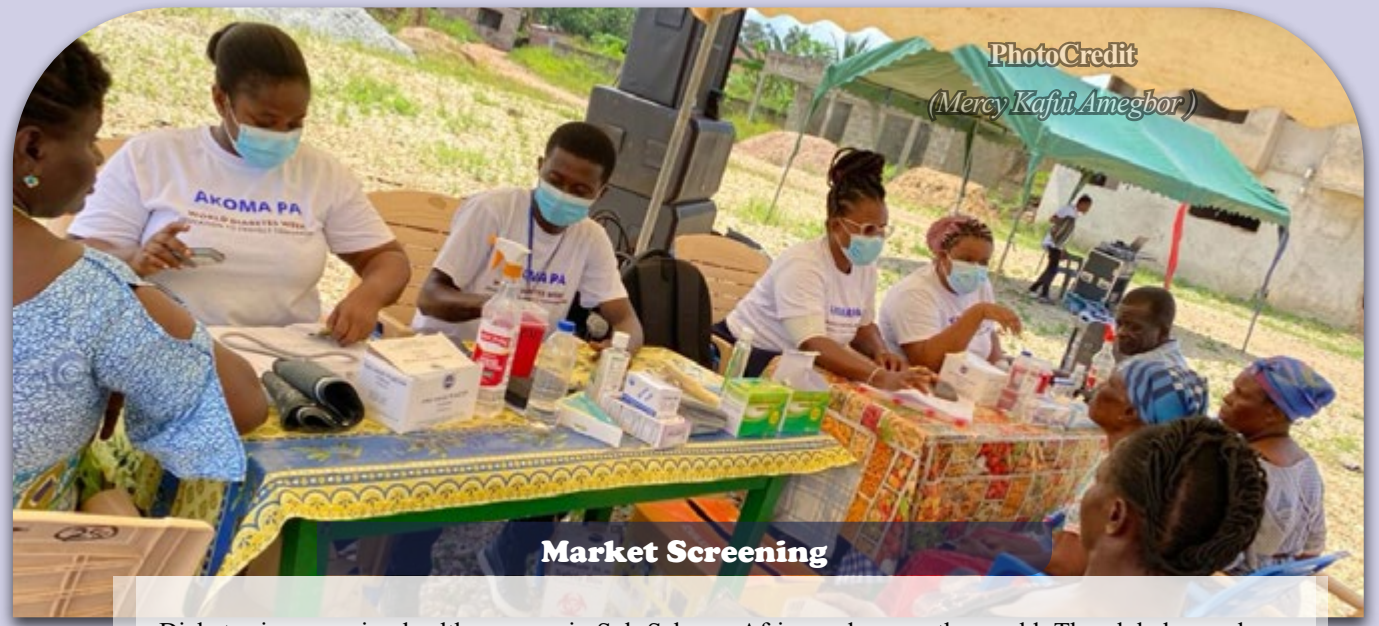


Photo Credit
(Mercy Kafui Amegbor)

Market Screening

Diabetes is a growing health concern in Sub-Saharan Africa and across the world. The global prevalence of diabetes keeps rising especially in the adult population, in low and middle-income countries and so there is a need to reduce the rate at which people get affected by this disease. 14th November of every year is designated as World Diabetes Day by the World Health Organization. People with diabetes require continuous care and support, to manage their conditions and avoid complications.

St. Dominic Hospital collaborated with Medtronic Labs through the Akomapa Project to celebrate this year's World Diabetes Day under the theme: '***Education to protect tomorrow***' with a week-long lineup of activities. From 14th to 16th November 2022, the AKOMAPA Outreach Team conducted screening for staff of St Dominic Hospital and people living in its environs. Screening continued on Thursday, 17th November 2022, at the Akwadum market in Akwatia for the general public. Activities carried out were health education, checking of blood glucose level, blood pressure, weight, height and counselling based on findings. Individuals who had abnormal sugar levels and blood pressure were referred to the hospital for further investigations, assessments and management. Individuals were also educated on the causes of diabetes, risk factors, symptoms and complications such as blindness, kidney failure, heart attack, stroke and hypertension. A total number of 317 people benefited from the screening. In all, the program was a successful one.

