

**JOINT BIENNIAL MEETING ON DECENTRALISED AND NON-DECENTRALISED  
DEPARTMENTS, SOEs AND PUBLIC CORPORATIONS HELD IN SABOBA DISTRICT  
ASSEMBLY CONFERENCE ROOM ON 28<sup>TH</sup> JUNE, 2022.**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

- |                              |   |                                 |
|------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|
| 1. HON. GEORGE K. BINGRINI   | - | DISTRICT CHIEF EXECUTIVE        |
| 2. MR. HARUNA ABDULAI        | - | DISTRICT COORDINATING DIRECTOR  |
| 3. MRS. JANET ADUA           | - | DIRECTOR, GHANA EDUCATION SERV. |
| 4. MR. ERIC OFORI ARTHUR     | - | DISTRICT PLANNING OFFICER       |
| 5. MR. ABDUL-LATEEF SULEMANA | - | DISTRICT FINANCE OFFICER        |
| 6. MR. ERIC AGYEI            | - | DISTRICT ENV'T HEALTH OFFICER   |
| 7. MR. FAROUK BRAIMAH        | - | DISTRICT DIRECTOR, HEALTH SERV. |
| 8. MR. MUSAH A. ABDULAI      | - | DISTRICT AGRIC DIRECTOR         |
| 9. MR. ALHASSAN YAKUBU       | - | DEPT. OF SW/CD                  |
| 10. MR. ALI YAHAYAH          | - | DISTRICT NADMO COORDINATOR      |
| 11. MR. OBED TURNER          | - | DISTRICT BUDGET ANALYST         |
| 12. MR. SETH CEPHAS SENYO    | - | DISTRICT WORKS DEPARTMENT       |
| 13. MR. ABDULAI Y. ALHASSAN  | - | BIRTHS AND DEATHS REGISTRY      |
| 14. MR. ABDUL MUGIS ABDULAI  | - | DISTRICT NCCE DIRECTOR          |
| 15. MR. MOHAMMED SEIDU       | - | COMMUNITY WATER AND SANITATION  |
| 16. MR. RICHARD OWUSU        | - | NEDCo DISTRICT MANAGER          |
| 17. MR. SURAJ IDRISU         | - | DISTRICT NBSSI OFFICER          |
| 18. MR. AKWESI APPIAH        | - | MANAGER GCB BANK, SABOBA        |
| 19. MR. AKONSI MOHAMMED      | - | HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGER, SABOBA  |
| 20. MR. MARK EANTUO          | - | ASSISTANT DIRECTOR I            |
| 21. GANIW BAKARI KASSIM      | - | DISTRICT INTERNAL AUDITOR       |
| 22. GOKA RICHMOND            | - | NSS DISTRICT DIRECTOR           |
| 23. FATAWU MUTARU            | - | DISTRICT COORDINATOR, YEA       |
| 24. JONATHAN TIBORMOR        | - | DISTRICT OFFICER, ISD           |
| 25. ALHASSAN ABDUL-AZIZ      | - | DISTRICT DIRECTOR CHRAJ         |
| 26. UPUALKPAUJO NIMOR JOSEPH | - | DISTRICT DIRECTOR, NHIS         |
| 27. DR. JEANNA YOUNG         | - | MEDICAL DIRECTOR, AG HOSPITAL   |

NO.	ISSUES	ACTION BY
1.0	<p><b><u>OPENING</u></b>  The meeting started with a word of prayer by Dr. Jeann Young at 10:20am. The District Chief Executive welcomed members present and thanked them for making it to the Joint Biannual Meeting.</p>	
2.0	<p><b><u>AGENDA</u></b>  Mr. Eric Arthur read out the agenda for the meeting as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Performance Review of the Activities</li> <li>• Any other matters</li> </ul>	
3.0	<p><b><u>MID-YEAR REVIEW OF PROJECTS/PROGRAMMES IMPLEMENTATION</u></b></p>	
3.1	<p><b><u>PRESENTATIONS BY DEPARTMENTAL/SOEs AND PUBLIC HEADS</u></b></p>	
3.2	<p><b><u>AGRICULTURE</u></b>  The District Director of Agriculture, briefed members on the activities his Department carried out during the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter and the strides made so far. He indicated that the Department operates a veterinary clinic at their jurisdiction. In all, 9,000 birds were vaccinated and farmers were assisted to access loans from financial institutions. He said 5 extension officers were currently at post instead of the required number of 13.  A detailed report is attached for study.</p> <p>The DCD asked for the procedures involved in acquiring farmer's passbook to access subsidized fertilizers. The District Agric Director responded that it is opened to all farmers in the Municipality and one has to apply for it.</p> <p>Mrs. Janet Adua inquired further the security situation at Atronie with respect to extension officers' refusal to accept posting to the place. The Director answered that as of now, there were no officers at post there; however, other extension officers periodically tour the place.</p> <p>Mr. Braimah asked if they have received stock of the subsidized fertilizer for the farmers which he answered yes.</p>	
3.3	<p><b><u>EDUCATION</u></b>  Mrs. Janet Adua (Ghana Education Service) enumerated the activities the sector embarked upon during the period as follows;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inspection of schools</li> <li>• Assessing teachers for promotion</li> <li>• Team visits by circuit supervisors</li> </ul>	

