

# PROMOTING ISSUE BASED DEBATES AT THE CONSTITUENCY LEVEL

## ELECTION 2016 PROCEEDINGS



WHAT THE  
CANDIDATES  
PROMISED



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*2016 OSIWA PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE  
NARRATIVE REPORT*

*PROMOTING ISSUE BASED DEBATES  
AT THE CONSTITUENCY LEVEL*

*ELECTION 2016 PROCEEDINGS*

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## ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The successful initiation and completion of the 2016 parliamentary candidates' debate project was possible as a result of the generous assistance of numerous institutions and individuals. The Open Society Initiative for West Africa (OSIWA) funded the entire project and enabled the organization of timely debates in forty-three constituencies across all the ten regions in Ghana.

Special acknowledgement goes to the Project Advisory Team members under the able leadership of Dr. Akosua Darkwa and their institutions. They rendered expert advice, invaluable assistance and direction for the implementation of the entire project; the EIB Network, City FM and its officials also joined the project team to most of the constituencies and aired the program live to a wider audience; the Ghana Police Service (GPS) provided essential security and managed teeming crowds who participated in the debates and aided in curbing tensions. The tireless efforts of the formidable project team led by Regina Amanfo is greatly appreciated.

The local facilitators in all the forty-three constituencies deserve mention for persistently persuading and convincing both willing and unwilling candidates to present their individual and party programs and more importantly submit to critical and often uncomfortable scrutiny from the public. The sense of humour and steadfastness with which they pursued their duties contributed immensely to making these debates a success.

In pursuing the multiple objectives of this process, it could have been overwhelmingly difficult without the contribution of other organizations and individuals with specialized knowledge who contributed to the selection of the constituencies, provided well researched information to assist in the designing of questions that were posed to aspiring parliamentarians and those who served as resource persons during the capacity building workshops for the candidates: the National Development Planning Commission (NDPC), Planned Parenthood Association Ghana (PPAG), Gender Center, National AIDS Control Program (NACP), Network of Persons Living with HIV (NAP+), Ark Foundation, Ghana Federation of Disability Organizations (GFD) and the Coalition of Domestic Election Observers (CODEO). Their contributions are gratefully acknowledged. Representatives of institutions who also supported our efforts were the journalists from both print and electronic media houses especially those who travelled from the regional capitals to the remotest constituencies to aid cover the debates. The Center is grateful to the National Commission on Civic Education (NCCE) for collaboration in some of the constituencies. The local facilitators, Candidates and their supporters who participated in the program also deserve our heartfelt commendation. The chiefs, traditional leaders, Community Based Organizations executives and all the constituents who came to the program venues also did a yeoman's job in making our collective efforts a success.

## BACKGROUND

### Objective of the Debates

Democratic elections are competitive exercises that can generate tension. This is much more the case in instances where candidates engage in personality attacks and insults neglecting important policy issues affecting greater number of the people such as marginalized groups like women, youth, Persons with Disability (PWDs), Persons living with HIV and AIDS (PLHIV) and others in society. In transitional democracies like Ghana where the process of democratic consolidation is still in an early phase, such tensions can cause a blowback to the process. The OSIWA/CDD platforms for debates are aimed at ameliorating some of the potential dangers emanating from such situations and also create opportunities for candidates and voters to engage each other in honest open discourse, bringing constructive campaign messages to the fore of electioneering activities.

### Activities

Activities under the project were designed to promote and enhance equality of opportunity for aspirants, the participation of women, youth, PLHIVs and PWDs. In order to have effective and efficient implementation to achieve the objectives of the project, a desk study was conducted on all the 275 constituencies to have comprehensive overview of the developmental deficits confronting the constituencies. A scoping study was conducted on the fifty (50) selected constituencies to assist the team confirm or otherwise the information gathered during the desk study, engage the parliamentary aspirants to inform them about the project to get their support, and engage the local institutions and traditional and opinion leaders about the project. A Project Advisory Committee was formed to advice on the sensitivities that may come with the implementation of the project. Three zonal capacity building workshops were organized for all the parliamentary aspirants from the fifty selected constituencies from the various parts of the country. These preparatory workshops assisted the aspirants to comprehend key policy issues, developmental deficits of respective constituencies and topics for the planned debates. The workshops also strengthened and helped the aspirants prepare to address issues by enhancing their understanding of the constitutional, legal, economic and political challenges of the country. The aspirants were also enlightened about the management of the oil and gas proceeds of the country and the role of MPs and the constraints they face. These were meant to help them formulate meaningful programs and campaign messages and also prepare those who would be successful to represent their constituents in parliament to contribute to their work in parliament.

The project team trained women, youth as well as members of the Ghana Federation of the Disabled (GFD) and CODEO to serve as resource persons and debate facilitators. The project encouraged the participation of women, youth and PWDs by mobilizing them to participate in

the debates. Sign Language interpreters were present at debate centers. Questions, guidelines and materials were available for moderators. There were Braille versions of these for visually impaired moderators.

The project mounted forty-three parliamentary debate fora out of the fifty selected constituencies. The rest could not take place due to various challenges that will be highlighted later under the challenges of project implementation.

#### Mode of Selection of Constituencies for the Debates

Fifty (50) constituencies were selected nationwide for the 2016 parliamentary candidates' debates. The following criteria were used in the selection process: the 20 constituencies where CDD-Ghana previously worked during the 2012 elections were repeated for consistency, high probability of keenly contested constituencies, regional representation, constituencies with women and youth as candidates, constituencies with high HIV prevalence rate and high maternal mortality rate and youth unemployment challenges, constituencies with a significant population of PWDs and traditional strong holds of political parties.

#### Preparing the Candidates

In order to equip all the parliamentary aspirants in the selected constituencies with the necessary information and knowledge to help them participate effectively in the debates, CDD-Ghana organized and hosted three zonal capacity building workshops. The first workshop took place at the Freedom hotel at Ho in the Volta Region and attended by some parliamentary candidates from the constituencies in the Southern belt of Ghana, including Eastern, Central, Volta and Greater Accra regions. The second zonal capacity building workshop took place at True Vine hotel Kumasi, and catered for parliamentary candidates from selected constituencies in the middle belt, Ashanti, some parts of Central and Western regions. The last zonal workshop took place at Akayet hotel in Bolgatanga and it covered candidates from the Upper East, Upper West and Northern regions. The workshops had ten experienced resource persons such as Dr. Steve Manteaw of the Public Interest and Accountability Committee (PIAC), Dr. Bashiru Koray of the Attorney General Department and former chairperson of the Ghana Blind Union, head of National Development Planning Commission, Mr. William Bankoley of the Ghana Federation of Disability Organizations (GFD), Ms. Magdaline Kanea gender expert with the Institute of Local Government Studies, Hon. Ken Dapaah former Member of Parliament, Dr. Benjamin Sowah of the Planned Parenthood Association (PPAG), Ms. Monica Bleboo, a communication consultant, Dr. Kwadwo Kodua of the National AIDS Control Program (NACP) and Dr. Kwabena Nyarko Otoo of the Labour Research Institute. These individuals took the participants through ten important topics ranging from economic and developmental challenges facing Ghana to challenges facing Ghanaian youth, women and PWDs. The workshops also granted the candidates opportunities to have skills and knowledge in how to formulate appropriate political campaign messages, the appropriate strategies and policies for addressing the needs of their constituents. In all this they were encouraged to avoid personality attacks and fanning ethnic sentiments. CDD-Ghana also used the workshops to fashion out and agree on the format for the debates and the aspirants were briefed on the developed guidelines and protocols for the debates.

## Key Policy Issues Covered at the Debates

The candidates' debate considered a range of general and community-specific issues ranging from the socio-economic development, maternal health challenges, oil and gas resource management, disability issues, education and youth unemployment, health and HIV and AIDS stigmatization, agriculture and governance. The issues that received most attention throughout the debates and in all the constituencies included the following;

- Socio-Economic Development (Health/Water/Environment/Education)
- Mainstreaming Disability and status of Disability Law (Act 715) implementation
- Youth Unemployment Challenges
- HIV and AIDS Anti-stigma, the implementation of the HIV and AIDS Law
- Implementation of the Disability Law (Act 715)
- Maternal health and traditional practices endangering the advancement of women
- Corruption and enhancing Transparency, Openness and Public Accountability
- Strengthening Agricultural and Food Security
- Peace and Security
- Deepening Decentralization and Social Accountability

The issues covered during the debates in the selected constituencies were not flat. While most of the issues were commonly discussed in many centers, some issues received more attention than others depending on the prevailing economic condition of the people in a given constituency. It is interesting to note that issues such as youth unemployment, poverty reduction, oil and gas resource management, disability and rights of vulnerable groups, education and HIV and AIDS stigmatization received serious attention at all the forty-three centres.

## Voter/Candidates' Participation

Participation in the debate fora was for the most part enthusiastic. For the most part of the debates all the candidates were present except for seven constituencies (Akropong, Hohoe, Nungua, Amansie East, Sekyere Afram Plains, Kwabre East and Asutifi South). Even though the candidates did not appear at the program venue, their political parties sent representatives to the program either to monitor how their opponents would perform or to follow the issues in order to use them in their own personal campaigns. At the Nungua constituency for instance, supporters of the New Patriotic Party (NPP) trooped to the event venue only for them to realize that their candidate did not participate in the event. The scene at some of the debating centres was similar to a community durbar where all local chiefs, their elders as well as entire constituents sat patiently for the program to begin. The excitement generated by party supporters using their own vehicles amidst singing and dancing to bring people to the debating centres was at times overwhelming. The large PWD community presence at the debate ground was amazing to the candidates.

One particular debating session which was outstanding was in the Nkwanta North constituency. All the six (6) males' candidates who were vying for the parliamentary seat turned up to

participate in the program including the incumbent who then had a lot of blackmailing issues on his educational qualifications. The participation of Traditional Authorities and the clergy at Nkwanta North, Sekondi, Akan, Kpando, Mpraeso, Hohoe among others were very lively. Vulnerable groups actually used the program to challenge the stigmatization they have suffered by openly asking questions bordering on their welfare. The constituents at the debates were tolerant all through the debates making the security personnel who came to provide security take time off to also listen to the program. It was insightful to know that the constituents were much familiar with the developmental challenges facing them and wanted their parliamentary aspirants to explain to them how they will address their problems.

### Media Participation

There was a well thought out plan to deeply involve the News media in the 2016 candidates debate. The News organizations also took active part in all the parliamentary debates. The project team signed memoranda of understanding with EIB networks and Citi FM and some community FM stations like Beyond FM at Nkwanta, Sekpele FM, Lolonyo FM both at Hohoe, Addars FM at Kintampo North, Anapua FM at Asutifi South, among others to give live coverage to more than half of the debates in the constituencies. The live broadcast gave the program the opportunity to reach wider audience so those who could not make it to the program venue had the chance to listen in on their radio sets. In some constituencies where candidates had earlier on refused to participate, upon hearing of the broadcasts changed their minds and joined the debate. In some cases, the reason for the change of mind had to do with the need to refute statements they heard their opponents say but which they perceived to be untrue.

### Guidelines and Debate Format

The conduct of the debates was regulated by a set of guidelines to eliminate confusion. The guidelines were structured into four parts. The first part offered the parliamentary candidates a maximum of fifteen minutes each to introduce themselves and present their visions, policies and programs to the electorate. The order of presentation followed the sitting arrangements agreed upon by the candidates in the hall. The time allowed for each candidate varied from constituency to constituency and was based on the number of candidates participating. The candidates were given the opportunity to use the local language that is commonly spoken by the people in the community. In part two of the session, candidates were asked to answer questions posed by a lead moderator. The lead moderator had questions from a wide range of policy issues to select from (refer to Key Policy Issues). The moderators had the right to choose the appropriate policy issues for each constituency. Candidates had at least two minutes to within which to address questions. This part afforded the audience an opportunity to compare the knowledge and depth of factual presentation of the candidates. The third part was an interactive session where the audience was given an opportunity to ask candidates specific questions for which they had two minutes within which to respond. The questions from the audience were based on pertinent local development issues and devoid of personalization and insinuations. People who were not civil in their questioning were deprived of their right to do so. The last part was devoted to the candidates to offer their closing remarks and also pledge to

support peace in the upcoming elections. Most of the debates commenced in the mid-afternoon and lasted for more than five to six hours depending on the extent of interaction.

The performance of the candidates in the debates in all the 43 constituencies varied greatly. Some constituencies had candidates who appeared to understand the questions posed and were able to respond in a well-thought out manner. Others demonstrated an inability to process the information given to them by the moderators and questioners. It was clear that candidates who benefitted from the capacity building workshops were able to use data and references in responding to questions. In their responses, they demonstrated that they understand the work of MPs so they were moderate in promising things that were beyond their capabilities unlike their counterparts who did not participate in the capacity building workshops. The following chapters present the debate proceedings as conducted in the selected constituencies.

## Report Structure

This report highlights proceedings of debates in all the ten regions of Ghana and in forty-three (43) constituencies. The debates were organized concurrently from October 24 to November 29, 2016. Subsequent sections of this report provide summaries of proceedings of all the parliamentary debates, highlighting the vision and programs of aspirants and campaigns promised on debate platforms.

## ACRONYMS

TAPC	-	All People's Congress
BECE	-	Basic Education Certificate Examination
CBT	-	Confidence-Based Training
CHIPS	-	Community-Based Health Planning & Services Compounds
CPP	-	Convention People's Party
DACF	-	District Assembly Common Fund
GCPP	-	Great Consolidated Popular Party
GPS	-	Ghana Police Service
IPP	-	Independence People's Party
JHS	-	Junior High School
NACP	-	National AIDS Control Program
NAP+	-	Network of Persons living with HIV and AIDS
NDC	-	National Democratic Congress
NDP	-	National Democratic Party
NDPC	-	National Development Planning Commission
NHIS	-	National Health Insurance Scheme
NHIA	-	National Health Insurance Authority
NPP	-	New Patriotic Party
PPAG	-	Planned Parenthood Association of Ghana
PPP	-	Progressive Peoples Party
PWDs	-	Persons Living with Disabilities
SHS	-	Senior High School
TLMs	-	Teaching & Learning Materials
UDS	-	University of Development Studies
WASSCE	-	West African Senior School Certificate Examination



## SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS OF PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES IN THE CONSTITUENCIES

### 1.0 WESTERN REGION PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

The parliamentary debates took place in seven constituencies in the Western Region. They are Wassa East, Evalue Ajomoro-Gwira, Jomoro, Tarkwa Nsuaem, Prestea-Huni Valley, Sekondi and Juaboso constituencies. The proceedings on the debates in these constituencies are summarized in the subsequent sections.

#### 1.1 *Wassa East Constituency*

The debate was held on October 27, 2016. The candidates who represented the various political parties at the Wassa East Debate were Mr. Samuel Gidi representing the Progressive People's Party (PPP), Mr. Wilson Arthur of the New Patriotic Party (NPP) and Hon. Isaac Adjei Mensah contesting the seat on the ticket of the National Democratic Congress (NDC) the incumbent MP. The program was well patronized by constituents with the program venue filled to capacity.

#### Candidates' Presentation of Vision and Programs for the Constituency

Mr. Samuel Gidi (PPP) sought to improve educational standards and facilitate the creation of jobs.

Mr. Wilson Arthur's (NPP) sought to work collectively with the people to rebuild the constituency.

Mr. Isaac Adjei Mensah (NDC) sought to help and serve the people.

#### Mainstreaming Disability and Compliance of Disability Law (act 715)

Mr. Samuel Gidi (PPP) pledged to assist PWDs acquire vocations to earn decent livelihoods and ensure the timely disbursement of the Disability Fund. He reiterated that the Education Fund at the constituency level will also assist in the needs of PWDs. Mr. Gidi further expressed that scholarship funds would be set up to support PWDs.

Mr. Wilson Arthur (NPP) pledged to provide PWDs with skills that facilitate employment. He opined that a scholarship scheme would be established in partnership with NGOs committed to sponsoring educational needs of brilliant but needy and disabled students. He would inspire younger PWD students with role models and advise them to emulate their role models.

Mr. Isaac Adjei Mensah (NDC) indicated that the Disability Law protects PWDs and therefore he will see to its full implementation and ensure that the Assembly provides the percentage share of the District Assembly Common Fund (DA CF) allocation promptly. Mr. Mensah expressed that small scale businesses would be established with support from other stakeholders and a scholarship fund for brilliant but needy PWDs would be instituted. Additionally, he would

collaborate with institutions to allocate jobs for PWDs in accordance with the Ghana Labor laws and ensure that public institutions and offices are disability friendly.

#### HIV Stigmatization and Discrimination Issues

*Question: What social measures you will put in place to assist Persons Living with HIV and AIDS (PLHIV) in your constituency to gain employment?*

Mr. Samuel Gidi (PPP) referred to the International Labor Organization's (ILO) laws which stipulate that persons with HIV/AIDS should not be denied job opportunities. With this premise, he would engage the services of health educators to sensitize constituents on HIV/AIDS. He opined that voluntary counseling and testing would be encouraged and a regular supply of anti-retroviral drugs to achieve viral suppression

Mr. Wilson Arthur (NPP) pledged to ensure that persons living with HIV/AIDS receive access to healthcare and encourage voluntary counseling and testing.

Mr. Isaac Adjei Mensah (NDC) said he would assist Persons living with HIV access anti-retroviral drugs. Additionally, a special fund to improve living conditions would be set up. Awareness creation will be done in partnership with the Ghana AIDS Commission to educate and sensitize constituents, health officers shall receive professional training on how to interact effectively with persons living with HIV/AIDS.

#### Socio-economic Development: Health

*Question: What plans do you have for ensuring that the National Health Insurance Scheme is strengthened to cover more health needs and sustained? Would you advocate for free maternal health care for women?*

Mr. Wilson Arthur (NPP) opined that his party would strengthen the NHIS and ensure that the health fund under the MPs common fund will be used to support those who cannot afford to acquire the NHI card. The NPP will construct a hospital in the area and ensure that the Municipal Assembly fulfills its duty in providing adequate equipment to support and enable efficiency in the NHIS.

Mr. Isaac Adjei Mensah (NDC) promised to utilize a portion of the MP's Common Fund to establish offices for the NHI to facilitate the acquisition of the NHI cards. Healthcare will be improved with the construction of a Poly Clinic at Abosia and a district hospital at Daboase. He pledged to increase the number of CHPS compounds and provide necessary health equipment to improve health delivery in the constituency.

Mr. Samuel Gidi (PPP) would ensure NHI coverage is widespread and accessible to constituents. Furthermore, the health insurance will be introduced within the constituency to increase coverage and access to good health care. Periodically, statistics from all the health facilities of

pregnant women will be collated to ascertain the number of pregnant women particularly those who need assistance. He indicated that he would transform the old structure of the local senior high school into a training school for nurses in order to retain the trained nurses in the district. He assured the constituents that an additional twenty-eight (28) CHPS compounds would be constructed.

#### Youth Unemployment and Education Challenges

Mr. Wilson Arthur (NPP) sought to establish a Wassa East Rural Bank which would serve as an employment avenue for the youth. The creation of a job center and a local football league shall provide jobs for local coaches, referees and football players within the constituency respectively. He opined that students who were unable to pass examinations would have an opportunity to rewrite failed papers through remedial classes enabling them gain employment.

Mr. Isaac Adjei Mensah (NDC) underscored the importance of human resource development and suggested using some of the educational fund to support students and those under special training to gain specialized skills. He expressed that the Youth Employment Programs platform used by the NDC will prepare the youth for various professions.

Mr. Samuel Gidi (PPP) mentioned that the GN Bank has completed the construction of its office facility at Dabase and is ready to engage about forty (40) persons in the constituency. Additionally, he indicated that he would create more jobs.

#### Enhancing Gender Equity In the Social and Economic Sectors

Mr. Isaac Adjei Mensah (NDC) emphasized that in order to increase women participation in public affairs, women would be encouraged to contest the district assembly elections. He indicated that special funds would be established to help women in their education and pregnant school going girls would be encouraged to go back to school after giving birth. He indicated that punitive measures would be instituted by the traditional rulers against teenage mothers to deter other young girls. Queen mothers will be assisted to design educational campaigns for girls in the constituency.

Mr. Samuel Gidi (PPP) promised that young women would be trained to acquire special skills in batik and tie-dye making. Furthermore, women would be encouraged to participate in district assembly elections. On reducing the prevalence of teenage pregnancy in the district, the PPP aspirant said that all school going children would be stopped from attending vigils during funerals and night clubs as their staying out late encourages sexual promiscuity which leads to teenage pregnancies in the district.

Mr. Arthur Wilson (NPP) would encourage the formation of virgin clubs to motivate young girls to stay away from premarital sex. Additionally, he would engage women empowerment NGO's to encourage women to participate in politics.

### Socio-economic Development: Education

Mr. Samuel Gidi (PPP) attributed the low levels of education to lack of teachers in the district. If elected into power, he would facilitate the establishment of a training college to train more teachers and ensure that basic schools are established in neighboring towns to encourage more children to have access to primary level education.

Mr. Wilson Arthur (NPP) promised to establish scholarship schemes to support students and increase access to education by creating awareness on the importance of education. He promised to create skill training centers, vocational and teacher training colleges for the constituency. He highlighted the importance of the school feeding program and extra curriculum activities like sports and entertainment. He opined that specialist schools would be established to shape the talents of students since not all students are academically good. Importantly, he mentioned the need for establishing teacher award schemes to encourage and motivate teachers to put in their best.

Mr. Isaac Adjei Mensah (NDC) emphasized the importance of education and human resource development. He promised to improve the quality and access to education by building more schools and providing incentives and allowances for teachers. He indicated that pre-schools will be constructed and an increased number of schools shall be put on the school feeding program. Additionally, school uniforms would be provided to youth and incentives given to teachers to motivate them.

### Strengthening Agriculture and Food Security

*One of the greatest challenges faced by farmers in your constituency is inadequate access to agricultural finance and difficulty in accessing credit. As an aspiring MP, what plans do you have to address farmers challenge?*

Mr. Wilson Arthur (NPP) mentioned that it is his party's intention to reintroduce extension officers and new technologies in the agricultural sector. Additionally, farmers will be organized into recognizable groups to enable them benefit from the Ghana Cocoa Board initiatives for cocoa growing districts. He promised to revitalize the agricultural industry and the cocoa mass spraying exercise. Again, he proposed the construction of a market for them.

Mr. Isaac Adjei Mensah (NDC) would ensure that the constituency obtains a cocoa district office and promised to facilitate processes for farmers to acquire additional spraying machines. He affirmed his commitment in extending credit facilities to market women if re-elected into power.

Mr. Samuel Gidi (PPP) expressed that he would facilitate processes involved in farmers' access to fertilizers and improved cocoa seedlings for cultivation. All traders will be encouraged to open accounts with the GN Bank as this will enable them have access to loans and other credit facilities in order for them to expand their businesses.

### Oil and Gas and Efficient Revenue Management

Mr. Isaac Adjei Mensah (NDC) declared that he would work with the institutions mandated to implement the laws in the management of the oil resources in order to reduce the situation where the oil revenue will be abused by both public officials.

Mr. Samuel Gidi (PPP) stated his support for anti-corruption laws in the oil and gas sector and assured constituents that he would ensure in his capacity as the MP to make Wassa East benefit from their quota of the oil and gas revenue.

Mr. Wilson Arthur (NPP) revealed that he will support the strengthening of the laws regulating the oil sector and lobby for some of the oil proceeds to develop hostel and housing facilities at Dabase for the growing population in Takoradi thereby bringing development in the area.

