



#HOMOWO2024: MMDAs IN ACCRA TO ORGANISE CLEAN-UP EXER- -CISES FROM JULY 2 TO AUGUST 20.

An initiative to address pressing sanitation challenges in the Greater Accra Region and promote a cleaner environment ahead of the annual Homowo festival has been launched.

Launched at the Accra Metropolitan Assembly (AMA) under the theme "Unite to Clean", the initiative dubbed the "Homowo Clean-Up Exercise" is scheduled to commence on July 2 and run until August 20, 2024.

The initiative, spearheaded by the Greater Accra Regional Coordinating Council (GARCC) in collaboration with the Ga Traditional Council (GTC) and supported by the Ministry of Local Government, Decentralisation and Rural Development, Ministry of Sanitation and Water Resources, Ministry for Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation and Zoomlion Ghana Limited, will begin from the Accra Metropolis, specifically Ga Mashie, to the Korle Klottey Municipal Assembly, among other Assemblies in the region.

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His Royal Majesty, King Tackie Teiko Tsuru II, who officially launched the 2024 Homowo Clean-Up Exercise, called for collective action and responsibility in addressing environmental degradation across the Greater Accra Region.

The King outlined expectations for the clean-up exercise, noting that all shops and businesses in the designated areas would be closed on the day of the event, urging all leaders of various groups and associations and all residents to participate fully.

King Tackie Teiko Tsuru II urged residents to adhere strictly to sanitation bye-laws and called for violators to face the full rigours of the law without external interventions.

The King also appealed to corporate bodies to adopt healthy green policies and beautify the capital while calling on the Advertising Association of Ghana (AAG) to work with local authorities to declutter billboards and remove unauthorised advertising materials to improve the city's aesthetics.

He urged the Assemblies to provide refuse bins at strategic points to discourage littering and to intensify public education and communal labour activities while enforcing environmental laws.

In her opening remarks, the Mayor of Accra, Hon. Elizabeth Kwatsoe Sackey noted that the Greater Accra Metropolitan Area generates approximately four thousand metric tonnes of municipal waste daily, a figure that was expected to rise with the growing population and economic activities, hence the "calls for more pragmatic measures to be put in place to ensure that His Excellency, President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo's vision to see Accra becoming the cleanest city in Africa becomes a reality."

She expressed optimism that the initiative would rekindle both individual and collective commitments to proper sanitation practices and assured that the MMDAs would ensure the sustenance of the clean-up exercise beyond the Homowo Festival.

The Greater Accra Regional Minister, Daniel Nii Kwartei Titus-Glover, detailed the resources mobilised for the campaign, including 30 compaction trucks, over 30 motorised cycles (Borla Taxis), and various cleaning equipment.

He also mentioned the deployment of approximately 1,500 security personnel and a dedicated task force comprising Asafoatsemei, Environmental Health Officers, and community members to enforce sanitation regulations and uphold cleanliness standards.

"Let us roll up our sleeves, equip ourselves, and pledge to make a lasting impact," he stated. "Together, we can achieve our vision of making Accra one of the cleanest cities in Africa," he said.

Hon. Lydia Seyram Alhassan, Minister of Sanitation and Water Resources, reaffirmed the government's dedication to making Accra the cleanest city in Africa.

The Minister mentioned the establishment of a sanitation committee tasked with overseeing sanitation activities, fostering community involvement, and ensuring sustainable practices in various municipalities.

Present at the gathering were Traditional Authorities, Policymakers, Member of Parliament (MPs), Civil Servants, Sanitation Ambassadors and Religious Leaders among others.

GA MANTSE COMMENDS GARCC, AMA FOR EFFORTS IN KEEPING ACCRA CLEAN

The Ga Mantse, His Royal Majesty (HRM) Nii Tackie Teiko Tsuru II, has expressed his appreciation for the collaborative efforts between the Greater Accra Regional Minister, the Mayor of Accra, and Traditional Authorities in maintaining cleanliness across the city.

The King of the Ga State made the commendation during a meeting at the Greater Accra Regional Coordinating Council (GARCC) as the Sanitation Steering Committee finalised preparations for a massive clean-up exercise ahead of the Homowo festivities.

"We appreciate your dedication to keeping Accra clean. Let's work diligently and ensure we achieve our goals. This is a call to all of us to work together," he said.

The Ga Mantse highlighted the ambitious goal of making Accra the cleanest city in Africa, stressing that achieving this vision requires concerted action from residents, not just words, and called for a united approach to the clean-up efforts, encouraging all to be diligent and resilient.

He assured that his office was working assiduously with all chiefs at the Ga Traditional Council to materialise the vision of a clean city.

The Ga Mantse also acknowledged the support from other traditional leaders and announced that a task force would strictly enforce sanitation bylaws.

He used the platform to personally thank the committee members for their sacrifices and efforts, emphasising their significant role in the city's sanitation efforts.

The Greater Accra Regional Minister lauded the Ga Mantse for his commitment to the initiative and outlined plans to brief other key officials, including the Ministers for Sanitation, Local Government, and Interior.

