

**SESSIONAL ADDRESS DELIVERED BY HON. ASARE DANSO,
THE DISTRICT CHIEF EXECUTIVE FOR BIRIM SOUTH
DISTRICT ASSEMBLY AT THE ORDINARY MEETING OF
THE SECOND (2ND) ASSEMBLY HELD ON THURSDAY 27TH
APRIL, 2023 AT THE CONFERENCE HALL OF THE DISTRICT
ASSEMBLY, AKIM SWEDRU**



Hon. Presiding Member,
Hon. Assembly Members,
The District Co-ordinating Director,
Heads of the various Security Agencies,
Heads of Departments/Units/Institutions,
The Media,
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

There is always this sense of euphoria when any opportunity arises for me to address this august house as the District Chief Executive of our beloved Assembly. As you are undoubtedly aware, we are here today to have the first Ordinary General Assembly meeting of Birim South District Assembly for the year 2023.

I therefore wish to crave your indulgence to first and foremost present to you my address on the state of our district and also present to you the report and recommendations from the Executive Committee of this House. Hon. Presiding Member, this is in pursuance to Section 28 (1) and (2a) of the Local Governance Act, 2016, Act 936.

Hon. Presiding Member, also permit me to use this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation and gratitude to Honourable Members, Heads of Departments/Units and all stakeholders for the immense contributions towards the growth of our District.

SECURITY AND PUBLIC SAFETY

Hon. Presiding Member, it is soothing to report to the House that the security situation in our District is generally calm and under effective control. I will therefore commend the District Security Council (DISEC) for promptly dealing with issues that had the potential of disturbing the peace we enjoy. I must make it known to all here present that the Assembly will continue to support the Security agencies in the prompt discharge of their official duties.

Hon. Presiding Member, I want to inform the House that four (4) police personnel including an Inspector have been posted to the newly commissioned police station at Aduasa. Additionally, six (6) recruit constables from the Police Headquarters were also deployed along Aduasa-Swedru, Asawase-Swedru and the Oda – Swedru stretch. Again, thirty (30) police assistants have also been deployed to Aduasa, Asawase, Swedru, Astro Turf, Clinic, AKISS and the District Assembly.

FINANCE

Hon. Presiding Member, The Assembly's revenue accrues from 3 main sources; Internally Generated Fund (IGF), Grants from the Central Government which include the District Development Fund (DDF) now known as the Response Factor Grant (RFG) and to a limited extend some individual limited intervention projects from Development Partners.

Hon. Presiding Member, as at **31st March 2023**, the Assembly had raked in a total of **GHs 85,195.00** internally out of our approved budgeted figure of **GHs 501,297.00**

Below is the detail of our financial performance as 31st March, 2023.

REVENUE	GH¢
<i>Internally Generated Funds</i>	85,195.00
<i>Donations and Grants</i>	1,072,085.62
<i>TOTAL REVENUE</i>	<u>1,157,280.62</u>

EXPENDITURE	GH¢
<i>Compensation of Employees</i>	6, 240.70
<i>Goods and Services</i>	77,691.69
<i>Other Expenditure</i>	1495,527.59
<i>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</i>	<u>1,579,459.98</u>

Hon. Presiding Member, our lofty developmental ideas and plans will be extremely difficult to implement without the required financial resources. Whiles efforts will be made to lobby for more external support, we can equally look within to mobilize a lot more revenue regardless of our traditional stance of not having enough revenue sources.

EDUCATION

Hon. Presiding Member, undoubtedly, the greatest asset of every society is its human resource base. However, the ability of this resource to improve its well-being greatly depend on the form and quality of education given. I can assure you that the Assembly will not depart from its long-standing commitment of support to quality education in the district.

Hon. Presiding Member, the Birim South Education directorate have received numerous educational materials including Text Books, laptops, school uniforms, face shields/masks and sanitizers. These items were received from the Eastern Regional Education Directorate.