### Conclusion

The program ended without constituencies having the opportunity to ask questions due to a misunderstanding from the PPP candidate, Mr. Gidi and the moderators. However, the police did well to calm tempers of all candidates and their supporters.

### 1.2 *Evaluate Ajomoro Gwira Constituency*

The debate for Evaluate Ajomoro Gwira constituency was organized at Axim on October 29, 2016 at the Catholic Church auditorium. The debate was well attended and represented by the following dignitaries; Chairman of the inter-party dialogue committee, the district police commander, the constituency EC Chairman, PWDs, UCSOND, and the general public. The political parties were represented by Mr. Prince Adjei Fokuo (PPP), Mrs. Catherine Ablema Afeku (NPP). Mr. J.K Cobbina, the NDC candidate and incumbent MP did not participate in the debate.

### Strengthening Agriculture and Food Security

Mrs. Catherine Ablema Afeku (NPP) stated that the NPP government would ensure that the Fisheries Act (Act 625) is enforced and prices of fishing gears are reduced by way of reducing importation taxes on nets and outboard motors. She opined the prospects of constructing a landing site at Axim beach to boost the fishing industry. Further on, she indicated that government would ensure that coastal guards are employed to ensure against dumping waste into the seas.

Mr. Prince Adjei Fokuo (PPP) stated that he would institute training and educational programs for fishermen, educating them on new fishing methods and good sanitation practices.

Mr. J.K Cobbina (UFP) attributed the problem of low fish capture to oil activity.

### Mainstreaming Disability and Compliance of Disability Law (act 715)

Mr. J.K Cobbina (UFP) emphasized that he would investigate reasons for the delay in disbursement of disability funds and eliminate all the bottlenecks causing delays. In order to

solve some of the problems associated with the administering of the disability fund, all PWDs will be registered and issued cards. He opined that accessibility of the common fund would be computerized and paid through mobile money to ensure transparent and prompt payment of funds to PWDs. He indicated that PWDs in the district would receive a fair share of the Livelihood Empowerment against Poverty (LEAP) fund.

Mr. Prince Fekou (PPP) would help PWDs acquire various skills and trades to earn a livelihood. He would alert the assembly of some of the identified challenges in the disbursement of the Disability Fund and introduce stringent measures to supervise and facilitate its prompt release. He would partner with NGO's who advocate for the rights of PWDs to assist in the full implementation of the Disability Law as well as ensuring that the funds are rightly expended.

#### Oil and Gas and Efficient Revenue Management

Mrs. Catharine Ablema Afeku (NPP) pledge to advocate for the quota system, she mentioned the need for the district to benefit from the GNPC developmental projects. Additionally, she would ensure that the local content law is fully implemented by mining companies for the youth to be given employment opportunities.

Mr. Prince Fekuo (PPP) said his party is committed to ensuring that oil and gas revenue is used to benefit the district. He expressed that a training and recruitment center would be established in the district to train and equip interested constituents with skills in the oil and gas sector.

Mr. J.K Cobbina (UFP) suggested that he would make investigations into reasons why the ten percent (10%) quota system is not benefiting the Nzema community. He indicated that training institutions will be established to equip the youth with knowledge in the oil and gas sector.

#### Socio-economic Development: Education and Health

*Steps to improve the educational infrastructure and raise the falling standards of student performance in the BECE and measures to reduce the level of absenteeism in the basic schools.*

*Steps to facilitate the setting up of CHPS compounds and health centers and improving the Doctor- Nurse and patient ratio in the district*

Mr. Prince Fekuo (PPP) promised to set up a scholarship scheme to support brilliant but needy students and pledged to organize vacation classes for the basic level students to boost performance. In terms of infrastructure development for the educational sector, the aspirant said he would partner some NGOs to support the creation of infrastructure. He said he would set aside a portion of the MPs common fund towards the infrastructure deficits. He pledged a free registration policy for all elderly persons under the NHIS, and added that every village would benefit from CHPS compounds. Additionally, he would investigate reasons why medical personnel refuse postings to the district and offer solutions to the problem.

Mr. J.K Cobbina (UFP) pledged mobile clinics for the elderly to access healthcare. He attributed the low numbers of nurses in the district to lack of access and placement in the nursing training colleges and promised to eliminate protocol systems that prevent qualified students from entering the nursing training college. Further he promised to lobby for the establishment of a nursing training college.

Mrs. Catherine Ablema Afeku (NPP) recounted the NPP's track record in supporting the educational sector by giving scholarship to over one hundred (100) students and added that 3% of the GET Fund was always available when she was MP. Hence, if given the mandate, she would push for the establishment of a teacher's training college within the district to train more teachers to augment teachers in the district. She expressed that free maternal care would be reintroduced by her government if voted into power and the National Health Insurance Scheme would be revived to ensure quality healthcare. In addition, she pledged that every village within the district would benefit from a CHPS compound. She underscored the need to support and encourage young girls to take up science related courses at the tertiary level to increase the turnout of medical doctors. She also pledged to expand facilities at the municipal hospital at Axim and construct one more hospital within the district.

#### Roads and Infrastructure

*As an Aspiring MP, what Measures will you put In Place to Improve the Road Network in Evalue Ajomoro Gwira?*

Mr. Prince Fokuo (PPP) promised to utilize a fraction of the Common Fund to improve the deplorable state of roads in the constituency.

Mr. J. K Cobbina (UFP) pledged to form a committee to determine best ways to finance construction of the roads.

Mrs. Catharine Ablema Afeku (NPP) promised to lobby to have the district classified as a cocoa district as this will bring along its associated benefits like the construction of roads. She opined that the MP's common fund is only 5% of the Assembly's common fund which cannot be used for the execution of capital intensive projects like road construction. However, since the one allocated to the district is no more in a good condition, she promised to lobby so that a portion of the one million dollars promised by the NPP is used for road construction if she and the NPP win the upcoming 2016 election.

#### Youth Unemployment and Education Challenges

Mr. J. K Cobbina (UFP) promised to create jobs by reviving factories within the constituency like the bamboo factory. He pledged to solicit for assistance from NGOs to provide machines and other equipment for the youth who have certain vocational skills to be assisted to start their businesses. He would lobby for the establishment of an oil and gas training center in the constituency.

Mrs. Catharine Ablema Afeku (NPP) reaffirmed that the high unemployment situation would be solved by the one district, one factory policy proposed by the NPP. She expatiated on the districts potential of having a fish, cocoa and bamboo processing factories established. She promised to lobby for the establishment of a skills and training center focusing on training the youth in oil and gas as well as lobby for contracts like supplies and catering services for the youth in the district.

Mr. Prince Fekou (PPP) highlighted job creation as a vision.

#### Questions from the Audience

- *What is the reason for Axim's continuous decline in economic activities?*
- *Question to the NPP candidate: In which town or village would you build the proposed factory?*
- *Are vacation classes the only solution to the falling BECE performance?*
- *How would the NHI be improved? And what would you do to reduce the impact of galamsey on our water bodies?*

Mrs. Catharine Ablema Afeku (NPP) attributed the decline in Axim's local economy to lack of jobs, scarcity of money and poor infrastructural development in the area. She would set up a coastal development authority and a training center to devise solutions to revive the town and also create jobs to improve the living standards of the people respectively. In response to the question on where the factory would be sited, she said the bamboo, fish processing and cocoa factories will all be set up within Axim and its environs. Those involved in small scale mining would be registered and trained in best land reclamation practices.

Mr. Prince Fekou's (PPP) response to the question on vacation classes highlighted sensitizing parents on the importance of education to encourage their children to study. He pledged to institute an education scheme for miners to equip them on safe mining practices and implement compensation packages for those affected.

Mr. J. K Cobbina (UFP) highlighted informing miners on safe mining practices and pledged that they register prior to operating.

#### Conclusion

Candidates participated in the debate with high enthusiasm, the debates were carried out without tension and the general public behaved very well. Individually, the candidates pleaded with the electorate to vote for them as their MP and expressed of their gratitude to OSIWA and CDD-Ghana for the intervention.

#### 1.3 *Prestea-Huni Valley Constituency*

The Prestea-Huni Valley debate took place at the Bogoso Golden Hotel on November 12, 2016. The candidates for the debate were Mr. Theophilus Samora Badu an Independent candidate, Mr. Robert Wisdom Cudjoe represented the NDC, Mr. Edmund Duku represented the PPP and

Mr. Francis Owusu was the CPP parliamentary aspirant for the constituency. The NPP candidate was absent for the debate.

#### Candidates' Presentation of Vision and Programs

Mr. Theophilus Samora Badu (Independent) pledged to create employment and ensure that indigenes are given employment opportunities in the mining companies. He further pledged to introduce the "work and pay" taxi cab policy.

Mr. Robert Wisdom Cudjoe (NDC) sought to bring development to the district. He indicated that he holds a degree from the University of Cape Coast and a second degree in Human Resource Management from same.

Mr. Edmund Duku (PPP) pledge to create jobs in the constituency as his flag bearer was. He said he would improve health and roads in the constituency. He is the GN Bank Manager at Prestea branch and holds a BSc in Marketing from UCC and an Executive Masters in MBA from KNUST.

#### Socio-economic Development: Environment

*Small scale mining employs over 1,600 youth in the constituency, but their activity is said to destroy the environment and water bodies. What will you do to keep these jobs while the environment and water bodies are protected?*

*In the area of large scale mining, what is your understanding of why the Prestea underground mining is not working and what can be done to revive it?*

Mr. Theophilus Briamah Samora (Independent) promised to lobby for a legislative instrument that will help legalize small scale mining activities to operate under a license and safe environmental conditions.

Mr. Robert Wisdom Cudjoe (NDC) promised to push for a legislation to mandate all companies practicing surface mining to practice underground mining.

Mr. Edmund Duku (PPP) promised to re-orient illegal small scale mining operators with safe mining skills and practices that meet environmental and legal requirements. He expressed that the PPP government will introduce a value chain capacity to add value to the gold and constitute a good management team to draw up a strategy to revive the underground mining activities if he wins power.

Mr. Francis Owusu (CPP) will reintroduce underground mining and encourage reforestation as captured in their party manifesto. He added that he would hold meetings with the galamsey operators to know how best their activities would be carried out legally and safely.

Socio-economic Development: Education

*What measures would you put in place to encourage child education and discourage the involvement of school children in galamsey*

Mr. Edmund Duku (PPP) pledged to introduce “education police” to monitor against school dropouts.

Mr. Robert Cudjoe (NDC) pledged to educate parents on the importance of education in order to prevent their children from dropping out of school. He promised to aid women access credit facilities to propel their businesses.

Mr. Francis Owusu (CPP) promised to establish a guidance and counseling center within the Prestea-Huni Valley district to counsel and encourage children on the relevance of education. He also promised that if voted into power, he would ensure that no child under eighteen (18) years engages in galamsey.

Socio-economic Development: Health/ HIV Stigmatization and Discrimination Issues

*What are your plans in the health sector in Prestea-Huni Valley Constituency; particularly with regards to high prevalence of water borne diseases including cholera?*

*As an aspiring MP, what will you do to reduce the rate of HIV/AIDs in your constituency?*

Mr. Francis Owusu (CPP) promised to establish an office in the community to enable citizens register on the Health Insurance Scheme. He attributed cholera to poor sanitation in the district and promised to improve sanitation services within the district. He would establish a common fund for persons living with HIV/AIDS and introduce counselling and HIV tests as well as assist the patients have access to the newly acclaimed HIV/AIDS cure.

Mr. Edmund Duku (PPP) promised to educate constituents on health and sanitation to fight cholera. He therefore promised to lobby for the establishment of a Nursing Training College in the district to train more nurses to improve healthcare in the district. The creation of jobs in the district would also prevent the youth from engaging in prostitution and other promiscuous lifestyle.

Mr. Robert Cudjoe (NDC) attributed the problem of health to poor sanitation and said that he has initiated the “community sanitation” day which is distinct from the national sanitation day. He promised to provide tools for cleaning and help improve sanitation especially using youth groups. He promised continued support for programs and campaigns on HIV/AIDS if voted into power. He pledged to introduce peer counselling to reduce the prevalence of the disease and intensify testing on pregnant women to reduce the rate of mother- to- child transmission.

Mr. Theophilus Samora Briamah (Independent) indicated that the lack of toilet facilities and poor sanitary conditions account for the reported cases of cholera within the district. He

promised to organize more communal labor activities and provide adequate toilet facilities within the district if given the chance as an MP. On HIV/AIDS stigmatization, he would first deal with the issue by ensuring that HIV/AIDS patients are unified under a body and given special care and attention by all stakeholders so as to make them feel loved and accepted. He would promote education on preventive measures in order to reduce the prevalence of the disease in the district.

### Strengthening Agriculture and Food Security

*What measures will you put in place to promote rice production in your constituency?*

Mr. Francis Owusu (CPP) promised to introduce guidance and counseling to encourage the youth to engage in agriculture. Additionally, dams would be constructed for irrigation during dry seasons to boost vegetable farming.

Mr. Edmund Duku (PPP) promised to encourage farming.

Mr. Robert Cudjoe (NDC) promised to institute an award scheme to encourage farmers in order to assure citizens of food security.

Mr. Theophilus Samora Briamah (Independent) promised to ensure that MPs special initiative recognizes hard working farmers by way of honoring them with motor bikes and other logistics.

### Mainstreaming Disability and Compliance of the Disability Law (Act 715)

*Ensuring accessibility of the Disability Fund and access to public places for PWDs*

Mr. Edmund Duku (PPP) would intensify efforts to ensure prompt and quick access to the Disability Fund immediately the district assembly funds are released. He added that there must be a quota of employment at the district in all government departments for PWDs and so he will start by raising funds to establish a special school with funds from banks, mining companies and other stakeholders to build and equip these special schools to train the PWDs.

Mr. Robert Cudjoe (NDC) would introduce various economic opportunities for PWDs in order for them to earn a decent livelihood from their work and ensure that new public buildings under construction are disability friendly. The law on disability clearly states that PWDs should not be discriminated against in employment opportunities and also provides some tax exemptions for PWDs. He pledged to give special help to PWDs in tertiary institutions.

Mr. Theophilus Briamah (Independent) pledged to ensure that PWDs within the district are registered to enable them benefit from the Disability Fund. He pledged to assist PWDs in all their endeavors. He opined that the Disability Law would be enforced to ensure that the PWDs secure jobs. He would also seek sponsorship from corporate institutions and small scale miners to help PWDs in schools.

Mr. Francis Owusu (CPP) expressed that the CPP government would introduce ultrasound scanning machines to aid in detecting disability in pregnant women and set aside 5% of government jobs for PWDs as stated in CPP's Manifesto.

#### Questions from Audience

- *Assistance for artisans*
- *Improving the school feeding program delivery*

Mr. Theophilus Samora Briamah (Independent) promised to collaborate with women to access loans from the banks and other financial institutions.

Mr. Robert Wisdom Cudjoe (NDC) promised to lead artisans to secure a vast piece of land for an artisan's village. Additionally, he opined that the school feeding program is a national issue and therefore he would lobby for the number of schools in his district who benefit from the program to be increased.

Mr. Edmund Duku (PPP) also said that a new site allocated for artisans to build workshops and showrooms would go a long way to develop the area because new people will be attracted to settle in the constituency. He would strengthen the school feeding program by way of monitoring the program.

Mr. Francis Owusu (CPP) pledged to establish a training center in the major towns and further added that those who do not have the capacity to establish themselves would be absorbed to teach and train more apprentices so as to earn a regular source of income. He highlighted that the school feeding program should be cancelled due to the current state of the program and assigned to a private institution.

#### 1.4 *Juaboso Constituency*

The Juaboso parliamentary debate was organized at the Joaboso Pentecost Church on November 15, 2016. The debate was well attended by the Clergy, the local Imam, and the elders of the Islamic community, the district NCCE director and staff, the media, school children, advocacy groups, PWDs and a cross section of the public. The parliamentary aspirants who participated in the debate were Mr. Abdul Karim Briamah (PNC), Hon. Kwabena Minta Akandoh the incumbent (NDC), Mr. Stephen Mintah Cletron (NDP) and Madam Ernestina Oppong Mensah (CPP). The NPP parliamentary candidate could not participate in the debate.

#### Candidates' Presentation of Vision and Programs

Mr Abdul Karim Briamah (PNC) promised to bring change in the district by promoting competence and performance. He is a professional teacher and holds a BA Degree in Education from the University of Cape Coast (UCC). He is currently a Head teacher and has worked with NGOs including the AIDS commission and the District Assembly.

Mr. Kwabena Minta Akandoh (NDC) seeks to bring developmental projects to the constituency. He narrated some of his key achievements as an incumbent MP of the NDC government. He expressed that he has utilized some of the MPs common fund to initiate the MPs remedial school which offers free remedial classes and payment of registration fees for all SHS leavers.

Mr. Stephen Mintah Cletron (NDP) seeks to provide good roads that will link the cocoa and farming communities to the major roads in the country to promote development within the district. He believes in the value of truth, justice and fairness. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration and is currently pursuing a post graduate degree in Marketing at the University of Ghana Legon. He has worked with several NGOs and is committed to helping children. He has worked with the 31<sup>st</sup> Women's December Movement and is the current coordinator for Western North District of the movement.

Madam Ernestina Opong Mensah (CPP) stated that her vision is to bring development to the district. She is an interior and exterior decorator and holds a Senior High School (SHS) and Vocational School training certificates.

#### Strengthening Agriculture and Food Security

*What measures will you put in place to promote rice production in your constituency?*

*What measures will you put in place to increase accessibility of fertilizers and pesticides to cocoa farmers?*

Mr. Abdul Karim Briamah (PNC) would educate constituents in farming to equip them with the requisite knowledge on best farming practices. He promised to extend education to the youth and encourage them to start farming as it has great potential to improve their livelihood. Thus, he would ensure adequate data on all farmers so as to ensure a fair and direct distribution and also engage agricultural extension officers to teach farmers on correct fertilizer application.

Mr. Kwabena Minta Akandoh (NDC) indicated that loans will not be given directly to individual farmers but used for investments in farming related projects such as purchases of equipment. He opined that steps were being taken to ensure fertilizer and pesticide distribution at the district level.

Stephen Mintah Cletron (NDP) pledged to purchase rice seedlings and supply to farmers who are willing to cultivate the crop. Loans would be made available from the MP's Common Fund to help farmers access tools like ploughs and combine harvesters. In terms of sales and marketing, he promised to lobby for rice to be sold to schools and institutions within the constituency. He would ensure that farmers have access to fertilizers, boots and machetes among others. The formation of groups involving Assemblymen in collaboration with Unit Committee members will help a lot in increasing access to the farming inputs.

Madam Ernestina Oppong Mensah (CPP) would assist farmers to acquire large acres of land and have access to rice seedlings to encourage them in rice producing. She would organize farmers into groups and engage the services of an agricultural extension officer to educate them on best techniques of farming and fertilizer application.

Socio-economic Development: Road, Water, Health, Education and Environment

Mr. Mintah Cletron (NDP) would lobby for Cocoa Board and Ministry of Agriculture to ensure that delayed contracts are executed or contractors changed. He would consult chiefs and opinion leaders to determine important roads and also monitor and supervise contractors in order for them to execute their duty. He pledged to negotiate for a nursing training school to be established. He highlighted that the Assemblymen and Unit committee members would ensure that children of school going ages are enrolled and stay in school. On his plans for proper exploitation of mineral deposits in the constituency, he would involve all mining stakeholders to ascertain and learn best mining practices.

Ernestina Oppong Mensah (CPP) indicated that she would ensure that the roads are properly constructed by involving stakeholders to devise strategies to improve the current state of the roads. She attributed the lack of accessibility to potable water to the activities of small scale miners and galamsey operators. She mentioned the need to have pipe borne water and bore holes drilled in the community. She attributed the problem of lack of health personnel in the district to lack of finance to sponsor students studying health related courses, thus she pledged to provide scholarships for brilliant but needy students. She expressed that the CPP would restore the teacher training allowance and ensure that more students are admitted into the institutions. She promised to provide exercise books and stationery items to encourage children to attend school.

Abdul Karim Briamah (PNC) would solicit support from partners like DANIDA and UNICEF to assist in providing mechanized boreholes for most communities in the district. He attributed the lack of health personnel in the district to inadequate accommodation and good facilities which are unattractive to visitors and promised to ensure good accommodation facilities within the district for health workers and would encourage children and students from the district to take up health related courses in tertiary institutions. He promised to lobby for NGOs to build bungalows within the district for teachers and promote the building of standard kindergartens. He promised to encourage investors to invest in underground mining. He would ensure that these companies provide potable water and health facilities in communities where they have their operations.

Mr. Kwabena Minta Akandoh (NDC) would negotiate with the Ministry of Education to post more teachers to the district, sponsor students from the district into training colleges to serve in schools in the district after completion and motivate children to go to school through role modelling. He opined that he would collaborate with traditional leaders and all stakeholders to reduce the menace of galamsey.

## Youth Unemployment and Education Challenges

*What would you do to assist the youth who have limited education to secure employable skill?*

Madam Ernestina Oppong Mensah (CPP) stated that she would establish a vocational school to equip the youth with skills. In addition, she would also lobby for the establishment of a nursing and teacher training college in the district.

Mr. Abdul Karim Briamah (PNC) would create groups for those involved in trade and commerce to access credit facilities with flexible low interest rates from NGOs and other financial institutions.

Mr. Kwabena Minta Akandoh (NDC) said he would use his lobbying skills to ensure that the Juaboso district benefits from job creation. He promised to sponsor the youth by helping them to acquire skills and training. He however said that he will not guarantee any form of credit facility for people again because of a bitter experience he had.

Mr. Stephen Cletron (NDP) promised to create an enabling environment in the constituency for jobs to be created. He revealed that he has plans for both skilled and unskilled labor to solicit for contracts from local institutions within the district for the local artisans.

## Mainstreaming Disability and Compliance of Disability Law (act 715)

*What steps would you adopt to ensure that the district assembly releases the Disability Common Fund promptly and fairly?*

Mr. Kwabena Minta Akandoh (NDC) said he would discuss with the assembly to facilitate the timely release of the Disability Fund for PWDs. He would advocate for public places and buildings to be made disability friendly. Importantly, the candidate revealed that he would set aside 10% of the MPs Common Fund for the well-being of PWDs through sponsoring the educational needs of the members.

Mr. Stephen Minta Cletron (NDP) shared his views by stating the he would encourage and sponsor PWDs who attend technical and vocational training institutions. PWDs would be registered within their various communities and the data used to correctly calculate the percentage of the common fund due them. He promised to personally sponsor those who are willing to pursue further education.

Madam Ernestina Oppong Mensah (CPP) would encourage PWDs to acquire skills that can enable them earn an income. Again, she would segregate them into various groups to assess their interests and offer training accordingly. She promised to set aside half of her share of the MPs Common Fund to assist PWDs attain higher education.

Mr. Abdul Karim Briamah (PNC) informed the electorate that he would ensure that the district

assembly releases the Disability Fund on time and advise PWDs to invest their monies in productive ventures. He would lobby for PWDs to be given a quota of employment and help train some of them in various skills. He also promised to set up a scholarship fund to aid PWDs.

#### Questions from the Audience

- *Promoting women empowerment and gender equity*
- *What would be done to stop possible conflicts arising from the alleged influx of voters from neighboring Ivory Coast?*
- *Increasing Access to capital for artisans*
- *Educational support for JHS students*

Mr. Abdul Karim Briamah (PNC) would involve NGOs in promoting girl child education and also set aside 10% his share of the MPs Common Fund to assist women in their various endeavors. He seeks to encourage artisans to form groups to access machines and credit facilities yearly. He would provide projectors to aid in JHS students in learning and introduce vacation classes to improve student performance.

