



MILLENNIUM EXCELLENCE FOUNDATION HONOURS ACCRA'S FIRST FEMALE MAYOR

The Millennium Excellence Foundation (MEF) has bestowed a prestigious award upon the Mayor of Accra, in recognition of her historic achievement as the first female mayor of the City of Accra.

The award ceremony which was instituted in collaboration with the National Development Planning Commission (NDPC) with support from the United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF) under the theme: "Recognizing, transparency, accountability and evidence-based decision of the National District Level", was held at the Accra City Hall on Friday to showcase the foundation's commitment to celebrating outstanding leadership and excellence in governance.

Mayor of Accra, Hon. Elizabeth Sackey, who assumed office in January 2021 has been instrumental in implementing transformative policies and initiatives aimed at improving the lives of residents in the capital city.

Her visionary leadership, dedication to public service, and innovative approach to governance have garnered widespread acclaim both locally and internationally.

The Executive Board of the Millennium Excellence Foundation in a citation presented to Mayor Sackey

highlighted her achievement as the "first female Metropolitan Chief Executive of the Accra Metropolitan Assembly after 123 years."

Mayor Sackey who expressed gratitude to the Millennium Excellence Foundation for the honour bestowed upon her emphasized the importance of collective action in achieving sustainable development goals and reaffirmed her commitment to serving the people of Accra with integrity and passion.

Chairman of the National Development Planning Commission (NDPC), Professor George Gyan-Baffuor pointed out that the award ceremony was important and remained critical to encouraging stakeholders to push for efficient resource allocation for development, especially in the area of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH).

He reiterated that it was the mandate of his outfit to monitor and evaluate development outcomes at the national and sub-levels as a requirement to annually assess districts for Ghana's development.

He said the District League Table (DLT) since its inception had served as one of the important assessment tools in promoting transparency, accountability and evidence-based decision-making at the sub-national level.

" Permit me to state that the District League Table (DLT) is not a ranking of the performance of the District Assemblies concerning the level of service delivery to the citizenry... It is not a verdict on the performance of the MMDCEs, rather, it tracks development at the sub-national level to identify those districts that are handicapped in terms of the wellbeing of their populations and allows effective decision-making and resource allocation, " he said.

He revealed that the 2022 DLT indicated that there had been an overall improvement in the delivery of basic services such as sanitation, water and electricity in some districts across the country.

The event which was used to award other Metropolitan, Municipal, and District Assemblies (MMDAs) for their contribution to the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) sector was attended by dignitaries, government officials, civil society representatives, and members of the public.

"The safety of our citizens is paramount, and we are taking proactive measures to address concerns raised by recent incidents... We are considering the construction of speed humps along this stretch to reduce speeding and promote safer driving practices. By implementing these measures, we are committed to creating a road environment that prioritizes the well-being of all users. We urge motorists to adhere to speed limits and exercise caution, as we work towards preventing such tragedies on our roads... Speeding not only endangers lives but also devastates families and communities. As we extend our support to the victim and their loved ones, let us collectively commit to responsible driving practices and creating safer streets for all, " she said.

Silvia Dravie expressed gratitude to the Mayor for the visit and for providing financial assistance for her medical expenses.

Present at the meeting were the Metro NADMO Director Henry Plange, Metro Roads Director David Afosah-Anim and officials of the Bloomberg Philanthropies for Global Road Safety (BIGRS) among others.

MAYOR OF ACCRA VISITS ROAD CRASH VICTIM; DONATES CASH FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT

The Mayor of Accra, Hon Elizabeth Sackey has donated an undisclosed amount of money towards the medical expenses of Silvia Dravie, a 36-year-old road crash victim in the metropolis.

Madam Silvia Dravie, a trader and businesswoman, sustained severe injuries to the chest in the early hours of Monday 26th February 2024 when an unregistered Toyota 4x4 driver recklessly drove into her residence.

The Mayor donated when she led a delegation to visit the victim at her residence in Mamprobi a suburb of Accra to empathise and encourage her.

She emphasized the importance of community support stating, "It is our duty as public servants to stand by our fellow citizens in times like these. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and their family, and we hope that this contribution will help alleviate some of the financial burden associated with your medical care."

She announced plans by the Assembly to undertake road safety enhancement works along the stretch where the recent crash occurred to enhance road safety while highlighting the importance of reducing speed to prevent future crashes.



AMA TO CONSTRUCT SPEED HUMPS ON GUGGISBERG EXTENSION TO PREVENT CRASHES

The Accra Metropolitan Assembly (AMA) has announced plans to install speed humps along the 400-metre Guggisberg Extension in the Ablekuma South Sub-Metropolitan District to reduce speeding among drivers and curb the increasing rate of road crashes in the area.

