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MAYOR OF ACCRA SIGNS IFI INTERIORS DECLARATION

The Mayor of Accra, Hon. Elizabeth Sackey has joined cities worldwide in signing the International Federation of Interior Architects/Designers (IFI) Interiors Declaration.

The IFI Interiors Declaration, a consensus-based vision statement on the purpose and value of Interior Architecture/Design, underscores the pivotal role of design in optimising environments to support humanity in all its functions and activities.

The signing ceremony, held on Saturday, May 25, 2024, at the A&C Corner Mall in East Legon, was a highlight of the annual World Interior Day festivities, which serve as a platform for professionals, experts, and enthusiasts in the interior design industry to showcase innovation, exchange knowledge, and foster collaboration.

In her address, the Mayor emphasised the pivotal role of interior design in shaping daily experiences and interactions, stressing the importance of integrating innovative design to create functional, adaptable and community-centric spaces.

She highlighted the holistic approach to design, which prioritises not only aesthetics but also health, safety, and well-being, adding that Accra aimed to become a global leader in design excellence by embracing the values of the IFI Interiors Declaration.

"The signing of the IFI Interiors Declaration not only signifies Accra's commitment to advancing interior design but also opens doors to global collaboration. By joining this initiative, Accra aligns itself with a network of cities and professionals dedicated to pushing the boundaries of creativity and innovation in design," she said.

The Mayor envisioned an Accra where design professionals, students, and enthusiasts collaborate, innovate, and inspire one another, fostering a dynamic and inclusive design landscape.

To realise this vision, she called for collaborations and knowledge sharing among designers, supported by partnerships between educational institutions and industry leaders.

She noted that by bridging the gap between academic learning and practical application, Accra aimed to generate cutting-edge design solutions that are both impactful and sustainable.

Mayor Sackey urged stakeholders and members of the design community to embrace the principles of the IFI Interiors Declaration in every aspect of their work and called for a concerted effort to create inclusive, sustainable, and culturally reflective spaces that inspire and uplift.

Past president of IFI, Madam Titi Ogufere, expressed profound appreciation for the signing of the IFI Interiors Declaration in Accra, adding that the declaration had garnered widespread recognition, having been signed in 127 cities worldwide, including New York, Spain, Ireland, and Nigeria.

"Originating from a consensus among IFI members in New York, the declaration symbolises a collective effort by top innovators, designers, and architects from various countries to define the profession's values and standards," she said.

She highlighted the emphasis of the declaration on the value of interior design and its impact on human experience and behaviour while reiterating the profession's role in shaping spaces that shape the human experience, as well as enhancing the lives of individuals within various environments.

Titi also stressed the significance of governmental recognition and support for the interior design profession.

NCCU STUDENTS COMPLETE INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME IN GHANA



The Executive Master of Public Administration students from North Carolina Central University (NCCU) have concluded their two-week internship programme in Ghana.

The internship programme, initiated last year and facilitated by the University of Ghana Business School (UGBS), aimed to foster cross-cultural learning and collaboration in the realm of public administration.

Speaking in an interview after the closing ceremony, the Mayor of Accra, Hon. Elizabeth Kwatsoe Sackey acknowledged the significance of international co-operation in addressing contemporary challenges in public service and commended the students for their dedication and engagement during their time in Ghana.

She appreciated the value of their contributions to the exchange of knowledge and best practices and was hopeful the knowledge acquired would shape their thoughts.

She said the initiative underscored the importance of international collaboration in advancing public service

excellence, adding that the dedication and engagement displayed by the students throughout their time in Ghana exemplified the spirit of partnership and mutual learning.

She used the opportunity to commend both institutions for their commitment to fostering cross-cultural understanding and looks forward to seeing the positive impact of collaboration in the field of public administration.

Dean of the University of Ghana Business School, Prof. Justice N. Bawole, expressed enthusiasm about the success of the exchange programme, emphasising its potential to impress and establish networks that partner with investors abroad.

He highlighted the university's efforts to enrol students in various ministries and agencies, providing opportunities for students to intern and gain valuable experience.

He announced plans to establish city-to-city relationships, with cities that would benefit both communities, noting that despite challenges, such as adjusting to local cuisine, cultural exchange was integral to students' educational experiences.

Reflecting on their experiences, the students expressed gratitude for the opportunity to collaborate and learn from one another and stressed the importance of cultural immersion and hands-on experience in deepening their understanding of public administration in a global context.

Professor of the Department of Public Administration at NCCU, Pierre Osei-Owusu, DM, said the internship programme would run for the next five years and was hopeful it would lead to the development of new strategies for public service.

He emphasised the importance of the exchange in identifying and improving upon ideas to enhance the public service system in both countries.

AMA LAUNCHES YOUTH CLIMATE ACTION FUND, CALLS FOR PROPOSALS

The Accra Metropolitan Assembly's (AMA) has officially launched the Youth Climate Action Fund programme, and called for proposals.

The initiative, powered by Bloomberg Philanthropies and in collaboration with United Cities and Local Governments as well as the Bloomberg Centre for Public Innovation at Johns Hopkins University, aims to empower young individuals in cities to take meaningful action towards combating climate change.