Mr. Kwabena Minta Akandoh (NDC) would ensure that if there is any form of funds or support from the government towards women empowerment, he would lobby for the district to benefit. He opined that women would be grouped to make it feasible for them to access loans facilities. Additionally, the NDC government has already begun supporting artisans with hair dryers and other tools and machineries. He had already initiated a pilot program to support JHS students in three communities which had improved BECE results of the students tremendously.

Mr. Stephen Mintah Cletron (NDP) emphasized that Nana Konadu Agyeman Rawlings, the flag bearer of his political party started women empowerment and since 1982 she had been assisting women with credit facilities. Women would be grouped and registered in order for them to have access to loans. Teachers who teach core subjects would be motivated to assist students. Extra classes would be organized to serve as a platform for teachers to do more explanation on the core subjects.

Madam Ernestina Oppong Mensah (CPP) would regularly meet women to know their peculiar problems in order to address them. She opined that artisans would be categorized and given opportunity to do further training. She further said she would revive the evening studies to benefit the JHS students.

#### Conclusion

The church auditorium was filled to capacity and the debate was lively and interesting. The media covered the program live on their radio stations. The general atmosphere during the program was calm and serene. At the end of the program candidates shook hands and held their hands up high signifying their commitment towards peace and unity in the constituency and the country.

### 1.5 Jomoro Constituency

The Jomoro constituency Parliamentary debate took place at the Church of Pentecost Auditorium, Half Assini on November 1, 2016. The debate had all the candidates present. They were Mr. Leo Kofi Armah Amenlemah (Independent), Mr. Thomas Yankey (NDC), Madam Samia Nkrumah (CPP) and Ms. Jemimah Sobo (PNC) and Mr. Paul Essien (NPP) joined the debate late.

#### Candidates' Presentation of Vision and Programs

Mr. Leo Kofi Armah Amenlemah (Independent) pledged to promote positive changes in the lives of the people of Jomoro district.

Mr. Thomas Yankey (NDC) pledged to improve healthcare and create jobs for the people.

Madam Samia Nkrumah (CPP) pledged to achieve the vision of the first President of Ghana, Osagyefo Dr. Kwame Nkrumah for the people.

Ms. Jemimah Sobo (PNC) pledged to empower women and the marginalized in the Jomoro Constituency.

#### Socio-economic Development: Education and Health

*What are your plans for improving the educational sector in the constituency?*

Mr. Leo Kofi Armah Amenlemah (Independent) pledged to put up a training and vocational school if voted into power. He promised to introduce an electronic library system to increase accessibility to books and improve the reading habits of the children. He emphasized that brilliant and excelling students must be awarded as this will induce motivation and set up competition. Furthermore, he underscored the need to organize extra curriculum activities to discover the talents of some students.

He underscored the importance of creating a mass awareness on malaria prevention and assured the electorates that if voted for, he would organize a mass educational campaign to introduce programs such as mass insecticide spraying within the constituency. In terms of access to the NHIS cards, the candidate said that he would open up offices with good machines and available personnel of the NHIA, to increase accessibility.

Mr. Thomas Yankey (NDC) informed the people that he would provide bursaries and other logistics to aid basic school children to pass their examinations and institute cultural and exchange programs to enable school children learn from other environments and also expose their rich culture to others. He promised to ensure that more teachers are posted to the district. Additionally, he would constitute a system to help students pay their school fees and address the health problems of the constituency by introducing mobile clinics and organizing series of health screening with support from stakeholders. He opined that hospitals would be provided with health equipments and a scholarship scheme set up for students in health related courses.

He pledged to build a mast to boost access to network to solve the network challenges of NHIA staff and set up a fund which will cater for other diseases that fall outside the coverage of the NHIS.

Madam Samia Nkrumah (CPP) promised to continue negotiations with the government of India for a grant of over \$ 1m for the construction of a cultural and technical institute at Bawia a town within the district. She pledged to improve healthcare by liaising with other organizations and upholding honesty and integrity. She affirmed her commitment in increasing the number of CHPS compounds if voted into power.

Ms. Jemimah Sobo (PNC) promised to support school children to make good grades and affirmed her commitment to improving education by lobbying for more teachers to be posted to the district. She promised to promote access to the NHIS and indicated that mothers and older women would benefit from educational health campaigns. Additionally, she promised to organize mass spraying using helicopters an initiative replicated from Cote d'Ivoire and pledged to provide mosquito nets.

Mr. Paul Essien (NPP) pledged to organize a zonal best teacher award scheme to motivate teachers. He said quizzes would also be organized to step up competition among students. Additionally, he would institute an educational and remedial Center to aid students re-sit their examinations and ensure that there is a technical training institute within the district.

He promised to set up a fund to sponsor students who take up courses in health in order to increase the number of healthcare professionals in the district. Healthcare emergency centers and educational campaigns will be established and organized periodically to improve health care. He would ensure that every town has a CHPS compound and also encourage nurses to educate the people on preventive measures as well as lobby for the establishment of an additional hospital. He would facilitate mass registration of people onto the NHIS and would reintroduce the provision of beverages and cereals for patients in the hospitals.

Oil and Gas and Efficient Revenue Management  
Steps to engage the youth in oil and gas job opportunities.

Madam Samia Nkrumah (CPP) pledged to encourage the youth to take up courses in oil and gas disciplines and lobby for scholarships from friends of the late Dr. Kwame Nkrumah.

Ms. Jemimah Sobo (PNC) would ensure that constituents with employable skills in the oil and gas sector are granted access to employment opportunities.

Mr. Paul Essien (NPP) would ensure that the youth at Jomoro constituency benefit from the Local Content Law.

Mr. Leo Kofi Armah Amenlemah (Independent) pledged to grant scholarships to encourage

youth in science and math to take up courses in the oil and gas field.

Thomas Yankey (NDC) promised to ensure that the youth benefits from oil and gas.

#### Strengthening Agriculture and Food Security

Mr. Leo Kofi Armah Amenlemah (Independent) would provide a platform for members of the farmers' association to learn about coconut at the Philippines since they engage in similar business and set up a coconut processing factory in the district.

Mr. Thomas Yankey pledged to extend credit facilities to farmers and empower women to learn vocational skills.

Madam Samiah Nkrumah (CPP) would encourage farmers to join groups to enable them have access to loans. Furthermore, she mentioned that scholarships will be provided for students who study agriculture.

Ms. Jemimah Sobo (PNC) would ensure that farmers' knowledge on coconut cultivation is upgraded. She opined the need to set up a factory to process raw tomatoes to help the vegetable farmers.

Mr. Paul Essien (NPP) promised to assist the coconut farmers unite as a group to facilitate the processing of coconut in the constituency. He underscored his commitment to aid farmers access fertilizers to boost the interest of the youth in agriculture.

#### Enhancing Gender Equity and Child Development in the Social and Economic Sectors

Madam Samia Nkrumah (CPP) would encourage women to form groups so as to have access to credit facilities and pledged to continue offering scholarship packages to brilliant but needy students.

Ms. Jemimah Sobo (PNC) pledged to aid women access credit to enable them trade and promised to organize vacation classes to encourage school children especially young girls to learn.

Mr. Paul Essien (NPP) pledged to assist women with loans from banking institutions to enable them start small businesses.

#### Mainstreaming Disability and Compliance of Disability Law (Act 715)

Mr. Paul Essien (NPP) promised to provide the necessary platform for PWDs and equip them with employable skills. He would ensure that the assembly releases the Disability Fund for the PWDs in a timely manner. Additionally, he pledged to meet with PWDs annually to know their challenges to enable them benefit from the LEAP.

Ms. Jemimah Sobo (PNC) would ensure that appropriate attention is given to the needs of PWDs. She assured them of training programs which would enable them earn a living.

Madam Samia Nkrumah (CPP) would discuss with the PWDs on best ways to use the Disability Fund due to lack of accountability in the release of the Disability Fund currently and enforce the disbursement of the Disability Fund to their recipients and ensure that the PWDs also benefit from the scholarship packages.

Mr. Thomas Yankey (NDC) would organize and train PWDs in various skills. He affirmed that an eye clinic would be constructed to aid in eye care a mass sensitization on PWDs acceptance would be carried out. He promised to ensure that all public offices in the district are made disability compliant.

Mr. Leo Kofi Armah Amenlemah (Independent) informed constituents that he would setup a secretariat to take special care of PWDs. He opined that NHIS registration for PWDs would be free and 2% of the Assembly Common Fund would be paid directly to them through their individual bank accounts to ensure accountability. Additionally, he promised to carry out a mass education on disability.

#### Questions from Constituents

- *What steps would you put in place to curb the rate of teenage pregnancy?*

Mr. Thomas Yankey (NDC) attributed teenage pregnancies in the constituency to broken homes and economic hardships of guardians hence pledged to sensitize parents. Additionally, he would take steps to ensure that female students are not sexually exploited by teachers.

Mr. Leo Kofi Armah Amenlemah (Independent) emphasized that job creation would curb teenage pregnancy.

Madam Samia Nkrumah (CPP) advocated that she would encourage female students to stay in school and pursue higher education.

Ms. Jemimah Sobo (PNC) promised to discourage early marriages and focus on education of the girl child.

Mr. Paul Essien (NPP) promised to provide role models for female students to encourage and motivate them.

#### Conclusion

All candidates pledged their commitment to peace. Generally, the program was conducted under a peaceful and serene environment and party supporters conducted themselves commendably during and after the debate.

## 1.6 Tarkwa Nsuem Constituency

The Tarkwa Nsuem parliamentary debate took place at the St. Mathew's Catholic Church Parish hall in Tarkwa on November 9, 2016. The debate was well patronized by PWDs, Heads of Departments, NCCE Officials, the District Police Commander and his team, the Media, the constituents, various party supporters, federation of youth associations in Tarkwa. The parliamentary candidates who participated in the debates were Mr. Seth Kwame Dzokoto (NDC) Mr. George Mireku Duker (NPP), Mr. Eric Seedorf Simpe (PPP) and Mr. Justice Kwakye (CPP).

### Candidates' Presentation of Vision and Programs

Mr. Justice Kwakye (CPP) stated that his vision is to revive the defunct Tarkwa railway lines, and unify the people of Tarkwa, together with assisting the physically challenged to access the Disability Fund. He is a trained teacher and a first degree holder (Economics and Sociology) from the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology and a member of the GFD.

Mr. George Mireku Duker (NPP) who served as a Municipal Chief Executive stated that his vision is to lead Tarkwa to developmental progress.

Mr. Seth Kwame Dzokoto (NDC) sought to ensure that Tarkwa benefits from the vast natural mineral resources it is endowed with. He would help students especially those with fails in their results to better their results in order for them to continue their education. He has done short courses at the Nautical College and University of Mines and Technology and holds a Bachelor degree in Business Administration.

Mr. Eric Seedorf Simpe (PPP) promised to create jobs since unemployment is one of the major problems of the youth in the constituency. He is a trained teacher but now works with the GN Bank. He is a product of the University of Professional Studies and has experience in fund management and banking.

### Socio-economic Development: Health and Education

*What are your plans for the health sector in Tarkwa Nsuem; particularly with regards to high prevalence of Malaria and worrying infant and child mortality rates (61/1000 and 81/10000 respectively)?*

Mr. Justice Kwakye (CPP) pledged to enforce cleanliness in the communities. He pledged to lobby for the establishment of a Poly-Clinic in the constituency to augment health delivery. On education, he promised to organize mass education through radio stations on the importance of education and urged parents to take advantage of the free compulsory basic education policy. A scholarship package for brilliant but needy students in collaboration with traditional rulers and mining companies will be instituted.

Mr. Mireku Duker (NPP) would introduce mobile clinics (vans) to visit communities to provide healthcare to inhabitants. Malaria would be curbed by mass sensitization and education on

malaria prevention programs as well as mass distribution of mosquito nets. He promised to institute an educational fund to care for brilliant but needy students. The candidate referred to Act 715 of the 1992 Constitution of Ghana and said that every child with disability must have access to free education and this he will enforce.

Mr. Seth Kwame Dzokoto (NDC) pledged to provide sanitary inspectors and officers. He promised to equip CHPS compounds to tackle malaria. He was of the view that collaboration with GES to introduce mock examinations for JHS students is an ideal way to improve education in the community. He pledged a sponsorship package to be awarded to the best student and promised to introduce vacation classes in English, Mathematics and Science for the Senior High School students. Additionally, those with fails will attend free classes to prepare them to re-sit the examination in order for them to continue their education.

Mr. Eric Seedorf Simpe (PPP) would ensure mass education and clean up campaigns periodically to improve on the sanitary conditions within the environment. He expressed that health centers will be well equipped to provide quality health care services to citizens in addition to the mass distribution of mosquito nets. He promised to introduce an ICT Center to train students in ICT.

#### Youth Unemployment and Education Challenges

Mr. Eric Seedorf Simpe (PPP) pledged to establish a bamboo and tooth pick factory and ensure that galamsey is legalized and made safe to serve as a means of employment for the youth in the area.

Mr. Seth Kwame Dzokoto (NDC) would sponsor twenty (20) of the youth to acquire various skills and trades annually. The youth will be trained in bead making and snail, glasscutter and rabbit rearing. Additionally, he expressed that machines and farming equipments would be released for such purposes.

Mr. Mireku Duker (NPP) promised to institute an apprenticeship fund of which contributions would be from mining companies and the MPs common fund. The Bonsa Tyre Company will diversify its operations to include the manufacturing of flip-flops and boots. He pledged that the youth will be given lessons in small scale mining to enable them engage in safe mining practices and he proposed the establishment of a gold mining museum for Tarkwa in order to generate some revenue for the town.

Mr. Justice Kwakye (CPP) promised to introduce a guidance and career counseling program for students and pledged that youth engaged in agriculture would be given scholarships.

*What measures would you suggest for the development of both small scale and large scale mining in Tarkwa Nsuem?*

Mr. George Mireku Duker (NPP) opined that galamsey should not be abolished but rather carried out under safe and environmental friendly practices by organizing workshops on safe

small scale mining practices for the operators. He indicated the need to provide licenses, lands and machines to miners to operate legally. Additionally, he would ensure that small scale miners have a good rapport with the big mining companies so as to prevent conflicting interests.

Mr. Seth Kwame Dzokoto (NDC) also responded that subcontractors of the bigger mining firms must also follow the local content regulations and employ the youth in their firms. According to the NDC aspirant the water sources are polluted by those involved in alluvial mining and not the youth involved in inland galamsey.

Mr. Eric Seedorf Simpe (PPP) would ensure that Tarkwa derives the maximum benefit from the exploration of minerals by the mining companies in the area. On small scale mining, the candidate promised to liaise with the University of Mines and Technology to run short courses on safety in small scale mining and ensure that the youth engaged in mining are given licenses to operate.

Mr. Justice Kwakye (CPP) opined that galamsey would be carried out under formal procedures to ensure safe environmental and health conditions. The youth engaged in galamsey would be encouraged to subscribe to SNNIT and pay other taxes.

#### HIV Stigmatization and Discrimination Issues

Mr. Justice Kwakye (CPP) informed constituents that he would liaise with the medical doctors to offer counseling services to persons living with the disease. Education and sensitization on HIV prevention on radio and TV will be increased and churches and the mosques will also be charged to educate their adherents on HIV.

Mr. George Mireku Duker (NPP) said that sensitization and education are important in reducing stigmatization and therefore these two must be reintroduced and heightened.

Mr. Seth Kwame Dzokoto (NDC) highlighted that the NDC had invested over \$2M in Ernest Chemists and Danpong Pharmacy to manufacture Anti-retroviral drugs in Ghana in addition to Radio jingles on HIV/AIDS education.

Mr. Eric Seedorf Simpe (PPP) would liaise with medical doctors to educate the populace on abstinence, being faithful to one partner and condom use. He expressed that constituents would be encouraged to know their HIV statuses and ensure that the anti-retroviral drugs are readily available.

#### Mainstreaming Disability and Compliance of the Disability Law (Act 715)

Mr. Eric Seedorf Simpe (PPP) promised to facilitate the prompt release of the Disability Fund at the municipal assembly when voted for. Mechanisms to equip PWDs with skills and trades will be instituted to enable them earn a decent livelihood and those in the tertiary institutions will be assisted with portions of the MPs Common Fund.

Mr. Seth Kwame Dzokoto (NDC) promised to partner with NGOs to supply wheelchairs, walking sticks among others for the physically challenged individuals in the constituency.

Mr. George Mireku Duker (NPP) highlighted that the NPP which introduced the Disability Fund would ensure the regular and prompt release of the Disability Fund. He added that the government must also push for about 3% of the Mineral Development Fund to be given to PWDs.

Mr. Justice Kwakye (CPP) promised to lobby for an increase in the Disability Fund from 3% to 5%. He added that with support and funding from NGOs and the mining companies, a special school for PWDs would be constructed.

### Conclusion

At the close of the program chaos erupted, there was an argument. This interrupted the program and led to a cancelation of further questions. Candidates however put forth their closing remarks:

Mr. Elvis John Asiedu Simpe (PPP) urged the electorate for their votes and pleaded with constituents not to promote violence but rather encourage peaceful acts.

Mr. Seth Kwame Dzokoto (NDC) called for non-violence in the impending elections and urged electorates for their votes.

Mr. George Mireku Duker (NPP) emphasized the importance of peace and encouraged electorates to desist from violence.

Mr. Justice Kwakye (CPP) pledged to tackle challenges in the constituency.

### 1.7 Sekondi Constituency

The parliamentary debate for Sekondi Constituency took place on Tuesday November 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2016 at the Methodist School Park, Sekondi. All four candidates were present at the debate. Mr. Peter Authur represented the CPP, Mr. Andrew Egyapa Mercer contested the Sekondi seat on the ticket of the NPP, Mr. Emmanuel Essafuah represented the NDC and Mr. Daniel Essuman represented the PPP.

### Vision and Programs

Mr. Peter Authur (CPP) in presenting his vision and programs stated that his vision is to support his flag bearer to create jobs for the youth. He expressed that the CPP has ideas and good policy to bring interventions to the country such that Sekondi can benefit.

Mr. Andrew Egyapa Mercer's (NPP) vision for the constituency was to create a revived Sekondi, one that would offer jobs to constituents. He expressed that his political party believes in creating the enabling environment for businesses to grow and provide youth employment.

Mr. Emmanuel Essafuah's (NDC) vision was to enhance the quality of education in the constituency. He indicated that he has devoted himself to promote quality education and to the provision of all necessary infrastructure especially for deprived schools in the constituency.

Mr. Daniel Essuman (PPP) expressed that the creation of jobs was a prime concern. He highlighted that his flag bearer was known as "adwumawura" and opined that his flag bearer has three promising businesses in Sekondi. He expressed that he would work hard to address challenges confronting the district.

#### Education and Health

Mr. Essafuah (NDC) identified lack of basic school infrastructure as the main challenge in the education sector in the constituency. He stated that the NDC government is working hard to provide all the infrastructure to ensure conducive grounds for teaching and learning. He pledged to set up a scholarship scheme to assist brilliant but needy students. Once parents lacked resources to support brilliant wards, Mr. Essafuah opined that the scholarship scheme would be open and transparent so that it can benefit all those who are in such category. Under the theme of health, Mr. Essafuah pledged to facilitate the supply of all the materials needed by their health facilities in order to ease the pressure on the only hospital, Effia Nkwanta hospital.

Mr. Essuman (PPP) expressed that the PPP government believes in what the 1992 constitution says about free compulsory basic education. He highlighted that the PPP government would provide all school infrastructure and learning and teaching materials. Additionally, teachers would be motivated to ensure they are working effectively.

Mr. Peter Authur (CPP) pledged that he, together with the CPP government would bring back the interest in education by providing all the necessary learning and teaching materials and construct more school buildings.

Mr. Andrew Egyapa Mercer (NPP) expressed his support of his party bringing free senior secondary education to all people. He opined that lack of access to education is due to parents' inability to finance their ward's education and expressed support for free senior high school education.

#### Youth Unemployment

Mr. Mercer (NPP) highlighted that the idea of a university in the constituency would create activities to bring jobs to the district. He also indicated that he would liaise with the NPP government to move the Ghana National Petroleum Corporation (GNPC) to Sekondi to revive economic activities and create more jobs for constituents. He pledged that the NPP government would concentrate on industrialization through the "One District, One Factory" campaign promise and highlighted that a fish processing company would create more jobs for the youth.

Mr. Essafuah (NDC) expressed that under the NDC, the following had been observed; rehabilitation of the railway line, the harbor expansion project, Primewood company and others

in the constituency. He expressed that the NDC government would facilitate the training of school drop-outs to provide them with skills to engage in self-employment. He promised to ensure that the government agencies and departments employ youth from Sekondi and strive to curb the unemployment challenge in the district.

Mr. Arthur (CPP) opined that the CPP government will put measures in place to create more jobs by focusing on skills development. In this regard, all the youth will be engaged to identify their areas of interest. Mr. Arthur expressed that the CPP government would enroll the youth in skills development training courses, so that after the training they can be self-employed.

Mr. Essuman (PPP) stated that the PPP government with Papa Kwesi Nduka as the president will create more jobs for the youth. According to Mr. Essuman his presidential candidate had already established over four companies in Sekondi which has employed many of the youth. He pledged to lobby him to create more jobs in the constituency to absorb the majority of the youth.

#### Oil and Gas

Mr. Essuman (PPP) expressed that the PPP government would employ the Libyan oil policies. He indicated that foreign officials who would come and manage the oil would be assigned to Ghanaians as associate officials. He opined that foreign investors would be bound by a number of years, after which Ghanaians would then take over. This would help to keep all the revenue in the country, provide jobs for Ghanaians and then help more citizens to sharpen their skills in the oil industry.

Mr. Essafuah (NDC) indicated that the NDC government had the vision to utilize some of the oil resources to finance the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) in order to make it beneficial for every Ghanaian. He expressed that the NDC government would utilize the oil resources to construct roads, school infrastructure and hospitals.

Mr. Mercer (NPP) expressed that the NPP government would utilize oil resources to the benefit of constituents, directly through the NPP policy of moving the GNPC to Sekondi. He highlighted that when GNPC is moved to Sekondi, most of its affiliate companies will also move to Sekondi and this will trigger a lot of economic activities which will promote economic business, hence, create more jobs for the people in Sekondi.

#### Conclusion

An estimated crowd of about one hundred and fifty participated in the forum; attendants included, Traditional leaders, PWDs, youth, women's groups and members of the clergy from all the big and small towns in the constituency also attended the debating sessions. All the candidates were confident of getting the mandate to represent their constituents in parliament.

## 2.0 CENTRAL REGION PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE

The selected constituencies for the debates in the Central Region were: Ekumfi, Twifo Ati Morkwaa, Komenda Edina Eguafofo Abirim, Mfantseman and Effutu. Indicated below are proceedings at the debates held in those constituencies.

### 2.1 *Ekumfi Constituency*

The first debate in the Central Region took place on Monday October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at Ekumfi Essarkyir. The candidates who participated in the debates for the constituency were Mr. Kweku Essoun, who represented the Convention People's Party (CPP), Mr. Abeiku Crentsil representing the National Democratic Congress (NDC) and Mr. Ato Cudjoe represented the New Patriotic Party (NPP).

#### Candidates' Presentation of Vision and Programs

Mr. Kweku Essoun (CPP) will accelerate the development of Ekumfi.

Mr. Abeiku Crentsil (NDC) seeks to continue the ongoing infrastructural development by the NDC government in the area.

Mr. Francis Ato Cudjoe (NPP) seeks to help humanity and to alleviate the suffering of the people and his vision is to serve the people.

