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President

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# GHANA DENTAL ASSOCIATION

Member:  
Federation Dentaire International (FDI)  
Commonwealth Dental Association (CDA)  
African Regional Organisation of the FDI (ARO)

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## **COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE END OF THE 34<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL CONGRESS OF THE GHANA DENTAL ASSOCIATION (GDA) HELD AT CAPITAL VIEW HOTEL, KOFORIDUA IN THE EASTERN REGION FROM 26<sup>TH</sup> -28<sup>TH</sup> JUNE, 2025.**

The members of the Ghana Dental Association at the 34<sup>th</sup> Annual General Congress, having deliberated on the theme “*Dental Quackery in Ghana: The silent epidemic-awareness, action, accountability*”, addressed the **alarming rise of dental quackery in Ghana, highlighting the urgent need for action, regulation, and public awareness.**

Below is a summary of the most critical messages and proposed actions:

- 1. Dental quackery is the act of unlicensed individuals illegally offering dental care, which poses serious health risks.**
2. The fight against dental quackery in Ghana must involve a collaborative effort between professionals, regulators, law enforcement, academia, civil society and the whole populace.
3. All dental practitioners in Ghana must ensure their licenses are registered and renewed annually as mandated by the Ghana Medical and Dental Council (MDC).
4. Every dentist and stakeholder has a role in identifying, reporting, and helping to eliminate quackery.
5. There is widespread tolerance of unlicensed and unqualified individuals (quacks) providing dental care - a dangerous trend that endangers lives.
6. Some licensed professionals fuel quackery by lending their credentials or employing unqualified individuals, making public and professional vigilance essential, as anyone could become the next victim.

7. **Section 48 of Act 857(Health Professions Regulatory Bodies Act, 2013) makes quackery a criminal offence punishable by up to 10,000 penalty units or 20 years imprisonment or both for any unqualified person to falsely present themselves as a doctor, practice dentistry, or receive payment for such services.**
8. A recent review showed that only 31.5% (45 out of 143) private dental clinics inspected are in good standing with the Health Facilities Regulatory Agency (HeFRA).

Common violations include:

- Unqualified personnel performing dental procedures.
  - **Offering dental treatments in unlicensed environments, e.g., home dental care, saloons, aesthetician centres, barbering saloons etc.**
  - Lack of nuclear radiation safety accreditation in clinics that operate x-ray machines
9. The low NHIS dental tariffs not only compromises the quality and accessibility of care but also indirectly fuels the rise of quackery. When NHIS tariffs are too low, some licensed professionals withdraw their services, creating opportunities for unqualified individuals to step in and expose patients to unsafe care. To combat dental quackery effectively, the National Health Insurance Authority (NHIA) and all stakeholders must urgently reassess and revise NHIS dental tariffs to reflect the true cost of sustainable, ethical, and high-quality dental services.
  10. The GDA to develop a media toolkit to curb dental quackery by equipping journalists with accurate information, case studies, expert contacts, and reporting resources to raise public awareness, expose illegal practices, and support regulatory enforcement.
  11. Dentists are encouraged to accept postings to rural and underserved areas to help bridge the gap in access to safe, quality dental care and reduce the reliance on unlicensed practitioners in those communities

## GDA'S CALL TO ACTION:

In light of the silent epidemic of dental quackery, the Ghana Dental Association urges:

1. All dentists to register and renew their licenses annually with the MDC to remain in legal and ethical practice.
2. The public to verify the credentials of all dental providers.
3. Ghanaians to report unlicensed individuals, illegal clinics, and suspicious dental practices to **Ghana Dental Association on 0541579156, HeFRA on 0302 904027/0256 108267 and MDC on 0302 661606 / 0202493880**; silence enables harm.
4. Stakeholders to urgently review NHIS dental tariffs to prevent care gaps that allow quackery to thrive.
5. Media houses to fact-check dental stories and experts before publishing or airing.
6. Law enforcement and regulators to fully enforce Section 48 of Act 857 by arresting and prosecuting quacks and their enablers to serve as a strong deterrent.

## ELECTION OF NEW EXECUTIVES

The General Assembly at the 34<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting elected new members of the National Executive Committee to steer the affairs of the association for the period 2025-2027.

The Executives are:

Dr. (Dent) Cecilia Kakrabah-Quarshie	-	President
Dr. (Dent) Abdul Razak Mohammed	-	Vice President
Dr. (Dent) Philip Boadi Frimpong	-	General Secretary
Dr. (Dent) Esther Biamah Danquah	-	Deputy General Secretary
Dr. (Dent) Gwendolyn Amarquaye Bayitse	-	Treasurer
Dr. (Dent) Richard Atuwo- Ampoh	-	Male Executive Member
Dr. (Dent) Helen Wireko	-	Female Executive Member

Dr. (Dent) Paapa Puplampu remains the Immediate Past President.



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Dr. (Dent) Cecilia Kakrabah Quarshie  
President



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Dr. (Dent) Philip Boadi Frimpong  
General Secretary