Hon. Presiding Member, it is a proven fact that sports do teach values such as fairness, team building, equality, discipline, inclusion, perseverance and respect. Sports has the power to provide a universal framework for learning values thus contributing to the development of soft skills needed for responsible citizenship. It is in this regard that the education directorate organized a successful sporting activity for all basic schools in the district between January – March 2023.

DEVELOPMENTAL PROJECTS

Hon. Presiding Member, the following are updates of key development projects ongoing in our district.

S/N	Project Description	Location	Source of Funding	Status of Completion (%)
1	Completion of 5 Bedroom Bungalow for DCE	Akim Swedru	DACF	70
2	Drilling and Construction of 7No. Mechanized Boreholes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aduasa • GES office • New Salem • Adeitu • Mount calvary 	DACF-RFG	95
3	Construction of 1 No. 2-Unit KG Block with Ancillary Facilities and Furniture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aduasa 	DACF- RFG	85
4	Reshaping of 25.9Km Feeder Road from OfosuKrom	OfosuKrom	DACF-RFG	90

5	Drilling and Construction of 1No. mechanized Borehole for Fire Hydrant	Akim Swedru	DACF-RFG	100
6	Extension of Electricity in Nine (9) Communities	Akim Swderu	DACF-RFG	100
7	Construction of 2-Unit KG Block	Apoli	GETfund	20
8	Construction of 6 Unit Classroom Block	Oforikrom D/A Primary School	GETfund	30
9	Construction of 6 Seater Toilet Block with Mechanized Borehole and Elevated Water Tank Support	Oforikrom D/A Primary School	GETfund	20

HEALTH

Hon. Presiding Member, seven (7) nurses (2 Enrolled and 5 Community Nurses) have reported for posting in the district. This is to augment the existing workforce. In the same vein, two staff (1 Enrolled Nurse and 1 field Technician) have been reposted out of the district.

Hon. Presiding Member, the COVID-19 virus is still in existence. The health directorate conducted two general and three targeted campaigns in the first quarter of 2023. Cumulatively, 2625 doses of the COVID-19 vaccine were administered.

Hon. Presiding Member, the health directorate also observed the underlisted global health activities.

- ❖ World TB Day at Apoli
- ❖ World malaria day (25th April, 2023) at Akortekrom
- ❖ African immunization week (ongoing) – All Communities

Hon. Presiding, it has been noted that non-communicable diseases are increasingly becoming a burden in our societies. Unfortunately, this has not been given the adequate attention by the populace. As a way to promote early detection, the district health directorate has instituted a program called **Corporate Health**. This initiative seeks to generate data on the prevalence of Non-Communicable Diseases through screening. I will urge all here present to take advantage of this program.

AGRICULTURE

Hon. Presiding Member, in a bid to increase food production for local consumption and export and to also create employment, the government's flagship programmes such as *Planting for Food and Job*, *Planting for Export and Rural Development* and *Rearing for Food and Jobs* are still being implemented.

Hon. Presiding Member, the Assembly through the Department of Agriculture has distributed fall army worm chemicals to about 149 farmers in the district to help contain the disease. These chemicals were received from Government as part of measures to increase food production in the country.

Hon. Presiding Member, in the month of February, the Department of Agric carried out monitoring and familiarization visits to the following communities; Abadjan, Adiembra, Aduasa, Awisa and Atuntunmirem. The visit gave the department first hand information on issues being faced by farmers and how to appropriately address them.

THE LEAP PROGRAMME

Hon. Presiding Member, in March 2023, the Assembly through the Department of Social Welfare and Community Development supervised the disbursement of cash grant to 619 LEAP beneficiary households in 23 communities. I must add that the selection of beneficiary is done by Central Government and not the Assembly.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SANITATION

Hon. Presiding Member, although a lot has been done with regards to sanitation, the exponential increase in population requires much effort and investment.

Hon. Presiding, in the first quarter 2023, the Assembly through the environmental health unit embarked on house-house inspection at the following communities Akortekrom, Bebianeha, Adiembra, Awisa and Akim Swedru. This is a move to keep citizens on the toes with regards to keeping their surroundings clean. The sanitation inspectorates won't hesitate to prosecute any one who does not keep their environment clean.

