

# GhanaToday

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## Agenda 111: To Improve Access to Healthcare



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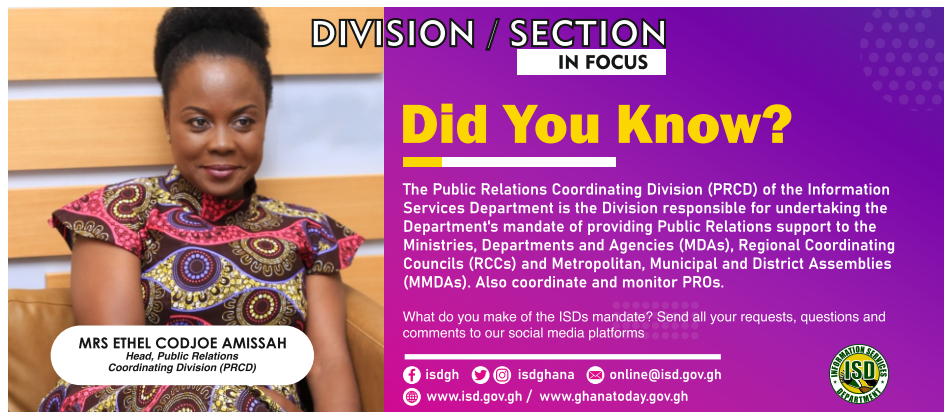
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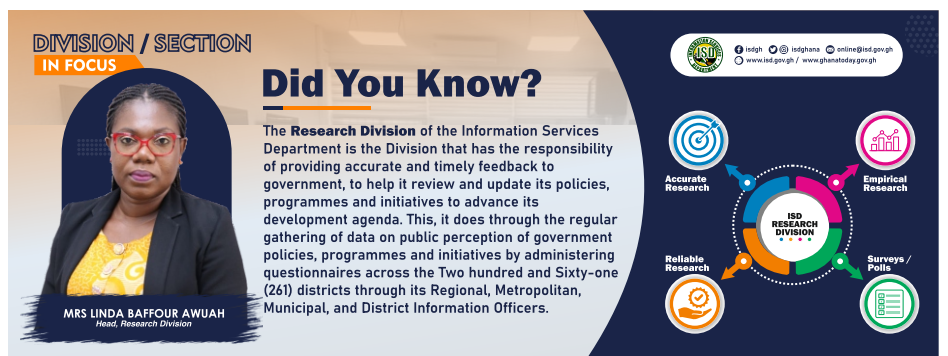
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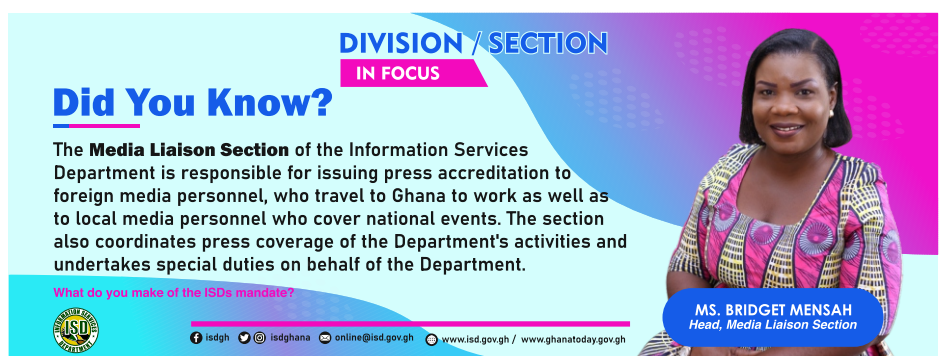
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## Agenda 111: To Improve Access to Healthcare

By: Grace Acheampong

**G**HANA has over the past decades, initiated a number of measures towards resolving the many challenges associated with access to quality healthcare services, however, the majority of these measures have not churned out the desired results.

The birth of Agenda 111 was a pledge by the government to improve healthcare infrastructure after Ghana dealt with the pressures of the coronavirus pandemic and the creation of new regions in the country.

President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo performed the ground-breaking ceremony on Tuesday, August 17, 2021, at Trede in the Atwima Kwanwoma District of the Ashanti Region.

Agenda 111 is aimed at building hospital projects across the country concurrently, with an estimated funding of US\$ 100 million and would be the largest investment in healthcare infrastructure in the country since independence.

The project will cover the design, procurement, construction, equipping and commissioning of 101 District Hospitals, 6 Regional Hospitals in the newly created regions, as well as 1 Regional Hospital in the Western Region, 2 Psychiatric Hospitals to be located in Kumasi and Tamale and a redeveloped Accra Psychiatric Hospital.

COVID-19 has not only disrupted people's daily lives but has also exposed the inefficiencies in the country's healthcare system because of years of under-investment and neglect.



Each unit (Hospital) would cost US\$16.88 million, comprising US\$12.88 million for construction and US\$4 million for medical equipment.

An in-depth healthcare infrastructure analysis conducted discovered that 101 districts in the country have no district hospitals and hence the urgent need to fix this situation.

It's envisaged that this project would provide thousands of jobs for healthcare staff and other ancillary workers in these communities.

The construction of these hospitals would contribute immensely to making the country a centre of medical excellence and a destination for medical tourism in West Africa.

furthermore, the building of the hospital projects would require significant domestic inputs, giving motivation to private sector investments, especially the One District, One Factory (1D1F) policy.

Agenda 111 is a direct boost to the provision of healthcare infrastructure and financial accessibility to healthcare. This would ensure that Ghanaians nationwide have access to quality healthcare services reinforced by the National Health Insurance Scheme.

The agenda is in line with the government's commitment to ensuring universal health care to all citizens and the attainment of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal 3 (SDG 3).

It is important to note that the success of this remarkable initiative hinges on the collective support and participation of the Ghanaian populace.

The right attitude of good maintenance culture, dedication to work and love for the country would ensure the sustainability of this project.

Again, it would further be a fulfilment of the government's policy of a hospital in each district and region and improve the geographical coverage of healthcare delivery in the country, as well as offer improved access to healthcare for all Ghanaians as the outcome would come with a model of accelerated construction of health facilities developed for future health projects.



# Creation of six new regions: **Bringing Development to the doorsteps of the people**

By: Patience Anaadem



**I**N the quest to accelerate socio-economic development in other parts of the country and improve the quality of governance and take administration of the country closer to the people of Ghana, six new regions were created in 2018 following a referendum.

Though the creation of these new regions was largely in fulfilment of an electoral promise of then-candidate Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo (now the President of Ghana), the new regions were to spearhead remarkable improvements in infrastructure and effective governance.

The regions are Western North, Bono East, Ahafo, Savannah, North East and Oti.

The creation of the new regions, was executed by the Ministry of Regional Reorganisation and Development (MoRRD), which was established for that purpose.

Regional Ministers, including those from the newly created ones, have been giving an account of achievements in the areas of road networks, hospital facilities, schools, and administrative offices.

This article, therefore, seeks to highlight the major government projects in four of the newly created regions.

## **Oti Region**

Carved out of the then Volta region, the Oti Region, has eight Municipal and District Assemblies, namely, Krachi East and Nkwanta South Municipalities and Biakoye, Jasikan, Kadjebi, Krachi Nchumuru, Krachi West and Nkwanta North districts.

Providing account in the region, Mr Joshua Gmayenaam Makubu, the Regional Minister, indicated that the government had rehabilitated the Nkonya Wurupong – Kwamekrom road (21km), and reconstructed the Hohoe -Jasikan road (30km).

The region has also seen the construction of the Jasikan – Dodo Pepeso road and the Phase II upgrade of the Kete Krachi – Buya road (26.8km).

Since its creation, a Judicial Service office complex, as well as a High Court, has been built in Dambai, while circuit court complexes have been built in Chinderi and Kadjebi, in addition to bungalows.

