



TWO STUDENTS FROM NCC UNIVERSITY BEGIN INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME AT AMA

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Two Executive Master of Public Administration students from North Carolina Central University (NCCU) have arrived in Ghana to commence a two-week internship programme at the Accra Metropolitan Assembly (AMA) to foster international collaboration and knowledge exchange.

The selected students will be deployed to the Budget and Rating Department and the Development Planning Unit of the Assembly to acquaint themselves with the city's infrastructure, gain insight into the local government system, and apply their professional experiences to contribute to the city's development process.

The internship programme, initiated last year, and facilitated by the University of Ghana Business School (UGBS) is designed to foster an exchange of ideas and strategies for public service between students from North Carolina Central University (NCCU) and their counterparts in Ghana. As part of the programme, students will be placed in various national government ministries, including transport, culture and tourism, and education.

The Coordinating Director of AMA, Douglas N.K Annoful who represented the Mayor of Accra during the meeting used the platform to welcome the delegation from NCCU adding that their presence signified a valuable opportunity for cross-cultural learning and collaborations between California and Accra.

He highlighted the 125th-anniversary celebration of the Assembly and recent restructuring which saw the subdivision of its jurisdiction from thirteen sub-metros to three.

He also provided insights into the structure of the Assembly and its sources of revenue, adding that their participation in the exchange program will enrich their academic experience and contribute to the city's development in the long run.

Speaking in an interview after the opening meeting held at the Accra City Hall on Monday, Pierre Osei-Owusu, DM, Professor of the Department of Public Administration at NCCU, explained that the internship programme involves studying the environment and various departments within the AMA, adding that the students would identify processes, standard operation procedures (SOP), and any unmet needs and propose ideas as well as strategies to improve public service based on their findings.

"This is the programme's second year, and we plan to continue it for the next five years," stated Dr. Paul. "The exchange of ideas between our students and their counterparts in Ghana is invaluable, and we hope that it will lead to the development of new strategies for public service," he said.

He emphasised the importance of the exchange in identifying and improving upon ideas to enhance the public service system in both countries and expressed optimism about the positive impact of the programme on both the students and the AMA.

"As the internship programme progresses, it is expected to not only enhance the students' understanding of public service but also strengthen the partnership between NCCU and the AMA, fostering continued collaboration in the years to come," he said.

Christopher John Paul, PHD, Associate Professor and MPA Director of the Department of Public Administration, at NC Central University, highlighted the importance of experiencing the workings of local and national government in Ghana, stating that it provides valuable insights into organisational functioning, communication, community building, and effective public service.

"This partnership is an opportunity for our students to learn through their counterparts and colleagues here in Ghana," said Dr. Paul. "It's incredibly important for understanding not only how organisations function but also how people interact and do effective work in public service," he said.

AMA BUILDS CAPACITY OF ASSEMBLY MEMBERS TO ENHANCE PROFICIENCY

The Accra Metropolitan Assembly (AMA) has organised a three-day in-house capacity-building training programme to enhance the proficiency of its Assembly Members in local governance affairs.

The training programme, spearheaded by the Human Resource Department of the AMA and held at the Royal Lee Hotel in Tutu, within the Akwapem North District of the Eastern Region, from May 8th to May 11th, sought to, among other things, equip the members with the necessary skills and knowledge to effectively carry out their duties in local governance.

During the three-day training, Assembly members were engaged in a series of workshops and interactive sessions covering a wide range of topics, including Ghana's Decentralisation Policy and Local Governance System, Deliberative Functions, Legislative Functions, Executive Functions, and Oversight Responsibilities of Assembly Members.

Speaking during the opening ceremony, the Presiding Member of the AMA, Hon. Alfred Asiedu Adjei emphasised the importance of continuous learning and professional development in driving sustainable progress within the city's governance framework.

The training programme, he said, would go a long way towards equipping Assembly members with the requisite skills and knowledge to address the challenges facing the city effectively.

He commended the enthusiasm and eagerness of Assembly members to serve Accra and urged them to apply insights from the training programme to uphold the principles of democracy, transparency, and accountability in the discharge of their duties.

He reiterated the critical role of subcommittee chairpersons in the effective functioning of the Assembly. "The proactive and effective performance of subcommittees is instrumental in shaping policy decisions before they reach the Executive Committee and General Assembly meetings for deliberation and decision-making," he said.

In a speech read on his behalf, the Coordinating Director of the AMA, Mrs Adiza Ali Awudu, Senior Human Resource Manager of the AMA, expressed the Assembly's commitment to fostering professional development and equipping its members and staff with the tools necessary to excel in their respective roles.

"With the current status of urban governance evolving rapidly, the training programme presents a unique opportunity for Assembly members to acquire new insights, refine existing abilities, and ultimately contribute to the realisation of the AMA's vision for a sustainable and prosperous Accra," he said.

Assembly members who shared their expectations expressed appreciation to the Mayor of Accra and Management for empowering them through the training programme.