The decision follows a surge in road traffic deaths in recent months along the stretch due to the absence of traffic calming measures, coupled with speeding by motorists, prompting calls for immediate action.

Mayor of Accra, Hon. Elizabeth Naa Kwatsoe Sackey announced this when she visited Miss Sylvia Dravie, a 36-year-old trader and businesswoman, who sustained severe injuries to the chest in the early hours of Monday 26th February 2024 when an unregistered Toyota 4x4 driver recklessly drove into her residence.

She emphasized the importance of prioritizing road safety measures to protect lives and property adding that the decision to install the speed humps along Guggisberg Extension follows a thorough assessment conducted by the AMA in collaboration with relevant transportation authorities.

She disclosed that the assessment highlighted areas prone to road crashes and identified the installation of speed humps as a crucial intervention to address the issue effectively stressing that the safety of residents was a topmost priority for the Assembly.

The Mayor who was accompanied by the Metro Roads Director, the Metro NADMO Coordinator, the Head of Public Affairs, as well as a team from the Bloomberg Philanthropies for Global Road Safety (BIGRS), reiterated the AMA's commitment to implementing comprehensive road safety measures, including regular maintenance of road infrastructure, enforcement of traffic regulations, and collaboration with relevant stakeholders to address underlying issues contributing to road crashes in the metropolises.

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'As Accra continues to experience rapid urbanization and increased vehicular traffic, initiatives aimed at enhancing road safety are crucial to safeguarding the well-being of residents and promoting sustainable urban development. The AMA's decision to construct speed humps on Guggisberg Extension represents a significant step towards achieving these objectives and ensuring safer roads for all," she added.

She used the opportunity to admonish drivers to exercise caution, reduce their speed and adhere to speed limits at all times to reduce the rate of crashes in the city.

"Excessive speed dangers the lives of all and sundry, it reduces reaction time and increases the severity of crashes often resulting in tragic consequences that could have been prevented...So we want to call on all drivers as a matter of urgency to reduce their speed and the increasing rate of road crashes in the city," she said.



AWBC: MAYOR OF ACCRA LAUNCHES JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL DEBATE CHAMPIONSHIP



In a bid to foster critical thinking, public speaking, and argumentation skills among young students, a Junior High School Debate Championship has been officially launched in Accra.

The initiative, which was under the auspices of the Accra World Book Capital, and organized in collaboration with the Accra Metropolitan Assembly (AMA), Ghana Education Service, and UNESCO, sought to commit 16 junior high school participants to structured debates on a variety of topics ranging from social issues, and climate change to global affairs among others.

With an emphasis on research, logical reasoning, and persuasive communication, the competition which will commence from the 14 March 2024, promises to provide participants with a platform to showcase their intellectual prowess and eloquence.

Mayor of Accra and Chairperson of the event, Hon. Elizabeth Sackey, said the launch of the Junior High School Debate Championship echoes the city's responsibility to promote excellence in education and empower young minds to become responsible citizens in society.

"Education has always been the cornerstone of our city and country's progress, and this event reflects our commitment to fostering intellectual growth and critical thinking among our youth... Accra's designation as the World Book Capital is not just an accolade; it is a responsibility to cultivate a love for reading and learning," she said.

She said the launch of the Junior High School Debate was also a testament to Accra World Book Capital's commitment to cultivating young minds, allowing them to express their thoughts, challenge ideas, and develop

the skills necessary for a bright future stressing that the event was not just a competition but a valuable educational tool to cultivate critical thinkers and communicators and encourage young students to embrace diversity.

"This competition is not merely a contest of words; it is a celebration of knowledge, creativity, and the power of ideas. Through this debate, we encourage our students to embrace diversity and explore the richness of the written word," she said.

She urged all stakeholders to embrace the opportunity to celebrate the joy of learning, the power of literacy, and the boundless potential within each student and was hopeful the new Junior High School Debate would become "a beacon of inspiration, igniting the flames of curiosity and knowledge in the hearts and minds of our youth."

The H.E. Abdourahamane Diallo, UNESCO representative to Ghana, in a speech read on his behalf by, Mrs Melody Boateng, congratulated the AMA for hosting the competition noting it would help improve literacy among young people, provide an opportunity for students to test their critical thinking skills and knowledge as well as incentive them to read well.

She used the opportunity to advise the students to sharpen their wit, cultivate critical thinking skills, elevate their perspective, listen attentively, articulate their thoughts with clarity as well as debate as team players and allow unity and solidarity to be their driving force to success.

The Greater Accra Regional Director of Education Sebastian Adama said that the city of Accra was privileged to be declared as the 2023 World Book Capital, recognizing the city's significant role in the acquisition of knowledge through reading.