In the health sector, a two-story Regional Health Directorate and two senior staff bungalows for the Ghana Health Service have been built in Worawora.

The Region has four ongoing Agenda 111 Hospitals and three health centres, two are completed and one is ongoing.

Eleven Community-based Health Planning and Services (CHPS) projects have been initiated since 2017 of which eight have been completed and three are still in progress. These include the CHPS compound at Dadease in the Nkwanta South Municipality and the Azua market in the Nkwanta North District.

The education sector has not been left out. A two-story Regional Education Directorate for the Ghana Education Service in Jasikan has been built, with enrollment increasing significantly through the government's Free Senior High School (free SHS) initiative, from 15,285 in 2016 to 25,483 in 2022.

Also, under the One Teacher One Laptop initiative, a total of 5,731 teachers benefited from the distribution of laptops. The staffing situation also improved significantly from 1,057 in 2016 to 2,196 in 2022.

On the School Feeding Programme, the government increased the total number of beneficiary schools from 164 in 2016 to a total of 298 out of 585 Basic Schools in the region.

Concerning administration infrastructure, the Regional Co-ordinating Council commenced the construction of an administration block at Dambai, which includes bungalows to accommodate key senior staff.

A three-story Regional Police Headquarters and a three-story 12-unit block of flats for the Ghana Police Service in Dambai, as well as two bungalows for the Regional Police Commander and the Deputy in Dambai have been completed.

On economic development in the region, the government initiatives such as the One District, One Factory (1D1F), One District, One Warehouse (1D1W), Planting for Food and Jobs (PFJ), Planting for Export and Rural Development (PERD), Savanna Investment Program (SIP) and Rearing for Food and Jobs (RFJ) were implemented which significantly transformed lives.

The capacities of Small and Medium Scale Enterprises (SMEs) have also been built to equip the people with new and relevant skills needed to expand their businesses, create new businesses and as well introduce new technologies in the region.

### **Savannah Region**

The Savannah Region was carved out of the then Northern Region and has two Municipalities and five Districts Assemblies, thus East Gonja and West Gonja Municipal Assemblies, Central Gonja, North Gonja, North East Gonja, Bole and Sawla-Tuna-Kalba District Assemblies.

The Regional Minister for Savannah, Mr Muhazu Saeed Jibri stated to the media on October 23, 2022, that the region has received unprecedented development projects since its establishment.

Among them include the offices of the Health Directorate at Daboya in the North Gonja District, the Directorate of Agriculture in Bole, Feeder Roads at Salaga in the East Gonja Municipality, and the National Health Insurance Scheme in Damongo.

In the area of Security, the REGSEC collaborated with the Gonja Traditional Council and various stakeholders to resolve most of the chieftaincy conflicts, especially in areas where violent conflicts have been recorded. The Regional Police Headquarters in Damongo has also been constructed to enhance the presence and visibility of police in the region.

In the Agriculture sector, the government initiated several projects and programmes that significantly improved food production in the region such as the introduction of the Planting for Food and Jobs programme, Planting for export and rural development (PERD) and other related policies.

On road infrastructure, a total of 43.38km of critical roads have been cleared, 16.75km of critical roads have been gravelled, 3.96km of critical drains of various sizes have been constructed and 40.5m of 0.9m and 1.2m pipe culverts have been constructed across the region.

A 2.63km of road has been rehabilitated (Sealed) and 15km of asphaltic overlay have been undertaken in the region. The asphalted roads include Damongo, Salaga and Daboya town roads while the Ghana Highways Authority and the Feeder Roads Department undertook routine maintenance of urban and feeder roads across the Region.

By rehabilitating the entire Damongo township roads, the government hopes to improve urban traffic flow and lower the burden and cost of doing business in the regional capital.

In the education sector, the region has both public and private pre-tertiary educational institutions with 80 new classroom blocks and other educational infrastructure being constructed over the past years.

There are 424 KGs, 461 primary schools, 205 Junior High Schools, 12 Senior High Schools and a technical/ vocational School in the Region.

The Region has 93 kindergartens, 78 primary schools, 20 junior high schools, four senior high schools, and three technical/vocational schools in the private sector. Also, a state-of-the-art Technical/Vocational Education and Training (TVET) school is being constructed in Salaga.

Regarding health, the government initiated various projects and programmes to enhance citizens' quality of life. These include the construction of a district hospital at Daboya in the North Gonja District, a district hospital at Kpelbe in the North East Gonja District, and a district hospital at Kpelbe



in the North East Gonja District, all of which fall under Agenda 111 hospitals.

Other major health projects undertaken by the government in the region include the construction and establishment of a District Hospital at Sawla in the Sawla/Tuna/Kalba District, an Accident and Emergency Hospital at Buipe in the Central Gonja District, a 100-bed capacity Hospital at Carpenter in the Bole District and a Polyclinic at Bamboi in the Bole District.

### **Ahafo Region**

In the case of the Ahafo Region, more than 100 infrastructure development projects have been executed since the creation of the region in the areas of education, health, road and transport infrastructure, among others.

The region is made up of six assemblies comprising three Municipal Assemblies and three District Assemblies.

All decentralized Departments and Agencies of the State have been established in the region and are fully functional, thus, the inhabitants no longer have to travel long distances to Sunyani and other places to access everyday services as hitherto was the case.

The Regional Minister, Mr George Boakye disclosed these in a recent press briefing at the Ministry of Information, adding that the people now have access to social services conveniently due to the significant development projects that are being initiated in the region.

On infrastructure, there are ongoing works on the main Regional Co-ordinating Council Administration block in Goaso and residential accommodation for senior staff of the RCC at Goaso is completed and currently being inhabited.

Other projects are the Regional Health Directorate and office complex at Hwidiem, residential accommodation for Health Director and Staff at Hwidiem, which has since been completed and handed over, and a completed Regional Education Directorate and office complex and residential accommodation at Bechem.

Also, the regional administration block for the NHIA at Mim has been completed and awaiting commissioning, ongoing works on the Municipal Office block for National Health Insurance Authority at Goaso while the construction of the District Office block for NHIA in Asutifi North has been completed in Kenyasi.

The Regional Police Headquarters in Goaso, as well as the bungalows for the Regional Police Commander and Deputy Regional Commander in Goaso, are currently under construction. The High Court, Circuit Court, and Magistrate Court Buildings and Bungalows at Goaso, Duayaw Nkwanta, Hwidiem and Kukuom are also under construction.

The Regional Highways Office Complex, Bungalows at Duayaw-Nkwanta and offices of the Environmental Protection Agency in Goaso are also some of the projects that are ongoing while the Regional Office block for the Youth Employment Agency has been completed and awaiting commissioning.

In the education sector, the region over the period has witnessed tremendous improvement since 2017 including the upgrading of infrastructure and provision of other amenities and structures. This has created both access and quality education for children thereby impacting positively the lives of the people.



The region has a total of 1,747 public educational institutions comprising 6 Special (TVET) Schools, 20 Senior High Schools, 438 Junior High Schools, 577 Primary Schools and 706 Kindergarten Schools.

The government provided 10 medium-sized buses, two large buses and a pickup to Senior High Schools in the region. The Municipal/District Education Directorates received six pickups and the Regional Education Directorate received a Toyota Land Cruiser Prado to facilitate their operations.

Under the Free Senior High School programme, a total of 42,725 students have been enrolled in 22 schools including TVET Schools.

The Region came first in the Maiden National Standardized Test 2021 organized for Basic Four learners nationwide in literacy and numeracy and placed second in the 2020 WASSCE. It placed first in WASSCE Performance in specific subjects (Mathematics, Integrated Science, and Social Studies). The Region also placed second in the 2021 WASSCE and topped in some specific subjects (English, Mathematics, Social Studies).

