The National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) was established to change the game in the health sector of the nation, with specific reference to offering all Nigerians easy access to healthcare without financial hinders.

However, the Scheme has been bedevilled lately with leadership, structural, and operational challenges that necessitated the intervention of President Muhammadu Buhari, GCFR, in line with the Next Level Agenda of his Administration.

One of the outcomes of the Presidential intervention is the appointment of Prof. Mohammed Nasir Sambo as Executive Secretary/CEO, on July 1, 2019.

To shake the table and chart a new course for this priority parasitical, Prof. Sambo arrived with a well-processed 3-Point Rebranding Agenda, which include Value Reorientation, Transparency and Accountability, and Accelerating the attainment of Universal Health Coverage (UHC).

NHIS is happy to share these pictorial impressions with the public, as they represent evidence of the Scheme's full recovery from the cliff where it hung precariously until the Presidential intervention that produced the leadership of Prof. Mohammed Nasir Sambo.

NHIS is not only back and stable on its feet, it is already making waves, as Prof. Sambo leads the process of repositioning NHIS as a credible, efficient and result-oriented agent of reform in the healthcare delivery system in Nigeria.

Prof. Sambo receives his letter from Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Health, Alhaji Abdulaziz M. Abdullahi; and, warm handshakes... firm commitment; formal hand-over by Overseeing Director (OD), Mr. Ben Omega to the new Executive Secretary/CEO Prof. Mohammed Nasir Sambo, at the NHIS Headquarters, on July 15, 2019.

Prof. Sambo holds Village Square meeting with staff...and, meets with Management; unfolds 3-Point Agenda to Management and Staff of NHIS anchored on: (i) Value Reorientation; (ii) Transparency and Accountability, and (iii) Accelerating the drive towards Universal Health Coverage.

Prof. Sambo tours NHIS departments for on-the-spot assessment in preparation for the new focus.

Prof. Sambo participates in the official launching of the Primary Health Care Centre Kuchigoro, Airport Road, Abuja.

Prof. Sambo hosts CEOs of various State Social Health Insurance Agencies (SSHIA), discusses his agenda for the new NHIS.

Prof. Sambo in a handshake with Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Health, Alhaji Abdulaziz M. Abdullahi at the event.

Prof. Sambo receives a delegation of the Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI) in his office.

Prof. Sambo receives the delegation of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

Prof. Sambo hosted an R40 team led by Caroline Jethu-Appiah and presented the focus of the new NHIS in meeting the goal of Universal Health Coverage.

Prof. Sambo received the CEO of Jaz Bank, Mr. Hassan Usman, with his Management Team, who visited NHIS to seek areas of collaboration.

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Honourable Minister of Health, Dr. Osagie E. Ehanire congratulates Prof. Sambo on the successful hosting of the Strategic Stakeholders Engagement.

The World Health Organisation delegation led by Officer-in-Chief of Nigeria Office, Dr. Clement Peter, visited Prof. Sambo and held discussions on assisting the NHIS deliver on its mandate.

Prof. Sambo organised NHIS Management Retreat in Kaduna for Value Reorientation which resulted in agreement on 10 thematic areas: good work ethics; unity of purpose and direction; synergy/collaboration; teamwork/team-spirit; effective communication and information management; excellent work environment (office space, working tools); efficiency (result-oriented); proper records keeping; appropriate rewards and sanctions; and, Equity and fairness.

Prof. Sambo meets with International Labour Organisation to revive relationship and share the mission of the new NHIS.

The World Health Organisation delegation led by Officer-in-Chief of Nigeria Office, Dr. Clement Peter, visited Prof. Sambo and held discussions on assisting the NHIS deliver on its mandate.

Prof. Sambo led NHIS delegation, with GM ICT, Nasiru Sharo, to Turkey for e-Government Executive Summit led by National Information Technology Development Agency and Oracle Nigeria, also attended by Communication Minister, Dr. Isa Ibrahim Ali Pantami.