Through the Draw Lots selection process, a draw was conducted with each school's name written on a piece of paper and placed in a container. Representatives from the various competing schools drew lots to determine the group allocation to ensure a level playing field. The groups are as follows;

GROUP 1

Bishop Girls vs St Joseph Anglican Basic Richard Acquah Memorial Bas. School vs Kaneshie Awudome 1 JHS Independence Avenue 2 Basic school vs Ayalolo 1&2 jhs Dr.HNS Bannerman Basic v St George's Anglican Basic

GROUP 2

MOH Basic School vs Mamprobi Soko Basic
Kaneshie Bishop 1&2 basic vs Kaneshie Awudome 3 JHS
John Wesley metho. Basic vs St. Mary's RC Girls Basic
Matrys of Uganda RC basic vs Akoto Lante basic

With each school assigned a rival to face in the upcoming debates, students were admonished to refine their arguments, conduct thorough research, and hone their communication skills in preparation for the debate.

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**STAFF OF AMA TO CELEBRATE
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Week Celebration

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Accra World Book Capital 2023 #AccraLiveInLovelt AccraMetropolis

As part of a continuing effort to safeguard the rich culture of the Ga people and Ghanaians at large, the Accra Metropolitan Assembly (AMA) is gearing up to host this year's "Wear Ghana, Eat Ghana Week" a celebration of Ghanaian culture, tradition, and cuisine next month, to showcase the best of Ghana's heritage and the city's diversity.

The week-long celebration is expected to kick off from 18th to 22nd March 2024 with the wearing of made-in-Ghana clothes and accessories, photo shoots, a cooking competition amongst Staff of the Assembly as well as awards for best dressed.

Speaking about the event, the Head of Culture Department of the AMA, Roberta Racheal Appiah, said the "Wear Ghana, Eat Ghana Week is not just a celebration; but a testament to the identity of Ghanaians," adding that the event would be used to showcase the richness of the heritage.

"The event is expected to promote "Made in Ghana" textiles, clothing and accessories for economic development, create economic avenues for local designers and artisans, as well as whip up the interest of Ghanaians especially the youth to enjoy wearing "Made in Ghana" clothes and accessories as part of embracing and promoting the Ghanaian Culture," she said.

"In addition to fashion, the event will also focus on Ghanaian cuisine, with food stalls offering a wide variety of traditional dishes. From street food favourites like kelewele and kenkey to more elaborate meals such as Banku with tilapia and groundnut soup with fufu, attendees will have the chance to indulge in the flavours of Ghana," she added.

She said the event would also feature performances by local musicians and dancers, as well as cultural displays highlighting the diversity of Ghanaian traditions. From drumming circles to storytelling sessions, attendees would be treated to a rich tapestry of sights and sounds that reflect the spirit of Ghana.

Head of Public Affairs at the AMA, Gilbert Nii Ankrah emphasised that as part of its commitment to sustainability and community engagement, the AMA was also incorporating eco-friendly practices such as waste recycling, into the event to minimize the event's environmental impact and support the local economy.

"With its diverse array of activities and its emphasis on promoting Ghanaian culture and heritage, the Wear Ghana, Eat Ghana Week promises to be a memorable experience for the staff of the AMA.



ACCRA 2023 AFRICAN GAMES: LOC INVITES MAYOR OF ACCRA TO OFFICIAL OPENING CEREMONY

The Local Organising Committee (LOC) of the Accra 2023 African Games has extended a formal invitation to the Mayor of Accra, Hon Elizabeth K. T. Sackey, to attend the highly anticipated official opening ceremony, slated for March 8th 2024, in Accra.

Dr. Kwaku Ofori Asare, Executive Chairman of the LOC, presented the invitation to the Mayor of Accra, on Tuesday when he called on her at the City Hall.

Speaking in an interview after the presentation the chairman said as a key figure in the city's administration, the Mayor's presence at the opening ceremony and all game not only symbolises support but also reinforces the city's commitment to hosting prestigious international sporting competitions.

"We are hosting the 13th African Games in Accra and as a key figure in the city's administration, the Mayor plays a very important role... So we came here to brief Hon. Sackey about our arrangement and preparation. We've earlier been here to brief her and you know the opening ceremony is just around the corner, so we came over here to update her and to also formally invite her to the opening ceremony and to make her aware of the program lineup for the period," he said.

He said the LOC's decision to extend the invitation to the Mayor highlights the importance of local leadership in promoting sports development and international cooperation adding that as the city prepares to welcome athletes, officials, and spectators from across Africa, the presence of the Mayor at the ceremony would send a message of unity, hospitality, and pride in Accra's role as host city.

"We have about seven venues in Accra and we also extend an open invitation to all the venues, anytime that she wants to watch any of the games... She is more than invited to come over and we are looking forward to a very good collaboration with her and outfit" she said.

He said the city was going to be crowded hence the courtesy call on the Mayor to assist in the management of traffic as well as sanitation among others to ensure a successful game.