Serwaa Kesse Girls' SHS placed second in 2022 in the National Debate Championship and Acherensua SHS qualified for the 2021 National Renewable Energy Challenge held in Accra and placed 6th. OLA Girls came second in the 64th Independence Anniversary National Debate competition in 2021 on the topic "Universal testing for COVID-19 unnecessary." The Directorate in collaboration with the Ministry of Communication and Digitalisation trained 1,000 Girls and 100 teachers in the Girls in ICT initiative.

Other infrastructural projects undertaken since the creation of the region include the construction of a 1-story dormitory block at Bechem Presbyterian Senior High School in Tano South Municipal Assembly, a 6-unit classroom block at Achiase M/A School in Tano South Municipal Assembly and a 1-story dormitory block, office, stores, and a computer laboratory at Kwakurikrom in Asutifi North District.

In the area of health, there are a total of 113 Health Facilities in the Region made up of district hospitals, health centres, clinics and CHPS Compounds.

The construction of a Poly Clinic in the Region is ongoing at Mim in the Asunafo North Municipality.

The Agenda 111 Hospital Projects have commenced in the Region and are projected to be completed on schedule. The construction sites at Kukuom and Kenyasi are both at the substructure stage.

Other projects include the construction of the CHPS Compound at Konkotreso and the Doctor's Bungalow at Dadiesoaba Hospital in the Asutifi South District. Work is also ongoing with the construction of an Infectious Disease Center at Goaso Municipal Hospital by M/s Cresflex Company Limited. The construction of a VIP Ward at Goaso Municipal Hospital and a CHPS Compound with Nurses' Quarters at Asuboi in Tano South Municipality.

### **North East Region**

The North East Region has two Municipal Assemblies and four District Assemblies namely, East and West Mamprusi Municipalities and Bunkpurugu-Nakpanduri, Chereponi, Mamprugu-Moagduri and Yunyoo-Nansuan Districts.

Massive infrastructural development has been executed since the creation of the Region.

Providing account on government policies, programmes and projects for development in the region, the North East Regional Minister, Mr Yidana Zakaria noted that more than 25 Departments and Agencies have been fully established in the Region and are steadily delivering on their mandate.

These include the Department of Food and Agriculture, the Ghana Highway Authority, the Department of Feeder Roads, the Department of Urban Roads, the Ghana Education Service and the Ghana Health Service.

Since the inauguration of the Regional Coordinating Council and the subsequent award of contracts, a three-Storey Regional Coordinating Council Office Complex, three Staff Bungalows for the Regional Coordinating Council and a two-Storey Regional Youth Employment Agency Office Complex at Nalerigu have been completed and commissioned.

In addition, ten governance infrastructure facilities are currently under construction, including a two-story administration block and staff bungalows for the Ghana Health Service at Gambaga, a two-story administration block and staff bungalows for the Ghana Education Service at Walewale and a two-story administration block and staff bungalows for the Department of Food and Agriculture at Yagaba.

In the health sector, 59.3 per cent of residents are fully vaccinated against COVID-19. Furthermore, since the light wave system was introduced, hospitals and medical facilities throughout the region have gone paperless.

The Walewale Zipline Center has also been established to deliver blood and medical products on-demand with drones in the North East and parts of the Upper East and the Northern Region.

Regarding education, the Free Senior High School programme has been implemented in the Region in all thirteen Senior High Schools. This came along with massive infrastructural development from classrooms, dormitories and toilet facilities, as well as the construction of new schools, among others, resulting in a successful migration from the Double-track to a Single-Track system.

The Region is also benefitting from an Ultra-Modern Model Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Senior High School at Kpasenkpe in the West Mamprusi Municipality; the first of its kind in Northern Ghana.

The Region has a total of 499 pre-schools, 501 primary and 186 Junior High Schools. TVET has also experienced a growth in enrollment from 1,614 in 2021 to 1,759 in 2022. Girls' enrollment increased from 854 in 2021 to 921 in 2022, while boys moved from 786 in 2021 to 838 in 2022.

On roads, a total length of 132.5 kilometres (km) of highways are being constructed in the region. The government has completed rehabilitation work (asphaltic overlay) on the Nalerigu, Gambaga, and Walewale Town Roads, totalling 18 kilometres.

Through the Department of Feeder Roads, a total length of 90.7km of roads is also under construction throughout the Region.

The Region has had its fair share of government flagship programmes, thus reducing the poverty and hardship levels of the people. These include Planting for Food and Jobs, Rearing for Food and Jobs, Planting for Export and Rural Development.

# Tit bits

## of President's Regional Tour with government projects in focus

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By: Ali Bala, ISD

**I**N performing his official duties, President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo toured several regions this year. The President used this platform to inspire hope in the citizens as well as communicate to them what the government has been doing to revive the economy to alleviate their suffering.

Following these tours, he inspected a couple of ongoing projects and commissioned completed ones. The President's working visits to the regions also brought to the limelight, the performance of the government concerning its flagship programmes.



It has been established from the President's working visits to the various regions that the government has adopted a holistic approach to the needs of the citizens. Thus, all kinds of social infrastructure and amenities that are needed to promote the welfare of the citizens are being catered for.

### **Ashanti Region in Focus**

President Akufo-Addo's recent tour to the Ashanti Region witnessed the commissioning of completed projects, inspection of ongoing ones and cutting of sods for the commencement of some significant ones.

Through this tour, it has been revealed that 21 factories have been completed and operationalised under the One District, One Factory (1D1F) project in the region. One such factory is the Sekyere Maize Processing Factory which the President commissioned on October 18, 2022, at Nsuta in the Sekyere Central District.

The performance of the government in the health sector also gained prominence as the President disclosed that his government has constructed 32 major hospital projects in the region since 2017. The government's health projects are a testament to the commissioning of a 60-bed Asante Akim Municipal Hospital at Konongo on October 16, 2022. Similarly, the Ahafo Ano District Hospital in Tepa has also been completed.

Aside from 16 Agenda 111 hospitals that are ongoing in the region, the government has also



continued with hospital projects that were started by previous governments. Examples of such health infrastructural projects are Manso Nkwanta, Twedie Sabronum, Drobonso and Suame hospitals which were initiated by the erstwhile President John Agyekum Kufour NPP-led government under the EURO JET Project.

One of these hospital projects that the Akufo-Addo government has given attention to the admiration of the people in the Ashanti Region is the neglected 44-year-old Maternity and Children's Block of the Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital. This facility, whose construction was reactivated in 2020, is about 60% complete. His tour to the region also revealed that a 250-bed Ashanti Regional Hospital at Sewua in the Bosomtwe District and another 500-bed Military Hospital under the Ministry of Defense at Afari are also expected to be completed in 2023.

The Judiciary has not been left out as the President commissioned residential accommodation for Appeals Court Judges in Kumasi on October 17, 2022. At this commissioning ceremony, he disclosed that 120 courtrooms and 150 bungalows are being built across the country with 70% of them already completed.

Of paramount interest to the people of Kumasi and the Ashanti Region as a whole is the commencement of the 4-tier Suame Interchange for which the President cut sod on October 18 2022. The said interchange is the largest in the region and the second largest in the country. When completed, the project will not only ease the perennial traffic around the Suame and other adjoining

places, but it will also improve urban mobility.



Aside from 100km of local roads constructed in Kumasi alone, the President also disclosed during the sod-cutting ceremony of the Suame Interchange that 295km of asphalt overlay of roads have been completed in the entire region since 2017. Additionally, Kumasi Roads and Drainage Extension Project which is also ongoing is 97% complete.