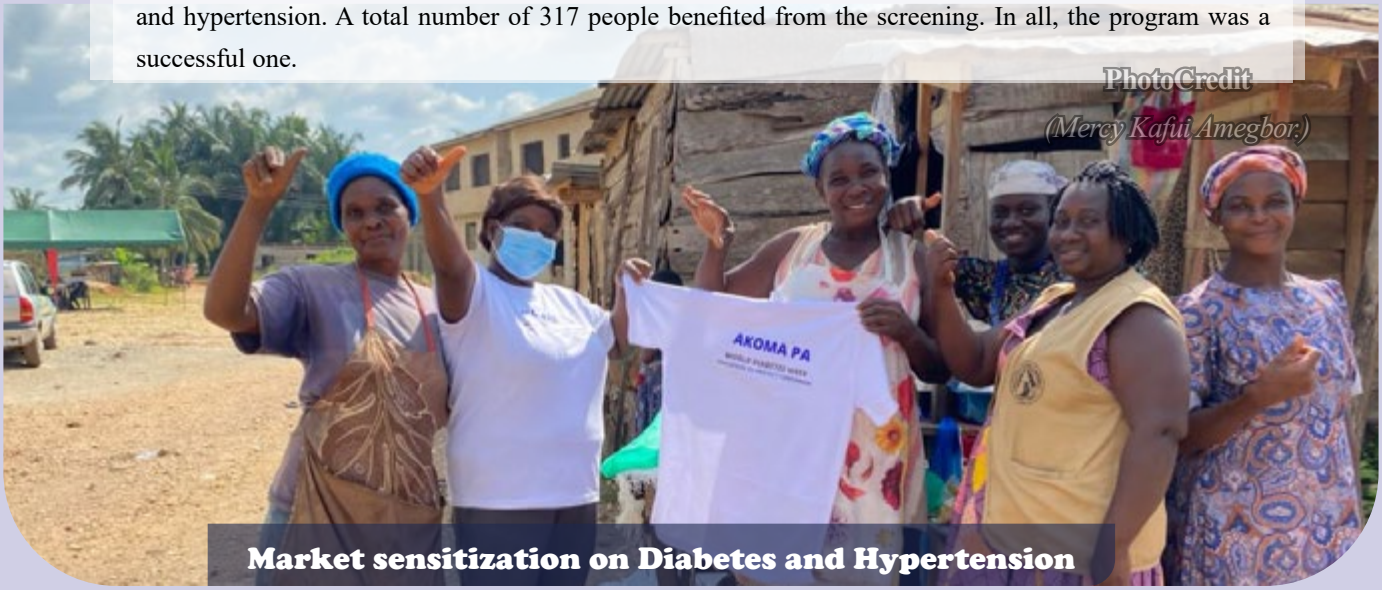


Photo Credit
(Mercy Kafui Amegbor.)

Market sensitization on Diabetes and Hypertension

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ST. DOMINIC R/C BASIC SCHOOL

by Sabina Dosu



Mr. and Miss St. Dominic Pageant



Winners of quiz competition

The St. Dominic R/C Basic School has always made it a priority to focus on the holistic development of learners. It is in view of this goal that the school, together with the prefectorial board resolved to organise its first-ever Pupils Representative Council (PRC) Week to help learners develop new ideas, display their creativity and realize their talents which will help them realize their full potentials.

The theme for the celebration was: 'DEVELOPING BASIC SCHOOLS, THE ROLE OF THE PUPILS REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL'. The week was pregnant with a host of activities. These included: the Official Launching, Float, Quiz Competition, Debate Competition, African Wear/ Cultural Day, and Mr and Miss St. Dominic (Pageant). All the activities for the week celebration were carried out successfully and was climaxed with the Pageant.

Apart from the above, during the course of the academic year, the school received some awards. The school won the 2022 Akwatiaman UK Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Quiz Competition. Besides, the school was adjudged the Most Improved School in the Eastern Region of Ghana at the Eastern Regional Excellence Awards held at Koforidua.

The school has also introduced aerobic activities to help improve the health and wellness of pupils and staff, which directly enhances teaching and learning as is said in Latin 'Mens sana corpore sano'.

We would like to use this medium to express our heartfelt gratitude to our supportive stakeholders for their immense contributions towards the continuous academic excellence of the school. We are looking forward to a more robust partnership in that regard.



Float



Aerobic Exercise by staff and pupils

SDH CLIMAXES 2022 WITH DINNER AND AWARDS

by Vida Eshun

The St. Dominic Hospital ended the year 2022 with a cooperate dinner and awards ceremony. The highlight of the night was the energetic performance by celebrated artiste Wutah Afriyie of the Bronya song fame. Staff couldn't help but sing and dance along as he took over the stage.

Two staff Mr Joseph Adams and Mr Eric Obeng were awarded best workers for the Senior and Junior staff categories respectively. Four other staff namely Seidu Issaka, Kofi Anan, Anthony Dery and Daniel Ahiakpa were awarded for their continuous hard work in helping the hospital effectively manage its waste.

The Medical Director, Dr. Maite presenting to award winners



Joseph Adam



Eric Obeng



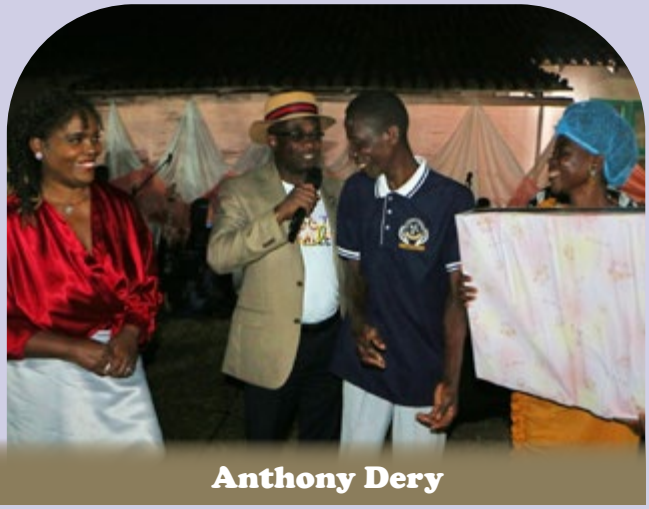
Kofi Anan



Daniel Ahiakpa



Seidu Issaka



Anthony Dery

GALLERY



PhotoCredit
(St. Dominic ICT)

Dignitaries at unveiling ceremony



PhotoCredit
(St. Dominic ICT)

SDH Choir at Carols Night



PhotoCredit
(Mr. Emmanuel Agbetsi)

Wutah Afriyie performing at Dinner



PhotoCredit
(Mr. Emmanuel Agbetsi)

SDH Staff at Carols Night



PhotoCredit
(Rev. Fr. Ebenezer Kenneth

Donation by Akwatia Muslim Community



PhotoCredit
(St. Dominic ICT)

Staff at unveiling ceremony



PhotoCredit
(Ahiaklo Kuz Patricia Tornam)

Urology team with St. Dominic Staff

THE EDITORIAL TEAM

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Evelyn Amoako
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next Urology Programme is scheduled from 23rd February, 2023 to 12th March, 2022;

Call 0594144855 to make a booking for screening

Call 0243559076 for further enquiries.

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