



## Global Association of Clinical Officers and Physician Associates

Tel:  
+254722302266  
+255768643199

Email: [info@gacopa.org](mailto:info@gacopa.org)  
[president@gacopa.org](mailto:president@gacopa.org)  
Website: [www.gacopa.org](http://www.gacopa.org)

### OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

---

31<sup>st</sup> December, 2022

### **New Year message by Austin Oduor Otieno, President – Global Association of Clinical Officers and Physician Associates (GACOPA)**

Dear Colleagues,

I am indeed grateful to have the honour and privilege in my capacity as President of the Global Association of Clinical Officers and Physician Associates (GACOPA) to address you on the eve of a New Year on behalf of the membership, International Executive Council, Central Committee and Secretariat of this distinguished organisation.

Before I begin , it has been a sad moment for the association following the tragic loss of our Deputy Gender Secretary and a member of the International Executive Council Mrs Azizah Yusuf from kenya – May her soul RIP

This is the time when resolutions about health, finances, career, and family, are made. I do hope that whatever your resolutions, you will obtain the success which you seek. It is my wish that the enthusiasm and outpouring of pride, which has been so evident since our inception, will continue to inspire us to engage in enlightening activities, which can positively promote our association.

The challenges faced during the past year were not insurmountable, though they stubbornly tested the resolve of GACOPA. Nonetheless, GACOPA still strives to balance the overall membership interest, with our primary obligation to efficiently and effectively represent the interest of our membership. Thus in order not to lose sight of its signature mission of member representation, we would wish to re-iterate that GACOPA, while fully committed to the consultative process, will not waver in our efforts to ensure that the membership is vigorously represented, and their rights respected.

The year 2022 had its share of unresolved issues, but nonetheless, there was much for which to be thankful, as the year came to a close. For example, GACOPA engaged different respective governments, organisations and opinion-shapers among others. Amongst these include;

- ❖ Engaging the Republic of Zimbabwe through its Parliament's Deputy Speake, the Rt. Hon Gezi Tsitsi and Health Committee represented by Dr Ruth Labode. The deliberations agreed that the position of Clinical Officer be reestablished and the desire to strengthen the association.

- ❖ Held consultative meetings with the Zanzibar House of Representative's Department of Health. This meeting resulted into the decision to host the 1<sup>st</sup> East Africa Clinical Officers Delegates Conference tentatively planned to be hosted at the State University of Zanzibar, Unguja, Zanzibar between 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> of March 2023.
- ❖ GACOPA visited the East Africa Legislative Assembly in Arusha, Tanzania, with a view of establishing a joint regulatory agency for Clinical Officers.

I wish to compliment the membership of GACOPA, for their perseverance and commitment to their just cause, and seeing the long, difficult and at times contentious deliberations through to an amicable conclusion.

GACOPA looks forward to even greater cooperation between it and Government agencies in 2023 and beyond, as we seek to foster a harmonious working environment. As mentioned before, there are still some unresolved matters to which we must attend. These include;

- ❖ Stabilizing GACOPA's membership and activities in West Africa, including regularization and harmonization of the profession and curriculum in Ghana and Nigeria.
- ❖ The upcoming 3<sup>rd</sup> GACOPA International Conference that will take place in Malaysia in 2023.

- ❖ Special recognition also goes out to GACOPA’s leadership and membership in the Southern Africa region, Papua New Guinea Health Extension Officers, the Nigeria Society of Community Health Officers and the Burundi Clinical officers Association for sharing in the ideals, mission and goals of GACOPA.

To this end, membership can look forward to a number of new initiatives in 2023. In addition, GACOPA will continue to contribute to individuals and organisations who help in furthering its mission and objectives. On The coming of the New Year, it is my hope that we all will realize a measure of prosperity in our personal and professional lives and that each of us, wherever we may be, will endeavor to make some contribution, however small, to the development of our country. On behalf of the GACOPA and in the spirit of peace, goodwill and love, I wish all members much success and prosperity in the New Year.

Austin Oduor Otieno,



**President – Global Association of Clinical Officers and Physician Associates (GACOPA).**