### **Eastern Region in Focus**

The Eastern Region was the next step of the President's tour after the Ashanti Region. Over there, he commissioned completed projects and inspected ongoing ones. The Abomosu Model Senior High School (SHS) was one of the completed projects that were commissioned by the President on 22nd October 2022. This V Block model SHS is composed of 24 classrooms, 12 laboratories, libraries and dormitories administrative block and a playing field.

The Abomosu model SHS is one of the nine schools the government is building or converting into model schools to fill identified gaps at that level of education. While seven of them are being built from scratch, the other two are existing schools that are being upgraded with new infrastructure.

The government's One District, One Factory (1D1F) flagship programme also received attention during the President's tour to the region as he commissioned the Specialty Beers Ghana Limited at Kwasi Tenten in the Nsawam Adoagyiri Municipality. In all, 17 factories have been completed while 16 others are under construction in the Eastern Region.



President Akufo-Addo also commissioned Nsawam Skills Acquisition, Vocational and Reformation Camp Prison. This structure is made up of a fully furnished 320-capacity dormitory block, carpentry and tailoring skills training centres an ICT lab administration block, a chapel with a classroom, kitchen, dining hall, laundry and inmates' washrooms.

The Eastern Regional tour took the President to the Ofoase Ayirebi Constituency where he commissioned an Astroturf and inspected an ongoing 100-

bed hospital at Ofoase and Akyem Asuboa. The president also inspected the ongoing Nkawkaw-Abirem-Ofoase-Akim Oda Road.

### **Volta Region in Focus**

As one of the regions that have been toured by the President and the Vice President, some infrastructural projects in the Volta Region also attracted public attention. Six hospitals under Agenda 111 hospitals are steadily progressing. These projects which are expected to be completed in 2023 are being built in the Akatsi North, South Dayi, Ho West, Afadzato South, Agotime Ziope and Anloga Districts.

The Vice President's visit to the region in September 2022 also witnessed the commissioning of a 56.4km Hohoe-Jasikan-Dodo-Pepeso Road, a section of the Eastern Corridor roads whose sod was cut in 2019.

President Akufo-Addo also inspected ongoing construction works on the Asikuma-Have stretch, one of the 58 road projects that are being executed in the region. The tour of the first and second gentlemen of the land to the Volta region has also revealed that a total of 159km of road projects have already been completed.

Another project that came to the limelight following President Akufo-Addo's visit to the region is the completed 175-meter span bridge over a tributary of the Black Volta River along the Kpando Agbenoxoe-Dafor Feeder Road which he inspected.

The President's tour to the region also revealed what the government has done in the judicial sector as he commissioned North Tongu Districts Magistrate Court at Battor.

### **Central Region in Focus**

Central Region also hosted the President in September 2022. Following his working visit to the region, President Akufo-Addo inspected the Elimina Fishing Harbour which is 91% complete. This harbour is being rehabilitated and expanded to strengthen Elimina's position in the fishing and salt industry.

The President also commissioned the APPEB Cylinder Manufacturing Company Ltd at Chochoe in the Awutu Senya West Constituency. This factory is established under the 1D1F project.

He also cut sod for the construction of the Kasoa-Bawjiase road and promised to construct the

Akoti-Junction-Senya Beraku Road in honour of the late Harouna Esseko, a project that commenced two weeks after his promise.

### **Savannah Region in Focus**

As part of his activities in the Savannah Region following his working visit, the President commissioned an integrated recycling and compost plant at Damongo. This project, which was started in October 2022, is a Jospong Group-Government partnership. It is introduced as a panacea to the region's perennial waste collection and disposal problem.

### **Upper West in Focus**

During the President's tour of the Upper West Region, he disclosed that his government has completed 18 road projects in the region since 2017, with 110 others ongoing. He cited the Wa-Hamile Road as a road that has been tarred for the first time by his government.

As part of his activities in the Upper West Region, the President commissioned phase one of a 13MW solar power project at Kaleo. The project, which is to improve the power supply in the region, took two years to be completed.

### **Northern Region in Focus**

The President's visit to the Northern Region in August 2022 offered him the opportunity to inspect Agenda 111 hospital at Kpandai and the cassava and yam processing factory in Bimbila.

In the area of road infrastructure, the President cut sod for work to commence on the dualization of the Yendi Road. This project, which spans 2.53km, is expected to be completed in seven months from the time it started in August 2022.

Other projects like Lot 5 of the Eastern Corridor roads, which starts from Oti Damanko through Bimbila and ends at Yendi with a distance of 94km, are also ongoing as disclosed by the Roads Minister, Mr Amoako Atta, during the sod-cutting ceremony of the Dualisation of the Yendi Road. Another Eastern Corridor Road that is ongoing, according to the sector minister is the Lot 6 road which covers a distance of 115km.

### **Upper East Region in Focus**

The case of Upper East was unique as the President commissioned a water supply project during his visit to the region in August 2022. The 37.6 Million Euros water project will supply safe drinking water to Bolgatanga, Navrongo, Paga and their surrounding villages and towns. Other towns that will benefit from the water project are Zuarungu, Zarre, Sumbrungu, Kalbeo, Gambibigo, Winkogo, Bongo, Yorogo, Pungu and Akomkongu.

### **North East Region in Focus**

President Akufo-Addo's visit to Nayiri's home witnessed the commissioning of the administration block of the North East Regional Coordinating Council.

The Nayiri extolled President Akufo-Addo for asphaltting the Nalerugu-Gambaga-Walewale Road. Other roads he commended the President for constructing are the Wulugu-Kpasengbe Road, Nasia-Janga Road and Wayima Road. Nalerugu-Bunkpurugu Road was also not left out.



# The Contribution of the Akufo-Addo Government in Road Infrastructure

By: Dzifa Hukporti



**G**OOD road infrastructure is very central to the socioeconomic development of every country. Because of this, every government of the 4th republic has always given considerable attention to the road sector.

Given this, President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo has given significant attention to road infrastructure since he took over the administration of the country in 2017.

Having declared 2021 as the “Second Year of Roads”, the President informed Ghanaians that the Ministry of Roads and Highways has programmed to undertake the construction of 1,500 kilometres of asphalt overlay in all parts of the country.

The government as part of its agenda in building a better Ghana, started to build the road infrastructure in all 16 regions of the country.

Mr Kwasi Amoako-Attah, Minister of Roads and Highways, has provided the Legislature with a thorough report on the number of roads built by the Akufo-Addo administration between 2017 and 2021.

The Minister said that so far, 4263.37 kilometres of roads have been built. The summary of works undertaken includes, 1,463.36 km of asphaltic overlays, 837.27 km of road rehabilitation and 955.82 km of gravel or re-gravelled highways were completed between 2017 and May 2021.

Other initiatives include resealing 86.20km, rebuilding 90.40km, partial reconstruction 139.41km, and construction 68.50km. upgraded roads totalling 482.83km.

The Minister stated on the floor of Parliament that "we have broken the road intervention into regions, and it covers all 16 regions of our country, and we have further gone to itemize all the road activities that constitute that total number because we want to offer prima facie evidence of what we have done."

He added that "the performance of the Akufo-Addo-led government in the road sector is unprecedented in the country since independence in 1957.

Below are some of the regional road projects of which some are still under construction.

### **GREATER ACCRA REGION**

The Greater Accra Region saw a massive road infrastructure project ongoing and some completed. Notable among them are the Tema Motorway Interchange Phase I and Phase II, the Obetsebi Lamptey Interchange and recently commissioned the \$94.8 million four-tier Pokuase Interchange to ease traffic congestion and improve urban mobility on the Accra-Nsawam-Kumasi Highway.

Additionally, the Legon/Adjingranor roads, aimed at improving travel times within that corridor, are 52% complete.

The Tema Steelworks Road, the only concrete road to be constructed by the government since the Accra-Tema Motorway, has also been completed. Similar works are also being undertaken within the Tema Industrial enclave. The construction of a new concrete bridge over the Kpeshie lagoon is also ongoing.

