



**STATEMENT BY NIYI OJUOLAPE,
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NATIONAL LAUNCH OF THE 2019 FAMILY PLANNING WEEK
ON 26 SEPTEMBER, 2019**

Observe Protocol

- The Director-General GHS
- Director of Family Health Division
- Colleagues from the Development Partners Organisations
- The Media, Ladies and Gentlemen

Today is World Contraception Day and as a staff of UNFPA, which is the United Nations Agency acclaimed globally for its niche in procuring quality contraceptives, it gives me great pleasure to be here. However, for all of us at UNFPA Ghana country office, the pleasure is bittersweet. We are mourning the demise of Professor Fred T. Sai who passed away on 17th September 2019. Professor Sai was named the Godfather of family planning in 2012 by the prestigious medical journal, *The Lancet* and is best known for his able chairmanship of the main committee of the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo (ICPD94). I would like us to observe a minute of silence in honour of this great personality.

UNFPA is pleased to note that over the past couple years, Ghana sets aside a full week as 'Family Planning Week' which is devoted to commemorate



the World Contraception Day and to highlight and intensify family planning activities throughout the country. This year's theme 'Family Planning, Know the Options, Make your choice' is indeed very appropriate. Appropriate because this is a time when the nation has expanded the family planning method mix to include DMPA SC, which allows for self-injection by Clients.

The Week is very important to UNFPA and the family planning community because this year marks the 50th anniversary of the agency and the 25th anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD).

Twenty-five years ago, at the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Cairo, world leaders met and developed the landmark Programme of Action that placed family planning on the forefront of global agenda.

Today, we are proud that Ghana has made significant progress in family planning, as a result of efforts by government, UNFPA and other partners. UNFPA as an agency, has positioned itself to achieve three transformative goals including reaching 0 unmet need for family planning by 2030. UNFPA in June this year, convened a global consultative meeting in Antalya Turkey in which recommendations were made to move Family Planning towards the 2030 SDG agenda target. UNFPA procures about 40% of national contraceptive requirements each year and supports capacity building to



strengthen the provision of quality family planning services in Ghana. These efforts have complemented government contributions in creating favourable policy environment for family planning, implementation of the CHPS policy, the task sharing initiative, implementation of Ghana integrated logistics management information system (GHiLMS) and have culminated in increased family planning uptake in Ghana.

Despite these gains, there remains an unfinished family planning agenda with persistent inequities in access.

Unmet need for family planning is still high particularly among adolescents. Myths and misconceptions are prevalent. Coordination gaps persist in distribution of quality, affordable contraceptives to the last mile, sometimes creating artificial stock outs. The country is still grappling with high teenage pregnancy which compels some adolescent girls to drop out of school to the detriment of their education.

As part of efforts to address the gaps, UNFPA continues to work with government and other stakeholders to build the capacity of the health system to deliver quality FP services, and strengthen national supply chain systems including support to distribute commodities to the last mile. UNFPA is also supporting the training of family Planning Providers in various FP methods including the new self-inject- DMPA SC, which affords privacy and convenience for the Client. We will continue to collaborate



closely with Family Planning stakeholders and support government so that collectively, we draw synergies and ensure inclusive programming so that No One is Left Behind.

As the global community converges in Nairobi Kenya, in November, governments, civil society, development partners, young people and the media will convene to prioritise and renew reproductive health commitments. The Nairobi Summit will provide the opportunity to foster stronger partnerships to move the Family planning agenda forward.

I take this opportunity to call on government and stakeholders to make firm commitments to be presented at the Nairobi Summit to position Ghana to achieve the various global and national family planning targets.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I wish us all a Happy Family planning Week.
Thank you.