The programme, which will run for the next six months, is expected to provide young residents of Accra, aged 15–24, and youth climate organisations with the necessary resources and support needed to implement climate action projects in the city under the Accra Climate Action Plan (CAP).

Speaking during the launch, the Metropolitan Chief Executive of AMA, Hon. Elizabeth K.T. Sackey, emphasised the city's commitment to combating climate change and empowering the youth, adding that the launch marked the beginning of a movement towards a more sustainable future.

She disclosed that to apply for the fund, ranging from \$1000 to \$5000 per project, interested individuals or groups must submit a detailed description of the proposed project with a budget showing how the funds would be utilised, stressing that entities eligible for funding must have formal incorporation or status (not necessarily an NGO or charity), a bank account in their name, and the ability to manage the funds.

She outlined various climate mitigation actions and policies being undertaken by the AMA highlighting projects on municipal building energy audits towards developing a green building programme, rooftop planting, tree planting, the CLEAN project, source separation, and creating climate awareness.

Hon. Sackey announced the upcoming open call for project proposals, urging young individuals and organisations to participate by visiting the AMA website (ama.gov.gh) and social media platforms (@AccraMetropolis) for further information on the application process.

"Climate change is one of the most pressing challenges of our time, affecting every aspect of our lives and environment. It demands immediate and innovative action.

Our youth are at the forefront of this fight with their boundless energy, creativity, and determination. They are not just the leaders of tomorrow, but today's leaders. Through the Youth Climate Action Fund, we are providing our young leaders, who are as engaged as we are in this climate fight, with the resources and support they need to turn their innovative ideas into impactful actions," she said.

She used the opportunity to call on both the youth and residents to embrace the opportunity and work together towards a sustainable future, and she assured the city's commitment to supporting youth initiatives, not only financially but also through fostering collaboration and sharing best practices.

Project lead for the city of Accra, Daniel Asomani highlighted the eligibility criteria, focus areas for applicants, and announced that the deadline for submission of applications is July 1st, 2024.

He pointed out that examples of youth community projects that the Youth Climate Action Fund could support include awareness creation, research, and co-development initiatives, climate mitigation and adaptation initiatives, youth-managed recycling and waste reduction programmes as well as involvement in the governance of local climate action plans.





AMA EDUCATION AND SPORTS COMMITTEE TOURS HIGH SCHOOLS; ASSESSES CHALLENGES

The Education and Sports Sub-Committee of the Accra Metropolitan Assembly (AMA) has embarked on a two-day working visit to schools within the sub-metros to identify and address the multifaceted challenges impeding academic excellence and sporting development.

The committee comprising the education and sports director of the Assembly as well as Assembly Members toured 15 basic and secondary schools including Saint Mary's Senior High School, Kaneshie Basic 3 JHS, Kaneshie Awudome 3 JHS, Kaneshie Kingsway Basic School among others.

Chairman of the Sub-Committee on Education and Sports, Hon. Theophilus Isaac Quaye in a brief interview after the tour outlined some of the obstacles hindering academic and sporting achievements in the schools as well as inadequate Ga teachers, limited access to learning materials and lack of sports facilities and equipment.

He emphasised the urgent need to address the challenges indicating that the committee will report the findings and recommendations to the Executive Committee (EXECO) of the Assembly for redress.

"it is the responsibility of this committee to promote academic excellence in the schools. We will make recommendations to the Assembly's Executive Committee because we the Assembly Members are policy formulators. We will help to formulate policies that will bring lasting solutions to the challenges we have identified in the schools" he explained.

Mr. Quaye asked stakeholders within the education and sporting sector to prioritize educational activities and projects as they tended to transform communities' status quo.

He added that the committee was awaiting feedback from EXECO to finalize the recommendations for local policies to improve the schools' conditions.

He indicated that measures and mechanisms were also being put in place to temporally improve the performance of students and infrastructure to foster academic excellence.

He entreated parents to invest in their children by ensuring that their basic and educational needs are met. He expressed appreciation to the teachers for their active role in educational excellence in the sub-metros

NEWLY ELECTED AMA UNIT COMMITTEE MEMBERS SWORN INTO OFFICE

The newly elected Unit Committee Members of the Accra Metropolitan Assembly (AMA) have been sworn into office by Her Ladyship Dr Bridget Kafui Anthonio-Apedzi, a Justice of the High Court, pledging to serve their communities diligently and uphold the principles of good governance.

The Unit Committee members numbering 100, took their oaths of office and secrecy on Thursday at the Accra City Hall in the presence of dignitaries, community leaders, and residents.

Addressing the gathering, the Mayor of Accra, Hon. Elizabeth Kwatsoe Sackey commended the newly elected members for their commitment to public service. He reminded them of the weight of the responsibility entrusted to them.

She highlighted the significance of the event as part of the decentralisation framework, emphasising the crucial role of unit committees in complementing the work of the councils at the grassroots level.

Mayor Sackey touched on the importance of citizen engagement in local governance. He called for collaboration among unit committees, sub-district councils, and various stakeholders for effective decision-making and development, including chiefs, opinion leaders, and community members.

Citing the Legislative Instrument 1967, the Mayor out-lined the specific responsibilities of Unit Committee members, including supervising Assembly staff, revenue collection, project implementation, sanitation initiatives, and birth and death registration.