#### Mainstreaming Disability and Compliance of the Disability Law (Act 715)

*How are you going to represent persons with disabilities in your constituency if you are elected as a Member of Parliament (MP)?*

Mr. Kweku Essoun (CPP) would set up a special fund to provide stipends supporting PWDs and initiate a dialogue with the Disability Federation in the constituency to know their problems and address them accordingly. In the same way, with assistance from the leadership of the assembly, an educational fund would be set up to cater for the needs of brilliant but needy students with disabilities.

Mr. Abeiku Crentsil (NDC) took the opportunity to elaborate NDC's support for PWDs for the period he has been an MP and in the process, disclosed the party's intention to increase the Disability Fund from three percent (3%) to four percent (4%) as stipulated in the District Assemblies Common Fund. He further revealed a model currently being used which guarantees a quota of employment opportunities for PWDs to secure jobs in government. The NDC is constructing an ultra-modern ICT center within the district to assist PWDs acquire some skills that can gain them employment. He attributed the lack of opportunities for PWDs to the lack of

disability compliant structures and revealed that the Disability Law was passed by Parliament under the administration of the NDC and once fully implemented will ensure that structures are disability friendly. He further stressed on the importance of including PWD representatives in the assembly so as to facilitate the disbursement of the Disability Fund. NDC will ensure compliance of the Disability Law, however, since individuals cannot be coerced into making their buildings disability friendly, the assembly will rather dialogue with them on the importance of making their facilities disability friendly.

Mr. Ato Cudjoe (NPP) was of the opinion that the integration of PWDs with the wider society by encouraging them to acquire skills to enhance their livelihoods is the best alternative. He stressed on education and skill acquisition as a prerequisite for securing jobs and promised to ensure that PWDs are properly educated and trained in diverse skills so as to make them employable. The NPP candidate stated that in its manifesto to make education from the basic to the tertiary level free for all persons with disabilities to encourage them to go to school. Furthermore, the NPP candidate revealed that 30% of government jobs would be reserved for women and PWDs under the NPP administration which will be applicable at the constituency level. He mentioned that there would be an increase in the Disability Fund from 3% to 5%. Additionally, PWDs will be counselled periodically to prepare them psychologically against stigma and encourage them to pursue education. He emphasized the need for the District Assembly to set an example worthy of emulation by first making their office disability friendly so as to encourage others to follow suit. By-laws will be passed by the Assembly to empower them to enforce the laws to ensure newly constructed buildings are disability compliant.

#### HIV Stigmatization and Discrimination issues

*What are some of the social measures you will adopt to assist Persons Living with HIV (PLHIV) in your constituency to gain employment?*

Mr. Kweku Essoun (CPP) pledge to support persons living with HIV by guaranteeing that they are well attended to and cared for by the government.

Mr. Abeiku Crentsil (NDC) had a different opinion and stated that his party is committed to ensuring that maternal transmission of HIV is reduced to 50% and the total number of people living with the virus is reduced.

Mr. Ato Cudjoe (NPP) was of the view that once the constituency gets a district hospital, access to the hospital laboratory for testing for the virus by constituents will help constituents to know their status. Again, people will be encouraged to go for voluntary counseling and ensure the creation of a confined unit to attend to HIV patients. He pledged to reduce prices of anti-retroviral drugs.

## Youth Unemployment and Education Challenges

*What would you do to reduce the unemployment rate in your constituency?*

Mr. Ato Cudjoe (NPP) made reference to the NPP's 2016 Manifesto; the policy on establishing a factory in every district. He said this would create employment opportunities for the youth in the district through to the national levels. He opined that feasibility studies have been carried out and plans are advanced for a massive rice farm project which would also create employment. Lastly, he mentioned initiatives such as the setting up of pineapple and gari processing factories, mechanization, commercialization and scaling up of agriculture in the constituency as one of the lucrative and effective means of reducing drastically, the levels of unemployment.

Mr. Abeiku Crentsil mentioned that about three hundred and twenty (320) youth have acquired various skills after undergoing training on the National Youth Program. There are also ongoing plans by the NDC government to commission the construction of a 2000MW coal power generating plant in the Ekumfi constituency which has the capacity to gainfully employ over three thousand (3000) people.

Mr. Kweku Essoun (CPP) promised to sign contracts to ensure the youth secure jobs, he added that Ekumfi would get a biscuit and roofing sheet factory, he promised to also establish a mini harbour within the coastal belts of the district.

## Enhancing Gender Equity in the Social and Economic Sectors

*What measures can be adopted to reduce the levels of Teenage Pregnancy in your constituency?*

Mr. Kweku Essoun (CPP) attributed the high rates of teenage pregnancy to economic hardships which has repercussions on their living conditions. He promised the electorate better job opportunities to alleviate their economic hardships which in the long run will reduce teenage pregnancies in the constituency.

Mr. Abeiku Crentsil (NDC) pledged to introduce counseling to help the youth to focus and gain life skills. He reminded electorate of his party's commitment to ensuring quality maternal health care. He added he would help in the purchase of two ambulances for the district and a third ambulance will be given to the constituency to augment such services.

Mr. Ato Cudjoe (NPP) expressed that the NPP's policies on Free Senior High School (SHS) education will help to keep majority of the youth in school thereby reducing teenage pregnancy. The candidate also underscored the party's commitment to create more jobs and added that parents will be given adequate information and education on the need to guide their children on issues relating to adolescent reproductive health so as to reduce the occurrence of teenage pregnancy. In addition to these, the candidate also said that evening classes would be provided for these children to engage them. He again promised to open up counseling facilities with a

focus to reach out to teenagers. He stated that having a district hospital will promote accessibility and reminded electorate of former President Kuffour's free maternal health care and delivery as a yardstick and assurance that the NPP government would ensure that mothers receive quality maternal care.

#### Socio-economic Development: Education and Water

Mr. Kweku Essoun (CPP) stated that he would investigate and find out the reasons for which school stationery items delay in reaching them and ensure a timely distribution. He also mentioned that CPP would ensure that individuals within the constituency construct toilet facilities in their homes to improve on sanitation. In the area of water provision to the people, the candidate mentioned that expansion of the existing water supply works will be carried out to increase access to clean and potable water for all.

Mr. Abeiku Crentsil (NDC) said his party has a policy of ensuring that each parent and teacher gets access to a tablet device so as to download the needed text and materials in digital formats. This he said will eliminate bottlenecks in stationery and facilitate accessibility of students to the books. The aspirant further added that remedial classes would be organized for all students and recounted his achievement in the purchase of a Ghc350,000.00 bus to support education in the constituency. Under water provision, the MP enumerated several towns that are benefiting from completed Ghana Water Company projects.

Mr. Ato Cudjoe (NPP) indicated that his party will collaborate with donor agencies to expand water supplies to the people in the Ekumfi constituency and its environs.

#### Strengthening Agriculture and Food Security

Mr. Ato Cudjoe (NPP) reminded the electorate of the pineapple factory that was once commissioned and functional under the NPP's administration and promised to revamp and expand the old pineapple factory and encourage women to form groups to access loans. He added that under his tenure, marketing centers will be established so as to market and sell pineapples.

Mr. Kweku Essoun (CPP) promised to help the women farmers to get access to credit facilities in order to facilitate production. He added that there are plans to also establish a pineapple factory in collaboration with the chiefs if he wins the parliamentary elections.

Mr. Abeiku Crentsil (NDC) was of the view that plans had already begun by CEDECOM in partnership with JICA in building a pineapple juice factory in the constituency. The first stage of the project was the provision of adequate raw materials and this was currently underway through the expansion of pineapple cultivation in the area.

#### Deepening Decentralization and Social Accountability

Mr. Abeiku Crentsil (NDC) maintained that the constitution mandates the appointment of IGP by

the Commander in Chief of the Ghana Armed Forces who is the President of the Republic of Ghana and as such constitutional matters cannot be twisted to suit one's favor.

Mr. Kweku Essoun (CPP) was of the opinion that he is indifferent to the current practice and therefore pledged his support for the current practice of the government appointing the IGP.

Mr. Ato Cudjoe (NPP) said that if majority of Ghanaians did not agree with the appointment of the IGP by the President then an amendment of the law could be made in the long run to amend this provision.

### Conclusion

The participants were excited hearing from their candidates and they cheered them on their responses to the questions. After various contributions and clarifications, the program was brought to an end. The aspirants exchanged greetings and pleasantries and the candidates expressed their delight in the success and usefulness of the program, urging electorate to eschew violence in the impending elections.

### 2.2 *Twifo Atimorkwa Constituency*

The Twifo Atimorkwa Parliamentary debate was carried out on November 8, 2016 at the Presbyterian Church auditorium located within the constituency. Three aspiring candidates vying for the seat participated in the debate: Mr. Abu Ayuba represented the Peoples Progressive Party, Mr. Abraham Dwumah Odum of the New Patriotic Party and Mr. Ebenezer Appiah, the Convention Peoples Party.

#### Candidates' Presentation of Vision and Programs

Mr. Abu Ayuba (PPP) attended Twifo Praso Secondary School and proceeded to the University of Cape Coast. He is a professional teacher with over 14 years of experience. He pledged to bring development to the area.

Mr. Abraham Dwumah Odum (NPP) sought to help the district to progress in terms of health, education, job creation, agriculture and technology. He is a product of the University of Ghana Business School; He was the former DCE of Twifo Hemang Lower Denkyira and won the honour as the best DCE in the year 2004. He had also served in the capacity of a former Deputy Minister of Local Government and then acting minister of Health. He is currently the director of the African Rice Initiative.

Mr. Ebenezer Appiah (CPP) is a former student of the Aswansi Technical School and Takoradi Polytechnique. He is currently a student at the University of Cape Coast studying Bachelor of Technology.

#### Socio-economic Development: Education/health

Mr. Abu Ayuba (PPP) promised the establishment of pre-schools in some of these villages and opined that workbooks and bursaries would be provided through the Ghana Education Service (GES). He attributed the health problems in the constituency to poor sanitation, lack of potable

water and toilet facilities. He promised to ensure that NHIS funds are released timely to hospitals and pharmacies to enable their provision of good services. He would introduce a software to detect people who are seeking medical attention in all the hospitals.

Mr. Abraham Dwumah Odum (NPP) opined that he would ensure that pre-schools are built closer to the villages. He pledged to expand primary or basic schools. He pledged to upgrade the skills of teachers to improve students' performance. He expressed that the free and compulsory education policy would strengthen education. He promised to enforce the policy as well as restore the teacher's training allowance. On health, he promised to ensure the revival of NHIS and provide adequate health facilities for constituents. Additionally, he highlighted that health professionals posted to the rural communities would be given special allowances as motivation.

Mr. Ebenezer Appiah (CPP) would ensure that bungalows for teachers are built to serve as incentives for teachers to accept postings to the rural and deprived areas in the constituency. He opined that CPP would restore the teachers' training allowance to encourage more youth to train as teachers and fully implement the policy on free compulsory basic education. On health, the NHIS would be revived and registration onto the scheme would be free for the disabled and other vulnerable members in the society. He added that each CHPS compound would have a professional nurse at post to attend to emergencies.

#### Youth Unemployment and Education Challenges

Mr. Ebenezer Appiah (CPP) highlighted the importance of jobs to the CPP government.

Mr. Abu Ayuba (PPP) pledged to construct a rice mill to create jobs for the youth. He promised to facilitate the employment of the youth into the GN group and promised to establish a training program to train the youth in various skills and provide them with start-up soft loans to help them establish their businesses.

Mr. Abraham Dwumah Odum (NPP) pledged to organize a youth conference to create awareness on the challenges and opportunities confronting the youth in the area. He pledged to create revenue and employment opportunities for the farmers and the youth in the area. Additionally, he would initiate a rice farming project if elected and ensure that more hostel facilities are built within the district capital to accommodate the youth from the rural communities who come to learn various trades and skills at the urban centers.

#### Oil and Gas and Efficient Revenue Management

*How will you/your party ensure Ghana derives maximum benefit from the expanding oil and gas sector?*

Mr. Ebenezer Appiah (CPP) promised to ensure that laws on oil and gas revenue is enforced.

Mr. Abu Ayuba (PPP) pledged to ensure that he exercises his powers to support decisions on best utilization of oil and gas revenue.

Mr. Abraham Dwumah Odum (NPP) promised to publish all oil and gas revenue sponsored contracts with the cost and names of the contractors to ensure accountability and transparency. He pledged that communities affected by the operations of the oil and gas sector will benefit from the development projects by the government to prevent any possible upheaval from the inhabitants like the Niger Delta scenario.

#### Strengthening Agriculture and Food Security

Mr. Abu Ayuba (PPP) promised that sugar cane would be introduced to the farmers and that, he would ensure the construction of most roads leading to the rural communities. He promised to help farmers in acquiring loans to purchase irrigation and processing machines and ended by saying that he will look at ways plantain can be preserved and exported since there's an abundance of plantain in the district.

Mr. Abraham Dwumah Odum (NPP) pledged to orient farmers on good farming practices and provide training and support to farmers for at least a minimum of three years to enable them gain new skills in farming.

Mr. Ebenezer Appiah (CPP) informed the constituents that farming machinery will be made available within the district to ensure farming is made much easier. He pledged to lobby to attract other oil palm investment companies to the area so as to create competitive pricing for the farmers and break the monopoly of the only oil palm factory in the area. Farmers would also have access to loans to enhance the growth of their business.

#### Questions from the Audience

- *What would you do to help PWDs secure a place of meeting for their activities?*
- *What plans do you have for brilliant but needy students?*

Mr. Ebenezer Appiah (CPP) answered the first question by stating that he was very much interested in the well-being of the PWDs as his party flag bearer is disabled and hence he is committed to helping the PWDs get a place of convergence if voted for.

Mr. Abu Ayuba (PPP) also promised that his government would ensure the proper management and disbursement of the Disability Fund and that his party would create adequate jobs if voted into power.

Mr. Abraham Dwumah Odum (NPP) stated that he would partner with NGO's to create a permanent center for the PWDs to meet and ensure that they receive their percentage of the common fund promptly. In terms of the brilliant but needy students, the NPP candidate promised to institute a scholarship package for them if voted into power.

## Conclusion

The debate was conducted under a violent free and calm atmosphere. The candidates demonstrated a good understanding of the policy issues raised. The audience proved their approval of comments by cheering and clapping. The debate was well attended, with electorate listening with rapt attention and interest.

### 2.3 *Mfantseman Constituency*

The Mfantseman parliamentary debate was held on November 4, 2016 at the Saltpond Hammond Hall. The aspiring parliamentary candidates who participated in the debate were Mr. James Essoun (NDC), Mr. Ekow Quansah Hayford (NPP), Mr. Kwabena Amoquandoh (PPP) and Mr. Pius Dugan (CPP).

#### Candidates' Presentation of Vision and Programs

Mr. James Essoun (NDC) pledged to introduce a Competence Based Training (CBT) to assist willing persons get equipped with various skills through the MP's common fund. He added that his CBT will be based on the three levels of education which are the cognitive; affective and psychomotor. He would establish an educational endowment fund which will provide scholarships to brilliant but needy children who complete the BECE. He holds a Masters Degree in Development Studies (poverty alleviation) and is a teacher at the Ghana National College.

Mr. Kwabena Amoquandoh Okyere (PPP) pledged to develop the capacities of PWDs in order for them to sustain a livelihood. He has a first degree in Political Science from the University of Ghana Legon, he operates a factory that produces envelopes and runs a printing press.

Mr. Pius Ebo Dugan (CPP) pledged to maintain peace and development.

Mr. Ekow Quansah (NPP) pledged to improve health, security, employment and development. In attestation to the possibility of achieving his vision, he recounted some of his current achievements which includes various donations to groups in the constituency. He is a chartered Accountant by profession and has knowledge in logistics and supply chain management.

#### Mainstreaming Disability and Compliance of the Disability Law (Act 715)

Mr. James Essoun (NDC) indicated that his party had already grouped PWDs into various categories in order to equip them with various skills since they form an integral part of the community. He expressed that 30% of the MP's common fund will be allocated to support brilliant but needy PWDs. Additionally, he promised to be an advocate and facilitate the prompt payment of the Disability Fund.

Mr. Ekow Quansah (NPP) said he would support PWDs by providing wheelchairs, walking sticks, crutches, clothes among others. Buildings within the district would be made disability friendly. In order for the PWDs to secure employment, the aspirant said he would collaborate with the District Assembly to pass by-laws which would set aside 30% of jobs for PWDs. He promised to set up training centers for the PWDs if elected as MP.

Mr. Kwabena Amoquandoh Okyere (PPP) posited that upon election he would ensure that the funds for the PWDs come directly into their own association account. PWDs will be engaged in the production of certain goods and services produced from skills and trades they have acquired. These products and services he would ensure are patronized in order for them to earn a livelihood.

Mr. Pius Ebo Dugan (CPP) expressed that he would ensure sure PWDs have access to jobs. In efforts to empower PWDs, the aspirant mentioned plans to organize counseling sessions to encourage PWDs and equip them with the requisite knowledge.

#### HIV Stigmatization and Discrimination Issues

Mr. Ekow Quansah (NPP) said he would encourage PLHIV to attend organized counseling sessions and expressed he would subsidize the cost of the anti retro-viral drugs.

Mr. Kwabena Amoquandoh Okyere (PPP) pledged to organize massive awareness and education on preventive methods.

Mr. Pius Ebo Dugan (CPP) promised to offer massive education to healthcare professionals on HIV management. Additionally, he promised to equip CHPS compounds with anti retro-viral drugs.

Mr. James Essoun (NDC) expressed that the NDC had constructed over two thousand, six hundred (2,600) CHPS compounds nationwide and promised to ensure that the CHPS compounds have necessary and accessible drugs for persons living with HIV. He opined that the national policy on anti-retro viral drugs must be reviewed to ensure accessibility and availability at both the national and district level.

#### Youth Unemployment and Education Challenges

Mr. Kwabena Amoquandoh Okyere (PPP) responded by stating that the leader of the PPP is well versed in job creation thus youth unemployment will be solved by his government. He expressed that the GN group is currently ready to employ over six hundred (600) youth and Mfantseman had been given the opportunity to provide over two hundred (200) personnel. In addition, the PPP will establish a training factory and revamp the two major factories in the district upon his election into office.

Mr. Pius Ebo Dugan (CPP) said his employment creation would be done first by grouping the youth and offering them skills training since majority of them lack the needed skills that could earn them employment. Additionally, he would encourage the youth to venture into farming.

Mr. James Essoun (NDC) emphasized the importance of skills creation opportunities for the youth. He pledged to construct a capacity based training center to provide the youth with skills.

Mr. Ekow Quansah (NPP) made reference to the NPP's Manifesto which stipulates special policies for job creation and the most popular one which is the "one district, one factory". He opined that the youth must be equipped with various entrepreneurial skills hence the setting up of a youth development fund. He pledged that the party's policy on \$ 1 M dollars for each district would create a part in job creation and capacity development. Additionally, he promised he would ensure the construction of a juice factory.

#### Enhancing Gender Equity in the Social and Economic Sectors

Mr. Pius Ebo Dugan (CPP) pledged to ensure that teenage fathers are prevented from pursuing their education just like happens with teenage pregnant mothers. He promised that mass school uniforms for school children would also be sewn at the district level to create employment opportunities for women in small businesses.

Mr. James Essoun (NDC) would intensify sex education at all levels to curb the prevalence of teenage pregnancy. He opined that women would be the Center of development and would be provided with credit facilities to expand their businesses.

Mr. Ekow Quansah (NPP) would empower women in money management and finance. He would ensure that girls stay in school as time spent in school removes the possibility of early child birth. Credit facilities would be made available to women through MASLOC by allocating over 50% of the loans to women to enhance their businesses.

Mr. Kwabena Amoquandoh Okyere (PPP) promised to enable women access credit facilities from GN bank.

#### Strengthening Agriculture and Food Security

*What measures will you put in place to curtail the distribution of premix fuel and bad oil production activities?*

Mr. James Essoun (NDC) referred to the late President John Evans Atta Mills as the one who ensured that premix fuel was not diverted to fuel stations. The NDC ensured that the landing communities would sell their own premix fuel which was not so in the past. The sale of premix by members of the communities has brought development with communities like Anomabo, Nankesido and Ankaful have all been able to build community centres as a result. He would adopt the Growth Pro theory which dictates that more resources be allocated to productive areas and set up small scale industries to make use of farm produce to improve agriculture in the area.

Mr. Ekow Quansah (NPP) however alleged that the NDC government had politicized access to premix fuel. He said it would be ideal for the premix committee to be devoid of politics and be accountable to the people. Feeder roads linking major food producing villages to markets would be constructed and farmers would be assisted under his leadership to get access to farming

implements at very affordable prices. Schools and institutions within the district would be encouraged to purchase farm produce from farmers in order to ensure the farm produce are well utilized.

Mr. Kwabena Amoquandoh Okyere (PPP) pledged that the PPP would scrap the pre-mix committee and encourage premix fuel stations to be set up along the coasts. The fishing industry is suffering due to illegal methods used in fishing. A fish processing and oil palm factories would be established to process fish and palm oil within the constituency if he is given the mandate. The GN Group of Companies is constructing a lot of factories within the district and this would ensure that farm produce are well utilized to prevent wastage and revenue loss.

Mr. Pius Ebo Dugan (CPP) also pledged that he would ensure that the most qualified people are put in charge of the management of the premix fuel, so as to ensure its availability and accessibility. Upon his election into office, he would liaise with the assembly to construct feeder roads to enable easy transportation of food crops to market centers and small factories built for processing the produce from the farmers in order to reduce waste.

#### Socio-economic Development: Education

Mr. Kwabena Amoquandoh Okyere (PPP) pledged that the CPP party would ensure that learning materials are readily available for effective teaching and learning.

Mr. Pius Ebo Dugan (CPP) expressed that Parents and students would be sensitized on the relevance of education and promised that teachers would be assessed by students periodically to ensure that teachers perform satisfactorily.

Mr. James Essoun (NDC) promised to make education available to every child in all the communities in the constituency. He pledged to provide all basic schools within the district with computers and educational supplies.

Mr. Ekow Quansah (NPP) said that community leaders would be involved in the provision of good accommodation for teachers who had been posted to the constituency. He promised that community leaders would be involved in the formation of academic boards so as to ensure that teachers perform creditably to improve the performance of students in examinations. He further promised to reinforce the mandate of circuit officers to liaise with district directors to visit schools.

#### Question from the Audience and Final Remarks of Candidates

- *What will you do to reduce the cost of fees at the Biriwa vocational and training institute?*

Mr. James Essoun (NDC) said he would recommend that technical and vocational institutions are moved to the directory of the Ministry of Education. Currently, these institutions fall under the ministry of employment, which makes decisions on their management slightly challenging. He stated that all those who graduate through the Youth Employment Program would be

assisted to set up their own business. He finally advised the electorate to vote for competent and proven leaders like him and the NDC flagbearer and to remain peaceful.

Mr. Ekow Quansah (NPP) said that the NPP would ensure that the GETFund provides a bus for the school and expand the school's existing facilities. He added that voting for him, he would ensure job creation and peace.

Mr. Kwabena Amoquandoh Okyere (PPP) was of the view that the fees may be exorbitant now because of a lack of employment opportunities in the area. The PPP would improve the living conditions of the parents and the working class through job creation which would enable them to pay school fees. He underscored the need for peace and urged electorate to vote for him and the PPP.

Mr. Pius Ebo Dugan (CPP) answered that he would ensure the creation of more small scale businesses to improve the living standards of the people, this would invariably affect their spending power. He finally pleaded with the electorate to vote for him and the CPP because they best understood the conditions of the people.