He added that a meeting with the president was also on the agenda to finalise the launch dates for the clean-up campaign.

"This exercise is incredibly dear to the Ga Mantse's heart, as well as to the President," the Minister added...We've undertaken such efforts before, but sustaining them has been challenging. This time, we want the Traditional Council to lead and drive this initiative, ensuring its success."

The Greater Accra Regional Minister, Hon. Daniel Nii Kwartei Titus Glover reiterated that the clean-up exercise, aimed at enhancing the cleanliness and hygiene of the city, would commence on July 2, 2024, with the full backing of both traditional and governmental authorities.



MAYOR OF ACCRA ENGAGES YOUTH GROUPS; COURTS SUPPORT TO DEVELOP AND MAKE ACCRA CLEAN



The Accra Metropolitan Assembly (AMA) has engaged with youth groups across the city to highlight its programmes, activities, and achievements under the leadership of Mayor Elizabeth Kwatsoe Tawiah Sackey since her tenure began in October 2021.

The event, which aimed at fostering transparency and collaboration, brought together students from Ghana Telecom University College (GTUC), Central University, University of Professional Studies Accra (UPSA), University of Ghana, Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration (GIMPA), bloggers, and youth activists, among others.

Among the key achievements outlined during the dialogue, the AMA in the education sector completed a 3-story, 18-unit classroom block at Independence Avenue Cluster of Schools and a 2-unit KG block at Bubiashie 1 Basic School.

Other completed projects include a single-story Accra City Childcare Centre at Old Fadama, a 3-story, 9-unit classroom block for Bishop Mixed School, and a 14-seater W/C toilet with a mechanised borehole at various schools, as well as the declaration of Accra as the 2023 World Book Capital.

In revenue mobilisation, the AMA re-evaluated and collected data on 8,513 businesses, successfully piloted a centralised digital platform for revenue collection in Ashiedu Keteke, and partnered with Smart City for vehicle parking management.

Special initiatives under Mayor Sackey highlighted during the dialogue include the Economic Women Empowerment Summit held in July 2023, the Mayor's Street Sweepers Special Initiative, increasing sweepers from 34 to 200, and public-private partnerships for redevelopment projects at Rawlings Park, Makola No. 2 Market, and Opera Square, as well as a social insurance and NHIS scheme registration for informal waste workers.

Health sector achievements mentioned in the dialogue include the commissioning of a 2-storey maternity theatre block for Kaneshie Polyclinic, the donation of medical equipment to various hospitals, the upgrading of Mamprobi Polyclinic to a hospital, and an ongoing Agenda 111 government hospital project at Kaneshie.

Identified efforts in water and sanitation also include the construction of boreholes at Bukom, 10-seater toilet facilities at Bubuashie, Mamprobi, and Agbogbloshie, and the daily evacuation of 1,200 metric tonnes of solid waste, among others.

Other development projects initiated by the AMA under the leadership of Mayor Sackey were the completion of electoral area projects such as concrete cover slabs, metal grating, streetlights, disaster prevention through the GARID project, public health initiatives, an asphaltic overlay of 19.35 km of roads and the establishment of a sanitation court.

Speaking to journalists after the event, Mayor Sackey emphasised the crucial role of the youth in the city's quest towards development and cleanliness while assuring the AMA's commitment to making Accra a cleaner city.

"The youth are the country's forerunners, and their informed involvement brings peace, hence the importance of communicating my achievements over the years," she said.

Mayor Sackey touched on the revenue digitalization agenda and revealed that, after several dialogues, traders have agreed to participate in the new system, which aims to streamline revenue collection.

She informed the youth and residents of Accra to prepare for a massive cleanup exercise spearheaded by the Greater Accra Regional Coordinating Council (GARCC) ahead of the Howomo festivities.

AMA EMPOWERS PWDS WITH SOAP-MAKING SKILLS

The Accra Metropolitan Assembly (AMA) has organized a training and capacity-building workshop for 50 Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) on liquid soap and shower gel making to enhance their economic independence and social inclusion.

The one-day workshop, held at the AMA City Hall, aimed at strengthening the capacity of the hearing impaired, visually impaired, those with albinism, mental health issues, and children with disabilities.

In his opening address, the Coordinating Director of the AMA, Douglas N.K. Annoful, on behalf of the Mayor of Accra, emphasized the importance of the training.

He described the program as a step towards fostering inclusivity and providing practical support to the beneficiaries and highlighted the necessity for the participants to take the training seriously.

"The little help we have for you will become great for you, so you don't overburden the family," he said.

He also encouraged the beneficiaries to share the knowledge with their colleagues and families who were unable to attend the training.

Marian Mensah, Head of Social Welfare and Community Development at AMA, who conducted the training, explained that the vocational training was divided into four phases: an income-generating

activity and training in the first quarter, disbursement of tools and equipment in the second quarter, health screening in the third quarter, and monitoring, supervision, and evaluation in the last quarter.

Madam Mensah noted that three per cent of the Government's common fund was reserved for PWDs to support their welfare and education, enabling them to make a positive impact on society.