The Mayor announced plans to provide identification cards to all Unit Committee Members, a first-time initiative in the history of the Assembly.

She expressed confidence in the members' ability to fulfil their responsibilities and assured them of her office's support for collaborative efforts in developing the Accra Metropolis.

She reiterated the government's commitment to promoting e-governance to enhance transparency and accountability in community projects.



AMA TEAMS UP WITH SANITATION GHANA TO CLEAN AGBOGBLOSHIE MARKET

The Accra Metropolitan Assembly (AMA), in collaboration with Sanitation Ghana, a Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) has organised a massive clean-up exercise and desilting works at the Agbogbloshie Market.

The primary goal of the exercise, which commenced in the early hours of Saturday, June 1, 2024, was to address the issues of sanitation and food safety to improve the living conditions of residents in Accra.

In an interview with the media, Accra's Mayor, Hon. Elizabeth K.T. Sackey, emphasised the importance of continuing the exercise in the future to avoid health complications associated with filthy environments.

She advised traders on best practices and the proper way of handling foodstuffs for public consumption and used the opportunity to urge them to use nets to protect consumables in the future.

Mayor Sackey admonished the traders of the existence of a sanitation court to enforce AMA bye-laws by arresting and fining individuals who violate the sanitation laws.

"I am sure the market women will abide by it and we will have a continuous sanitation and clean-up exercise. The Regional Minister has given us a work plan to sustain the exercise," she said.

She charged Market Queens to prevent traders from mounting their containers on drains to allow for regular desilting works and warned them to desist from corrupt acts that allow for such activities to occur at the market. Director of Sanitation Ghana, Dr Derek Otoo Essam, said the NGO was committed to solving issues of filth and sanitation across Ghana, and the partnership with AMA was opened to mark National Sanitation Day.

According to him, Agbogbloshie Market, one of the vibrant markets in Accra, was polluted, creating health problems and flooding issues, hence the massive clean-up exercise.

He educated the traders on the need to keep the environment clean to curb and combat problems resulting from a filthy environment.

Vice President of Agbogbloshie Market, Hannah Naa Borkah Addy, reminded the traders of a sanitation court to punish individuals who pollute the environment, pleading with the traders to sustain the exercise to transform the market.



NEW GREATER ACCRA REGIONAL MINISTER INSPECTS ONGOING PROJECTS IN ACCRA METROPOLIS



The newly appointed Greater Accra Regional Minister, Hon. Titus Glover, has conducted a thorough inspection of ongoing projects across the Accra Metropolis aimed at enhancing the city's infrastructure and services.

Accompanied by the Mayor of Accra, Hon. Elizabeth Kwatsoe Sackey, the Regional Minister meticulously assessed the status of projects including the completed new building for the Independence Avenue Cluster Schools and the new AMA Sanitation Court at the Old AMA Office as well as the Opera Square, designated for a pending Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) Project

Speaking in an interview with the media after the inspection, the Regional Minister expressed gratitude to the Mayor of Accra and the Bank of Ghana for their roles in facilitating the construction and remodelling of the Independence Avenue Cluster of Schools, to enhance teaching and learning.

He announced a partnership with the Ga Traditional Council to conduct periodic clean-up exercises, particularly in the Central Business District, to enhance sanitation in Accra and called on residents to collaborate with the government in transforming the city into a cleaner environment.

He used the opportunity to warn traders to clear their goods from the roadside to alleviate congestion, to create space for pedestrians and to reduce vehicular traffic adding that traders who disregard the directive would face severe punishment as a deterrent to others.

He reminded residents of the newly constructed sanitation court, designed to prosecute those violating AMA bylaws and other city regulations, including environmental pollution to bring order and cleanliness to Accra.

At Opera Square, Hon. Titus Glover engaged some head porters (Kayayei) and urged them to embrace the Vice President's initiative dedicated to empowering head porters, to enhance their socio-economic status as well as prioritise their children's education.

He also instructed traders showcasing their goods on the shoulders of the road to relocate to facilitate traffic flow.

The inspection tour provided an opportunity for the Minister and Mayor to assess the progress of the projects, identify any challenges, and strategize on the way forward.

Samuel Tutuani and Director for Ashiedu Keteke Sub Metro, Mercy Odoi among others.



AMA TAKES DELIVERY OF NEW DJI MATRICE 30 DRONE TO ENHANCE URBAN MAPPING

The Mayor of Accra, Hon. Elizabeth Kwatsoe Sackey has formally handed over a DJI Matrice 30 drone to the Physical Planning Department of the Accra Metropolitan Assembly (AMA) to enhance urban mapping.

The DJI Matrice 30 drone, celebrated as a game-changer in aerial reconnaissance, is expected to revolutionise urban planning methodologies within the metropolis.

With IP55 protection, the M30 can easily handle adverse weather and temperatures ranging from -20°C to 50°C, while the built-in ADS-B receiver provides timely warnings of any incoming crewed aircraft nearby.

From identifying areas of infrastructure inadequacy to optimising land use patterns, the drone has state-of-the-art capabilities, including high-resolution imaging and advanced mapping software.

Speaking during the handing-over ceremony held at the Accra City Hall, Mayor Sackey pointed out that, from optimising transportation networks to promoting environmental sustainability, the drone offers a versatile toolkit to help address the diverse needs of the city.