## Conclusion

The audience comported themselves very well. All the four male candidates were mature in their responses even when they were provoked during questions and comments, they demonstrated maturity in their rebuttals. The debate took place in a peaceful manner and the security officers present were also participated in listening to the debate. The constituents listened to the aspirants with keen interest while the aspirants addressed the various issues with much interest and seriousness.

## 2.4 *Komenda, Edna, Eguafo Abrim (Keea) Constituency*

The KEEA debate was organized at the Brima Park on November 2, 2016. The all four candidates contesting the parliamentary seat participated in the debate. They were, Mrs. Rose Ostin Tinadu (CPP), Dr. Nana Ato Arthur (NPP), Mr. John Sterling (PPP) and Mr. Samuel Atta Mills (NDC).

### Candidates' Presentation of Vision and Programs

Mrs. Rose Ostin Tinadu (CPP) is vying for the seat to bring the spirit of diligence and service to the people in the constituency. She is a teacher at the University Community School and a Chief Executive Officer of Complete Child Foundation.

Dr. Nana Ato Arthur (NPP) seeks to improve education, healthcare and create jobs in the KEEA district. He introduced himself as a former DCE, Deputy Regional Minister and Regional Minister of the Central Region before the year 2008. He is a PHD holder of governance and leadership from a German University.

Mr. John Sterling (PPP) seeks to bridge the gap between the people and the government and help address their needs. He is the Projects and Maintenance Manager with the Coconut

Groove Hotels and sits on the board for some companies.

Mr. Samuel Atta Mills (NDC) believes he is the right person who truly understands the needs of the electorate and can therefore fulfil his vision of leading the people of his constituency with practical knowledge and wisdom. He is currently the manager in charge of Ghana Tourist Development Fund.

Mainstreaming Disability and Compliance of Disability Law (Act 715) / HIV Stigmatization and Discrimination Issues

Mrs. Rose Ostin Tinadu (CPP) underscored the need for counseling and testing as a means of supporting persons living with HIV. She therefore promised to support PLs if voted into office.

Dr. Nana Ato Arthur (NPP) said the disability Act, Act 715(2006) passed under the NPP administration has provisions for PWDs including free education. Furthermore, there is a percentage of the District Assembly Common Fund which is allocated to PWDs. The incumbent MP promised to increase the Disability Fund allocated to the PWDs to 3%. He indicated that 30% of jobs will be reserved for women and PWDs in accordance with the law. He stressed that HIV is not a death sentence and can be treated. He affirmed his commitment to assist such persons in getting access to their drugs (ARVs).

Mr. John Sterling (PPP) promised that PWDs would be assisted to gain skills, in addition to what they'd gained from the Disability Fund. He pledged to educate and sensitize people in the district on HIV to prevent stigmatization. The provisions in the laws of the country enforce that PWDs and PLs have the right to be employed and this he assured his commitment towards if voted for.

Mr. Samuel Atta Mills (NDC) promised to lobby for the government to grant tax holidays to companies that employ PWDs if he is voted into power to attract more companies to give such tax holidays. PWDs will be grouped to enable him build homes for them to house, train and equip them with various skills and trades. He promised to increase the number of CHPS compounds, in the district since this would ensure access to healthcare. He added that he would ensure mass education on HIV by the health workers and promised to make ARVs available and accessible during his era as an MP. Testing and counseling would be supported by him and partner NGOs.

Youth Unemployment and Education Challenges

Mr. John Sterling (PPP) promised to establish an orange and pineapple juice processing factory. Mr. Samuel Atta Mills (NDC) promised to establish a juice processing factory and fish processing plant if voted into power. He added that the existing gari processing factories would be expanded while the pig farmers would be given the necessary assistance to raise more pigs. He pledged that mechanized farming would be adopted to improve farming and make it more attractive and efficient.

Mrs. Rose Ostin Tinadu (CPP) started by saying that her experience in working with NGOs gives her the zeal to deal with the youth employment situation in the area. She would continue to partner with companies and NGOs to lend support to the youth in enterprises such as clothing.

Dr. Nana Ato Arthur (NPP) attributed the high rate of unemployment within the district to the energy crisis, IMF conditions on Ghana's loan, bad economy and the ruling government. The NPP's manifesto promise on "one district, one factory" will solve the issue of youth unemployment since the policy would create an employment opportunity as well as create series of economic activities. The Komenda sugar factory and YEP will be improved to meet the objectives for which they were instituted.

#### Enhancing Gender Equity in the Social and Economic Sectors

Mr. Samuel Atta Mills (NDC) would encourage and assist women to acquire skills like hairdressing and sewing and ensure that they are provided with the relevant tools and equipment to enable them work. He pledged to establish training centers for learning diverse skills. Additionally, school uniforms would be sewn locally to create jobs for local dressmakers.

Mrs. Rose Ostin Tinadu (CPP) promised to create jobs for the women by encouraging women to set up small businesses and offering training for them in cake and liquid soap making. In terms of teenage pregnancy, she would curb it by improving on sex education among the adolescents and teenagers.

Dr. Nana Ato Arthur (NPP) would curb the rate of teenage pregnancy by instituting sanctions against the men who impregnate the young girls. He emphasized the need for free education, as this was going to keep these young girls school.

Mr. John Sterling (PPP) stated that PPP would ensure free and compulsory education from the kindergarten level to the SHS level, and this he added, would go a long way to reduce teenage pregnancy.

#### Socio-economic Development: Education

Mrs. Rose Ostin Tinadu (CPP) would motivate teachers who accept rural postings with bonuses and other incentives and reduce their taxes to encourage them to offer their best services to the children.

Dr. Nana Ato Arthur (NPP) opined that the NPP would use the Capitation Grant and the school feeding program to solve this problem in addition to bringing about education policies.

Mr. John Sterling (PPP) would ensure that there are adequate teachers and stationery for effective teaching and learning. He promised to implement extra curricular activities to attract more children into the schools.

Mr. Samuel Atta Mills (NDC) attributed the problem to four main sources which are; government

policies, teachers, parents and the pupils themselves. He said both the parents and the children must have a stake in the education of the children. The NDC government is taking steps to ensure access to education and that explains why the government is constructing more schools especially the community day senior high schools (SHS).

#### Strengthening Agriculture and Food Security

Dr. Nana Ato Arthur (NPP) promised to help fishermen advocate for the removal of taxes on outboard motors. He expressed that the “one district, one factory” policy by the NPP would ensure that the produce is used as raw material by the local factories to prevent them from going bad. He pledged to mass spraying of cocoa and distribution of fertilizers.

Mr. John Sterling (PPP) highlighted that fishermen and farmers would be grouped into cooperatives in order to access to loans. He indicated the construction of factories to process fish and farm produce to prevent wastage. In addition, he pledged to construct feeder roads for easy transportation of farm produce from villages to market centers and factories.

Mr. Samuel Atta Mills (NDC) would establish a fish processing plant to process and store fish.

Mrs. Rose Ostin Tinadu (CPP) was of the view that it is the duty of government to construct feeder roads to enable farmers cart their produce to the market centers. She expressed the need to create factories within the district to process raw materials.

#### Questions from the Audience

- *How would you ensure the regular and prompt release of the Disability Fund?*
- *What would you do to assist artisans in accessing start-up funds and machines?*

Mrs. Rose Ostin Tinadu (CPP) highlighted that the Disability Fund would be increased to 5% if CPP is voted into power and that she would work closely with the district assembly so as to enable them release the funds on time. She added that she would collaborate with NGOs to help provide machines and funding for artisans who graduate successfully.

Nana Ato Arthur (NPP) would continue supporting the artisans in the district. On the Disability Fund, he would ensure that executives of the association would be directly in charge of the disbursement and management of the Disability Fund if re-elected into power.

Mr. John Sterling (PPP) would assist the artisans to have access to credit facilities from GN Bank to enable them start up their businesses.

Mr. Samuel Atta Mills (NDC) promised to help artisans have access to loans from MASLOC and grants from NGOs. He then advised the electorate to hold each parliamentary candidate to his words and demand accountability in terms of the promises made in the next four years.

## Conclusion

The debate was well attended by all invited groups and dignitaries and participation of the candidates was good. However, due to the late start of the program, the NDC candidate who arrived on time was not delighted that he had to wait for nearly two hours before the commencement of the program. However, upon an apology rendered by the organisers, the program was brought under control and continued successfully.

### 2.5 Effutu Constituency

The Effutu constituency Parliamentary debate was organized at the Ebenezer Methodist Church on November 4, 2016 at Winneba. In attendance were some members and delegates from the Effutu Traditional Council (Nananom), members of the interparty dialogue committee (IPAC), representatives from the NCCE and representative of the Municipal Chief Executive, some officers from the immigration, fire service and police service and supporters of the political parties as well as sign language interpreters. The parliamentary candidates were Mr. Eric Don Arthur (NDC), Nana Ofori Owusu (PPP), Mr. Rolance Akumbia Sam (CPP) and Mr. Mutala Mohamed (PNC). The incumbent MP, Mr. Alex Afenyo Markin of the NPP joined a few minutes to the end of the program. He was interviewed after the debate but his responses have been incorporated into the report.

#### Socio-economic Development: Education

*What would you do to reverse the poor performance in the BECE which prevents majority of pupils from continuing their education?*

Mr. Mutala Mohamed (PNC) attributed the poor performance of the students to the involvement of pupils in the fishing business by the parents thereby inhibiting their studies. He therefore promised to encourage parents to invest in their children's education and also increase educational infrastructure within the constituency.

Mr. Rowlance Akombea Sam (CPP) pledged free and compulsory education from the basic level to the senior high school (SHS) level. He indicated that a vocational school would be established to help those who do not have the interest in acquiring formal education.

Nana Ofori Owusu (PPP) attributed the poor performance to the Junior High School system and therefore said the PPP's policy on free compulsory education would go a long way to curb this problem. This would call for the elimination of the BECE since it somewhat prevents some children from entering the SHS.

Mr. Eric Don-Arthur (NDC) made reference to the 2014 population and housing census by saying that out of the total enrolment of 29,862 in schools, 36.8% are at the primary level, enrolment then drops to 13.3% at the JHS level while enrolment drops further to 6.9% at the JHS level. This indicates that few of the students are able to further their education. He said the NDC's infrastructure development in education is salvaging the situation and then cited the ongoing

construction of the Methodist JHS and talked about other ongoing projects in the district. He had provided educational materials to one thousand (1000) BECE candidates to help improve their BECE performance in the district.

Mr Alex Afenyo Markin (NPP) attributed the pupils' low performance in the BECE to poverty and lack of funds. Scholarship schemes, quiz competitions and best teacher awards would be re-introduced to encourage the children. He would institute a mentoring program to encourage both parents and students.

#### Youth Unemployment and Education Challenges

Mr. Rowland Akombea Sam (CPP) expressed that fishermen would be encouraged to have fishponds in addition to going fishing on the high seas and said a switch from wooden canoes to fibre glass canoes will go a long way to help the fishermen because they are highly efficient.

Nana Ofori Owusu (PPP) stated that employment issues would be solved by the PPP through Winneba's cultural festivals like the masquerade and Aboakyir. These could be turned into money generating ventures.

Mr. Eric Don-Arthur (NDC) explained that Winneba's progress lies in the favorable position and the rich marine resources. It is against this background that the NDC is improving infrastructure in the area and is therefore committed to building and reviving the fishing industry by providing fishing trawlers for cooperative fishermen (groups) such as the Youth Employment Program which has employed over 600 youth.

Mr. Mutala Mohamed (PNC) promised to revamp the old Winneba boat yard to help fishermen in their business. The candidate also lamented that the collapse of the Pomadze farms is also major cause for the youth unemployment in the area. Similar farms would be created by the PNC and the youth, would be encouraged to engage in farming as a means of employment.

Mr. Alex Afenyo Markin (NPP) would encourage the setting up of private businesses within the district. Young entrepreneurs would be given government contracts so that they are able to employ the youth. The music and cultural industries in Winneba would be given direct support to make it a source of employment. He would also liaise with the elders of the town and university authorities to levy a fee not exceeding Gh¢20.00 a year on every student for Effutu development fund. The fund will be used to address the community's health and educational needs.

#### Oil and Gas Sector Development Issues and Efficient Revenue Management

Nana Ofori Owusu (PPP) indicated that PPP would ensure maximum benefits from the sector by negotiating for better deals for the local industry through the local content act and ensure Ghana signs a better fiscal regime agreement.

Mr. Eric Don Arthur (NDC) was of the view that Winneba's potential for wind energy could be harnessed by using portions of the revenue from the oil and gas sector for this development. Winneba is one of the best sites for such a project according to the Energy Commission of Ghana and this has the potential to create employment and generate revenue for the people. Revenue from the oil and gas sector should be channeled into clean and renewable energy supply for the people.

Mr. Mutala Mohammed (PNC) promised to review and renegotiate oil and gas contracts so that the nation can derive maximum benefits from the sector. He added that this exercise would create more job opportunities for the youth.

Mr. Rowlance Akombea Sam (CPP) made reference to comments by Professor Akilakpa Sawyer on the rationale behind some of the oil and gas contracts that governments have signed with the oil and gas companies. He was of the view that CPP would re-negotiate these contracts and opt for more beneficial ones because Ghana has so far earned only \$3 billion while expatriate companies in the sector have gained over \$6 billion over the past six years. This according to him is very worrying and must change.

Mr. Alex Afenyo Markin (NPP) informed the constituents that he would ensure that developmental projects to be executed with revenue from the oil and gas sector are done. He said his duty is to ensure that whichever government is voted into power, would make judicious use of the oil and gas revenue according to the existing laws.

#### Mainstreaming Disability and Compliance of Disability Law (Act 715)

Mr. Eric Don Arthur (NDC) revealed that he would focus on involving PWDs in the society but he admitted their issues can best be addressed nationally. He would therefore work with the Minister for Gender, Children and Social protection to resolve their challenges.

Mr. Mutala Mohamed (PNC) promised to create a rehabilitation center and establish a skills training school to equip PWDs establish their own enterprises.

Mr. Rowlance Akombea Sam (CPP) said the leader of the party has a strong commitment to helping PWDs. He stated that although there is a Disability Law, it is not completely enforced and so CPP would ensure its full enforcement. Again the party would reserve 5% employment opportunities for PWDs and offer them free and compulsory education.

Nana Ofori Owusu (PPP) mentioned that the PPP would create an enabling environment to deal with issues confronting PWDs comprehensively.

Mr. Alex Afenyo Markin (NPP) said he had met the various groups within the Disabled Federation was noting down their needs. He would advocate for PWDs to have opportunities that can enable them live independently.

### Questions from the Audience

A member of the PWDs lamented over the lack of access to education due to the absence of sign language interpreters and special needs teachers. He went on to add that there is no educational policy for PWDs and also accessing healthcare is very difficult since the deaf have no sign language interpreter at the hospitals. He added that they need a rehabilitation center.

- *What would you do to assist artisans?*

Mr. Mutala Mohamed (PNC) affirmed his support for the artisans as he promised to establish training programs and institute flexible credit facilities to enable them start-up their own businesses after training.

Mr. Akumbea Sam (CPP) promised to construct workshops for the artisans using part of the MPs common fund.

Nana Ofori Owusu (PPP) urged the electorate to vote for a party that has the potential of reviving the local economy so as to improve the living standards of the people in which case, artisans would also benefit.

Mr. Eric Don-Arthur (NDC) stated that he would provide capacity building opportunities and make it possible for artisans to access group loans from MASLOC.

### Conclusion

There was tension between the supporters of the incumbent (Mr Alex Afenyo Markin) and supporters of the NDC candidate. There was a straight contest between the two candidates. Though the PPP candidate was quiet vocal and abreast with issues on governance, the incumbent who is a legal practitioner and very popular among the electorate seemed to enjoy good support from the people. Though there was tension, the debate took place without any casualty.



### 3.0 VOLTA REGION PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

The constituencies for the Volta Region debates were Akan, Biakoye, North Dayi, Hohoe, Nkwanta North, Kpando and Ho West. Indicated here are proceedings from the parliamentary debates organized in these constituencies.

#### 3.1 *North Dayi Constituency*

The event took place on November 15, 2016. The candidates were Ms. Jocelynn Tetteh who represented the NDC, Mr. Samuel Kwesi Anoma contesting the seat on the ticket of the NPP, Mr. Christopher Saile of the CPP and Mr. Kpikpitse Wogbe, an Independent candidate.

#### Candidates' Presentation of Vision and Programs

Mr. Christopher Saile (CPP) aspires to make North Dayi an industrialized place by establishing a factory at Vakpo and encourage aqua-culture in order to reduce unemployment.

Mr. Kpikpitse Wogbe (Independent) would introduce policies aimed at assisting the youth gain employment by providing sewing and hairdressing machines amongst others and use the MP's common fund to help the needy.

Mr. Samuel Kwesi Anoma (NPP) promised to provide free education, revive the NHIS and lobby government to provide job opportunities for the youth. He would provide facilities for aqua culture and use the MPs common fund to improve the livelihoods of marginalized groups in the constituency.

Ms. Jocelynn Tetteh (NDC) aspires to encourage young girls in the area to attain higher education and not to be school drop-outs by getting pregnant at early stages in their education. Her vision also includes the construction of an ultra-modern hospital, encouraging the use of white clay in building and boosting the transport sector to create employment opportunities.

#### Socio-economic Development: Health and Education

*What plans do you have for ensuring that the National Health Insurance Scheme is strengthened to cover more health needs and sustained? What would you do to ensure that school children in your constituency get text books in a timely manner?*

Mr. Christopher Saile (CPP) would review the scheme to reduce the hold-ups and monitor the NHI operations in the constituency thoroughly in order for citizens enjoy the full benefits of being on the scheme. Since education is a priority for the nation and the CPP, Mr. Saile promised to ensure that school children in the constituency are given the free textbooks and exercise books to facilitate teaching and learning.

Mr. Kpikpitse Wogbe (Independent) would liaise with the schools to know the number of pupils in order to get the right number of books to be distributed to them. However, his focus would be on the second and third year junior high students. Again, he would seek support from NGOs to support his vision and possibly use part of his salary to support the educational sector in the area.

Mr. Samuel Kwesi Anoma's (NPP) opinion on addressing health issues, particularly that of the NHIS was to examine issues on claims, minimize the importation of drugs and for the state and the assembly to collaborate at providing accommodation for nurses and doctors. He promised to provide free health care for PWDs in the area. On the provision of textbooks to the students, he would encourage ministry of education to engage local producers to print the text books for the schools to boost the local printing businesses, promote monitoring and ensure regular supply of the books for the students. He therefore promised to work on ensuring the implementation of the policy on free basic compulsory primary education and its extension to the secondary level. In addition, he would promote ICT in the basic schools to help students acquire skills in the area.

Ms. Jocelynn Tetteh (NDC) promised to put up additional health facilities to augment existing ones in the district in order to prevent overcrowding and minimize deaths. On education and the provision of free textbooks, she will first have to ascertain the number of children who need books so as to establish the quantity to be supplied.

#### Mainstreaming Disability and Compliance of Disability Law (Act 715)

Mr. Kpikpitse Wogbe (Independent) responded to the question which encompasses issues on education, representation and common fund allocation of PWDs by saying that he would make sure all policies concerning them are executed and also advocate for a law to be passed in Parliament aimed at improving the living conditions of PWDs. Part of the MP's common fund would be used to create employment opportunities for them and explore avenues through which they can have access to loans from banks which can further assist them in establishing businesses. In doing all of this, he said that it is the responsibility of each citizen to accept PWDs and not isolate them from the community.

Mr. Samuel Kwesi Anoma (NPP) promised to create jobs for PWDs by helping them acquire entrepreneurial skills. He opined that jobs would be created locally in the areas of soap making and clothing and promised to improve the transport sector by ensuring that PWDs are able to travel in comfort and in ease. Additionally, he promised to open registration on the NHIS to allow PWDs easy access to hospitals to promote their health.

Ms. Jocelynn Tetteh (NDC) promised to organize workshops to orient PWDs on existing job opportunities and also identify their capabilities for proper job placement. Through the establishment of an association, she would provide all PWDs with identification cards in order to facilitate all the strategies she intends implementing for them.

Mr. Christopher Saile (CPP) would provide opportunities aimed at unearthing the skills and potentials of PWDs. He promised to help PWDs get their portion of the national cake by advocating for them in Parliament and supporting parents of PWDs to enjoy some benefits. Furthermore, he promised to build community-based centers, help PWDs get jobs and arrange for health personnel to register babies with disabilities so they can be given the right support from infancy. Finally, he promised to increase the common fund allocation to PWDs to five percent (5%).

#### Youth Unemployment and Education Challenges

Mr. Samuel Kwesi Anoma (NPP) would encourage the youth to acquire skills that would enhance their job placements. He proposed to create dams for irrigation and provide fertilizers to entice the youth into agriculture in a bid to produce for the local and international markets.

Ms. Jocelynn Tetteh (NDC) responded to the question by making reference to the Youth Employment Scheme (YES); a program being implemented by the NDC government which is aimed at providing job placement for the youth. She indicated that her party has better plans for the youth which had already been started and would continue to explore other areas to enable them get jobs. She revealed some of her plans as interacting with the youth to know their skills to quicken their job placements and to lobby for some universities to be transformed into technical institutions which would help to increase technical skill acquisition of the youth.

Mr. Christopher Saile (CPP) pledged to create jobs for the youth.

Mr. Kpikpitse Wogbe (Independent) would build vocational and technical training centers for the youth to enable them have skills that can make them employable. In addition, he would offer training in entrepreneurship for the youth so they can establish their own private enterprises in the constituency. Finally, he promised to collaborate with the Ghana Football Association and the Ministry of Agriculture to help train the youth interested in sports and farming respectively.

#### Deepening Decentralization and Social Accountability

Ms. Jocelynn Tetteh (NDC) promised to promote accountability at the local level by having regular public forums during which the views of the people would be collated and shared with the government. She promised to follow through on the requests made by the people and make sure that the chief executive addresses the needs of the people.

Mr. Christopher Saile (CPP) pledged to promote accountability by making sure that monies to the District Assembly are used for the intended purpose and are properly monitored through systems and procedures.

Mr. Kpikpitse Wogbe (Independent) promised to ensure that plans that are to be initiated are duly communicated to the people so that at any point in time, the people are aware of what the leadership is doing.

Mr. Samuel Kwesi Anoma (NPP) also answered by saying that he would promote accountability by ensuring that officials render proper account to the people on their utilization of funds for development projects. For instance, projects involving infrastructure provision and etc would all be monitored closely and anyone found culpable of mismanagement of funds would be punished.

### Conclusion

It was encouraging to see the only female candidate demonstrating her intelligence in the way she responded to the questions. She was very focused and concise. Her commendable delivery earned her a lot of applaud and cheers from the audience. The program ended amidst music and dancing by the supporters of the various candidates. The event had a good media presence.

### 3.2 *Biakoye Constituency*

The Biakoye debate was organized on November 11, 2016 at the funeral park within the constituency. The parliamentary candidates were Mr. Selorm Agbolonsu of the {PPP} Mr. Kojo Aboagye (NDC), Mr. Komla Onyi (NPP) and Mr. Frederick Mogyabi of the (CPP).

#### Candidates' Presentation of Vision and Programs

Mr. Selorm Agbolonsu (PPP) promised to provide job opportunities for the youth and assist farmers.

Mr. Kojo Aboagye (NDC) pledged to create jobs for the youth and construct roads.

Mr. Komla Onyi (NPP) pledged to increase economic growth; improve the education and agricultural sectors.

Mr. Frederick Mogyabi (CPP) shared the vision of development and propelling the youth.