PRESENTATION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

Hon. Presiding Member, in accordance with the Local Governance Act 2016, Act 936, and Orders (11) and (49) of the Model Standing Orders of MMDAs, it is required of the Executive Committee of the Assembly to collate and discuss reports from its Sub-Committees for which recommendations will be made and presented to the General Assembly for consideration.

Consequently, the Executive Committee of the Assembly met on Thursday, 20th April, 2023 and considered reports from Five Sub-Committees as follows;

1. COMPLETION OF SUAME CHPS PROJECT

It was noted with the concern the need to prioritize the completion of the Suame CHPs Compound and also operationalized it. This would help the citizenry access proper health care. After lengthy deliberations, the committee recommended that the Assembly should take immediate steps to complete the project and put it into use.

2. FORMATION OF WATSAN COMMITTEE

The attention of the Committee was brought to the high number of defunct boreholes in the district. The Committee after deliberations recommended that WATSAN Committees should be formed to manage the boreholes and also generate funds that would be used for to pay light bills and undertake repair works.

3. PROVISION OF WATER AT THE SLAUGHTER HOUSES

It came to bare at the meeting that sanitation at the slaughter house was poor due to the unavailability of water. The committee after extensive deliberations recommended that the location of the slaughter house was not appropriate hence steps should be taken to relocate them to a more conducive place with constant access to water.

4. STEALING OF STREETLIGHTS

The Committee unanimously bemoaned on the stealing of streetlights by some recalcitrant persons in the district. The Committee recommended that the police should be notified of this criminal act. The committee also requested for the House to be vigilante and help protect public property. The public should also be sensitized on the criminality in destroying or stealing public property.

5. RENOVATION OF OFFICE SPACE FOR POLICE

The Committee noted with concern the poor state of the office space for Police Officers. The Committee after deliberations recommended that the Assembly should take steps to renovate the existing office space for the police. The Committee again recommended that the Assembly should help support the District Police Commander in repairing his accomodation.

6. BURIAL PERMIT

It was noted at the meeting that burial permit was a lucrative revenue source that has been overlooked by the Assembly. After deliberations, the committee recommended that the Assembly should invite members of the various funeral committees within the district to discuss and agree on a fee to be charged across board.

7. VEHICLE FOR THE ASSEMBLY

The Committee lamented on the limited number of official vehicles at the Assembly. It was noted that the Assembly only had two vehicles being operational. It was again noted that the unavailability of a vehicle in the pool was greatly affecting revenue generation.

The Committee after deliberations recommended that the Assembly should appeal to affluent and eminent people of the district to come to the aid of the Assembly.

8. HIGH RATE OF TEENAGE PREGNANCY

The increasing rate of teenage pregnancy in the district was an issue of high concern to the Executive Committee. The committee noted that the data released by the health directorate was very alarming and needed urgent attention.

The Committee after deliberations unanimously recommended for the insertion of a clause in the Assembly's bye-laws that would significantly curb the rate of pregnancies among teenagers.

9. RENOVATION OF THE SWDRU MARKET

It was noted that the Swedru market lacked some basic infrastructure like a place of convenience. The committee recommended for the Assembly to take steps to renovate the market and make it more conducive for transacting marketing activities.

10. CONSTRUCTION OF A LORRY PARK

The attention of the Committee was brought to the absence of a lorry park at Swedru and how it was greatly hindering the returns of the Internally Generated Funds of the Assembly. The Committee after deliberations recommended for the acquisition of a space that will be appropriate for the construction of a lorry park at Swedru.



Hon. Presiding Member, I wish to emphasize that as an Assembly with the responsibility of serving the public, we need to shelve our personal and individual interest and rather concentrate on the larger interest of the people. We have a duty to reach out to every community no matter how remote it is.

We know the challenges are numerous but I believe with determination and good planning we shall surmount them.

I will on this note wish you all a fruitful deliberation.

Thank you.