"From optimising transportation networks to promoting environmental sustainability, the drone offers a versatile toolkit for addressing the diverse needs of our rapidly evolving city... Beyond its immediate applications in mapping and infrastructure assessment, the adoption of drone technology holds promise for fostering sustainable development across various sectors," she said.

He used the opportunity to thank the Ministry of Local Government and the GARID project for giving out the drone to help create a resilient, equitable urban landscape that serves the needs of all residents in Accra.

The head of Physical Planning at the AMA, Eden Tekpor Gbeckor-Kove who received the drone said with the evolving landscape of urban development, robust mapping initiatives were essential, adding that the drone would help facilitate a comprehensive review of the city's planning schemes to inform decision-making.

"The introduction of drones into our planning processes signifies a paradigm shift in our approach. With the evolving landscape of urban development, robust mapping initiatives are paramount. The drone will facilitate a comprehensive review of our planning schemes, enabling us to chart a visionary course for the city,"

"Beyond conventional mapping endeavours, drones will empower us to delve deeper into various facets of urban infrastructure, from identifying open green spaces conducive to innovative agricultural practices to assessing flood-prone areas and updating drainage systems, the possibilities are limitless," he added.

He reiterated the imperative of harnessing technology to realise sustainable development goals, emphasising that the objective was to leverage the drone not only for mapping existing infrastructure but also for envisioning a more resilient, liveable Accra for generations to come.

AMA STREET SWEEPERS TIDY UP CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT

>>>> Page 8 >>>>

On Sunday morning, the Accra Metropolitan Assembly's street sweepers embarked on their routine city-wide clean-up operation to rid the city of litter and solid waste.

Armed with brooms, they meticulously cleared litter and solid waste on principal streets across the city in their mission to maintain cleanliness.

From the thoroughfare surrounding the Kwame Nkrumah museum traffic lights to the Octagon, and back to the museum itself, to the iconic Derby Avenue stretching from the electricity office to Rawlings Park, Nkrumah Avenue, starting from WATO and continuing to the Railways traffic lights, each street received meticulous attention from the dedicated cleaning teams.

The sweeping operation extended further along Kojo Thompson Road, traversing from King Tackie Tawiah II to the bustling Tudu traffic lights before veering onto Asafoatse Netley Road as well as Selwyn Market Street.

The Head of Public Affairs at the Accra Metropolitan, Mr Gilbert Ankrah, who was with the sweepers, said the Sunday sweeping was part of routine operations by the assembly to maintain a clean and hygienic environment for residents and visitors

He noted that through the street sweeping initiative by the Mayor of Accra, some 200 personnel from the sanitation department were deployed to sweep four major ceremonial streets, namely; John Evans Atta Mills High Street, Asafoatse Netley Road, Kinbu Gardens through Octagon to Kinbu Gardens, and Circle to Kaneshie 1st Light.

"Today's activity is another reflection of the Accra Metropolitan Assembly's unwavering commitment to maintaining a clean and hygienic urban environment for all residents and visitors. The mayor recognises the importance of proactive measures in preserving our city, and that is why the sweepers were mobilised to address littering and other related sanitation issues in the city," he said.

He noted that the Mayor aimed to inspire a culture of environmental responsibility and civic pride among residents. "Together, we can make Accra a model city for cleanliness and sustainability, setting an example for others to follow," he emphasised.

He urged all residents and traders to support ongoing efforts to promote a culture of cleanliness and environmental stewardship by refraining from littering the streets, engaging in indiscriminate dumping, or giving their waste to junkies adding that these actions not only tarnish the aesthetics of the environment but also pose serious health and environmental hazards.

"Let us take pride in our city by properly disposing of our waste in designated bins and supporting recycling efforts. By working together, we can ensure a cleaner, healthier, and more sustainable future for Accra," he said.

Some commuters expressed how inspiring it was to see the streets being cleaned with dedication, even on a Sunday.



ACCRA, BISSAU TO ESTABLISH SISTER CITY RELATION

The President of the Bissau City Council in Guinea, José Medina Lobato, has paid a courtesy call on the Mayor of Accra, Hon. Elizabeth Kwatsoe Sackey to foster diplomatic ties between the two capital cities.

Speaking during the meeting, Lobato stated that the purpose of his visit was to initiate a formal relationship between Accra and Bissau, emphasising their shared roles as capital cities of Ghana and Guinea, respectively.

He expressed the desire to establish sister-city relations, with plans to send a delegation from Accra to Bissau in June to sign a bilateral agreement.

Lobato highlighted the significance of this proposed agreement, noting that it would mark the first sister city agreement between an Anglophone and a Lusophone country and stressed the importance of transcending linguistic boundaries, especially given Bissau's geographical proximity to francophone countries.

In addition to the diplomatic endeavours, Lobato emphasised the economic aspect of the relationship, stating that Bissau aims to attract investments from companies and entrepreneurs across various sectors.

He highlighted the potential for mutual growth through business collaborations and product exhibitions and expressed keen interest in learning from Accra's best practices in waste management, indicating a commitment to environmental sustainability.

