

# OMANYE



## 28 NEW AMA ASSEMBLY MEMBERS SWORN IN; MAYOR SACKEY EMPHASIZES IMPORTANCE OF GOOD GOVERNANCE AND CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT

The newly elected members and government appointees of the Accra Metropolitan Assembly (AMA) have been inaugurated for a four-year tenure to advance local development and governance.

In all, 28 out of the 30 members which consist of 20 elected and 10 appointees, were sworn in. Justice Susana Aduffo, a Justice of the High Court, administered the oath of secrecy and allegiance oath to the members. Madam Juana Frances Addah was absent, while some Assembly Members objected to the appointment of Mr. Henry Plange who is the Director of the National Disaster Management Organisation (NADMO) at the AMA and is on terminal leave.

The new AMA was created pursuant to Section (3) of the Local Governance Act, 2016 (936) following the successful conduct of the district-level elections on December 17, 2019.

President Akufo-Addo in a speech read on his behalf by the Former Chief Justice and Council of State member, Hon Justice Theodora Wood, highlighted the selfless role Assembly members had to play in ensuring accountable stewardship and articulating the needs of their electorates and implementing government programmes.

He called on the members to build positive working relationships with their colleagues, Chief Executive, Members of Parliament, Staff of the Assembly, and the people they represent.

"You should also establish strong partnerships and collaborate with the local structures particularly, the urban, town, zonal and area council, the unit committees and traditional authorities as well as other identifiable groups to facilitate the work of the District Assembly. As a first step, the Ministry of Local Government, Decentralisation and Rural Development, through the OHLGS, will in the next few weeks organise your orientation and training to enable you to appreciate the expected roles and responsibilities," he added.

He stressed the importance of good governance and active citizen participation in the development process and encouraged the members to create platforms for citizen engagement, such as town hall meetings and community durbar, as well as deploy digitalized tools to enhance the relationship between duty bearers and citizens.

He congratulated all elected assemblies and highlighted the constitutional mandate to promote decentralisation and citizen participation in governance, emphasising the critical role of assemblies in bringing government closer to the people.

The Mayor of Accra, Hon Elizabeth Kwatsoe Sackey in a welcome address reminded the newly elected members of the trust and confidence reposed in them by their electorate urging them to uphold dedication in fulfilling their duties.

Mayor Sackey expressed her appreciation to her predecessors and emphasized the critical areas of environmental sanitation, revenue mobilization, and stakeholder engagement as key focus areas for the assembly, to improve the quality of life for the electorates and foster sustainable development in the communities.

The first female Mayor of Accra also stressed the need for the members to familiarize themselves with the duties and responsibilities outlined in the Local Governance Act 2016, Act 936, as well as other related legislative instruments and the Constitution to discharge their duties diligently.

The election of the Presiding Member of the Assembly was postponed to next week due to their inability to meet the required two-thirds threshold.

## MAYOR OF ACCRA APPLAUDS J. STANLEY OWUSU FOR EXPANDING FLEET TO IMPROVE WASTE COLLECTION

Accra's Mayor, Hon. Elizabeth Naa Kwatsoe Sackey, has commended J. Stanley Owusu Company Limited, an accredited waste management firm, for procuring three new vehicle fleets to enhance service delivery in waste collection, treatment, and disposal and elevate sanitation standards in Accra.

The Mayor commended J. Stanley Owusu Company Limited, on Wednesday when the fleet consisting of two compactors and one roll-on, roll-off trucks were presented at the Accra City Hall stating that the addition was in line with the President's vision of transforming Accra into the cleanest city in Africa.

She urged other waste management firms to similarly expand their vehicle fleets to combat monopolies and foster healthy competition and productivity within the sub-metros.

Mayor Sackey emphasized the direct link between sanitation and climate change and admonished residents to refrain from burning waste and instead collaborate with accredited waste companies to recycle waste, to ensure the success of AMA's source separation program.

She added that under her leadership, the Assembly has introduced some innovative measures such as the Street Sweepers Initiative, the Creating Livelihood Environmentalism in Accra Now (CLEAN) project and Zero Waste Street among others as part of continuing efforts to achieve a clean and liveable city.

The General Manager responsible for Finance and Administration at J Stanley Owusu Company Limited, Joshua Abrako Darko, said his entity was positioning itself to deliver quality service and disclosed that consignments of new trucks were expected to arrive next year. He stated that the presentation was done to inform the AMA about the new trucks, demonstrate competence, and update its record system to ensure transparency. Mr. Darko outlined plans to establish landfills in all sixteen regions nationwide. He emphasized that J. Stanley Owusu was aware of the operational challenges and diligently procured new fleets to enhance service delivery.

The fleet of vehicles is set to operate within the Okaikoi South Sub-Metropolitan District, except the Bubui Electoral Area.

Present at the ceremony were the Coordinating Director for the AMA Douglas N.K Annoful, Director of Finance Mr. Abeiku Amissah, Director of Waste Management Solomon Noi, and Deputy Director for Waste Management Mr. Victor Kotey, among others.



## AWBC: AMA COMMEMORATES INTERNATIONAL MOTHER LANGUAGE DAY WITH READING SESSIONS AT MAKOLA MARKET

The Accra Metropolitan Assembly (AMA) has organized a special reading session at the 31st Makola Market, to celebrate linguistic diversity and promote the importance of preserving mother tongues.

