

**SPEECH BY THE HONOURABLE MINISTER FOR HEALTH
AT THE 11TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE GHANA HEALTH
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION (GHIMA)**

THEME:

“Towards an Integrated Digital Health Ecosystem: Implementing the Ghana Health Information Management System; The Role of the Health Information Professional”

Ex-Tee Hotel, Bolgatanga, Upper East Region

June 2026

Chairman of the Occasion,

The National President and National Executive Council of the Ghana Health Information Management Association,

Representatives of the Allied Health Professions Council,

General Secretary of the Health Workers' Union,

Distinguished Health Information Professionals,

Invited Guests, Members of the Press, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great honor and privilege to join you today at the 11th Annual General Meeting of the Ghana Health Information Management Association.

I thank the leadership of GHIMA for this invitation and for selecting a theme that speaks directly to one of the most important transformations taking place within Ghana's health sector: the creation of an integrated digital health ecosystem that places quality data, interoperability, accountability, and patient-centered care at the heart of healthcare delivery.

For many years, health information professionals have quietly ensured that data generated in our hospitals, clinics, laboratories, and communities are transformed into actionable intelligence for planning, disease surveillance, resource allocation, and monitoring and evaluation.

In healthcare, data is more than numbers on a screen; it is the story of a patient, the evidence behind every policy, and the compass that guides every decision. As the saying goes, what gets measured gets managed and in healthcare, what gets measured, analyzed, and acted upon can save lives and strengthen entire health systems.

Our vision is straightforward: a health system where the right information is available to the right healthcare provider at the right time, regardless of where a patient receives care. This requires an integrated digital health ecosystem in which our various health information systems speak to one another, share data seamlessly, and present a single, reliable picture of our health system to those who plan and deliver care.

Significant progress is already underway. The Ghana Health Information Management System (GHIMS) represents our commitment to building a modern, secure, and nationally owned digital health platform capable of strengthening electronic medical records, improving accessibility of patient

information, supporting health insurance claims processing, and ensuring that critical health data remain under effective national stewardship. This is complemented by parallel efforts such as the National Health Information Exchange Integration Programme and the National Integrated Bed Management and Referral Coordination System, which are deepening interoperability and improving referral coordination across our facilities. These are not abstract digital projects; they are practical tools that will reduce delays, save lives, and strengthen accountability across the system.

However, technology alone cannot guarantee success. The success of GHIMS and our wider digital health agenda will depend significantly on the competence, commitment, and professionalism of health information practitioners. You are the custodians of data quality. You are the bridge between technology and healthcare delivery. As we implement these systems nationwide, I charge you with three responsibilities: first, to champion data quality completeness, accuracy, timeliness, and consistent standardization across every facility you serve; second, to safeguard data integrity and patient confidentiality, in line with the Data Protection Act, for you are the first line of defense in this regard; and third, to champion continuous learning, becoming ambassadors of interoperability and innovation as technology and standards continue to evolve.

Government remains committed to strengthening the digital health workforce through continuous professional development and investment in human capital, and will continue to work with GHIMA, the Allied Health Professions Council, training institutions, and development partners to build capacity in health information management, informatics, biostatistics, and data analytics. Looking ahead, our priorities include:

- Strengthening nationwide implementation of GHIMS and related digital health platforms,
- Advancing interoperability among health information systems across the sector,
- Enhancing data governance, cybersecurity, and patient privacy protections,
- Expanding digital infrastructure and connectivity for health facilities,
- Building the digital competencies of health workers at all levels and
- Promoting the use of data and analytics for policy formulation, surveillance, and service improvement.

As we pursue these objectives, we remain guided by a simple principle: every digital investment must ultimately improve patient care and health outcomes. This transformation cannot be achieved by government alone, it requires the active participation of professionals such as yourselves, and I encourage GHIMA to continue providing leadership in professional development, advocacy, research, and quality assurance within the profession.

In conclusion, let me reaffirm Government's commitment to building a resilient, integrated, secure, and patient-centered digital health ecosystem for our country. Together, let us harness the power of information, technology, and professional excellence to transform healthcare delivery and improve the health and well-being of all Ghanaians. I congratulate GHIMA on this milestone 11th Annual General Meeting and wish you fruitful deliberations.

Thank you and may God bless you all. God bless GHIMA. God bless our homeland Ghana.