- **Auditing of the Capitation Grant**
- **Two-day workshop for teachers on guidance and counselling**
- **National Literacy Accelerated Program (NALAP) on course to make learning easier.**

**Key challenges:**

1. **Inadequate office space**
2. **Inadequate teachers' accommodation**
3. **Difficult in getting room to rent in certain communities thereby, making teachers to commute for long distances and resulting into absenteeism**
4. **Inadequate number of teachers**
5. **High teacher attrition**
6. **High teenage pregnancy**
7. **Floods sometimes cut-off certain communities thereby making monitoring difficult.**

The DCD asked the Education Officer the amount received as Capitation Grant. Mrs. Janet Adua indicated that, the actual figure was not known as the Accountant was not at post and promised to make it available at next meeting.

A member asked whether impacts have been measured at places where new structures were put up for schools.

Mr. Alhassan Abdul-Aziz stated that impacts have not yet been assessed scientifically. The DCE observed that enrolment has increased in areas where facilities have been provided as well as performance.

Mrs. Janet Adua couldn't substantiate the claims so he assured members it would be made available in their next meeting.

Mr. Musah Abdulai inquired if the auditing was done by internal or external auditors. He answered that it was internally audited.

3.4 Mr. Jonathan alerted him on the poor attendance of the newly trained teachers stationed at Biwaldo.

**VOLTA RIVER AUTHORITY /NEDCO**

After brief introduction by the Area Manager, Mr Richard Owusu took up the briefing. He started by stating the various projects they embarked upon in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter. This ranged from Self-Help to Distribution Network Projects.

Mr. Fatawu Mataru asked why there was unstable power supply at Sambuli around. VRA attributed the problem to the increased capacity of the GWCL's plant. The load exerted is above the capacity of the transformer.

This led to the issue of frequent unstable power supply in the District. He explained that it was normally due to the routine maintenance and sometimes thieves stealing electric cables.

Mr. Richard Owusu asked for the measures put in place to ensure that those thieves are brought to book.

Mr. Richard Owusu said in the short-term they have sought support of the police and soldiers in monitoring the cables and also calling on other stakeholders to help bring those perpetrators to order.

He continued that they were looking at modernising the cables in the long run to limit cable theft by replacing all the copper cables.

The DCE asked why the delay in extending electricity to Kucha and Moagbal. Mr. Richard Owusu answered that it is a big project hence the cost involved would require of them to do a National Competitive Bidding as required by the Public Procurement Act 2003, Act 663 as amended. Besides, such a huge project cannot be mainstreamed into their routine and periodic activities of maintenance and installation. He added that to make the project feasible it has to be communicated to the Ministry of Energy for the funds and direction.

3.5

#### **GHANA WATER COMPANY LTD**

The only project for the period under review was the mechanization of a Borehole for Chambung which had been completed. Again, about 3km of 4” pipeline had been laid. He also used the opportunity to brief management on the functions of the agency as follows;

- Provide support to District Assemblies to:
  1. promote the sustainability of safe drinking water supply and related sanitation services in rural communities and small towns;
  2. enable the Assemblies to encourage the active involvement of communities, especially women, in the design, planning, construction and community management of water and sanitation project
- Formulate strategies for the effective mobilization of resources for the execution of safe water development and related sanitation programmes.
- Encourage private sector participation in the provision safe drinking water supply and related sanitation service
- Provide District Assemblies with technical assistance in the planning and execution of water development and sanitation in the districts
- Assist and co-ordinate with Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) engaged in the development of water and related sanitation and hygiene education in rural communities and small towns
- Initiate and pursue in collaboration with the Ministries of Local Government and Rural Development, Health and Education, programmes for public awareness in rural communities and small towns of water related hazards

3.6

- Prescribe standards and guidelines for safe water supply and provision of related sanitation services in rural communities and small towns and support the District Assemblies to ensure compliance by the suppliers of the services
- Charge reasonable fees for services provided
- Collaborate with such international agencies as the Agency considers necessary in the execution of its mandate
- Perform any other functions assigned to it by Act 564.

#### **DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

Mr. Alhassan Yakubu said a number of activities were carried out by the Department during the period. He said the activities covered Child rights, and registration of NGOs and CBOs. He also mentioned that the department with support from the assembly and UNICEF, has been implementing a number of programmes- PWDs, LEAP, Community Child Protection Toolkits, Child and Family Welfare policies and justice for children, adolescents and gender base violence etc.