The government has awarded the Dome-Kitase Road for rehabilitation. The project, which covers a distance of 23 kilometres, starts from the Dome Roundabout in the Greater Accra Region to Kitase





in the Eastern Region.

It includes the construction of a 16.3km two-lane single carriageway with asphaltic concrete surfacing and the provision of a 2.8km asphaltic concrete surfacing dual carriageway arterial with auxiliary lanes on both sides for drop off/pick up.

It will also include the provision of a 1km 2-lane single-carriageway for Ashesi University, with the asphaltic concrete surfacing. This project, which is estimated at GH¢195 million, would be funded by the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED) and the Government of Ghana.

Other works on the project are the construction of drainage and safety facilities such as crash barriers and road signs and the installation of streetlights.

### **CENTRAL REGION**

Cape Coast has received its share of road projects. The Inner-City Roads are part of the Master Project Support Agreement (MPSA) between the Government of Ghana and the People's Republic of China through SinoHydro Corporation.

A total of 22 kilometres of road have been completed under the Cape Coast inner-city roads project.

Apart from the SinoHydro Cape Coast Inner City roads, several major road projects have been completed in the Central Region, which includes: the partial reconstruction of the Cape Coast-Twifo Praso Road and access road to Kakum Park (30km), upgrading of Dunkwa-Twifo Praso-Assin Foso road (20km) and partial reconstruction of Bawjiase-Agona Swedru road (15km).

The Department of Urban Roads has also completed 30km of asphalt overlay works and beneficiary towns include Cape Coast, Agona Swedru, Winneba and Anomabo. In addition, the DUR, has re-gravelled 50km of roads and also undertook the rehabilitation of 7.5km of roads in the Central Region.

The Department of Feeder Roads have also upgraded 75km of roads in the Central Region to bitumen surfacing and constructed 6 major bridges.

The roads include the bitumen surfacing of Winneba-Sankor-Ojobi-Akoti road (22km), bitumen surfacing of Kushea–Abotareye-Akwawusu-Atweneboana (16.5km) and bitumen surfacing of Nyarkrom-Bobikumaroad, which 12.5km.

Among bridges that the government has constructed in the Central Region are the 105m span Steel Bridge on Suprudu-Ammissano-Mankessim feeder road, 25m, 20m and 40m span steel bridges over rivers Akora, Osene and Okyi respectively.

### **WESTERN REGION**

In the Western Region, about 287km of roads within the oil enclave are ongoing and some have even reached 90 per cent completion, being funded by the Ghana National Gas Company and Ghana National Petroleum Corporation.

The dualization of the Sekondi/Adiembra roads, in Sekondi-Takoradi in the Western Region, is progressing steadily. The construction of the PTC interchange in Takoradi is 50% complete.

The government has invested over GHC 4 billion to improve the road network in the Western Region from 2017 to 2022.



The investments have seen the completion of 72.89km of urban roads, 152.98km of feeder roads and 26.5 km of highway roads while 180.1km of urban roads, 775.88km of feeder and 504.7 of highway roads are ongoing.

Some major roads have been completed, such as the rehabilitation of the 1.6km WAMCO–Effiakuma road and the 36km Tarkwa–Darmang road.

The construction of the Kwame Nkrumah Interchange (3-tier) is 68% completed with the dualization of the Paa Grant progressing steadily.

The Kojokrom–Manso section of the railway line has been completed, while the construction of the 78km rail line (Manso–Nsuta) section of the Western Railway line is on course and expected to be completed by July 2023.

### **ASHANTI REGION**

The Ashanti Region received its share of the ongoing Sinohydro projects of 100km of Inner-City Roads. The Kumasi Roads and Drainage Extension Project, which includes the dualization of the Lake Road and lining of the Sissai River Drain in Kumasi is 75% complete.

The Department of Urban Roads (DUR) awarded 64 contracts, the Ghana Highway Authority (GHA) awarded 69 contracts and the Department of Feeder Roads (DFR) awarded 203 contracts summing up to 336 contracts.

### **THE THREE NORTHERN REGIONS**

The government extended the road project to the people of the Northern Region. The construction of a 167-kilometre highway from Tamale through Yendi to Tatale in the Northern Region is ongoing.

The Tamale-Yendi-Tatale Road Project is being fully funded by a USD 150 million World Bank facility under the Transport Sector Improvement Project (TSIP).

The highway, which has significant portions of it untarred for decades, forms part of the Eastern Corridor Road linking major towns in the Northern, North East, Upper East, Oti, Volta and Greater Accra Regions.

The international highway, which connects the southern part of the country to major parts of the north, and Ghana's landlock neighbours, starts from the 83km Savelugu-Walewale stretch before the dualisation of the stretch from Tamale to Savelugu and the reconstruction of Walewale to Paga stretch.

The project, financed by the Indian Exim Bank, will enhance intra-urban, regional and national trade and strengthen regional economic integration.

As part of the construction, the Walewale-Nalerigu intersection of the road will be upgraded into an interchange and the section within the Walewale township will be dualized.

Other major road corridors are the Eastern Corridor, which links Tema, Asikuma, Hohoe, Bimbilla, Yendi, Gushegu, Gbintiri, Bunkprugu, Garu, Bawku and Polimakom are progressing.

In the Northern Region alone, the construction of critical roads is busily ongoing. Some of these include the Zabzugu –Nakpali (51km) 60% complete; Salaga-Kpandai (52km) 50% complete;

Salaga-Bimbilla (71km) 56% complete; upgrading of Nantong-Karaga (61km) 45% complete and the upgrading of Karaga-Gushiegu (24km) 30% complete.

## **UPPER WEST**

In the Upper West Region, the government has completed the bitumen surfacing of 220.29 kilometres of roads in the region since 2017. This includes 127.6 kilometres of highways, 63.70 kilometres of feeder roads and 28.99 kilometres of urban roads.

Some of the highways completed include the Wa-Han Road (30 km), the upgrading of Nadowli-Lawra-Hamile Road and the upgrading of Nadowli-Lawra-Hamile Road.

Again, some of the bitumen surfacings of feeder roads completed also include Jirapa-Ping road, (24.50Km), Kaleo-Sankana-Takpo road (12.50Km) and Kokoligu Junction-Hamile road. Urban roads completed include the rehabilitation of selected roads in Nandom (Phase I) (18.66Km) and the rehabilitation of selected roads in Lawra Municipality.

Two major bridges over the Kulun and Ambalara rivers in the Wa East District have been completed. These bridges are valued at about £17,428,571.42 and are open to traffic. The bridges are critical in the region and will give relief to commuters, especially in the southeastern corridor of the region. Carting of farm produce and animals to marketing centres will also be enhanced as the Wa East corridor constitutes a major food basket.

The Tumu-Han-Lawra road (85 km) has been awarded on contracts in 5 Lots to help speed up completion in 24 months. The contractors include Mawums Co. Ltd (15 km); Aschal Investment (10 km); Maripoona (20 km); Green House International Development (15 km), and P&W Ghanem Ltd (25 km). The sites have been handed over to the contractors and some have commenced work. When completed, the transportation challenges of the North-Eastern belt of the region (which is a major food basket) will be relieved.

## **SAVANNAH REGION**

Since the creation of the Savannah Region, the government has committed to improving its road infrastructure.

Currently, a total of 43.38km of critical roads have been cleared, 16.75km of critical roads have been gravelled, 3.96km of critical drains of various sizes have been constructed and 40.5m of 0.9m and 1.2m pipe culverts have been constructed across the region.

About 2.63km of various roads have been rehabilitated (Sealed) and 15km of asphaltic overlay have been undertaken in the region.

