Ref 3031|14|8|13

Date 16|08|2021

To
Prof. Mark Musen
Stanford University

Prof. Mirjam van Reisen
Leiden University Medical Center (LUMC)
Dear Prof Musen and Prof van Reisen,

In my capacity as a head of the Tigray Regional Health Bureau I have been following the VODAN- Africa program with utmost interest. We expressed the interest in the COVID-Data early on, but our experience has now taught us that the data-sovereignty and the ownership of the data is extremely important.
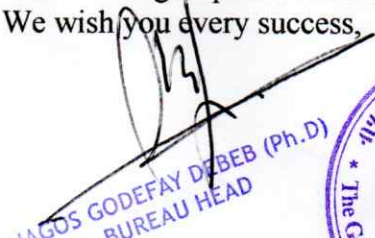
Realizing the importance of building Electronic Health Information Systems (HIS), we have been implementing different HIS applications at different levels of the health system. These electronic applications helped us to capture corpus of data but due to the sensitivity of health data we have not been able to share these data among and between different partners. The VODAN Africa program and practice have shown us on how to treat the health data in such a way it is reliably saved and available to the health facilities where the data should serve better care to the clients. Our future will be built on this new awareness.

We are confident that your method will provide a trustworthy set of data that is inclusive of different realities in the world and on the African continent. This will improve the big data health analytics. The Regional Health Bureau welcomes this.

We are extremely pleased with the proposed partnership between the university of Stanford, Leiden University Medical Center and Mekelle University and as Health Bureau we hope to learn from your findings and we have directed our hospitals and clinics to work with the team of Mekelle University Digital Health R&D Center.

We fully support the collaboration proposed in the framework of the Bridge to AI program of the CONDUIT group that is led by your efforts.

We wish you every success,

HAGOS GODEFAY DEBEB (Ph.D)
BUREAU HEAD