Some staff of the AMA present at the training programme were Mr Emmanuel Appiah, Miss Shafawu Zakari Gumah, and Vivian Ama Broni among others.



AMA SUPPORTS GAMASHIE YOUTH WITH LOGISTICS TO CLEAN, DESILT DRAINS



The youth of Gamashie, led by their Youth Chief, Nii Tetteh Mjwaam, have organised a massive cleaning and desilting exercise in their community.

The initiative, which takes place every two weeks, aims to improve sanitation and waste management in the area.

With support from the Accra Metropolitan Assembly (AMA), the youth were provided with logistical assistance and trucks to collect debris. The collaboration between the community and the AMA underscores the importance of collective action in tackling environmental challenges.

Speaking about the initiative, the Head of Public Affairs at the AMA, Gilbert Nii Ankrah commended the Youth Chief and the young men and women of Gamashie for their outstanding initiative in organising the massive cleaning and desilting exercise in their community.

"It's heartening to see such proactive efforts towards improving sanitation and waste management," he said.

"The Accra Metropolitan Assembly is pleased to support this initiative by providing logistical assistance and trucks for debris collection. This collaborative effort between the community and the AMA is a shining example of what can be achieved through collective action" he added.

He pointed out that while these clean-up exercises were crucial for maintaining a clean and healthy environment, it was also important to focus on sustainable waste management practices and encouraged city dwellers to adopt the 3 R's of waste management: Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle.

"By adopting these practices, we can all contribute to creating a cleaner, healthier, and more sustainable environment for ourselves and future generations. Once again, we commend the Youth Chief and the youth of Gamashie for their dedication to improving their community, and we encourage other communities to follow their example. Together, we can make Accra cleaner and greener for all" he said.

He was hopeful that other communities would be inspired to emulate the initiative, leading to a cleaner and healthier Accra for all to live in and love.

The Youth Chief of Gamashie expressed his gratitude for the support from the AMA and emphasised the importance of community involvement in maintaining a clean and healthy environment.

"It is our responsibility to take care of our community, and by working together, we can create a cleaner and healthier environment for everyone," he said.

"The exercise not only focuses on cleaning the community but also on desilting, which is crucial for preventing flooding during the rainy season. By regularly removing silt and debris from gutters and drainage systems, the community aims to mitigate the risk of flooding and improve overall sanitation" he added.





MAYOR OF ACCRA TOURS VOTER REGISTRATION CENTRE AT ABLEKUMA SOUTH; ENCOURAGES PARTICIPATION

The Mayor of Accra, Hon Elizabeth Sackey has embarked on a working visit to a voter registration centre at Nii Kojo Ababio Basic School in Accra to encourage participation in the ongoing limited voter registration exercise.

The visit was also to, among other things, inspect the facilities and ensure that the registration process was conducted smoothly and efficiently.

The 21-day registration exercise, which began today, will continue until May 27, 2024, and to be eligible for registration, individuals must prove their Ghanaian citizenship using one of the following documents: A Ghanaian citizenship identity card, a driving license, a birth certificate, a passport, a baptismal certificate, or be attested to by two guarantors.

In an interaction with registration officials and potential voters during the tour, Mayor Sackey emphasised the importance of the registration process, particularly for first-time voters and those wishing to obtain a voter card.

She highlighted the significance of active citizenship and the role of voting in shaping the future of the country.

"The exercise began today, and I am delighted to hear we are recording some numbers. Every eligible citizen must exercise their right to vote," she said.

He expressed satisfaction with the arrangements made by the Electoral Commission and encouraged them to continue their efforts.

"I am impressed by the dedication of the registration officials. I urge them to continue their efforts to ensure that the process is conducted smoothly and efficiently," she said.

DESILTING, CLEAN-UP EXERCISES AT AGBOGBLOSHIE AND SALAGA MARKETS YIELD POSITIVE RESULTS AFTER HEAVY RAINFALL



Recent desilting and clean-up exercises at the Agbogbloshie Market and the Salaga Market in Accra, aimed at improving drainage systems, have successfully prevented flooding in the market following heavy rainfall, garnering appreciation from traders and residents.

The desilting and clean-up exercises, organised by the Accra Metropolitan Assembly (AMA), targeted drainage systems within and around the market area to remove silt and debris, ensuring the smooth flow of water during heavy rainfall.

Speaking about the results of the exercise, during a visit by the Mayor of Accra, Hon Elizabeth Sackey to the market to evaluate the impact of the rains, some traders expressed their gratitude for the desilting works.

They highlighted the positive outcome of the initiative, noting that it facilitated the smooth flow of water in the drains, thereby preventing flooding in the market. "We are grateful to the Mayor and the Assembly for organising the desilting and clean-up exercise. The smooth flow of water in the drains has prevented flooding in the market and has made a significant difference for us," said one of the traders.

In an interaction, a trader at the Agbogbloshie Market, Madam Sophia Ansong commended the AMA for the exercise, stating that it had a positive impact on the market and its traders.