The asphalted roads include Damongo, Salaga and Daboya town roads while the Ghana Highways Authority and the Feeder Roads Department undertook routine maintenance of urban and feeder roads across the region.

The Binjai-Fufulso road, a significant road network connecting the eastern part of the region from Binjai in the North East Gonja District to the western corridor at Fufulso in the Central Gonja District, is currently under construction and it is currently 60% complete and is projected to be completed in mid-2023.

## **BONO REGION**

In the Bono Region, construction works are ongoing in Sunyani and Berekum Inner City roads. The

state of work is about 60%.

The Ghana Highways Authority is currently constructing 13 road projects totalling 342.3km, which include the upgrading of Menji-Bui Road, Nkrankwanta–Kaase road and Sampa–Jinini road.

The Department of Urban Roads has upgraded roads inside the University of Energy and Natural Resources Campus and some selected roads in Sunyani East while the Berekum-Koraso and Botokrom-Abrikaso roads are also receiving attention.

## **OTI REGION**

The Oti Region which is one of the newly created has also received its share of the road projects in the country.

The construction of the Jasikan–Dodo Pepesu road is part of the Master Project Support Agreement (MPSA) between Ghana and China for the construction of some key infrastructure projects through a financing model. Under Phase 1 of the MPSA, a total of 441km of roads and two interchanges are to be constructed.

The construction of Nkwanta- Oti Damanko(50.3km) up to Kpassa is 50% complete. Work on Nkwanta-Oti Damanko (12km) and Kpassa-Oti Damanko is 71% complete. Also, the construction of Oti Damanko-Yendi (94km) is 97% complete.

The 164 km road from Oti Damanko to Zanteli has been completed. The road forms part of Lots 5 and 6 of the Eastern Corridor Road, stretching from Oti Damanko through Gbintiri to Zanteli.

## **VOLTA REGION**

The Department of Urban Roads completed 31km of road works within Ho the capital of the Volta Region through to Hohoe and its neighbouring towns. These include the asphalt overlay of 14.7km of roads in Hohoe; 14km of binder course laid between Sokode-Gbogame and the Civic Centre under the dualization of the Ho main road and the upgrading of Klefe town roads (2.5km). The dualization of the Ho main road and Civic Centre-Sokode Gbogame road is 60% complete.

## **EASTERN REGION**

In the Eastern Region, Parliament has approved €200 million for the construction of a bridge at Adawso-Ekyi Amanfrom over the Afram River to boost agriculture productivity in some communities in the Afram Plains.

Parliament also approved €150 million for the construction of Bunso-Adawso, Takorowatwen-Ekyi Amanfrom, Adawso-Kwahu Tafo, Kwahu Tafo-Miaso, Miaso-Begoro and Begoro-Obuoho roads.





## ISD Transformation agenda to position the Department to re-take its place as the government mouthpiece

By: Edem Agblevor

**I**N 1939, the Information Services Department was established as a branch of the Colonial Government Secretariat dedicated to conveying news on the 2nd World War to the people of Gold Coast. This was done through the production of a weekly journal dubbed the *“Empire at War”*.

Today the Department's vision is to establish a responsive two-way channel of communication between the government and the people to proactively and readily assist the government's investment promotion and development programmes towards good governance.

With this background regarding the primary purpose for which the Department was created, it would be appropriate to refer to the ISD as the government's spokesperson and the most dependable source of information about the government.

The Department has reached the stage where it must adapt itself to operate effectively and efficiently to meet the communication market since the way people receive and distribute information has undergone a significant transformation.

Nonetheless, if the ISD of 1939 uses the same approach today and expects to see significant and accurate results, it will not be able to accomplish its objectives.

Cabinet has adopted the ISD Transformation Agenda, which aims to retool ISD to perform its duties effectively, according to Mr Kojo Oppong Nkrumah, the Minister for Information.

The Minister stated that the ISD needs to be retooled to bring it up to speed to meet the difficulties of this time during one of his meetings with the staff of ISD, noting that the contemporary media landscape required dynamism.

To evaluate public opinion on government policies from the 16 regions, the Department now has a refurbished Research Division that is well-equipped with computers and quality internet connection.

By using this research, the government will be able to gain a thorough grasp of how the general public thinks about policies, which will help policy formulation.

Android phones had been distributed to all Regional/District Information officers (RDIOs) to



facilitate the collection and transmission of data as part of the refurbishment of the Research Division.

The ISD has one of its core mandates to train Public Relations Officers who are posted to government agencies to ensure the free flow of information on government programmes and policies to the citizenry.

This is to give the citizenry understanding and fair idea of what the government is doing in terms of development and where the nation is heading.

The Department's public education campaigns on pertinent subjects and government policies could encourage international organisations like the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) who need to educate the public to depend on ISD as a trusted partner.

As part of the plan is the use of a communication mix to inform Ghanaians of government policies and initiatives, the Minister of Information, Mr Kojo Oppong Nkrumah, has given the ISD a remodelled newsroom.

The newsroom is connected to an app called "Bonsu Platform" set up at the Public Relations Coordinating Division of the ISD to create real-time reporting of the operations of the government from Public Relations Officers at Ministries, Departments, and Agencies.

With this project, the newsroom's journalists have access to high-speed internet, which enables them to regularly post the reports they receive from the Bonsu platform into the Ghana Today website and magazine as well as distribute the news to other media houses so that the public can stay informed about the work of the government.

The journalists went through vigorous training to improve their writing skills and reporting to fit the house style of the Department to also inform the citizens in simple language.

The Ministry of Information under which the Department operates has also adopted strategies to reach people through social media, Weekly Press Briefings and the "Ask the Info Ministry" platform. This also creates the opportunity for the Department to monitor how people responded to all the government news items that were posted on the various platforms.

This transformation will encourage the citizenry to seek the ISD first when it comes to information about the government, policies and projects.

As part of this transformation agenda, the Department has also developed a strategy to monitor the work of Public Relations Officers (PROs).

A panel was used in the first part of the monitoring to assess the PROs' performance at the ISD headquarters, and the second step will involve field visits to the MDAs where the PROs have been stationed.

The Information Services Department and the Ghana Statistical Service have agreed that the latter will provide the former with technical assistance so that it may conduct reliable, credible research that will enable the government to make informed decisions.

As a result, officers have received training to give them the necessary knowledge and abilities to

collect and analyze empirical data to provide prompt feedback to the government.

For data collection and gathering, the information officers have been given Samsung Tablets that were pre-installed with the ISD Online App and the CSEntry Offline Application for Computer-Assisted Personal Interviews.

The establishment of the Right to Information (RTI) office is yet another noteworthy change at the ISD.

The RTI law aims to give people more power to access information from government agencies and increase transparency, hold government officials accountable and gain a deeper understanding of how the nation is governed.

The office assists the public about their right to access information, how to request information, the steps involved, the types of information that can be accessible and the information that is exempt from disclosure.

Transforming the Information Services Department has been in the 'pipeline' for a very long time and has finally materialised and I can boldly say that this transformation agenda has resurrected the Department again even though like Oliver Twist, the Department will ask for more.

This transformation agenda from the renovation of some of the offices to the creation of new ones, the various workshops and training as well as the speed at which government information is being sent to the populace on daily bases, ISD is gradually taking back its place as the government's mouthpiece.

There would be a need for frequent training for the various officers in the Department especially, the Research, Newsroom, RTI, and PROs to equip and update them on fresh and new ways of going about their duties so they don't get left behind looking at the fast rate at which digitization is taking over the whole world.

This move will always put them on the same level as their colleagues internationally and also make the citizenry contact them first when they need authentic information relating to government policies and projects.



# **SIM CARD RE-REGISTRATION:**

## **Long-Term Benefits Outweigh Current Challenges**

By: Patience Anaadem, ISD



Ghana is one of the countries in Africa that is enforcing mandatory Subscriber Identity Module (SIM) card registration.

