PRIORITIES FOR 2008

The focus of the 2008 policies and priorities will be on:

- The extension of ambulance services
- Upgrade of skills of staff
- Enhancing inter-sectoral collaboration
- The introduction of ICT
- The facilitation of the passing of the NAS Bill

KEY ACTIVITIES FOR 2008

- Establish six (6) additional ambulance stations
- Recruit and train hundred (100) emergency medical technicians (EMT)-Basics
- Link facilities based ambulances with the NAS
- Finalise the NAS bill for approval by cabinet and passage by parliament
- Strengthen the functional and coordination roles of EMT
- Recruit and train hundred (100) emergency medical technicians (EMT)-Advanced
- Scale up services
- Institutionalise the service provider and NAS ambulances
- Formalise and institutionalise the service provider and NAS ambulances

1.2.3.

NEXT STEPS:

- Scale up services
- Link facilities based ambulances with the NAS
- Institutionalise the service provider and NAS ambulances

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For further information please contact:

National Ambulance Service (NAS)
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The medical emergencies and disasters that have occurred over the years have strongly highlighted the need for Ghana to initiate an emergency service. In 1999, President Kufuor in his Sessional Address emphasized the urgent need for an ambulance service. In May 9th, 2001, the necessity became clear with the Accra Sports stadium disaster, in which 128 people lost their lives. Thus in 2004, the Ministry of Health (MOH) in collaboration with the Ministry of Interior established the seven (7) pilot ambulance stations.

The core mandate of National Ambulance Service (NAS) is to provide efficient and timely pre-hospital emergency medical care to the sick and the injured and transport them safely to health facilities.

**ACHIEVEMENTS OF NATIONAL AMBULANCE SERVICE**

Currently NAS has twenty-four stations with two control rooms in the country. At present, the coverage of ambulance services is limited to regional capitals and a few districts.

NAS has collaborated with other stakeholders including Ghana Health Service, and other emergency service providers to upgrade the skills of staff to current standards.

NAS has provided new ambulances to all emergency service providers to upgrade the emergency delivery in the country.

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EQUIMENT AND LOGISTICS

In general, some equipment and logistics are in place at the National, Regional, and the District levels but they remain inadequate based upon the extensive nature of the service provider to cover various health posts nationwide. Ministry of Health is however making strenuous efforts to provide the needed logistics and equipment for the smooth running of the National Ambulance Service.

**CHALLENGES**

**Service Delivery**
- Lack of ofice accommodation.
- Inadequate medical equipment inside the ambulance.
- Periodic refusal of health facilities to accept cases from NAS.

**Human Resources**
- Lack of the right calibre of personnel on the job market.
- Lack of dedicated emergency staff.
- Poor staffing of hospitals leading to the referral of minor cases.

**Hospital preparedness and inter hospital transfers**
- Inadequate number of accident and emergency units in health facilities nationwide.

**Equipment and Logistics**
- Inadequate number of ambulances and medical equipment.
- Strenuous efforts to provide the needed logistics and equipment for the smooth running of the National Ambulance Service.

**Financing**
- NAS continues to suffer from inadequate budgetary provision and delays in processing funds hampering the implementation of programmes.

**Governance**
- Lack of legislation backing the establishment of NAS resulting in a feeling of job insecurity among staff and others.

**Human Resources**
- Lack of an approved scheme of service.
- Lack of the right calibre of personnel on the job market.

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