The Mayor of Accra, who warmly welcomed the delegation from Guinea, expressed enthusiasm for the prospect of establishing sister-city relations between Accra and Bissau, noting the importance of fostering ties between capital cities.

She highlighted the potential for collaboration in various areas, including trade, investment, and cultural exchange, and assured President Lobato of Accra's commitment to supporting Bissau's development initiatives.

She pointed out that the proposed bilateral agreement, would not only strengthen the relationship between the two cities but also promote regional integration and cooperation and reiterated Accra's readiness to send a delegation to Bissau in June to formalise the agreement and explore partnership opportunities.

The Mayor also expressed willingness to share Accra's experiences and expertise in waste management, underscoring the importance of sustainable practices for the well-being of both cities and the environment at large.



AMA ENGAGES TOILET OPERATORS ON GA MANTSE INITIATIVE TO UPGRADE SANITATION FACILITIES IN ACCRA



The Accra Metropolitan Assembly (AMA) has held a meeting with toilet operators in Accra to discuss a project spearheaded by the Ga Mantse, His Royal Highness King Tackie Tsuru II, to construct new public washrooms and toilet facilities or renovate existing ones to enhance their functionality, usability, and aesthetics.

The meeting held on Tuesday, June 5, 2024, focused on informing the operators about the modalities and measures to actualize the project.

The Metro Coordinating Director, Mr. Douglas K Annoful, on behalf of the Metro Chief Executive, stressed the significance of collaboration among all stakeholders in ensuring the success of this initiative.

He emphasised the urgent need for action to improve public sanitation facilities, acknowledging the commitment of His Royal Highness King Tackie Tsuru II to spearheading the project.

He reiterated the Assembly's dedication to working closely with all stakeholders to ensure the successful implementation of the initiative and stressed the importance of maintaining open communication.

The contractor for the project, Messrs Snavac Reg Co. Gh Ltd, explained that the cost operators would pay for the construction and renovation would not be transferred to the operators.

During the meeting, participants exchanged ideas on implementing the project, focusing on strategies to ensure efficient construction or renovation processes while maintaining high-quality standards.

Representatives of the toilet operators present at the meeting expressed their appreciation for the opportunity to engage and affirmed their commitment to actively collaborate with the assembly and other stakeholders to ensure the successful implementation of the project.

AMA HOLDS JOINT MEETING WITH ZOOMLION AND TRASH MASTERS TO DISCUSS ALTERNATIVE MEASURES TO SOLVE WASTE MANAGEMENT CHALLENGES IN THE CITY



The Accra Metropolitan Assembly (AMA) has organized a joint meeting with Zoomlion and Trash Masters to discuss the commencement of a waste management initiative to enhance sanitation and beautification in the Central Business District (CBD).

The meeting, organised on Thursday, 23rd May 2024, at the City Hall, sought to outline a comprehensive plan to tackle waste management challenges by assembling resources and equipment for the smooth implementation of the operation and ensuring the safety of personnel for the exercise.

According to the plan, sanitation officers of the Assembly and street sweepers would be deployed into the CBD to embark on periodic clean-up exercises and desilting works to prevent the adverse effects of perennial rainfall and to rid the city centre of filth.

The Chief Executive of the Accra Metropolitan Assembly, Hon. Elizabeth K.T. Sackey, in her remarks, announced plans to hold a press conference with key stakeholders to instruct traders and commuters to engage in periodic cleanup exercises and abide by the "Operation Clean Your Frontage" initiative.

She emphasised the importance of enforcing the AMA sanitation by-laws to remind traders and residents of the sanctions for non-participation to ensure compliance.

Mayor Sackey said AMA was committed to ensuring that the exercise was efficiently and effectively carried out; hence, she was making significant strides in the provision of necessary tools. Additionally, she noted that the Assembly was coordinating with the Ghana Fire Service to ensure the free flow of water in the drains.

The Executive Chairman of the Josping Group of Companies, Dr. Joseph Siaw Agyepong, highlighted the importance of the collaboration with the Assembly and Trash Masters, insisting that it was a pivotal step towards improving sanitation and beautification in Accra.

He commended the Mayor for her leadership and commitment towards the realization of the President's vision of a clean Accra for residents.

He awarded the Parks and Gardens Department of AMA a contract to undertake a green plan for landscape beautification across the metropolis.

Mr Agyepong disclosed that the plan, which involves planting flowers and ornamentals in open spaces, aims to maintain the parks and gardens to enhance the city's green spaces.

ECOMOG SQUATTERS WARNED AGAINST REBUILDING AFTER DEVASTATING FIRE

Squatters around ECOMOG near the Kwame Nkrumah interchange in the Okaikoi South Sub-Metropolitan District have been cautioned to refrain from rebuilding wooden structures at the location affected by the Wednesday, June 5 fire outbreak.

The Greater Accra Regional Minister, Hon. Titus Glover, who gave the warning when he visited the fire scene in the company of the Mayor of Accra, said those who contravened the directive would be arrested and prosecuted in accordance with the law.

Mr. Glover said it was important to prioritise the safety of residents hence the directive not to come back to the area while citing the risk of another fire outbreak. He noted that the area was a national asset, with a GRIDCO power transmission line running through it, adding that anyone found rebuilding or residing at the location would be prosecuted.