#### Mainstreaming Disability and Compliance of Disability Law (Act 715)

Mr. Selorm Agbolonsu (PPP) stated that he would collaborate with the District Chief Executive (DCE) and the social welfare offices in the district to provide support for PWDs to enable them contribute to the development of the area. Buildings in the constituency would be made accessible to PWDs and he would supervise the disbursement of the Disability Fund allocated to PWDs

Mr. Kojo Aboagye (NDC) would work with the DCE to enforce the Disability Law particularly on ensuring that buildings are accessible to PWDs. Thus, he will work to create jobs for them aimed at improving their living standards.

Mr. Komla Onyi (NPP) indicated that he would work with institutions such as the District Assembly to enforce the Disability Law. He pledge to make it possible for PWDs to access public facilities in the area. He stated further that, as a lawyer, he would push for the compliance of the

Act 715 in its entirety. Also, children of PWDs would be a priority for assistance when he is voted to represent the people.

Mr. Frederick Mogyabi (CPP) conveyed that before any intervention will be done for PWDs, he would have to ascertain their number in the constituency and also know the kind of disabilities. This information will enable him solicit for the right assistance for the PWDs.

#### Youth Unemployment and Education Challenges

Mr. Kojo Aboagye (NDC) mentioned that youth unemployment in the area could also be linked to lack of income for parents to enable children attain higher education. In which case, he would assist parents pay fees for their children to enable them attain higher education and hopefully get employment when they have acquired the right skills. Again, he would encourage the youth interested in agriculture and other related trades to get them employed in those sectors.

Mr. Komla Onyi (NPP) promised to revive the youth employment and apprenticeship programs to open up employment, opportunities for them. Through the program, they would also be introduced to scholarship packages that he would set up to enable them attain higher education. Entrepreneurial and sports training centers to enhance the talents of the youth.

Mr. Frederick Mogyabi (CPP) said that in order to properly place the youth into jobs, he would first categorize them, since some are graduates with school certificates and others have none. Again, through the categorization, their interests will be identified and then the right existing jobs will be offered them. He also stated that some of the youth would be employed in the agricultural sector to increase food production.

Mr. Selorm Agbolonsu (PPP) said that there are numerous existing job opportunities in the agricultural sector but the youth prefer to be employed in the formal sector and sit in offices. He stated that in collaboration with his presidential candidate, the PPP government would make agriculture more attractive to the youth by providing the necessary agricultural inputs so that the youth can take advantage of the opportunities in that sector.

#### Socio-economic Development: Health/education

Mr. Komla Onyi (NPP) opined that the National Health Insurance Scheme would be restored to its original state and revive the free healthcare component for pregnant women to enjoy free maternal health. On education, he pledged to set up scholarship schemes using his own funds and solicit for the support of NGO's to provide stationary and infrastructural development for schools in the area to improve teaching and learning.

Mr. Frederick Mogyabi (CPP) pledged that he would initiate change in the health sector especially on maternal care and this would be done with the Minister for Health. He would sensitize parents and teachers to help contribute to good performance of their wards and ensure quality education is achieved with the help of the ministry of education.

Mr. Selorm Agbolonsu (PPP) promised to work with the institutions to provide quality healthcare to the people. He would ensure the timely release of funds towards health delivery in order to promote healthcare particularly for women and children. Women in the community would be educated on maternal care. Under education, he promised to interact with parents and teachers for attitudinal change towards teaching and learning.

Mr. Kojo Aboagye (NDC) said he would ensure adequate funds are rightly allocated and used judiciously towards improving service delivery on the NHIS. He promised to educate citizens on healthcare, build hospitals with wards for labor and children, help women whose national health insurance cards have expired acquire new ones to enable them access health care. On education, he would motivate teachers through the provision of incentives, ensure schools have parent teacher associations to increase interaction between teachers and parents and have a foundation to support parents pay their wards' school fees. He would also organize teachers to assist pupils prior to their examinations.

#### Deepening Decentralization and Social Accountability

Mr. Komla Onyi (NPP) would have a long term plan for monitoring fund utilization at the district and national level in order to promote accountability. Citizens would be informed of project implementation and awards of contracts.

Mr. Kojo Aboagye (NDC) pledged to work with the DCE to make changes based on the current economic situation.

Mr. Frederick Mogyabi (CPP) would collaborate with the district assembly to find constituents concerns by interacting with them. The assembly members and other volunteers would be tasked to constantly solicit the opinions of members of the public on developmental issues of the constituency.

Mr. Selorm Agbolonsu (PPP) stated that the 1992 Constitution of Ghana has given power to the people to enable them demand accountability. According to him, the DCE position should be elective so that people can demand accountability, instead of the DCE being appointed by the executive which is the current practice. The DCE once elected by the people will hold allegiance to the people and that is the first step for promoting accountability and deepening decentralization.

#### Conclusion

The Biakoye constituency debate was another exciting one. Over hundred and forty constituents participated in the event. Though the debate started late due to a change of venue, the candidates especially the NPP candidate who arrived at the initial proposed venue early had the patience to wait for the commencement of the debate. The large presence of traditional and opinion leaders, PWDs, community and party supporters made the program very lively. The candidates were mature and had good understanding of the issues presented to them. The

debate took place in a very peaceful atmosphere and all candidates presented their responses without attacking their opponents. The audience entertained themselves with different political party songs and dancing.

### 3.3 *Ho West Constituency*

The Ho West debate was organized on November 16, 2016 at the EP Church Hall in Dzorlukpter. Three out of the four candidates contesting the Ho West seat, participated in the debate. They were Mr. Emmanuel Kwasi Bedzra who was the incumbent Member of Parliament and seeking re-election on the ticket of the NDC, Ms. Melody Johnson represented the NDP and Mr. Joshua Awudome, the PPP aspirant. The NPP candidate could not attend the debate despite his prior confirmation due to ill health. The program was nearly called off due to lateness of all the candidates.

#### Candidates' Presentation of Vision and Programs

##### Mainstreaming Disability and Compliance of the Disability Law (Act 715)

Mr. Emmanuel K. Bedzra (NDC) pledged to support PWDs and ensure timely disbursement of the PWDs share of the Disability Fund by the Assembly. He also stated that as a lawmaker, he would lobby for the full compliance of the Disability Act which has been around for the past ten years.

Ms. Melody Johnson (NDP) informed the electorate that she would provide educational facilities for PWDs for learning as schools lack basic materials that facilitate effective learning and teaching. For Ms. Melody Johnson, education would be a sure way of breaking away from dependency by PWDs.

Mr. Joshua Awudome (PPP) would work with the District Chief Executive to help PWDs by providing them with walking sticks and wheelchairs. He would work with the assembly to expedite the processes involved in the disbursement of the disability fund.

##### Socio-economic Development: Health

Ms. Melody Johnson (NDP) conveyed that the NHIS would be reviewed to include a number of diseases that the NHIS does not currently cover. She also stated that the processes involved in registering and renewing on the scheme would be improved to the necessary standards. So that the entire procedure would be much quicker.

Mr. Joshua Awudome (PPP) would ensure that NHIS offices are available in the district to make it easy for people to register onto the scheme. He informed the participants that he would make it possible for the aged to access medical care at zero cost.

Mr. Emmanuel Bedzra (NDC) acknowledged that the NDC government had invested a lot of resources in the health sector by building hospitals, CHPS compounds, procuring hospital equipment and many others. The NHIS had been expanded to cover a lot of citizens. He pledged to encouraged many more to register onto the NHIS.

## Youth Unemployment and Education Challenges

*What would you do to reduce the unemployment rate in your constituency?*

Mr. Joshua Awudome (PPP) pledged to organize career orientation programs for the youth in the area with the objective of preparing them for the job market. The youth will be exposed to different career choices which would offer opportunities for them to engage role models to encourage them on a chosen career.

Ms. Melody Johnson (NDP) on the other hand indicated that she would create jobs within the district for the youth to prevent them from migrating to the cities to search for non-existing jobs. She attributed youth unemployment to the lack of funds for business start-up. She therefore proposed to assist the youth who have some skills and entrepreneurship ideas to get loans to enable them set up their own small businesses.

Mr. Emmanuel Bedzra (NDC) said employment opportunities have been created through the numerous infrastructural projects that the NDC had been undertaking over the past years. He therefore promised to follow that trajectory and continue the implementation of such projects if he is voted as the MP.

## Deepening Decentralization, Social Accountability and Controlling Corruption and Enhancing Official Transparency

*How will you/your party ensure Ghana derives maximum benefit from the expanding oil and gas sector?*

Mr. Emmanuel Bedzra (NDC) pledged to ensure the judicious use of the DACF. He further said appropriate projects would be implemented in the district and the District Assembly would account to the people periodically so that they are aware of fund utilization. The NDC party is controlling corruption in the country and would rather increase their efforts at ensuring that it is totally minimized. He would make sure government uses the revenue generated from the oil and gas sector to support socio-economic needs of the people such as healthcare.

Ms. Melody Johnson (NDP) plans to establish a community based organization within the district. She opined that misuse of funds would be limited during her term in office and people would be made to account for their actions when caught, in order to reduce corruption. Revenue from the oil and gas sector would be used for the right purposes and accounted for properly.

Mr. Joshua Awudome's (PPP) would ensure that funds received by the district is properly accounted for to citizens and so he would insist that funds are utilized for the benefit of the people. On controlling corruption, he would make sure District Chief Executives (DCE's) are voted for and not appointed by the President to discourage any form of corruption. In answering the question on ensuring that Ghana benefits from the oil and gas sector, he simply said that he

would make sure the constituency gets its fair share of the revenue generated from the oil and gas sector.

#### Strengthening Agriculture and Food Security

Ms. Melody Johnson (NDP) would ensure the provision of equipment for farmers to commence large scale farming with the aim of increasing crop yield overtime in order to reduce food shortage. The lack of access roads linking the farms to the markets is also a challenge to farmers and so she would lobby for the construction of all linking roads to enable farmers cart their produce to markets in order to reduce post-harvest losses.

Mr. Joshua Awudome (PPP) would lobby for the supply of tractors to farmers. This would motivate them to go into large scale farming. He hopes that through this, farmers could even employ more youth to work on their farms and so create jobs in the long run. Since the soil in Volta Region and Ho West specifically is good for rice cultivation, he would encourage the farmers to grow rice plantations. The government through the Ministry of Agriculture would provide a ready market for the rice and distribute to caterers on the school feeding program and also supply the kitchens of the secondary schools.

Mr. Emmanuel Bedzra (NDC) pledged to establish farmers' service centers to diagnose the problems of the farmers and find practical ways of solving them. He mentioned the creation of jobs for the youth through agriculture by establishing offices to supervise farming activities within the constituency. Again, he would outline a buying scheme which would make it possible for the government to purchase the produce of farmers to reduce exploitation.

#### Conclusion

The Ho West constituency debate started two hours late, this made most of the constituents who came to the event especially the PWDs who travelled from the most distant villages to come and interact with the candidates very tired and hungry. The organizers had to arrange for snack for them before the start of the program. Despite this setback from the beginning, the program took place in a peaceful ambience and the constituents had the chance to hear from the candidates and raised all the questions pertaining to their welfare. Though the NPP candidate did not participate in the event, some NPP supporters came to the program venue with the anticipation of cheering their candidate. They showed some signs of disappointment but sat through the program to listen to other candidates. The traditional and opinion leaders also came in their numbers and actively participated in the debate by asking questions pertaining to the welfare of their subjects.

#### 3.4 Hohoe Constituency

The debate took place on November 23, 2016. The aspirants were Ms. Kumordji Onai Janet contesting the seat on the ticket of NDP, Mr. Amekson Frank Selase of the PPP and Mr. Marlon Anipah of the NPP. The NPP candidate arrived late hence joined the program midway while the NDC candidate who was the incumbent MP absented herself with a letter that she had to be in Accra for a ministerial meeting.

### Candidates' Presentation of Vision and Programs

Ms. Kumordji Onai Janet of the NDP stated that her vision of contesting the Hohoe seat was to create jobs for the women. According to her, many women are bread winners of their families but the women in the constituency are not in any meaningful employment. She would work with her flagbearer who in the eighties created a lot of opportunities for women.

Mr. Amekson Frank Selase stated that he was contesting to represent the people in parliament to bring hope to the people of Hohoe especially the youth. He said he would restore hope to the people by facilitating business companies to come and create jobs in the constituency for the youth to be in gainful employment.

### Mainstreaming Disability and Compliance of the Disability Law (Act 715)

Ms. Kumordji Onai Janet (NDP) said she will liaise with government to create jobs for PWDs and assist them to acquire the right skills that can make it possible for them to get the right jobs. She would also ensure that the Disability Fund is released on time but with time she hopes that once they earn a living and become more independent, they would not even rely on the fund to survive.

Mr. Amekson Frank Selase (PPP) would facilitate jobs for PWDs and make sure their living standards are improved. He assured the PWDs that he would critically examine Act 715 and ensure its implementation so that their rights are protected.

### Youth Unemployment and Education Challenges

Mr. Amekson Frank Selase (PPP) pledged to employ five hundred (500) youth to work at the rice mill at Worawora and this initiative would be replicated at Lolobi a community in the constituency. There are existing opportunities in the agricultural sector and so together with the youth, they would explore and employment would be created for them in that area. Agriculture can employ a chunk of the youth who have no formal education.

Ms. Kumordji Onai Janet (NDP) emphasized existing opportunities in the agricultural sector which the youth can be take advantage of. She mentioned the area of vegetable farming as one area where a lot of the youth can earn an income. She would therefore engage with them and get the right information and knowledge they require to enable them succeed in the trade.

### Socio-economic Development: Health/education

Mr. Amekson Frank Selase (PPP) would ensure the National Health Insurance scheme is modified to make the procedure problem free. On education, he promised to provide teaching and learning materials to schools and advocate for scholarship schemes to be awarded to needy but brilliant students to enable them attain higher education.

Madam Kumordji Onai Janet (NDP) informed constituents that she would make sure reimbursements for the hospitals and clinics accepting NHIS are paid promptly to avoid delays in rendering services to the citizens or patients. She stated that she would facilitate the

construction of health centers in most villages to promote health care delivery to the people. On enhancing education in the area, she pledged to lobby for computer laboratories for the basic schools to enable the children have knowledge in computing. Again, she would liaise with the District Education directorate to ensure a timely provision of teaching and learning materials to the schools in the constituency.

Mr. Marlon Anipah (NPP) joined the discussion at this stage, in answering the question on his plans of improving education, he informed the participants that education is important and as representative of the people, he would first ensure that there is adequate school infrastructure in the constituency. He pledged to also facilitate the supply of teaching and learning materials to all the schools. Teachers are core if education would be improved in the constituency. He promised to set up a fund to motivate teachers. He would lobby the government to collaborate with the private sector to build bungalows for teachers to benefit from. Again, the NPP believes in education, he reiterated, "that is why is my flag bearer is promising all Ghanaians free secondary education". This would enable all those who have reached senior secondary school level to continue without any difficulty and that no child would be prevented from benefiting from secondary education due to poverty. On health, he stated that the NPP initiated the NHIS scheme and has what it takes to manage it prudently. He expressed concern about how the NHIS cannot even cover basic medication. Mr. Marlon opined that he would work with the NPP government to restore hope to the NHIS. The NPP government would also increase the recruitment of nurses and doctors to the various hospitals in the constituency and also provide the necessary materials and equipments needed by the hospitals.

#### Efficient Management of Oil and Gas Revenue

Mr. Amekson Frank Selase (PPP) pledged that he would support the institutions mandated by law to monitor the oil and gas revenue to ensure that the resources are used prudently to benefit citizens.

Ms. Kumordji Onai Janet (NDP) believed that there is the need to enhance the laws that regulate the resources from the oil and gas in the country. As an MP, I would also support the parliamentary committee that will oversight those responsible for the oil and gas resources to conduct regular monitoring.

Mr. Marlon Anipah (NPP) said the awards of contracts for oil blocks would be given to appropriate persons and companies who can implement the projects to reduce corruption. In order to ensure judicious use of the revenue from the oil and gas sector, the revenue would be used for infrastructural developments such as building roads and railways.

#### Conclusion

Mr. Marlon who joined the program late brought some excitement to the program. He presented his issues forcefully and stressed that even though he is contesting a seat in a considered stronghold of the National Democratic Congress, it is his hope that the constituents

would for once change their voting pattern and vote for him so that he and the NPP government will bring the necessary development to the people of Hohoe. Ms. Kumoji Onai Janet in her conclusion stressed that she belonged to a party that put womens' interest first and urged all the women and the men to vote for her. Mr. Amekson on his part, concluded that Ghanaians and the people of Hohoe have tasted the government of both NPP and NDC and both parties have not been able to reverse the poor development situation in the Hohoe constituency. He pleaded with the people to vote for him, being a young man with all the energy, intelligence and the skills to bring change to the people. The debate had quiet good participation of the media and the event was aired live on lolonyo FM and Sekpele FM. PWDs, youth and the women participation was great.

### 3.5 *Akan (Kadjebi) Constituency*

The debate took place on November 2, 2016. It was initially held at the Post Office Park but later moved to the auditorium of the Catholic Church at Kadjebi due to rains. The parliamentary candidates who participated in the debate were Mr. Joseph Kwadzo Ofori; the incumbent Member of Parliament seeking re-election, Mr. Abdul Aziz representing the NDC and Mr. Jonathan Tetteh who was contesting the seat on the ticket of the APC.

#### Candidates' Presentation of Vision and Programs

Mr. Joseph Kwadwo Ofori (Independent) started his presentation with some of his achievements as two-term Member of Parliament. He highlighted the progress he has made in the following sectors, education, health, sanitation, security, agriculture, roads and sports. He pointed out some of the measures he put in place to support agriculture and the farmers, he promised to build a library for the schools in addition to the numerous assistance he gives to the schools including sponsorship for needy students, he pledged to the connection of villages to the national grid for energy/electricity, and support activities of market women to improve development in the constituency.

Mr. Jonathan Tetteh (APC) pledged to strengthen organizational structures to increase accountability in the district assembly, strengthen agriculture and entrepreneurship, provide allowances to business holders and establish processing plants, introduce competitive programs such as spelling competitions and essay writing, establish at least ten (10) computer laboratories in various communities and a football academy for training children in ICT and sports respectively. His plans include building an orphanage and soliciting for scholarships for needy students.

Mr. Abdul Aziz (NDC) seeks to collaborate with the district assembly to institute best pupil and best teacher award schemes, organize free vacation classes for final year students in junior and senior high schools, give scholarships to deserving students and institute career counseling and guidance particularly for JHS students. Again, he promised to liaise with central government to provide resources to health institutions, convert all KVIP public toilets into water closet systems with biogas technology, extend water supply to communities, empower farmers to use modern

technology and irrigation, enroll the youth into government intervention programs like the youth employment agency, give packages to small and medium enterprises and construct mini-markets.

#### Mainstreaming Disability and Compliance of the Disability Law (Act 715)

*Question: How are you going to represent persons with disabilities in your constituency if you are elected as a Member of Parliament (MP)? What would you do to ensure that persons with disabilities secure gainful employment in all government departments and agencies in your constituency as outlined in the law?*

Mr. Joseph Kwadzo-Ofori (Independent) would collaborate with the social welfare department to know the exact support needed for PWDs and the areas they might need help. He would ensure that PWDs get their share of the District Assembly Common Fund (DACF) and promised to collaborate with the assembly to ensure that needy students with disabilities are given the needed educational support.

Mr. Jonathan Tetteh (APC) promised to establish an educational scholarship fund for brilliant students with disabilities.

Mr. Abdul Aziz (NDC) pledged to sensitize citizens to treat PWDs as everybody else and work with the assembly to create employment opportunities for them and assess the disabilities of all PWDs to enable him know their peculiar challenges which can also help in job placement. A scholarship scheme will be established by the aspirant for needy but brilliant PWDs to enable them continue with their education.

#### Socio-economic Development: Health/sanitation

*Question: What plans do you have for ensuring that the National Health Insurance Scheme is strengthened to cover more health needs and sustained? Would you advocate for free maternal health care for women? What measures would you put in place to improve the sanitation of your constituency?*

Mr. Abdul Aziz (NDC) stated that the NDC government had made a promise in the party's manifesto to review the meager funds allocated for the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS). The government would explore other areas such as using funds from the oil and gas sector to augment the current expenditure on health which is likely to increase the number of patients that the NHIS can take care of. On the question relating to maternal health, he would advocate for free maternal care for women. He pledged to assist the assembly implement the law on sanitation and see to it that anybody who disobeys it is punished. Sanitation officers would be tasked to caution and arrest anybody who litters the environment indiscriminately and also organize fora to educate the public on sanitation issues. In most cases people litter because there are no waste containers provided, and so he promised to provide more bins especially in the market areas, lorry stations and school compounds.

Mr. Joseph Kwadzo Ofori (Independent) promised to complete two CHPS compounds and also renovate the kitchen at Mary Theresa hospital and build hostels for relatives of patients. He pledged to work with the district assembly to implement the sanitation by-laws and ensure that all persons who flout the laws are persecuted.

Mr. Jonathan Tetteh (APC) promised to continually remind citizens of good sanitation practices by sensitizing them on the dangers of environmental pollution. He promised to work with the District Assembly to supply the necessary waste bins and recruit workers for the regular waste collection.

#### Youth Unemployment and Education Challenges

*Question: What would you do to reduce the unemployment rate in your constituency?*

Mr. Abdul Aziz (NDC) would educate the youth on existing job opportunities such as the NDC governments interventions through the youth employment agency. He said a number of programs are available for the youth to learn skills and entrepreneurship that can enhance their livelihood. The youth would have to be encouraged to enrol on such programs instead of selling on the streets.

Mr. Joseph Kwadzo Ofori (Independent) expressed dissatisfaction at the nation's inability to guarantee the full implementation of the youth policy. He revealed that he represents the youth and would therefore introduce bamboo technology and snail and grasscutter rearing in the constituency with the objective of economically empowering the youth. The technology involves the use of bamboo to make furniture.

#### Oil and Gas Sector Developmental issues and Efficient Revenue Management

Mr. Abdul Aziz (NDC) would ensure the district receives its fair share of the revenue to be used for development projects. Since mineral extraction comes with environmental degradation, he would advocate for the right thing to be done during extraction, exploration and refining so the environment is not negatively affected. Lastly, he declared his willingness to follow through on proper utilization of oil and gas revenue.

Mr. Joseph Kwadzo-Ofori (Independent) pledged to liaise with colleague parliamentarians to identify areas that need improving and if there is the need to pass bills to that effect, they will do so.

Mr. Jonathan Tetteh (APC) would lobby for the oil revenue to be used for developmental projects and for businesses development in the constituency.

#### Conclusion

The Akan constituency debate was well attended despite the rains. Even when the venue was moved from the Post Office square to the Catholic Church Auditorium, more constituents defied the rains to come and participate in the program. There was severe tension between the

supporters of the incumbent MP and the supporters of the NDC candidate. It was so severe that the organizers had to call for police reinforcement which the district Police Commander responded swiftly by showing up himself and bringing more police officers to the venue. With the presence of heavy police personnel, the program ended without any casualty. It ended with the supporters carrying their candidates on their shoulders as performing to their expectations.

### 3.6 *Nkwanta North Constituency*

The Nkwanta North Constituency debate took place on November 5, 2016 at 2:00pm prompt at the Kpassa Junior High School Park. All six candidates vying for the Nkwanta North constituency seat were present on the debate platform. They were Mr. John Oti Bless, the incumbent Member of Parliament who was contesting the seat again on the ticket of the NDC, Mr. David Tibrum Makinye representing NPP, Mr. Talla William representing the PPP, Mr. Vincent Napor Nakpan contesting on the ticket of the CPP, Mr. Timothy Udigo an independent candidate and Mr. Emmanuel Kojo Gmanab, also an independent candidate.