Mandatory sim card re-registration is a policy adopted by the government spearheaded by the Ministry of Communications and Digitalization to address crime, mitigate security concerns and enable the application of digital services. In line with this policy, the Government of Ghana has issued a directive that all sim cards in Ghana be re-registered.

The re-registration of all sim cards became necessary because there were challenges with verifying the identification of documents used for the initial registration. Some of the flaws found with the old registration documents included records of fake ID numbers as well as fictitious names in existing SIM registration databases.

This exercise obliges citizens to provide a significant amount of personal information before using or continuing to use a sim. Full names, home addresses, national identity numbers, pictures and biometric data for authentication are all part of the information required.

To this end, the Ministry of Communications and Digitalization in consultation with relevant stakeholders operationalized the nationwide mandatory sim card re-registration on October 1st, 2021.

It is, however, important to take cognizance of the fact that, the law mandates that the National

Identity Card (Ghana Card) should be the only identification document accepted for the re-registration exercise; Regulation 7(1)(l) of the National Identity Register states that “A National Identity Card (Ghana Card) issued to an individual shall be used for the registration of SIM cards; where identification is required.” This applies to individuals who qualify for citizen and non-citizen National ID Cards. For non-citizens who are not residents of Ghana (who will be staying in Ghana for less than 90 days), a valid passport or ECOWAS Card is required. For a corporate body, a certificate of incorporation will be required for identification.

## **SIM Re-registration**



With each SIM connected to the Ghana Card, perpetrators of fraud would find it extremely difficult to implement their clandestine activities.

This exercise was expected to end on October 31, 2022, after which unregistered SIM cards would be blocked. However, due to some challenges during its implementation, the registration period was extended.

The implementation of this all-important national policy has been saddled with a few challenges. A critical challenge has been the 'identity gap', which is a key concern raised by customers. This problem stems from the fact that some people do not still have the required identification document (Ghana Card) to register their SIM cards. Another area of great concern is the protection of personal data provided during the registration process since third-party software and private telecommunication companies were authorized to take sensitive bio-data of customers.

Notwithstanding these challenges, the sim card re-registration remains relevant to the government and the citizens. According to DataReportal, Ghana had 41.69 million mobile connections as of January 2021. This is indicative of the extent to which mobile phones have become a critical part of the daily activities of citizens. Along with this phenomenon comes the threat of cybercrime, which has become more prevalent in Ghana; hence, the Ministry of Communications and Digitalization saw the need for a significant step in curtailing these activities and creating a system for accountability in the nation's digital economy.

The benefits of SIM card re-registration cannot be overlooked. The exercise would curb mobile fraud by enabling law enforcement to identify fraudsters using their phones for criminal activities, whilst keeping an eye on and tracking persons using their phones for illegal activities. The SIM Registration will provide detailed statistics on a large number of users in Ghana and will serve as a resource for tracking down fraudsters and criminals.

The government would also be able to ascertain the exact number of valid and accurate SIMs on the networks, allowing the National Communications Authority access to accurate data to regulate activities in the telecommunications sector. This will also serve as a means that enables digital surveillance and interception as part of investigations of criminal offences and counter-terrorism efforts.

With this data, telecommunications operators would be able to collate better demographics of their customer base and help them develop products and services to suit the various groupings

Economically, SIM re-registration would enhance economic growth by guaranteeing a secure platform where business activities can thrive. With the data collected, the informal sector can gradually be regulated more accurately. Many more people will now be able to access E-Government services and other private e-services. In addition, SIM Re-registration will also support financial inclusion across vulnerable sectors.

The positive response of the public to this exercise can be attributed to the fact that some understood the relevance of SIM re-registration to the administration and regulation of electronic financial services whilst others complied for fear of losing their existing numbers.

Protecting the citizen's rights remains a key priority in the re-registration process and the overall policy would ensure appropriate privacy safeguards and effective legal oversight to protect consumers' data.

Whilst we laud the government for its efforts in introducing the SIM Card Registration Self-Service Application, which is an innovative method for telecom subscribers to complete their SIM Card re-registration from the comfort of their homes, offices, or other convenient locations, the government also needs to place an important emphasis on tackling the identity gap and personal data protection issues. Since these would play essential roles in ensuring the success of the exercise by delivering benefits for all legitimate stakeholders.

Given that issues concerning the identity gap could be addressed by allowing third parties to vouch for people who do not have Ghana cards.

Also, the government should reassure the public that personal data is stored per relevant regulations and that the privacy of all stakeholders is protected.

It is also important that the government employs relevant stakeholders to implement a nationwide public education campaign to sensitize the public on the importance of sim re-registration.

The Ministry of Information also has a critical role to play in the smooth implementation of this initiative by facilitating the flow of adequate, timely, and reliable information between the government and the public.





# GOVERNMENT'S ACHIEVEMENT IN THE FISHERIES SECTOR

By: Irene Wirekoaa Osei



**T**HE fisheries industry contributes at least 4.5% of Ghana's GDP and earns over \$1 billion in revenue annually. With a marine coastline that stretches for 550 kilometres from Half Assini in the west to Aflao in the east, the fishing industry significantly contributes to sustainable livelihoods and the eradication of poverty in many households and communities.

According to the Fisheries Management Plan of Ghana Marine Fisheries Sector 2015-2019, a further 10% of the population, or about three million people, are estimated to be employed in the sector directly or indirectly, including their

dependents. Significantly, 60% of Ghana's animal protein intake comes from fish.

The industry has also contributed to Ghana's tourism sector. Celebration of the annual fishing festival formally known as the "National fish festival" is a local tradition which brings in tourists and exhibitors from all over the country.

## **Automation of Premix Fuel**

The government intends to automate the distribution of premix fuel across all landing beaches in the country, to eliminate middlemen who hijack the distribution of the premixed fuel.

Premix fuel is an in-country blend of fuel made for use by the fishing industry. It has similar properties as gasoline, but with an octane number of 82. It is dyed blue to differentiate it from other fuels.

With the new drive, only fishermen with electronic cards would access the product.

A fuel management and tank gauging system called the Automated Premix Fuel Distribution System was created to improve the effective and efficient management of premix fuel.

The system is made up of the PSS 5000 Forecourt Controller, the TLS4 Automatic Tank Gauge, the Payment Terminal (TR1000), the Tag Reader, the Printer, and Remote Monitoring. As part of the fully automated premix fuel digitization initiative, fishermen will be required to use their canoe identification cards to purchase premix fuel because they will be credited with the reduced amount of fuel required at sea.

The implementation of the automated system is in line with the government's digitalization agenda to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of service delivery.

It is a key component of the Ministry's strategy to modernize the fisheries sector to increase its

contribution to the development of the country.

The level of subsidies on fishing inputs, such as premix fuel, reflects the level of the government's support for the fisheries industry. Due to this, artisanal fishermen now have significant access to the product, which has improved their lives. By implementing systems that would improve the management of premix fuel, it is crucial to maintain the progress made over time. This goal would be accomplished with the aid of distribution automation for premix fuel.

### **Establishment of a National Aquaculture Centre**

In February 2022 the Minister of Fisheries, Mrs Hawa Koomson broke grounds for the establishment of the new Ghana National Aquaculture Center. The centre is located in Amrahia, in the Greater Accra Region and would receive a 9.8-million-euro investment.

It is anticipated that the centre will take about 24 months to build. A fish farm will also be put into operation as part of the project. The project's implementation is estimated to cost EUR 9.8 million, and more than 300 entrepreneurs are anticipated to receive training and equipment in the aquaculture industry over five years under the programme's proposed schedule.

The project's main goal is to prepare young people interested in aquaculture production, particularly graduates, to produce 50,000 metric tons of fish over five years period. According to Hawa Koomson, the trainee selection criteria will be made public, and qualified young people in the fisheries sector will receive special consideration.