He emphasised the lessons that should have been learnt when a similar fire incident occurred at the same location on the morning of February 22, 2022, and highlighted the danger posed by the fire to national assets such as the transmission lines.

He lamented that people living under the pylons were endangering their lives, asserting the responsibility of the Regional Security Council to protect lives and property.

He urged a local chief to ensure that people vacate the area to prevent another fire incident, stressing that measures would be taken to enforce the directive, including the deployment of personnel to ensure compliance and the arrest of any individuals who resist.

The Minister also criticised the unsanitary conditions and the inappropriate behaviour prevalent in the area, describing it as a "red light" district where women engage in unacceptable activities, and vowed to sanitise the area, making it safe and clean.

Addressing the question of providing alternative accommodations for the displaced individuals, the minister acknowledged the difficulty, citing the overcrowded conditions in Accra and the lack of available space.

He urged them to find other living arrangements, as the government could not provide alternative housing for them.

The Regional Chief Officer Grade one, ACFO1 for the Ghana National Fire Service, Roberta Aggrey Ghanson, reported that despite deploying five appliances to combat the blaze, the fire spread rapidly due to the predominantly wooden structures and the use of plywood, which burns quickly because of its petroleum-based glue.

The officer explained that the occupancy load involved class three commodity products, such as wood and clothing, which also contributed to the fast-burning nature of the fire.

While the investigation and forensic teams are yet to determine the actual cause of the fire, she highlighted the safety risks posed by the proximity of the structures to the pylons, which should have a clearance of at least 50 metres, stressing that the area was unsafe, particularly for children.



GTC LIFTS BAN ON DRUMMING AND NOISEMAKING AHEAD OF 2024 HOMOWO CELEBRATION

The Ga Traditional Council (GTC) has lifted the ban on drumming and noisemaking amid merry-making to pave the way for the celebration of this year's Homowo Festival.

The ban, which came to enforce on May 6, was lifted on Thursday 6 June after the Gbese Mantse, Nii Ayi-Bonte successfully beat the twins' drums known as "Odadao" to signify the lifting of the ban.

Preceded by a month-long ban on drumming and noisemaking the Homowo Festival, is celebrated by the Ga people to "hoot at hunger".

Mayor of Accra, Hon. Elizabeth Kwatsoe Sackey, who attended the ceremony acknowledged that this year's Odadao had been distinct and urged the Ga state to embrace peace and unite for development.

He urged the Ga state not to allow ourselves to be manipulated into violence," during this year's elections adding the impact of free education had affected every household in the country, hence the need to vote for the NPP to continue fostering development.

The Greater Accra Regional Minister, Hon. Titus Glover, asserted the language, culture, and cuisine set the Ga-Dangbes apart from other tribes.

The Minister noted that he recently, joined the people of Nungua in their celebration to signal a firm stance against any alterations to Ga traditions.

"Unity is paramount. Division opens the door for external interference," he emphasized.

He announced that his outfit was working closely with traditional leaders to address sanitation issues in the city.

Gbese Mantse in an earlier statement after beating the twin drum said the chiefs of the Ga State have in a unified effort resolved to address the city's sanitation challenges adding that they were collaborating with the Regional and Sanitation Ministers to improve the sanitation situation in the city.

"The level of filth in the city is unacceptable. Soon, a clean-up campaign will commence, and the law will spare no one... The Ga state has awoken from its slumber, recognizing the strength in unity we have decided to collaborate with the Regional and Sanitation ministries to improve cleanliness in the city," he said.

"As evident from our efforts in Gbese, we are committed to cleaning all communities," he assured.



APOSTOLIC CHURCH-GHANA HONOURS AMA TRANSPORT OFFICER

An appreciation service has been held in honour of Mr. Emmanuel Appiah, Transport Officer at the Accra Metropolitan Assembly (AMA), for his sterling leadership over the past decade as a member of the Apostolic Church-Ghana, Manhean, and Covenant Assemblies in Osu.

Mr. Appiah, a dedicated leader within the church since his ordination as an Elder in September 2008, has served two terms from January 2009 to 2010 and from 2019 to 2022.

His tenure has been characterised by active involvement in church activities, such as organising insurance for members, coordinating cleaning efforts, arranging chairs in the auditorium, and ensuring transportation for congregants.

A citation, signed by Pastor Joseph Akorful, District Pastor of Osu, and Elder Richmond Quao, Presiding Elder of Manhean and Covenant Assembly, and presented to Mr. Appiah, recognised his tireless dedication and compassionate leadership.

In an interview following the ceremony held at the Apostolic Church, Manhean Assembly in Osu, Mr. Appiah expressed his heartfelt gratitude to the church for the honour and reminisced about his past experiences and memories in the church, recalling his six years of service as an Elder, during which he engaged in various supportive activities such as cleaning, teaching, and organising group meetings for the welfare of the church.

Mr Appiah appealed to the church members, particularly the youth, to remain devoted and committed to the things of God, emphasising the importance of humility in serving God's purposes.

He also acknowledged the support of his colleagues during his tenure as Presiding Elder and pledged his continued commitment to the church's growth.

Mr. Appiah, who is currently serving as the District Men's Movement Leader, noted that his work was voluntary and ongoing and encouraged the youth to serve God wholeheartedly, without waiting for instruction or provocation, underscoring the fulfilment that comes from voluntary dedication to God's work.