#### Candidates Presentation of Vision and Programs

Mr. Timothy Udigo (Independent Candidate) pledged to represent the electorate in parliament in order to expand developmental projects he started as an Assembly member. He expatiated that the current administration is not providing the needed development for the Nkwanta constituency and said he would lobby for developmental projects for constituents. He pledged a people centered administration to ensure constituents benefit from his role as a Member of Parliament.

Mr. Emmanuel Kojo Gmanab (Independent Candidate) promised to promote education within the constituency. He highlighted that he received both his basic and secondary education in the constituency, before he proceeded to the university, he indicated the importance of education for the progress of Nkwanta North. His vision is to see all school going children in the district benefit from free education as promised by his party.

Mr. Vincent Napor Nakpan (CPP) indicated that he is from Kpassa and expressed that he received his education in the constituency, hence is aware of difficulties facing constituents. He highlighted promoting sanitation and facilitating the construction of toilets in all towns and villages. He expressed his desire to consult constituents and plan with them, to bring the needed development.

Mr. David Tibrum Makinye (NPP) envisions development. He pleaded with constituents to vote for him and his presidential candidate, in order to enjoy free secondary education and an improved national health insurance scheme.

Mr. Talla William (PPP) promised to promote youth empowerment through employment.

Mr. John Oti Bless (NDC) pledged to improve upon development of the constituency.

## Education

### *What are the Challenges Facing Education in the Constituency?*

Mr. Timothy Udigo (Independent) identified poor infrastructure, lack of adequate furniture and limited qualified teachers at schools as challenges facing education in the constituency. He promised to resolve these challenges if voted for to represent constituents.

Mr. Emmanuel Kojo Gmanab (Independent) expressed that expenses associated with text books and school fees pose a huge challenge to the constituency. He pledged to lobby for reading materials for schools in Kpassa and thus make available over five thousand books from World Vision. He promised to work hard to improve on education in the constituency.

Mr. William Talla (PPP) promised to set up an education scholarship fund for brilliant but needy children and instate private classes in English and Mathematics to enable the youth progress to higher levels in education. Mr. Talla further expressed that he would furnish the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) center with modern computers and collaborate with the District Director of Education to improve education in the constituency.

Mr. Vincent Napor Nakpan (CPP) stated that he would lobby for class room blocks and trained teachers for the constituency.

Mr. David Tibrum Makinye (NPP) pledged to ensure the provision and availability of chalks and teaching and learning materials to schools in the constituency.

Mr. John Oti Bless (NDC) indicated that he had dedicated over seventy-five percent (75%) of his share of the District Assembly Common Fund (DACF) to support brilliant but needy school children, he also partnered with an NGO to build a six-classroom block for the district. He promised to construct more classroom blocks and support students in need. He pledged that he would institute extra classes to support those preparing for final examination.

### What will you do to ensure full inclusion of Persons with Disabilities?

Mr. Emmanuel Kojo Gmanab (Independent) would engage constituents to educate them on cultural practices that violate the rights of PWDs.

Mr. Timothy Udigo (Independent) would set up a fund dedicated to the education of only PWDs. In addition, he would support the application of the Disability Act, and penalize all those who may go contrary to the law.

Mr. Vincent Napor Nakpan (CPP) stated that the CPP government would streamline education, employment, health accessibility regarding PWDs. He further indicated that the CPP government will fully implement the Disability Act.

Mr. David Tibrum Makinye (NPP) pledged to prioritize the needs of PWDs in his constituency and support PWDs acquire skills that he would help them work to support themselves.

Mr. John Oti Bless (NDC) expressed that he has paid school fees for many disabled students. He further indicated that he would use his common fund to support PWDs to further their education.

Mr. William Talla (PPP) expressed that disability is not inability when we put the right measures in place. He highlighted that he would support the full implementation of the Disability Act so that PWDs can have a dignified life.

#### Agriculture Support

*Majority of the People In Nkwanta North Constituency, what would you do to Strengthen the Agriculture Sector to be Attractive to the Youth?*

Mr. William Talla (PPP) promised to facilitate soft loans for all farmers in the constituency and lobby for free distribution of fertilizers and farm tools in order to increase productivity and reduce unemployment.

Mr. Vincent Napor Nakpan (CPP) promised to improve poor road infrastructure which make it difficult for famers to transport farm produce to the market. In addition, he would facilitate interest free loans for farmers to assist in expanding their farms.

Mr. David Tibrum Makinye (NPP) stated that Nkwanta North would purchase their own farm produce so their produce would not go bad and their monies for investment would be saved .

Mr. John Oti Bless (NDC) stated that six months after he was elected MP he brought a contractor to fix the road in Damang and negotiated with a contractor to work on all the roads leading to the main towns. He promised to construct asphalt roads leading to the town for farmers to be able to transport their goods to market, and lobby for fertilizers and farm tools to assist farmers.

Mr. Timothy Udigo (Independent) promised to offer competent leadership and ensure the district gets what it deserves and that farmers are provided with what they need to expand their farms.

Mr. Emmanuel Kojo Gmanab (Independent) would create a value chain for agriculture in the district and lobby for factories to be set up in the district which will provide ready market for farmers and good prices for their farm produce. He expatiated that the factories would also create employment for the youth in the district.

What would you do to Strengthen the Health System and the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) in Nkwanta North?

Mr. Vincent Napor Nakpan (CPP) promised to engage the NHIS authority to reduce premium

paid by beneficiaries. Also he would establish a fund to finance the antenatal care of pregnant women so that all pregnant women could access free antenatal care, reducing the maternal mortality rate in the district.

Mr. David Tibrum Makinye (NPP) expressed that he would work with his party to make the NHIS more robust to meet the health needs of the people.

Mr. John Oti Bless (NDC) indicated that as an MP, he lobbied for Nkwanta North to have a district NHIS office for easy registration of members onto the scheme. He stated that he would ensure the office functions properly and would register more people onto the scheme so they can access health care.

Mr. Emmanuel Kojo Gmanab (Independent) indicated that he has initiated maternal health education programs for pregnant women. In addition, he said he was collaborating with a non-governmental organization to build a pregnancy transit home in Kpassa to help nearly due pregnant women to travel from their respective towns and villages to lodge before labor.

Mr. William Talla (PPP) stated that he would ensure that efficient and qualified officials are hired to manage the NHIS district office. In addition, he promised to visit hospitals to find out about their challenges and engage the district health directorate to find solutions to their problems.

Mr. Timothy Udigo (Independent) promised to ensure that qualified health workers are brought to serve the people. He expressed that he would take his oversight responsibility seriously and ensure that government pays the health facilities that are on the NHIS regularly.

How would you Promote Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Education in Nkwanta North?

Mr. David Tibrum Makinye (NPP) highlighted that he would construct computer libraries for all basic schools in large towns within the constituency. He highlighted that this initiative would enable students to be familiar with computers, know the basics in computer science before going to senior high school.

Mr. John Oti Bless (NDC) promised to pay a radio station to assist students in the constituency in ICT through conducting quizzes in ICT. He promised to engage the Local Government Ministry to change the district name from Nkwanta North to Kpassa district so that all projects lobbied for would come to the district to benefit the people. He promised to provide an ICT laboratory to support ICT education in the district.

Mr. Timothy Udigo (Independent) promised to lobby NGOs and other agencies such as the telecommunication companies to assist the schools with ICT laboratories.

Mr. Vincent Napor Nakpan (CPP) highlighted that he would supply computers to all schools including teachers.

Mr. William Talla (PPP) expressed that when given the chance, he would collaborate with institutions such as the philanthropist organizations to donate computers and build a computer laboratory for the constituency.

Mr. Emmanuel Kojo Gmanab (Independent) promised to liaise with the District Education Directorate (DED) to ensure that there is a whole ICT laboratory for all the schools in the district.

What would be your Position on the Proposal that the Inspector General of Police (IGP) should not be Appointed by the President

Mr. John Oti Bless (NDC) asserted that the 1992 Constitution grants power to the president of the land to appoint the IGP. For him, if the people of Ghana consider that as a challenge, the option available is to review the constitution to consider the proposal.

Mr. Vincent Napor Nakpan opined that he would support the proposal

Mr. Emmanuel Kojo Gmanab (Independent) is in support of the proposal so that the police institution can be independent in dealing with crime and offences in the country particularly among the youth. He reminded the audience about an incident in the district when an NDC youth went to the District Assembly office to burn the vehicles of the Assembly. According to him, the party youth were incited by the current MP to engage in the violence and because his government is in power the police could not apply the law. He emphasized the need for the proposal and his strong support for it.

Mr. William Talla (PPP) will support the proposal to see a change in the handling of violence perpetrated by people who have affiliations with the ruling political party. He conveyed that appointment of IGP incapacitates the police administration.

Mr. David Tibrum Makinye (NPP) expressed his support and opined that the Police administration would be in a better position to deal with violence and crime by politicians if the IGP is not appointed by the president.

Mr. Timothy Udigo (Independent) stated that he had issues with the way the Police handled violence by political party activists. He believed that the proposal if considered, would help the police service to handle their work well and deal with crimes and violence no matter who is involved. He indicated his willingness to support such a proposal.

How would you Facilitate Employment for the Youth in your Constituency?

Mr. Timothy Udigo (Independent) pledged to lobby the executive and other entrepreneurs to set up companies so that the youth could be employed.

Mr. David Tibrum Makinye (NPP) pleaded with audience to vote for him and his flagbearer because that would mean more jobs for all the people. He said his flagbearer is promising one district, one factory so if the people vote for them, they are assured of one factory.

Mr. William Talla (PPP) expressed that his flagbearer has a great record of creating more jobs.

Mr. Emmanuel Kojo Gmanab (Independent) highlighted that he would engage some international business oriented organizations to come to the constituency to set up industries since the district has all that is needed for factories. In addition, he promised to engage the youth on a regular basis to guide them on job career issues.

Mr. Vincent Napor Nakpan (CPP) advocated for regular interaction with the MP to dialogue on job opportunities available for the youth. He said, it is only the CPP that would be able to create jobs for the people because it has done it before.

Mr. John Oti Bless (NDC) stated that he supported 22 youth from the constituency to receive recruitment into the Police, Immigration and Prisons Service. He stated that in his second term, his target is to get more of the youth to gain employment either to government institutions or assist them to set up their own jobs.

Due to a mounting tension at the program venue, the Q&A session between constituents and candidates was called off.

#### Closing Remarks

All candidates presented their closing remarks; urging constituents for their votes and support. They all pledged their commitment to peace before, during and after the elections. The debate was well attended and patronized by constituents and drew the following dignitaries to the occasion: traditional leaders, all government agencies and departments, CSOs and other recognized groups particularly the youth. Additionally, the media was fully present and the program was aired live on Beyond and Nkwanta FM.

#### 3.7 *Kpando Constituency*

The parliamentary debate in Kpando constituency took place on November 11, 2016 at the forecourt of the Chief's palace. There were only two aspiring parliamentary candidates contesting for the seat. They were the incumbent Member of Parliament (MP), Ms. Dela Sowah who represented the NDC and Mr. Elvis Kwaku Djampoh, contesting the seat on the NPP ticket.

#### Socio-economic Development: Education

Mr. Elvis Kwaku Djampoh (NPP) promised to work with government to construct a senior secondary school for Muslim children in the constituency, with the aim of reducing inequality in the education sector and provide opportunity for every child to have access to education. He stated that as a career teacher who has so much experience in the teaching field, he would ensure that the education in the constituency is improved. He also stated that he would encourage and support students who are interested in pursuing courses and programs in health.

Ms. Dela Sowah (NDC) promised to promote the wellbeing of constituents by ensuring that all children in the area have access to education.

## Socio-economic Development: Agriculture and Trade

*As an aspiring MP, what plans do you have to mitigate the challenge of inadequate access to agricultural finance and difficulty in accessing credit by farmers/fishermen and other traders?*

Ms. Dela Sowah (NDC) indicated her readiness to support market women by granting loans to establish and improve their businesses. She promised to ensure that farmers have access to fertilizers to improve crop yield and nutrition in instances of food shortages in the area. She promised to work with the government to assist fishermen with the needed fishing equipment to improve their business and livelihood.

Mr. Elvis Kwaku Djampoh (NPP) promised to improve the fishing conditions at Torkor, a suburb in the Kpando district. He assured constituents of his willingness to ensure that fishermen receive the needed assistance from government to ease their problems in order to improve their trade. He also promised to provide fertilizers for farmers and assist them in exporting their farm produce. Additionally, he promised to construct roads to ease the transportation burden on farmers.

## Mainstreaming Disability and Compliance of the Disability Law (Act 715)

Mr. Elvis Kwaku Djampoh (NPP) promised to ensure that PWDs receive an appreciable amount of the DACF allocated to the assembly. He pledged to create jobs for PWDs to improve their living conditions. Again, he would endeavor to educate people on the relevance of constructing disability friendly infrastructure.

Ms. Dela Sowah (NDC) said she was interested in issues of concern to PWDs and as such, she would ensure that jobs are created and are available to PWDs. This is because if PWDs are gainfully employed, their levels of income would improve and they would eventually be independent, this would reduce the financial burden on the government. She would also work with government to educate estate developers and various service providers to build houses and offices that are satisfactory and accessible to PWDs.

*What prudent measures would you contribute in the management of the Oil and Gas proceeds to reduce corruption?*

Ms. Dela Sowah (NDC) informed the constituents that the party she belongs to, the NDC had put a lot of measures in place to fight corruption including formulating laws in the management of the oil resources. She went further to state that as an MP she would file questions for the Minister of Energy to come and respond to any information she would have on corruptions allegations in parliament. She added that it is her prayer that the work going on in the Volta Region with regards to identifying oil would yield a good result so that there would be an oil drilling company in the region for the people to benefit more from the government.

Mr. Elvis Kwaku Djampoh (NPP) on his part stated that the NPP government would not tolerate corruption and on his personal level, he is not corrupt and also would not entertain corrupt

activities in the constituency. He further stated that he would support the NPP government to enhance the existing laws to make it more punitive to deter people from abusing the resources from the oil and gas. He stated that this would earn the government more funds to undertake developmental projects. In addition, Mr. Djampoh indicated that he would support his flagbearer Nana Addo Danquah Akuffo Addo to use the proceeds from the oil to finance the free senior secondary education of the people to relieve the financial burdens of parents.

**Conclusion**

The Kpando debate was well attended, the constituents dressed in their traditional wear and the party supporters in their party colours. Though there were very few NPP supporters, the NPP candidate was not deterred at all and he put his messages across forcefully. The chiefs and the opinion leaders took advantage of the program to educate the citizens on the need to maintain peace as they go on their campaign programs. All the candidates also added their voices and promised the chiefs that they would control their supporters to ensure that the relative peace within the constituency would continue even during the elections and after the elections.

## 4.0 EASTERN REGION PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

The Eastern Region constituency debates were held in Mpraeso (Kwahu South), Lower Manya/Krobo and Asuogyaman constituencies. Below are the proceedings from the debates in the named constituencies.

### 4.1 *Mpraeso (Kwahu South) Constituency*

The Mpraeso constituency parliamentary debate took place on October 30, 2016 at the Mpraeso main lorry park. The parliamentary aspirants were Mr. Frederick Kwesi Frimpong (Independent), Mr. Seth Acheampong (NPP) the incumbent, Mr. Emmanuel Korea Boakye (NDC) and Mr. Nicholas Asiedu Boateng (CPP).

#### Candidates' Presentation of Vision and Programs

Mr. Frederick Kwesi Frimpong (Independent) introduced himself briefly and shared his plans for the constituency with the participants. He informed them that he intends assessing the constituency's development issues on employment, education, health, and water provision.

Mr. Seth Acheampong (NPP) said as a representative of the people, his vision was to promote the total welfare and development of the people.

Mr. Emmanuel Korea Boakye (NDC) stated that his vision was to reduce graduate unemployment in the constituency and create more opportunities for the citizens.

Mr. Nicholas Asiedu Boateng (CPP) arrived late to the debate and so could not express his vision for the constituency to the audience.

#### Mainstreaming Disability and Compliance of Disability Law (Act 715)

*How are you going to represent persons with disabilities in your constituency if you are elected as a Member of Parliament (MP)?*

Mr. Seth Acheampong (NPP) pledged to improve infrastructure to assist PWDs' accessibility and mobility in the constituency. Additionally, he promised to contribute to ensure full compliance of the Disability Law (Act 715). He will collaborate with the Ghana Federation of Disability Organizations (GFD) to honor the International Disability Day and use the occasion to educate people on the need to ensure inclusiveness to promote inclusive development.

Mr. Emmanuel Korea Boakye (NDC) proposed to collaborate with the District Assembly to comply with the Disability Law to make buildings accessible and provide disability friendly buses to make it easy for wheel chair users to enjoy public transport. He opined that owners of old

buildings that are inaccessible to PWDs will be mandated by the implementing institutions of the laws of the land to comply.

Mr. Frederick Kwesi Frimpong (Independent) indicated that society was failing PWDs. According to him, they are very capable only if the necessary things will be in place for them. He stated that he had been engaging PWDs in the constituency and been providing some assistance to them. He promised to work with the authorities to ensure that the law is complied with so that PWDs would not go to the roadside to beg for alms. He said he would promote the education and sensitization of all citizens including institutions on the compliance of the Disability Act. He further stated that there should be a deliberate employment policy targeting PWDs as practiced in other developed countries so that PWDs can gain employment.

Mr. Nicholas Asiedu Boateng (CPP) promised to better the living conditions of PWDs when voted into power. He said he himself is a PWD and so he can identify with them on the challenges facing them. He assured them of getting employment that can earn them a living.

#### Socio-economic Development (Health and Infrastructure)

Mr. Emmanuel Korea Boakye (NDC) pledged to lobby government and the District Assembly to fix all the bad roads especially the hospital road. He stated that the NDC government had resourced the NHIS, so in no time the scheme would cover all ailments. He stated that pregnant women would have maternal care subsidized to enable them afford the needed medication. Adequate measures would be put in place to ensure that health centers have the required drugs for patients.

Mr. Frederick Kwesi Frimpong (Independent) stated that he would provide potable water to all citizens especially pregnant women to reduce water borne diseases. Citizens would be sensitized on the benefits of registering onto the NHIS to encourage all constituents to be on the scheme in order for them to receive healthcare. In responding to the question on how aspirants intend working with institutions to fix the bad roads in the constituency, he attributed the poor roads to poor leadership in the constituency. He would devise strategies to enable the constituency to get a fair portion on the taxes accrued nationally and also the district assembly to use resources of the assembly to construct the roads linking farming villages to the cities because bad roads are affecting the farmers. They have difficulties transporting their produce to the market centers for business. "I will focus on lobbying to get the roads fixed" he said.

Mr. Nicholas Asiedu Boateng (CPP) promised to fix the bad roads in the area and provide hospital equipment to improve work conditions in the hospitals. Therefore, the provision of good roads is likely to improve health delivery in the constituency. He further assured all registered persons on the NHIS that he would engage the Ministry of health to come out with a policy arrangement that would inform citizens on categories of medicines that they can access.

Mr. Seth Acheampong (NPP) stated that he would supply health equipments to the district hospital to improve healthcare delivery. He would contact the department of highways and the

Minister of roads and transport on the terrible roads in the constituency. According to him NHIS related issues are important since it has to do with the health of the people. He would support the maternity unit to embark on education for the pregnant women as well as renovate the maternity block to accommodate more pregnant women during their term. He stated that NHIS challenges has been due to the inability of the Finance Ministry to separate the portion of taxes levied on goods and services meant for the National Health Insurance Authority for payment of drugs, services and also the personnel. He said the NPP government would not divert the funds meant for NHIS. All taxes collected for NHIS purpose will be used for exactly that.

#### Youth Unemployment and Education Challenges and Strengthening Agriculture and Food Security

Mr. Frederick Kwesi Frimpong (Independent) would encourage young people to learn a trade that can sustain them financially and introduce employment schemes to propel the youth onto greater heights.

Mr. Nicholas Asiedu Boateng (CPP) said that there are many kinds of trade which are either big or small and it all depends on the mindset of the individual. For instance, the financial institutions in Kwahu give car loans to drivers, a means of employment. He has therefore contacted fifty (50) persons who are interested to be part of the program and are in the process of acquiring their drivers' license. With time, this could be increased and a lot more people would be employed in the transport business. He urged the youth to also be creative with their talents.

Mr. Seth Acheampong (NPP) stated that the NPP's policy on having a factory in every district, would create jobs for the youth. He stated that he would lobby to have one of the factories in the constituency. He said this would promote economic activities of the constituency and promote employment. He also indicated that the NPP government will promote agriculture by providing subsidies on agricultural inputs such as fertilizers, seedlings among others to improve crop yield.

Mr. Emmanuel Korea Boakye (NDC) mentioned that unemployment is an issue which is of interest to him because the NDC government has created many avenues for job creation such as the Youth Enterprise Scheme (YES) to provide seed money to youth who are interested in setting up small scale businesses. The youth employment program also has given trained nurses opportunities to work in various hospitals. The uneducated youth in the area can be given skills training while the educated youth can form groups and request for loans from financial institutions as startup capital for their businesses. With regards to farming, he would make sure loans are given to farmers to enable them expand their farms.

#### Controlling Corruption and Enhancing Official Transparency and Public Accountability

*Would you disclose your assets publicly and would you support legislation to allow for a public disclosure of the assets and liabilities declared by public officers?*

Mr. Nicholas Asiedu Boateng (CPP) said the law that stipulates that public officials and politicians declare their assets must be fully implemented. Mr. Aseidu said he would support a

review of the law to make it more transparent. He admitted that it would be difficult to deal with corruption because it has become engrained in the society but with good leadership and commitment it can be done.

Mr. Seth Acheampong (NPP) stated that in order to curb corruption, it is ideal for persons in leadership positions to declare their assets. It has not been feasible for officials to declare their assets due to institutional lapses. Citizens especially Civil Society Organizations should therefore have a discourse on the law on the declaration of assets in order to reach a consensus as to whether to make it open so when you are leaving office or acquire more assets you can be queried. He stated that he has declared his assets thrice which included a house, cars and a piece of land.

Mr. Emmanuel Korea Boakye (NDC) responded by saying that the law could be amended to enable open declaration of assets to ensure accountability and transparency. The issue of corruption is a conversation which needs to be debated to reduce its occurrence, there should be a system to verify the truthfulness in asset declaration because one could have an asset in the name of another person. He is willing to declare his assets but loop holes in the law should be assessed so all citizens can benefit.

Mr. Frederick Kwesi Frimpong (Independent) also said since democracy is about accountability and transparency, public officials should be adhering to these principles. It would not be difficult for him to declare his assets but his concern is that the law says something different so it will not be right for one to go contrary to the law. He expressed concern about how the district assembly officials are perceived as corrupt. He is willing to declare his assets and hope the law will be revised to promote transparency.

## Conclusion

The question and answer phase of the program was cut short as the NPP aspirant requested to leave because he had to attend another function. However, most of the questions constituents raised were the same questions asked by the moderators. The debate was well attended by the constituents and the youth groups. The candidates demonstrated maturity in handling the questions.

## 4.2 Lower-manyu Krobo Constituency

The debate took place on November 15, 2016 at the Cultural Center in Odumase. The candidates for the debate were Mr. Teye Larbi who represented the NDC, and also the incumbent MP and Mr. Foster Emmanuel Okley of the CPP. The NPP candidate did not participate in the debate.