NHIS hosted Strategic Stakeholders’ Engagements with Enrolees, Care Providers and Health Maintenance Organisations with overwhelming attendance; also in attendance were the Honourable Minister of Health, Dr. Osagie Ehanire and the Honourable Minister of State for Health, Dr. Adeleke Mamora. The meetings articulated issues that will lead to the realisation of Universal Health Coverage; Communiques were issued at the end of the meetings.
Prof. Sambo Walking the Talk

Prof. Sambo coordinated the official disbursement of the first tranche of the NHIS Gateway Basic Health Care Provision Fund to State Social Health Insurance Agencies by NHIS in the Committee Room of the Minister of Health. The event was well attended and witnessed by Honourable Minister of Health, Dr. Osagie E. Ehanire and the Honourable Minister of State for Health, Dr. Adeleke O. Mamora. Over N6.5 billion was disbursed to 15 states and the Federal Capital Territory.

Prof. Sambo visits the Acting Chairman of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), Ibrahim Magu, to seek the release of NHIS funds recovered by EFCC from improper custodies, which received positive response.

Prof. Sambo visits IGP Mohammed Adamu to discuss operational issues between both agencies that have lingered for 5 years. The issues were resolved following this engagement.

Prof. Sambo pays an advocacy visit to the Accountant-General of the Federation, Mr. Ahmed Idris, towards helping the NHIS realise its mandate.

Prof. Sambo visits Customs Comptroller-General, Col. Hameed Ali (Rtd), for joint appraisal of the transactions between both institutions.

Prof. Sambo presents accreditation licence to a delegation of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) for the NNPC Health Maintenance Organisation (HMO), which had lingered for 3 years but which he just resolved.

As part of advocacy, Prof. Sambo meets Clinton Health Access Initiative health financing team to discuss collaboration with NHIS.

Prof. Sambo visited Director-General of Bureau of Public Procurement, Mamman Ahmadu, to discuss plans for strengthening capacity of NHIS with regards to procurement processes.

Prof. Sambo with the Chairman, Senate Committee on Health Senator Ibrahim Y. Garba, where the new Executive Secretary explained his 3-point agenda anchored on value reorientation, transparency and accountability, and accelerating the drive to achieving universal access to quality healthcare for all Nigerians.

Prof. Sambo received the Association of Public Health Physicians of Nigeria led by its National President, Prof. Benjamin S.C. Uzochukwu, who came to express support for the new direction at the NHIS.

Prof. Sambo features live on NTA Good Morning Nigeria programme and discusses the vision and focus of the new NHIS with a view to implementing Universal Health Care.

Courtesy visit by leadership of the Nigerian Medical Association led by its president, Dr. Francis Faduyile, President to express support for Prof. Sambo’s vision for the new NHIS.
Determined, eager and committed to turn things around in the NHIS for the immediate and long term, Prof. Sambo has fashioned the journey to begin with a Re-branding of the Scheme, from the old into a whole new National Health Insurance Scheme driven by result-oriented motive.

Rebranding: From Old NHIS to New NHIS...

Old NHIS
- Value Re-Orientation
- Transparency and Accountability
- Universal Health Coverage (UHC)

New NHIS

Value Re-Orientation

Accelerating the drive towards UHC

Consolidation:
- Strengthen existing programmes:
  - Public Sector, Organized Private Sector, TISHIP, VGHIP, State Social Health Insurance Schemes, etc

Innovation:
- Create or revisit programmes designed to cover those currently not covered by NHIS:
  - Retirees, Vulnerables (Children Under 5 whose parents are not covered, Elderly, etc), NYSC, Refugees/IDPs, Physically challenged, Public Primary School Pupils, Prison Inmates, Urban Self Employed etc

Ultimately, the implementation process of the re-branding initiative aims at the development of a 10-Year Strategic Plan which is designed to fast-track the attainment of Universal Health Coverage, driven by a robust ICT system.

Meanwhile, the Scheme is immediately committed to a conscious pursuance of the following critical success factors:
1. Entrench values and result-driven processes in all NHIS operations
2. Aggressive awareness creation
3. Intensification of advocacy and stakeholder engagement at all levels
4. Coordination of all health management programmes in NHIS under one roof
5. Introduction of innovative financing mechanisms to mobilise additional funds to reach the un-reached
6. Immediate resolution of TSA issues to allow for investment of NHIS funds