The event, which was held on February 21st, to commemorate the 2024 International Mother Language Day, under the theme: "Reading to Connect Minds for Social Transformation" sought to among other things rekindle the habit of reading in the local dialects, and promote intercultural connections.

The International Mother Language Day, observed annually on February 21st, was proclaimed by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in 1999 to promote linguistic and cultural diversity and multilingualism worldwide. Speaking at the opening ceremony ahead of the reading session, the Mayor of Accra, Hon Elizabeth K. T. Sackey, acknowledged the intrinsic value of every language in the city and its role in preserving cultural heritage, stressing that language was not just a means of communication; but a repository of knowledge, identity, and traditions.

She said the event forms part of a series of activities by the AMA to promote the Accra World Book Capital emphasizing that the reading sessions were meant to showcase the beauty and diversity of the various mother tongues exhibited in the city.

She underscored the AMA's commitment to promoting linguistic diversity and fostering a greater appreciation for mother languages among residents of Accra adding that "As a melting pot of cultures and languages, Accra embodies the spirit of International Mother Language Day."

"Events like these are crucial for raising awareness about the importance of linguistic diversity and ensuring that every language has its rightful place in our society," she said.

She also used the opportunity to urge institutions such as the Ghana Education Service (GES), Ghana School of Languages, and religious bodies to have a major role in pushing the agenda of promoting local languages to preserve the country's cultural identity.

She encouraged market women and traders to help save the Ghanaian languages from going extinct by teaching their children how to read and speak to them at home.

President of the Greater Accra Market Association, Mercy Naa Afrowa Needjan, in a welcome address expressed gratitude for the opportunity to celebrate this year's event in the market and reaffirmed their commitment to preserving linguistic heritage for future generations.

She pledged the association's continuous support to initiatives that promote multilingualism and cultural exchange in Accra and was hopeful the event would among other things help promote reading among traders.

During the reading sessions volunteers including traders, community members and the Mayor of Accra took turns reading aloud passages from literary works, poems, and folktales in the Ga, and Akan languages.



## MAYOR SACKEY PLEDGES COMMITMENT TO FOSTER COOPERATION AND EXPLORE AVENUES FOR COLLABORATION BETWEEN KIGALI AND ACCRA

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The Mayor of Accra, Hon. Elizabeth Kwatsoe Sackey has highlighted Ghana's commitment to deepening ties with Rwanda by fostering cooperation and exploring avenues for collaboration between the cities of Kigali and Accra.

According to her, the ties between them will enforce a long-term union leading to other opportunities of mutual benefit to the two parties.

Mayor Sackey said this when Rwanda's High Commissioner to Ghana, H.E. Rosemary Mbabazi called on her at the City Hall to enhance bilateral relations between the two countries.

The two female leaders during the deliberations touched on various pertinent issues of mutual interest, some of which were cultural exchanges, environmental and sanitation management, sports, education, and women empowerment.

The Mayor reiterated Accra's willingness to engage in mutually beneficial exchanges with Kigali especially in the areas of sanitation and management and stressed the significance of learning from each other's experiences as well as working together to address common challenges such as urban development and gender equality in their various communities.

In her remarks, H.E. Rosemary Mbabazi emphasized the importance of dialogue and cooperation in driving progress and fostering understanding between the two nations.

She pointed out that sports were a critical area to nurture the talents of the youth adding that although the people of Rwanda were catching up on football they were better in basketball, volleyball, swimming, and athletics, among others.

"We're not very good in sports, especially football, but we're very good in basketball and volleyball. We're catching up on football, so we have recreated pitches across the city of Kigali to promote it... We also realised that you have sports grounds in every community, and we want to learn from that. We don't have that in our country, and we believe this will help to nurture young talents," she said.

She said the city of Kigali, as part of its women empowerment programmes, had organised street hawkers in cooperatives and constructed markets that were accessible to sell their products in a safer and better environment.

"Concerning women and the youth, I am very passionate about that. We used to have a lot of women hawkers on the streets with kids at their backs. In the city of Kigali, where we have a lot of them, we have organised them into cooperatives and constructed markets that are accessible so they can sell their products in a safer and better environment. This is something we can look at," she said.

She also cited the Kigali Car Free Day an event held on the first and third Sunday of every month where some specific roads were blocked off for people to walk, run or cycle freely without interference from motorbikes or vehicles adding the city of Accra could learn from the practice to ensure an environmentally sustainable city.

Touching on waste management, she emphasised the need for both cities to share and adopt best practices to improve sanitation for both communities.

Present at the meeting were technocrats from the Accra Metropolitan Assembly (AMA) and officials from Rwanda's High Commission in Ghana.



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## PHOTO GALLERY

J. STANLEY OWUSU COMPANY LIMITED OUTDOORS THREE NEW WASTE COLLECTION VEHICLES

USE THE AVAILABLE OFF-STREET  
PARKING SPACES IN THE CITY



260 Ridge Car Park

500 Accra City Car Park

50 Accra Financial Center

627 SSNIT Pension House Car Park

1,500 Octagon Building

60 SIC Life Mall

310 Makola Shopping Mall