She added that there were other options for beneficiaries not interested in liquid soap or gel making, allowing them to choose their preferred skill development programs for future training sessions.

The event was attended by the Director of Finance at AMA, Abeiku Amissah, Chairperson for the Ghana Federation of PWDs for AMA, Gladys Agbenu, among other notable personalities.



ACCRA METROPOLITAN ASSEMBLY



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STANLEY NII ADJIRI-BLANKSON SIGNS BOOK OF CONDOLENCE IN MEMORY OF MAYOR OF ACCRA'S LATE MOTHER



A Member of the Council of State, Hon. Stanley Nii Adjiri-Blankson has in a sombre display of respect and sympathy, signed a book of condolence in honour of the memory of the late mother of the Mayor of Accra, Elizabeth Kwatsoe Tawiah Sackey.

Mr Adjiri-Blankson signed the book of condolence on Friday at the official residence of the Mayor of Accra at North Ridge.

In his message, Hon. Stanley Nii Ajiri Blankson described Naa Ahiney as the "unprecedented oak tree of the family who yielded her lifetime after 92 years of tremendous Christian life."

The Former Mayor of Accra noted that she was known to the Christian fraternity as "the mother of all" and expressed pride in belonging to the Dora Naa Ahiney Amarteifio Quartey family, highlighting her exceptional qualities of being religious, respectful, obedient, and always ready to forgive.

He stated that her life was a time he always cherished, inspiring him to emulate her virtuous Christian life and felt privileged to be the first to carry the banner of exposing her unblemished Christian virtues while expressing hope that her leadership in the Christian crusade would remain an icon for all.

Mayor Sackey expressed her gratitude for the overwhelming support and kind words. "My mother was a pillar of strength and wisdom, and seeing the community come together in her honour is deeply touching," she said.

For the funeral arrangements, there will be no wake-keeping. Filing past will take place on Saturday, July 6, 2024, at the forecourt of the State House, Accra, starting at 7:00 AM.

The burial service will follow on the same day at 8:00AM at the forecourt of the State House, Accra and interment will be a private burial on Saturday, July 6, 2024.

Final funeral rites will also be held on Saturday, July 6, 2024, at the forecourt of the State House, Accra with a thanksgiving service to take place on Sunday, July 7, 2024, at the Church of Pentecost, New Mamprobi, at 9:00 AM.

MAYOR OF ACCRA JOINS GA MANTSE TO COMMISSION NEWLY RENOVATED MANTSE TACKIE TAWIAH I CLUSTER OF SCHOOLS

The Mayor of Accra, Hon. Elizabeth Kwatsoe Sackey, on Wednesday, joined the Ga Mantse, King Tackie Teiko Tsuru II, to commission the newly renovated Mantse Tackie Tawiah I cluster of schools.

The renovation project, funded by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, included a 3-storey, 18-unit classroom and kindergarten block handed over by the Accra Metropolitan Assembly (AMA) to the Korle Klottey Municipal Assembly in 2019, a computer laboratory equipped with 40 computers, a library stocked with over 2,000 reading materials, upgraded drainage systems, new pavements, landscaping, and improved sanitation facilities.

Additionally, the project introduced an astroturf foot-ball pitch with a 60-seater spectator stand, a 100-seater canteen, and an enhanced school entrance, which now features a fence wall and improved perimeter security.

Speaking at the ceremony, Ga Mantse, King Tackie Teiko Tsuru II, urged corporate institutions to invest in education and called for support for the redevelopment of basic schools within Accra, especially the Sempe Cluster of Schools in Jamestown.

He pointed out that every child within the Ga State and across the country deserves a quality education, irrespective of their backgrounds or circumstances, adding that "nurturing the minds of our youth not only creates a talent pool of human capital but also secures a prosperous future for generations."

The King expressed appreciation to the Ministry of Education for restructuring the posting of Ga-Dangme graduate teachers who had otherwise been posted out of Accra and urged that teaching of Ga and Dangme languages should be enforced in all schools in the Greater Accra Region.

"We still have a backlog of Ga and Dangme graduate teachers, so we request that they be posted within the Greater Accra Region to fill the deficit of graduate teachers of the two languages of the region," he said.

The Africa West Area President of the Latter-Day Saints, Elder S. Gifford Nielsen, said the collaboration was part of the organisation's global humanitarian efforts, funded by the donations of its members worldwide.

"Our goal as a church is to do what is right and to honour our Saviour, Jesus Christ."

He noted that the church's humanitarian efforts in Ghana focused on healthcare, water, sanitation, and education, adding that the church was committed to continuing working with the Ga Mantse to maintain existing and future facilities.

The Regional Minister, Daniel Nii Kwartei Titus-Glover, said the project was a testament to how traditional authority could effectively contribute to national development.

He added that the enhanced infrastructure and educational facilities of the school would provide a conducive environment for learners, teachers, and staff, and also ensure a brighter future for the next generation.

Mr Titus-Glover urged the district assembly to commit a budget to the maintenance of the structures to ensure that any defects were addressed.



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