The Department of Community Development carried out three mass education programmes during the period in Yakazia, Nakpel, and Natab.

#### **Challenges**

- Staff accommodation
- The Department current has no single cabinet for proper filing of documents
- The department is challenged with fuel for monitoring most of our activities

#### **Recommendations**

- The disability Fund Management committee should be support to sit on their quarterly meetings.
- The department of Social Welfare and community development should be supported to monitor all beneficiaries of PWDs to ascertain the impact of the support
- The disability data base or album needs to constantly updated to enable us have a working data on persons living with disability.
- Fuel Support for the DSW/CD child protection toolkits engagement exercise to reduce the menace of kayayoo and other protection issues
- Monitoring of PWDs beneficiaries
- Fuel for leap household visits

#### **Challenges**

- Inadequate field staff
- Lack of vehicle
- Inadequate funds to support other office work

3.7

#### **GHANA HEALTH SERVICE**

The Service implemented a number of projects within the period under review. According to the directorate, malaria still leads in the morbidity rate in the District. Mr. Farouk made

known the successful introduction of the 2 new vaccines (i. Pneumococcal vaccine and ii. Rota virus vaccine). In all, 401 children were immunized. She indicated that non-communicable diseases like Hypertension were still high in the municipality. The directorate was commended for the steps it took to vaccinate children to prevent them from contracting diseases.

**Challenges**

- Inadequate working space and basic medical equipment
- Obsolete transport
- Inadequate funding support
- High teenage pregnancy
- Increasing illegal activities of quack doctors and chemical shops sellers

**Way Forward**

- Lobby District Assembly to expand structures and provide basic equipment to health facilities
- Lobby District Assembly and Northern Regional Health Directorate for more motorbikes
- Lobby DA and NRHD to increase funding support to the health department
- Intensify engagement of major stakeholders
- Engagement District Assembly and community opinion leaders

3.8

**WORKS DEPARTMENT**

Mr. Seth Cephas Senyo listed a couple of projects the department implemented and the status of work done. This includes;

S/NO.	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	SOURCE OF FUNDING	IMPLEMENTATION STATUS (%)
1	Construction Of District Hospital (Agenda 111)	GoG	Substructure works ongoing
2	Construction of small earth dam	GPSNP	Completed
3	Establishment of 15 hector cashew plantation and 2acre nursery at Kunjul	GPSNP	Completed
4	Establishment of 15 hector cashew plantation at Sobiba	GPSNP	Completed
5	Construction of 10No.boreholes	DACF	Ongoing
6	Construction of 1no. 6unit fire and ambulance services station with an appliance bay and hydrant	DACF/RFG	Completed
7	Construction of 1no. police post at Gbangbanpong	DACF/RFG	Completed

3.9	8	Construction of 1no. 5-unit accommodation block for security personnel	DACF	Completed
	9	Completion of community initiated 3-unit classroom block	DACF	Completed
	10	Supply of 185no. Dual metal desks and 117no. mono metal desks	DACF	Ongoing
	11	Renovation of the Nambiri Chief's palace	DACF	Palace re-roofed completed and works in progress
	12	Renovation of teachers' quarters	DACF	Roofing completed and work in progress
	13	Construction of 1no. 6 unit girls model JHS	DACF	completed
	14	Construction of 1no. 3unit classroom with ancillary activities and furniture	DACF	Ongoing

#### NADMO

Mr. Ali Yayaha enumerated a number of activities they embarked on.

They included supply of relief items to disaster victims, public education on disaster prevention and management.

3.10

#### Challenges

1. Need for funds, vehicle and other logistics at the office to ease the work.

#### YOUTH EMPLOYMENT AGENCY

Mr. Fatawu Mataru took members through a number of activities his outfit embarked on during the period under review. He stated that, newly trained Teachers and Health Assistants were at post at the various stations. Again, a new Model of the Youth Employment Programme was introduced which is the training and equipping people in the film industry.

4.0

#### ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH UNIT

The District Environmental Health Officer stated that a number of activities were carried out with respect to waste management (solid and liquid) during the period. He stated that officers inspected food vendors by screening them at the appropriate laboratories. As part of their activities, officers were taught to educate citizens on the outbreak of malaria and cholera and ways of preventing them. He added that, CWSA trained 5 officers in the provision of toilet facilities. The trainees would encourage and train communities to put up their own toilet facilities without assistance from the government (Self-Helped projects).