AMA PUBLIC HEALTH DIRECTOR WINS 3 AWARDS AT 2024 ASDA

The Public Health Director for the Accra Metropolitan Assembly (AMA), Mrs Florence Kuukyi, has received three awards at the prestigious 2024 African Sustainable Development Awards (ASDA), for her outstanding contributions to innovation and technology in public service.

The awards received were the African Sustainable Development Female Personality Award, the African Sustainable Public Servant Award of the Year 2024, and the overall winner of the Sustainable Development Excellence Awards.

The ASDA awards, established to celebrate and honour notable achievements across Ghana and Africa, focus on individuals and organisations addressing major continental challenges such as poverty, disease, conflict, terrorism, transnational crimes, environmental degradation, and pollution.

In her acceptance speech, Madam Kuukyi dedicated the Public Servant Award to the Mayor of Accra, Hon. Elizabeth Sackey, emphasising the importance of female representation and leadership.

"Because she is the first female Mayor, we share common goals. Females need to dominate, and we are doing it," Madam Kuukyi stated.

The Public Health Director said despite the challenges she faced in the discharge of her duties, she remained resolute and determined by navigating through the hardships.

"Being a public servant in Ghana comes with numerous challenges. The ups and downs, the complaints, and sometimes feeling like giving up, it's all part of the job. But today, I am honoured to see that my efforts have been recognized." She pointed.

Madam Kuukyi expressed elation at receiving the overall Best Performer Award, describing the experience as nostalgic and overwhelming.

She dedicated the award to the environmental health fraternity in Ghana, underscoring their critical role in her success.

According to her, she plans to leverage her achievements to further improve public health initiatives in Accra, indicating that she has already implemented several innovations, such as the Star Rating Public Toilet System, which allowed residents to locate the cleanest and most hygienic public toilets through an app to prevent disease and improve sanitation.

She disclosed that under her leadership, AMA introduced the Food Safety Net, a user-friendly and washable net designed to enhance food safety that has gained international attention and is set to be launched in collaboration with the USA Save the Future Agency in September.

AMA TAKES DELIVERY OF NEW EQUIPMENT TO IMPROVE WASTE COLLECTION IN ACCRA

The Accra Metropolitan Assembly (AMA) has received two skip trucks and four skip containers to improve communal waste management in low-income communities.

The new equipment was handed over to the Waste Management Department of the AMA by the Mayor of Accra, Hon. Elizabeth Sackey, at the forecourt of the City Hall as part of the Greater Accra Sustainable Sanitation and Livelihood Improvement Project (GASSLIP), a collaborative effort with the Ministry of Sanitation and Water Resources, funded by the African Development Bank.

The Mayor of Accra, Hon. Elizabeth Sackey, in a brief address, emphasised the significance of the equipment in enhancing the city's waste management efforts, particularly in underserved areas.

"This initiative is a crucial step towards addressing the waste management challenges we face in Accra. It will not only improve the cleanliness of our communities but also boost the overall health and wellbeing of our residents." She said.

"With these new trucks and containers, we can significantly increase our capacity to manage waste more efficiently and effectively, especially during communal clean-up exercises," she added.

In an interview, the Director of Waste Management at the AMA, Engineer Solomon Noi highlighted the importance of the skip trucks and containers, stressing that it would significantly improve the assembly's efforts to manage communal waste, especially in low-income areas.

He said the new equipment would help to address logistical constraints that have hindered clean-up activities, particularly in rural communities, adding that the equipment would enable the AMA to serve more communities simultaneously.

"With the ability to fabricate additional containers, we can now cover four more electoral areas during clean-ups. This means we can place containers in multiple locations and have the trucks service them efficiently, ensuring a cleaner environment without delays," he said.

He highlighted the need for regular maintenance and proper use of the equipment, fuel allocation, and preventing overloading, which could cause rapid wear and tear on the trucks.

Mr Noi added that he was working to provide training for operators and drivers of the newly acquired trucks on their proper use and maintenance, with guidance from the manufacturers.

Present at the handing over ceremony was the Ghana Football Association President, Kurt Okraku who had earlier called on the Mayor of Accra at the city hall.



AMA DESILTS DRAINS AT CBD, URGES TRADERS TO HALT LITTERING

The Accra Metropolitan Assembly (AMA) on Thursday, June 6 desilted major drains at the Central Business District (CBD) to improve the flow of wastewater.

The desilting exercise, led by the acting Chairman of the Ashiedu Keteke Sub-Metropolitan Council, Hon Francis Asare, also known as "Abrantie", aimed to address ongoing sanitation and flooding in the market following heavy rains.

Hon Asare, who also serves as the Assemblyman for the Mudor Electoral Area, revealed that a substantial accumulation of refuse had clogged the drains over time, making the clean-up difficult.

He appealed to traders to cease the practice of dumping refuse into the drains, emphasising the importance of mitigating the effects of the ongoing rainy season.

"These traders are causing this problem. Most of the waste we removed consists of materials they sell at the market. Our investigations show the traders intentionally drop their goods in the gutters, which sets a bad precedent for the city," he stated.