"We appreciate the Mayor and the Assembly's efforts in organising the desilting and clean-up exercise. It has improved the drainage system in the market and helped prevent flooding, which is a significant relief for us," she said.

"The desilting exercise has made a noticeable difference in the market. The drains are now clear, and water flows smoothly, preventing flooding during heavy rainfall," she added.

The Mayor expressed satisfaction with the outcome and urged all traders at Agbogbloshie Market, commuters and consumers to refrain from dumping waste into drains and open spaces.

"The desilting and clean-up exercises have had a positive impact on the market. We have seen a significant reduction in flooding incidents, due to improved drainage systems. We must practice good sanitation practices to ensure the effectiveness of our drainage systems and prevent flooding. Let us work together to keep our market clean and safe for everyone" she said.

She reiterated the government's commitment to addressing the challenges facing the market and pledged to continue implementing measures to prevent future flooding incidents.

MAYOR OF ACCRA ENGAGES TRADERS ON NEW MARKET-TOLL PAYMENT SYSTEM

The Mayor of Accra, Hon. Elizabeth Naa Kwatsoe Sackey has engaged traders in Accra on a new market toll payment system introduced by the Accra Metropolitan Assembly (AMA).

The Mayor who seized the opportunity to interact with the traders during a working visit to the Salaga and Agbogbloshie markets in the Ashiedu Keteke Sub-Metropolitan District, discussed the benefits and implications of the innovative digitization system.

Introducing the new market toll payment system, to the traders, Mayor Sackey highlighted its features, functionality, and benefits and explained that the system, which leverages digital technology, allows traders to pay market tolls conveniently and securely using electronic payment methods such as mobile money or a short code.

Touching on the benefits for traders, the Mayor emphasised its convenience, efficiency, and security, adding that by transitioning from cash-based transactions to digital payments, traders could enjoy greater convenience and flexibility.

The digital system she noted would help reduce the risk of theft or loss associated with cash transactions and funds, essential municipal services and infrastructure projects for the benefit of all residents.

"By digitising payment processes, the AMA can streamline revenue collection, minimise the risk of revenue leakage, and enhance accountability and transparency in financial transactions," she said.

Madam Beatrice Mensah, a tomato trader commended the Mayor for the system's rollout and acknowledged that it would undoubtedly provide a safer, more efficient means of paying market tolls.

She used the opportunity to urge the Assembly to address their challenges in the market, including high congestion, inadequate waste management facilities, and limited infrastructure.

She also lauded the AMA for the recent desilting exercise in the market, adding that clearing out the drains not only improves sanitation but also reduces flooding.

The three-day program will feature interactive work-shops, practical demonstrations, and informational sessions on health certificates, water quality, pest control, packaging, transportation, and record-keeping to improve their business practices and elevate standards within the fishing industry.

In an interview with the media, the Head of Public Health at the AMA, Florence Kuukyi, who outlined the objectives of the program, said the training aimed to establish a model fishing processing market in Accra to ensure the safety of post-harvest fish processing.

She expressed gratitude to USAID for the partnership and underscored the importance of collective efforts in promoting food safety and economic development in the region.

She emphasised the importance of educating market vendors on best practices and the benefits of participating in the model market initiative adding that potential advantages included increased sales, enhanced reputation, access to resources, networking opportunities, compliance with standards, improved revenue collection, and infrastructure development.

She said the training, was the second to be held this year, with plans to launch the main program by September stressing the significance of adhering to environmental and the Assembly standards within the model market framework.

She emphasised the importance of proper fish handling techniques, citing concerns over the prevalent practice of storing fish in inadequate conditions such as bowls or open containers, and drying them on pavements and added that such practices not only compromise the quality of the fish but also pose health risks to consumers.

Madam Kuukyi expressed the AMA's commitment to supporting the livelihoods of fishmongers and promoting food safety to foster sustainable development and economic empowerment and create a conducive environment for the growth and prosperity of the local fishing sector.

Christiana Ako Mensah a participant, said the training covered various aspects, including techniques to prevent houseflies from infesting the fish, proper waste management to separate rubbish from the selling area, and regular sweeping of the premises stressing its usefulness.

"We learned valuable techniques to keep our fish clean and hygienic for consumption," remarked one participant, highlighting the practical benefits gained from the training. "Now, we understand the importance of maintaining a clean environment and following proper hygiene practices to ensure the quality and safety of the fish we sell," she said.

AMA TRAINS FISHMONGERS ON ESSENTIAL TECHNIQUES FOR FISH HANDLING, HYGIENE

The Accra Metropolitan Assembly (AMA) has organized a three-day training program to enhance the skills and knowledge of fishmongers at Agbogbloshie market in the Ashiedu-Keteke Sub-Metropolitan District to equip them with essential techniques for fish handling and hygiene.

The training programme which forms part of activities under the Safe Fish Certification Licensing Scheme, being implemented in collaboration with USAID's Feed the Future program, sought to among other things educate the fishmongers on best practices for fish preservation, storage, and overall hygiene standards to maintain the freshness and quality of their products.