The project entails the construction of an aquaculture production training facility and commercial farm, complete with classrooms, student and staff housing, a mechanic's shop, packing warehouses and cold storage, a facility for storing chemicals and inputs, a water reservoir, power plant offices, and a parking lot.

Recirculating aquaculture systems, biofloc systems and greenhouse aquaculture systems make up the operating modern aquaculture system.

The sustainable management of the fisheries resources and development of the aquaculture industry is very paramount to the government; therefore, it is working assiduously to make the sector robust.



# Leveraging tourism, arts and culture to promote Ghana's socio-economic development

By: Priscilla Nimako



Globally, Tourism, Arts and Culture greatly contribute to the socio-economic development of all countries.

Tourism, apart from becoming the largest and fastest-growing industry worldwide, is also a global highly competitive. Tourism development has been pursued in Ghana since the 1960s. However, the establishment of the Ministry of Tourism (MOT) in 1993 emphasized the government's commitment to the development of tourism as an economic sector.

International tourist arrivals and receipts in Ghana have been increasing substantially since 1982. In 2004, the sector attracted more than 500,000 tourists to the country with corresponding tourist receipts of 640 million US dollars. In West Africa, Ghana leads its neighbours as the number one tourist destination (Ghana Statistical Service, 2009).

Tourism plays a very significant role in income generation, employment and infrastructural development for the local communities where tourist sites are located and generate revenue for the government and stimulates local businesses in the country

As a tourist country, Ghana is endowed with unique and exciting tourist attractions, which include mountains, waterfalls, natural and artificial lakes, and national parks. forests, castles, crocodile ponds, and unique festivals, just to mention a few. Examples of these pleasure-seeking sites



include Cape Coast and Elmina Castles, Mole National Park, Kakum forest with a canopy walkway, Paga Crocodile Pond, Buabeng Fiema Monkey Sanctuary, Waterfalls, Rivers, Lakes, Beaches, Scenic Mountains, Landscapes, among others.

Tourism contributes about US\$1.4 billion to Ghana's GDP. This represents almost 3.0% of GDP. The number of jobs directly supported by tourism is also estimated at 150,000 at the moment.

The actual benefits of tourism result from its nature and the way it is defined or structured. Tourism stimulates the growth and development of Ghana and the building of its brand image.

Furthermore, it enhances revenue generation, generates jobs in various sectors, stimulates the development of the infrastructure of the country and motivates cultural exchange between foreigners and citizens.

The main benefits include employment, like accommodation, food and beverage industry, transportation services, travel and tour companies.

One primary benefit of Tourism in Ghana is the creation of both skilled and unskilled employment for people in various sectors that work hand in hand with the tourism sector. This is very profitable for local restaurants, various hotels, shopping centres and stores.

Also, tourism provides a great opportunity for foreigners to learn about new cultures and it also creates many opportunities for local citizens. It allows young entrepreneurs to establish new products and services. Moreover, residents experience the benefits that come with tourism occurring in their own country.

Before the Year of Return 2019, the Ghana Tourism Authority (GTA) predicted to attract 500,000 extra visitors. Official data from January to September 2019 indicates an additional 237,000 visitors; a rise of 45% compared with the same period the previous year with significant increases in visitors from the US and UK. Figures from the 2019 Tourism Report by the Ghana Tourism Authority indicated that the country earned over \$3,312 billion in tourism receipts.

Creative Arts Industry has a lot to contribute to the Ghanaian economy, it symbolizes our rich culture and heritage and makes the country popular around the world and attracts visitors and foreigners.

Ghana is known for making great wooden sculptures, ceramics, kente cloths, wood carvings, beads, and paintings among other beautiful artefacts which are made to promote the heritage of the country.

In Ghana, beads are not only a symbol of beauty but it plays a big role in the lives of the people. It's the first set of jewellery every child is adorned with right after birth and also a person's last





adornment when they are being buried. Beads are beautiful and they have significant importance in African society. They are the expression of the creativity of our people.

Culture is known to be the oil that keeps society running and is one of the main pillars of Ghana's socio-economic development and the bedrock sustaining communities' holistic progress.

No society could progress without observing the best cultural and traditional practices because they have a positive influence on development. In Ghana, this is shown by the rich display of traditional attire, dance, food, and languages.

Ghana has a lot of events with global appeal such as PANAFEST and Emancipation Day celebrations, Paragliding festivals, Hogbetsotso, Homowo, Chirala festivals and Carnivals all of which attract tourists to the country.



# TVET:

## Cardinal to the Success of 1D1F

By: Edna Semenu



Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) has been instrumental in the economic development and industrialization of societies worldwide. Numerous examples from European countries throughout the first industrial revolution to the fourth industrial revolution with the rise of the labour market and the TVET demand-driven in each society.

What makes TVET successful is the focus on skills development, that is, using hands-on training. This helps students and future job seekers acquire the essential knowledge on the subject matter and the required competencies that they need to fulfil employers' expectations. Skills change lives, by offering people a future in professional occupations and entrepreneurship.

On 25th August 2017, President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo launched the One District, One Factory(1D1F) programme at Ekumfi in the Central Region. The President after the launch, cut sod for the commencement of the first factory, a pineapple/ fruit processing factory at Nanabeng in the Central Region of Ghana.

The One District, One Factory (1D1F) initiative is the vision of the President, to change the nature of Ghana's economy from one which is dependent on the import and export of raw materials to one which is focused on manufacturing, value addition and export of processed goods. These raw materials are largely found in the districts which would have otherwise gone waste.

The initiative is private sector-led and runs on a system where the government creates a conducive environment for businesses to access funding from financial institutions and other support services from government agencies to establish factories. Ghanaian entrepreneurs will thus own the companies, operate them and bear all the risks and rewards of the projects.

The principal objective of TVET is to train youths and adults alike, readying them for the labour market. With technical revolution and innovations in science and technology, labour market needs have significantly evolved. New challenges must be met to match the education proposed with vocational demands. That being said, it is imperative to provide young people with the skills that will make them employable, enhance their livelihoods and create wealth, and the One District, One Factory (1D1F) initiative is one of the most effective ways to achieve that. The result will be to ensure skills and TVET are the drivers of development across the country.

Many factories have faced challenges due to a lack of direct raw materials and human resources as they progress from one level to the other. The sustainability of these factories that would be set in the various regions within the country with regard to their manpower needs would require our educational institutions, especially TVET institutions to design relevant curricula and teaching methodologies that would provide pre-requisite qualifications to students for direct employment.

The role of the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) in achieving Ghana's industrialization drive after 60 years of independence cannot be over-emphasized. TVET has played lots of active roles in realizing this goal through the evolution of skilled-level manpower for the attainment of industrialization.

TVET education is widely patronized by the youth and has helped reduce the high level of widespread poverty, crime and deprivation, self-reliance, entrepreneurship and job creation among others because the skill learned is practised on farmlands, in the mines, in the forest, at the workshop and dressmaking, etc.

With TVET's five key trade areas, namely, Automotive, Cosmetology, Garment Making, Electronics and Welding, the training programme will provide well-trained industry professionals who would bring a wealth of knowledge and value to the 1D1F Initiative.

There is an urgent need for the 1D1F Initiative to collaborate with the Technical institutes, Polytechnics and Technical Universities and graduates from these institutions to make these initiatives a bridging gap for Ghana to achieve its industrialization agenda.

TVET cannot be effective without being closely linked with the industry continuous implementation and expansion of the 1D1F policy to provide employment opportunities for graduates from the various TVET institutions, thereby reducing the current unemployment situation in Ghana.



# TVET:

## Cardinal to the Success of 1D1F

By: Joyce Adwoa Animia Ocran

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