Hon Asare specifically identified traders selling second-hand clothes and slippers on the pavement as major contributors to the blockage drains, adding that they dump their non-essentials into the drains, which block the drains.

Expressing disappointment over the situation, Hon. Asare called for collective efforts to improve sanitation in the city and protect vulnerable residents. He reminded traders of the existence of a sanitation court designed to fine and prosecute those who violate AMA bylaws, serving as a deterrent to potential offenders.

In response to the desilting exercise, some traders in the area expressed gratitude to the AMA for addressing their long-standing problem, promising to comply with the new directives. They commended the Mayor for her dedication to sanitation and commitment to enhancing living conditions in Accra.



GA MANTSE VISITS MAKOLA MARKET; LEADS CAMPAIGN TO MAKE ACCRA CLEANEST CITY IN AFRICA

The Ga Mantse, His Royal Majesty King Tackie Teiko Tsuru II, has visited the Makola Market in the Central Business District (CBD) of Accra to engage traders on measures towards improving the state of sanitation in the city.

The visit was part of a broader initiative aimed at making Accra the cleanest city in Africa.

Accompanied by the Mayor of Accra, Hon Elizabeth Kwatsoe Sackey, the Greater Accra Regional Minister, Hon. Daniel Nii Kwartei Titus Glover, and a delegation from the Ga Traditional Council (GTC) made up of the Paramount Chief of Sempe, Nii Adote Otintor II, Paramount Chief of Abola, Nii Ahene Nunoo II and Ga Asafoatse Onukpa, Captain Kojo Nseni Mankattah IV, the Ga Mantse in a public address, emphasised collective responsibility in tackling the city's waste management challenges and expressed a strong commitment to improving the state of Accra's cleanliness ahead of the upcoming Homowo festival.

The Ga Mantse disclosed that the mission to rid the city of filth and make "Accra Work Again" was a collaboration between the Regional Coordinating Council (RCC), led by the Regional Minister, the Mayor of Accra, and all chiefs from the GTC, adding that the campaign would include a comprehensive waste management initiative.

He acknowledged the importance of working closely with market queens and other stakeholders in the city to achieve the desired goal.

"Today, the Regional Coordinating Council headed by the Regional Minister, the Mayor of Accra, the Sempe Mantse, who is the Paramount Chief of Sempe, the Abola Mantse, and all the chiefs of the Traditional

Council have come together to foster and forge a pact that will make Accra work again. Accra must be the cleanest city in Africa. And if we are to attain that faith, then the onus is on us," he said.

"I want you to know that the effort of making Accra the cleanest city in Africa, would not only be rhetoric or a mantra. Today, we are commencing an action towards making Accra work again, making Accra clean. We cannot afford to have it in the state it's in," he added,

The Ga Mantse called for diligence and resilience in the effort to clean Accra, promising that he would not rest until the city achieved the desired standards of cleanliness.

The Greater Accra Regional Minister, Hon. Daniel Nii Kwartei Titus Glover, in an interview with the media after the visit, described the campaign as a joint task involving multiple ministries, including the Sanitation and Local Government Ministries and the RCC.

According to him, the initiative would begin in early July and involve extensive engagement with market groups, drivers, and station workers.

He acknowledged that sustaining cleanliness in the city was challenging but expressed optimism about the current collaborative approach involving traditional councils and various committees.

The Minister also highlighted the critical role of the media in creating awareness about the campaign and ensuring public participation.



MAYOR OF ACCRA, CHIEF JUSTICE, GFA PRESIDENT PLANT TREES TO MARK GREEN GHANA DAY

The Mayor of Accra, Hon. Elizabeth Naa Kwatsoe Sackey, has planted a veitchia palm on the John Evans Atta Mills High Street to commemorate the 2024 Green Ghana Day.

The veitchia palm, also known as the 'Showers of Gold' palm tree is a six-foot-long stocky, single-trunked palm with stiffly arched, bright green fronds noted for its elegant appearance of the very showy clusters of glossy, bright red.

The Green Ghana Day Initiative was introduced in 2021 by H.E. Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo Addo as part of a national aggressive effort to plant about 5 million seedlings nationwide to promote afforestation, greening, and improve climate change issues in the country and other parts of the world.

This year, the initiative, which was under the theme "growing for a greener tomorrow", aimed to plant approximately 10 million seedlings across the country.

Speaking with the media after the exercise, the Mayor of Accra expressed profound commitment to restoring Accra's green environment to contribute to the fight against climate change and disclosed that 400 trees were being planted in the metropolis to mark the day.

According to her, a planned structure was already in place to ensure good maintenance of the plants to serve future generations, adding that AMA was collaborating with the Parks and Gardens Department and the National Disaster Management Organisation (NADMO) to plant more trees.

The Mayor was joined by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, Her Ladyship Gertrude Torkonoo, and the President of the Ghana Football Association (GFA), Kurt Okraku who also planted a tree to mark the day. In a related development, the Head of Planning and Coordinating Unit at the AMA, Mr Richard Kwame Oduro, represented the Mayor of Accra at tree planting exercises organised in selected schools in the Okaikoi South and Ablekuma South Sub-Metropolitan Districts.

He urged the school pupils not to only plant the seedlings but nurture them to grow emphasising the importance of the exercise importance as a climate action.