

DOCTOR OF PHARMACY CLASS, 2021

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE,
TO ALL CONCERNED PARTIES

August 19, 2022.

FRIENDS OR ENEMIES OF THE HUMAN RACE?

We, the Doctor of Pharmacy Class of 2021 (herein referred to as Rx21), are shocked by some of the **uterances publicized by The Pharmacy Council (represented by Dr. Daniel Amaning-Danquah, Deputy Registrar of Operations)** in a live interview on Angel FM/TV on the morning of August 19,2022. We deem it necessary then, to set the record straight.

Per the Health Professions Regulatory Bodies Act, Act 857 Section 83:

"one must hold a degree in pharmacy; or a qualification recognized by the board of the Pharmacy Council; one should also have passed the Ghana Pharmacy Professional Qualification Examination(GPPQE), as well as any other requirements required by the Pharmacy Council".

We have satisfied these requirements, and have been inducted as well, with each and every one of us being issued certificates as pharmacists, evidence of which can be given on any given platform. We have made all the requisite payment to be registered as pharmacists with each of us being given a personal identification number (PIN). Thus, we have completed the six-year



Doctor of Pharmacy programme and so we cannot be classified as students. We are however undergoing a one-year mandatory housemanship, a prerequisite for migration unto the permanent Pharmacists' register.

In his statement, the Deputy Registrar asserted that we did not come to the Pharmacy Council for clarification. This is quite disheartening since our first point of call was the Pharmacy Council. A townhall meeting between the PharmD2021 year group, YPG Executives and other relevant stakeholders had two representatives of the Pharmacy Council present, to give the Council's point of view and assurance.

Before that, attempts to reach out to the Council had proven futile. We have sent two letters to the Council which have not been responded to till date.

In the engagement with the TV station, it was also asserted that free accommodation is being provided by a number of facilities. Currently, only four hospitals provide accommodation for their house officers namely:

1. Methodist Faith Hospital
2. Agogo Presbyterian Hospital, Asante-Akim
3. Ho Teaching Hospital
4. Eastern Regional Hospital

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Majority of us rented apartments with the hope of settling our various loans with part of our remuneration. While we are very appreciative of the initiative by the Pharmaceutical Society of Ghana in making available for us interest-free loans, our hearts are still troubled with the fear of not being able to pay back due to the fact that there is no certainty of us getting paid. With transportation prices skyrocketing each day, this fear is constantly intensified.

He mentioned that we would be paid when money is released but unfortunately, these assurances have all been lip service. As it stands now, we do not even have appointment letters to enable further engagement with the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Finance. This makes it difficult for us to look into the future with hope, which is why we are calling on the Pharmacy Council.

As pharmacists, we are friends of the Human race and so we believe that when we go to work, we have to be mentally present in order to help our patients. Sadly, recent events have made that a rather difficult task.

While we understand the fact that delays can be inevitable sometimes, we believe the Council knows beforehand the number of people graduating each



year and so are able to make preparations for them. Thus, being the fourth PharmD batch, we quite expected to have an easier turn of events, especially with our small number of 203. It begs to ask, that if 203 house officers are struggling to obtain clearance and appointment letters, what then happens subsequently, now that all accredited universities are running the PharmD programme and so will churn out larger numbers in the near future. Other regulators of health professionals ensure foreigners trained in Ghana are also given some form of remunerations for housemanship. It is distasteful to know however, that in our case, the foreign students have been forced to waive their rights to remuneration in writing, even though they satisfied all requirements. Meanwhile, they were charged five thousand one hundred forty four (5144) Cedis to sit for the exam.

The Deputy Registrar in charge of Operations himself, confirmed that the Council asked us to begin the house job, with the assurance that clearance would come as had happened in previous batches. We have been obediently at our posts for 7months now, gradually rounding up the year and yet we have not heard anything positive, hence the cause of our agitation. Our expectations are for the Council to do the needful as they promised us at the beginning of our housemanship.



We are not out to fight anyone. We are just seeking for the right thing to be done. It is rather unfortunate that some of us already have targets on our backs, with constant threats from people we thought we could rely on. With this communique, we hope the record has been set straight. We appeal to all relevant stakeholders, particularly the Pharmacy Council, to help us obtain our appointment letters, clearance and finally our remunerations. Thank you.

Signed,

Rx'21.

***LONG LIVE THE PHARMACY PROFESSION!!! AMICUS
HUMANI GENERIS!!!***