5.0	<p><b>On the issue of the Septic Tank spillage at Dichieeni, Hon. DCE asked for the status of work at the place which he answered that he was waiting for the DCE's recommendation. The DCE urged Mr. Eric Agyei to take the necessary steps to resolve the problem.</b></p>	
6.0	<p><b>A member directed the attention of the Environmental Health Unit to the spillage of waste into gutters at the Old Slaughter House which in her view was making life unbearable for inhabitants. Mr. Obed Tunner said he would treat the matter with urgency.</b></p> <p><b>PRESENTATION BY THE DISTRICT PLANNING OFFICER</b></p> <p><b>The Annual Action Plan (AAP)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ <b>The annual action plan is the working tool of the District Assembly.</b></li> <li>❖ <b>It contains on a yearly basis, all the projects, programmes and activities of the Assembly.</b></li> <li>❖ <b>The 2021 AAP contains 212 physical and non-physical projects, programmes and activities.</b></li> </ul>	
6.1	<p><b>The composition and implementation of the annual action plan</b></p> <p><b>Physical projects</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ <b>Physical projects include Constructions, Rehabilitations, Renovations, Procurements etc</b></li> <li>❖ <b>Out of the 212 projects, programmes and activities, 63 projects, representing 29.7% are physical projects. 149 representing 70.3% are non-physical projects.</b></li> <li>❖ <b>Out of the 63 physical projects, 13 projects, representing 20.6% were roll over from the previous years.</b></li> <li>❖ <b>The district initiated 50 Physical projects this year and out of this 50 projects, 28 of them are implemented and being implemented at different levels of completion.</b></li> </ul>	
7.0	<p><b>Non-Physical Projects</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ <b>The non-physical projects include, sensitization, trainings, workshops, meetings etc. organized by Departments of the Assembly.</b></li> <li>❖ <b>Out of the 149 non-physical projects, 45 of them, representing 30.2% have been implemented as at the end June 2021.</b></li> </ul>	
8.0	<p><b>Ghana Productive Safety Net Projects (GPSNP)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ <b>Ghana Productive Safety Net Project (GPSNP) is a World Bank – Ghana Government founded project.</b></li> <li>❖ <b>It is being implemented jointly by the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development and the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection.</b></li> <li>❖ <b>The project is set up to support the Government to strengthen safety net systems that improve the productivity of the poor and vulnerable.</b></li> </ul>	



<p>9.0</p>	<p>The District benefited 5 sub-projects from the package in the first phase as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Rehabilitation of Small Earth Dam at Nayil Sachedo</li> <li>❖ Rehabilitation of 15ha degraded land with Cashew plantation at Kunjunli</li> <li>❖ Rehabilitation of 10ha degraded land with Cashew plantation at Sobiba</li> <li>❖ Rehabilitation of Boagbaln Road (2.5Km)</li> </ul> <p>The GPSNP is a Labour intensive Programme. The project has engaged 575 beneficiaries in its first phase and the second phase is expected to engage 189 beneficiaries. The second phase will be centered on Skill Training and Small Scale Business Development and Expansion.</p> <p><b>REVIEW OF THE AAP</b></p> <p><b>Unplanned Activities of the District Assembly</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Outbreak of covid-19 world-wide</li> <li>❖ Hon. DCE's commitment</li> </ul> <p><b>Challenges within the Period 2022</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Delays in the release of funds to implement projects, programmes and activities on the AAP.</li> <li>❖ Inadequate funds.</li> <li>❖ Bad road network.</li> <li>❖ Inaccessible nature of some communities.</li> <li>❖ Poor Departmental Collaborations.</li> <li>❖ Logistical Constraints.</li> <li>❖ Inadequate Skilled Labour in the District.</li> <li>❖ The absence of a Physical Planning Department.</li> </ul> <p><b>The Way Forward</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Regular release of funds by Central Government.</li> <li>❖ The 2022 Annual action plan and the 2022-2025 medium term development plan should be reviewed</li> <li>❖ Map out concrete strategies on revenue mobilization.</li> <li>❖ Strengthen collaborations at the various departmental level.</li> <li>❖ Organize regular stakeholder engagements on developmental strategies of the Assembly.</li> </ul>	
<p>10.00</p>		
<p>11.00</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Make use of the newly posted staff of the Physical Planning Department to properly plan the District.</li> </ul>	
	<p><b><u>OTHER MATTERS</u></b></p> <p>Mr. Saruj Iddrissu suggested the need to consult departments in charge of the various sectors before sitting and implementing a project especially those pertaining to water supply. The idea was welcomed by the members.</p>	

**CLOSING**

**Mr. Mugis Abdulai moved for the closure of the meeting and was seconded by Mrs. Janet Adua.**

**The DCD thanked members for being a part of the meeting and their contributions towards the success of the meeting.**

**The meeting ended with a word of prayer by Mr. Eric Agyei at 3:00pm**

**SECRETARY  
DPO**

**CHAIRMAN  
DCD**

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