## Socio-economic Development: Health and Education

*What plans do you have for ensuring that the National Health Insurance Scheme is strengthened to cover more health needs and sustained? What will you do to attract and retain qualified teachers in your constituency?*

Mr. Foster Emmanuel Okley (CPP) pledged to liaise with the health directorate, particularly the Director of the National Health Insurance Authority and other stakeholders to identify all the challenges of the health sector and address them accordingly. He would use part of the MP's Common Fund to support health delivery in the area. Government's policy on free compulsory basic education would be fully implemented; from crèche to the senior high school for all children who have attained the age of going to school. He promised to construct a new building for the Ghana Education Service (GES) and liaise with the directorate of GES to inquire from them how the MPs share of the common fund can support education in the constituency.

Mr. Teye Larbi (NDC) informed the audience that he would ensure that a portion of the revenue from oil and gas that is the petroleum fund is allocated to address health challenges in the constituency. Additionally, he would also use some percentage of the MP's common fund to support the district's efforts in addressing the health challenges. Some of the plans by the NDC for Ghana Education Service (GES) includes building bungalows for teachers, providing solar lamps and making sure they are well remunerated to motivate them to take up teaching appointments in schools located in remote communities in the constituency to enhance quality education.

**Mainstreaming Disability and Compliance of Disability Law (Act 715) and HIV Stigmatization**  
*How are you going to represent persons with disabilities in your constituency if you are elected as a Member of Parliament (MP)?*

Mr. Teye Larbi (NDC) would liaise with the district assembly to enforce the Disability Act to ensure that buildings constructed in the constituency are disability friendly. He pledged that PWDs' share of the Common Fund would be increased substantially to an amount that would help them to set-up some form of trade so that they can receive sustainable income. He promised to support the enforcement of the law to make all public facilities compliant to the disability law. With regards to HIV stigmatization, he would ensure that the district assembly in collaboration with the District Health Directorate embark on education and sensitization to encourage citizens to know their HIV status. He added that Parliament recently passed an HIV law which makes stigmatization a serious offence so the health officials should get copies of it so that it can help them in their education.

Mr. Foster Emmanuel Okley (CPP) pledged to ensure that PWDs receive their share of the Common Fund allocation timely. He also stated that he would lobby for the increment of the Common Fund allocation for PWDs from 2% to 5% because there has been complains that the money is meager. Again, he would promote accountability and transparency by ensuring that officials of the district render accounts to the people every quarter through community engagements to educate them on what they use the resources, both internally generated funds and what they receive from the national government to promote accountability. All government projects would make provision and special considerations for PWDs.

### Controlling Corruption and Enhancing Official Transparency and Public Accountability

Mr. Teye Larbi (NDC) hopes that parliament would expedite action to pass the Right to Information (RTI) bill into law to ensure that citizens are provided with information to promote the accountability of officials. He opined that revenue from the oil and gas sector should be used prudently to augment the assembly's efforts in infrastructural development in the constituency.

Mr. Foster Emmanuel Okley (CPP) pledged to strengthen institutions to help avert corruption. Parliament should uphold the rules of democracy and pass the RTI bill into law to enable citizens have access to information whenever the need arises because transparency and accountability starts with the availability of information. The passage of the RTI bill would promote transparency and reduce corrupt practices in the oil and gas sector. He stated that the CPP government would not condone corrupt practices.

### Strengthening Agriculture and Food Security

Mr. Foster Emmanuel Okley (CPP) would lobby for the establishment of an oil palm plantation within the district to at least give value to the raw palm and which can create jobs for the youth. Additionally, he would also establish an aquaculture project by introducing fish farming and construct cold stores to store the fish for transport to other regions. He promised to give machines to ease farm workload and help to increase productivity of farmers. All these interventions will boost the agricultural sector and also create jobs for the people in the constituency.

Mr. Teye Larbi (NDC) promised to perform routine road maintenance to facilitate the transportation of farm produce to the markets.

### Deepening Decentralization and Social Accountability

Mr. Teye Larbi (NDC) informed the gathering that one medium through which decentralization can be deepened and social accountability enforced was through constant interaction with citizens and leaders such as organisation of town hall meetings. Through such meetings, citizens' views on issues are collated and addressed. Again, they are informed of decisions of the leaders of which they can also discuss. For instance, in the awards of contracts in the district, citizen's views can be sought directly during such meetings.

Mr. Foster Emmanuel Okley (CPP) was of the view that collaborating with the assembly members in the area would help increase accountability and improve decentralization. He believes development starts with the people and since the assembly members represent the people, working closely with them would ensure smooth implementation of projects and ultimately, increase accountability.

### Youth Unemployment and Education Challenges

Mr. Foster Emmanuel Okley (CPP) informed the constituents that he would use part of the MPs common fund to establish an oil palm plantation to open up job opportunities for the youth in

the constituency. He would also liaise with the rural enterprise to find out existing job opportunities for the youth and assist them in getting employment.

Mr. Teye Larbi (NDC) promised to encourage technical and vocational training for the youth.

### Conclusion

The NPP candidate was absent from the debate due to a rally that was being organized by his party. The debate was successfully carried out and the electorate comported themselves. The presence of the large number of students from the secondary school in the constituency was good. The students demonstrated their concern over a failed promise by the incumbent MP and questioned him during questions time on when he was going provide them with the water tank he promised during the 2012 elections campaign. The MP apologized and explained to them that he refused to fulfill his promise because the government had informed him earlier about a similar project for the school. He told them to expect the tanks after the elections.

### 4.3 *Asuogyaman Constituency*

The debate was organized on November 13, 2016 at the forecourt of the Pentecost Church at Atimpoku. The candidates for the debate were Mr. Michael Nkansah who represented the PPP, Mr. Thomas Ampem Nyarko, the parliamentary aspirant for NDC and the District Chief Executive (DCE) and Ms. Eva Bernice Nana Ama Andofo, a PWD who also represented the CPP.

#### Candidates' Presentation of Vision and Programs

Mr. Michael Nkansah (PPP) pledged to nurture the youth in the district to embrace hard work. He said he would promote education since it is the only sure way to reduce poverty.

Mr. Thomas Ampem Nyarko (NDC) who was also the DCE, hoped to continue with the good work he had been committed to since 2013 which is to promote development in the Asuogyaman Constituency.

Ms. Eva Bernice Nana Ama Andofo (CPP) pledged to promote the interest of women, children and the disabled in the district.

#### Socio-economic Development: Education, Health and Sanitation

Mr. Michael Nkansah (PPP) intends to introduce quality education by engaging the education directorate in the district to engage more qualified teachers and provide them with adequate income. On the health sector, he ascribed the problems to a number of issues such as the lack of resources, facilities, medication and in some places personnel. He promised to work together with the Ghana Health Service and the Ministry of Health and the District Health Unit to engage local manufacturers of medicines so that they can supply drugs to clinics and health posts in the constituency. Again, he would collaborate with the District Assembly to embark on public health education which is very critical in disease prevention. On sanitation, the PPP government will bring in experts to implement waste segregation which can even create employment for the

people. As an MP, he would liaise with the chiefs and the traditional leaders, district assembly and other local institutions to organize fora to educate citizens on good sanitation practices.

Mr. Thomas Ampem Nyarko (NDC) was of the view that improving education requires instilling in children the habit of reading and constant in-service training for teachers on the proper ways of impacting reading skills to the children. He opined that the SHS should be progressively free as and when government can afford to implement such a policy, but for now access to education should be expanded to enable all students have access to education. Under his party's leadership, the renewal of the NHIS cards would be done frequently instead of waiting every year to renew a card. On sanitation, he expressed that the national sanitation day which had been instituted by the local government would be accorded all seriousness in the constituency. He would build toilets for communities that do not have them to solve part of the issue on sanitation and ensure the directive on buildings having toilets is fully implemented. In subsequent years, all new buildings would have toilets in them.

Ms. Eva Bernice Nana Ama Andofo (CPP) would encourage periodic discussion with parents and teachers on children's performance to enable them identify solutions to learning difficulties and advocate for the implementation of free, accessible, quality education from the primary to the secondary school level. On plans of improving health delivery in the constituency, she said access to healthcare is important to the development of the people that is why the NHIS was instituted to enable a lot more people to have access to free basic healthcare. But it has not fully served its purpose and so she would ensure full implementation of the NHIS so that a lot more people in the constituency can get access to quality healthcare. On sanitation, she would collaborate with the assembly's sanitation team to provide bins at different places in the constituency to help keep the district clean. Again, she would monitor the activities of the district sanitation team to ensure that they work effectively to keep the district clean.

#### Mainstreaming Disability and Compliance of Disability Law (Act 715)

Mr. Michael Nkansah (PPP) said the non-implementation of the Disability Law hinders the promotion of the rights of PWDs thus pledged to empower them economically through the provision of job opportunities. He said that the GN Group of Companies which is headed by the leader of the PPP had provided a lot of job opportunities for people including PWDs. He therefore assured the constituents that the PPP government would continue to provide jobs for every citizen including PWDs.

Mr. Thomas Ampem Nyarko (NDC) pledged to support PWDs with the MPs Common Fund in addition to what they receive, from the Disability Fund. He was of the understanding that PWDs needed extra income to survive so the additional funds can at least discourage most of them from begging to survive. Additionally, he indicated that PWD's would be encouraged to identify their talents through counselling and proper job placement done for them.

Ms. Eva Bernice Nana Ama Andofo (CPP) pledged to ensure full implementation of the disability law since the law enshrines the rights of PWDs. For instance, even when the law states that all

public buildings should be made accessible to PWDS, this had not been implemented. She would therefore ensure that buildings in the area are made accessible to all PWDS.

#### Youth Unemployment and Education Challenges

Ms. Eva Bernice Nana Ama Andofo (CPP) promised to offer counselling sessions in schools so they are able to choose the right career and also train them to acquire some entrepreneurial skills to enable them gain employment. Again, she would collaborate with teachers to identify the talents of students and help to enhance its development to benefit them in the long run.

Mr. Thomas Ampem Nyarko (NDC) said he would continue supporting the youth in the constituency in aquaculture. The NDC government had subsidized the prices of fishing equipment to fishermen, therefore if he won the election, he would continue in these efforts. Apart from support to fishermen, he would also assist farmers under his leadership by providing them with irrigation equipment and at least ten (10) tractors to support their occupation.

Mr. Michael Nkansah (PPP) promised to initiate career counseling in the universities to orient students on courses and professions to enable them gain employment after school.

#### Economy: How would you Create a Conducive Environment for Business to Thrive?

Mr. Michael Nkansah (PPP) would encourage Ghanaians to patronize products made in Ghana in order to create jobs which in the long run would boost the economy. He would therefore take it upon himself to encourage citizens to consume Ghanaian products. On taxation, he entreated all to pay tax as citizens because its mobilization is what generates revenue for development in the country.

Ms. Eva Bernice Nana Ama Andofo (CPP) also stated that a means of boosting economic development is to inspire the youth to develop interest in agriculture. In order to make this a reality, she would lobby for a reduction in taxes on farming tools to encourage more people to engage in agriculture. On taxation, she would ensure that taxes are used appropriately under her leadership particularly in improving the informal sector of the economy such as the markets. Mr. Thomas Ampem Nyarko (NDC) acknowledged the fact that the NDC government has done a lot to improve economic growth and promised of a boom in the coming year. On taxation, he would work with government to ensure that inequality is reduced drastically and also the tax net is widened to include more people.

#### Enhancing Gender Equality in the Social and Economic Sectors

*What would you do to increase women's participation in public life at all levels in Ghana, particularly at the local/district level?*

Mr. Thomas Ampem Nyarko (NDC) would continue to support women and children in areas like apprenticeship and continue supporting needy but brilliant children. He hopes to find a way of

properly identifying and classifying people who are truly needy in order to address them accordingly.

Mr. Michael Nkansah (PPP) promised to build a market for women who sell on the streets and try to secure loans from the GN Bank for those who do not have any means of livelihood to start petty trading. Again, he said that the GN Bank provides educational scholarship for students and therefore he promised to take advantage of such an opportunity and to organize needy but brilliant students in the constituency so they can benefit from such schemes. Those who are not good academically but are interested in sports would also be encouraged to harness their talents.

Ms. Eva Bernice Nana Ama Andofo (CPP) promised to set up a foundation for needy but brilliant students to address their needs and provide them with scholarships

Controlling Corruption and Enhancing Official Transparency and Public Accountability/Oil and Gas Sector Developmental issues and Efficient Revenue Management  
*How will you/your party ensure Ghana derives maximum benefit from expanding oil and gas sector?*

Mr. Michael Nkansah (PPP) would support the passage of the right to information bill by Parliament. On the use of oil and gas revenue, he would lobby so that the district receives its fair share of the revenue generated from the oil and gas sector. He would ensure that the revenue is used for development projects that will benefit the people of Asuogyaman.

Mr. Thomas Ampem Nyarko (NDC) would support the passage of the right to information bill by lobbying colleague parliamentarians because the law will serve as a check on officials as citizens would have access to information at all times. He would work closely with colleague parliamentarians to make sure bills on petroleum are passed and implemented so that Ghanaians derive maximum benefit from the revenue from the oil and gas sector.

Ms. Eva Bernice Nana Ama Andofo (CPP) indicated that promoting transparency in all dealings of government would help to reduce corruption. She said there would be public hearings and involvement of opinion leaders in all she does, especially issues on fund disbursement and project implementation. She agreed with earlier statements on the passage of the right to information bill to enable citizens have access to information. She promised the electorate she'd make sure that the district receives their fair share from revenue generated from the oil and gas sector for development in the area.

## Conclusion

The debate took place in a calm environment with a high turnout of PWDs. The Presbyterian church choir came to sing some national and patriotic songs to entertain the crowd. The CPP candidate who was a PWD performed to the admiration of her opponents and all present. The PWDs who came in their numbers were excited and cheered and applauded her. She was superb

on her responses to the questions. The NPP candidate was absent from the debate but his supporters came around to listen to the program.

#### 4.4 Akropong Constituency

The parliamentary debate for the Akropong constituency was organized on November 10, 2016. Out of the four candidates contesting the Akropong seat, three of them participated in the debate. The candidates are as follows: Madam Mercy Anakwa, contesting the seat on the ticket of the CPP, Mr. Aseidu Offei, an independent candidate who is also the presiding member of the Akropong District Assembly and Mr. Yaw Ampiah Kubi, the representative of the NDC was also an Assembly Member of the Akropong District Assembly.

Socio-economic Development: Education

*What would you do to reverse the falling standards of education in your constituency?*

Mr. Yaw Ampiah Kubi (NDC) expressed that the government had built some schools in the constituency and provided students with free school uniforms and sandals. He stated that the free compulsory basic education policy has been fully implemented by the government as part of efforts in encouraging children from deprived areas and homes to have access to education. He pledged to ensure that personnel in the education sector do not charge unauthorized fees to discourage parents from sending their children to school.

Mr. Aseidu Offei (independent) stated that he has a passion to educate the youth in the community which made him initiate an educational support program for about sixty-two (62) children. He pledged to collaborate with the District Assembly and the government to ensure the full implementation of the free compulsory basic education policy which seeks to reduce educational fees that parents would normally spend on educating their children. He promised to use part of the MP's common fund to support education needs of the people in the constituency.

Ms. Mercy Anakwa (CPP) responded by stating that, the founder of CPP; the first President of Ghana was the one who initiated the policy on free compulsory basic education. So her ultimate desire would be to continue its implementation and enforcement. On her part, if she is given the opportunity she would work with all stakeholders to promote free compulsory basic education. On whether school authorities demand extra money from parents apart from the stipulated fees they are charged, she said there would be the need for verification from the education directorate in order to address the problem. She however encouraged parents to work to earn income that would enable them support their children through school.

Mainstreaming Disability and Compliance of the Disability Law (Act 715)

Ms. Mercy Anakwa (CPP) promised to create jobs in the area of soap making and batik making for persons with disabilities. She assured PWDs that the CPP government would ensure full implementation of Act 715 because the Presidential candidate for CPP also has a disability and

therefore empathizes with them. She promised an improvement in the living conditions of PWDs.

Mr. Aseidu Offei (independent) said he is concerned about issues of disability which is why he assisted the staff and students of the School for the Deaf to renovate their eatery (dining hall). He promised to start a scholarship scheme to support education of PWDs in the community as well as provide loans to those who need assistance to start their business. He assured PWDs at the gathering, that he'd help in making their lives better. He finally said that he would collaborate with the district assembly to ensure the full implementation of Act 715 by making sure public buildings are made accessible for PWDs.

Mr. Yaw Ampiah Kubi (NDC) informed the audience of the NDC government commitment to increasing the common fund allocation to PWDs. He also stated that the NDC government has over the years done a lot to alleviate the burdens on PWDs especially with regards to making buildings accessible to them. He would therefore continue to advocate for government interventions aimed at improving the lives of PWDs.

#### Socio-economic Development: Youth Unemployment

Mr. Yaw Ampiah Kubi (NDC) informed the electorate of government's efforts at creating an enabling environment for entrepreneurship and training for the youth through youth programs being implemented by the government. He also mentioned that the massive developmental projects by government, such as the building of schools and hospitals as well as other facilities had also created jobs for the youth. He promised to collaborate with the District Assembly to come up with youth intervention programs to provide jobs to reduce unemployment.

Mr. Aseidu Offei (independent) stated that the problem of youth unemployment can be dealt with properly with the involvement of other stakeholders like the private sector. He would therefore seek support from companies to assist in the creation of jobs for the youth. He would also expand his personal business to employ more people.

Ms. Mercy Anakwa (CPP) attributed youth unemployment to the curriculum used in schools in Ghana. She stated that some subjects taught in schools are not directly linked to available jobs. Thus, most students graduate and find it difficult getting employed. This situation has over the years increased youth unemployment in the country as a whole. She would therefore advise students to choose courses that can guarantee jobs after completion of their programs and to take advantage of existing opportunities to create businesses on their own.

#### Socio-economic Development: Health

*What would you do to strengthen NHIS, and improve antenatal care and free maternal care?*

Mr. Yaw Ampiah Kubi (NDC) said that the current problem of the NHIS is lack of funding to pay for the service rendered by the providers. He would therefore advocate for government to look for an alternative means of funding the NHIS. According to him, the NDC presidential candidate's

proposal of using some of the oil proceeds to finance the NHIS is a laudable idea and he urged all his constituents to support it. He stated that when there is solid and sustainable source of funding for the NHIS then more ailments that are not covered on the scheme currently can be added onto it. Since maternal care is an important aspect of determining a healthy nation, he would lobby the government to look for areas to assist mothers get access to free medical care.

Mr. Aseidu Offei (independent) would ensure that personnel at the National Health Insurance Authority (NHIA) manage the NHIS properly. He pledged to renovate maternal units in health centers in the constituency as well as use part of the MPs Common Fund to support the provision of meals for pregnant women.

Ms. Mercy Anakwa (CPP) said that the NHIS has failed to provide for the total healthcare needs of the people. Therefore, she encouraged people not to solely depend on the scheme but rather work hard to enable them take care of their health needs. She promised to ensure that pregnant women receive adequate healthcare.

## CONCLUSION

The debate saw a great participation of the PWDs. The entire school population of the School for the Deaf and Blind in Akropong participated in the debate. They took advantage of the debate to highlight the challenges facing the school to the candidates and pleaded with the authorities to come to the aid of the school. The debate was successful and well attended by the traditional authorities and all the government agencies and departments officials. However, the program would have been highly successful if the candidate from the opposition NPP had participated in the debate to equally inform citizens of the policies and goals of his party for the people.



## 5.0 GREATER ACCRA REGION PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

CDD-Ghana planned to have parliamentary debates in six (6) selected constituencies in the Greater Accra Region namely; Krowor, Ododdodiodoo, Ablekuma West, Weija Gbawe, Adentan and Korley Klottey. The first debate which was planned for October 22, 2016 at Weija Gbawe could not come off due to certain upheavals. Subsequently, all others were cancelled with exception of Krowor and Tema West constituencies. Indicated below are proceedings on the two debates organized in the region.

### 5.1 *Krowor Constituency*

The debate at Krowor constituency was organized on Saturday, October 29, 2016 and the venue was the Ebenezer Methodist Church, Nungua. The parliamentary aspirants who participated in the debate were Mrs. Agnes Naa Momo Lartey of the NDC, Mr. Hugo Kofi Huppenbauer of the PPP and Ms. Fanny Amartey of the CPP. Apart from Mrs. Lartey who serves as the General Secretary of the National Association of Local Government Authorities of Ghana (NALAG), the PPP and CPP candidates have not had any public positions. Mr. Hugo for instance is a Sales/Events Manager at Coconut Groove Hotel-Accra, and Ms. Amartey is a social worker with a disability organization.

#### Candidates' Presentation of Vision and Programs

Ms. Fanny Amartey (CPP) pledged to consider issues concerning youth unemployment, promoting the rights of PWDs, sanitation and the aged.

Mr. Hugo Kofi Huppenbauer (PPP) stated that his purpose of contesting the seat was to contribute to the development of deprived children and PWDs.

Mrs. Agnes Naa Momo Lartey (NDC) promised to transform Krowor with empowered individuals contributing at all levels to the development and growth of Krowor and to facilitate the development of Krowor through active citizen-government engagement through enhancing self-help spirit and policy dialogue dissemination and implementation.

#### Socio-economic Development: Education

Ms. Fanny Amartey (CPP) promised to enhance government's policy on free compulsory basic elementary education by ensuring that children in the constituency have access to education. She would do this by arranging for evening as well as weekend classes for pupils/students by using church auditoriums - this she believes would boost the system of learning. She would seek the support of volunteers from abroad to use the Montessori system of teaching because according to her, current teaching methods are outmoded which does not enhance reading and writing. Also, she would make sure there are libraries around to enable reading and writing.

Mr. Hugo Kofi Huppenbauer (PPP) also said previous governments and the present NDC government have failed to fully implement the free compulsory basic education policy. He therefore assured the constituents that, he and his government would ensure its full implementation by building schools and compensating teachers adequately.

Mrs. Agnes Naa Momo Lartey (NDC) suggested providing quality education and equipping students attain higher education. She would also focus on strengthening the regulations of the establishment of pre-schools and provide facilities for vocational and technical training institutions. Again, she assured the constituents that, she would actively support the progressively free education policy to cover boarding students.

#### Youth Unemployment and Education Challenges

Mr. Hugo Kofi Huppenbauer (PPP) would create employment for the youth in the informal sector which he classifies as unskilled by working with them to clean and transform the shores at Krowor. Another area he would focus on is the introduction of career orientation programs for the youth to help them develop an entrepreneurial mindset and encourage them to set up business.

Mrs. Agnes Naa Momo Lartey (NDC) acknowledged that youth unemployment is high in the area and therefore she would focus on providing craftsmanship for carpenters and masons for an example. The youth without skills or school certificates would be trained in the construction industry and those who have business plans would be given capital to commence their businesses. She promised to collaborate with the Ministry of Fisheries to support those in the fishing sector with outboard motors and fishing nets and provide some assistance for fish mongers as well.

Ms. Fanny Amartey's (CPP) would create a youth center for sports, offer training on information, communication and technology (ICT) and a library to provide counseling services. She would appeal to expatriates to invest in the community; establish industries and support the youth to gain vocational and technical skills. The youth who have business ideas would be assisted to solicit for funds from the expatriates, churches and the hospitality industry to establish their own businesses.

#### Strengthening Agriculture and Food Security: Fishing

Mrs. Agnes Naa Momo Lartey (NDC) stated that since the people of Krowor are fishermen and fishmongers, she would ensure adequate supply of the premix fuel to boost their trade. She attributed the inadequate supply of the fuel to the organizational structure in its distribution from the national to the local levels. Therefore, she would propose policies to strengthen the structures to reduce bureaucracy and rather increase accountable and transparent nature of the process. She would also work with government and experts in the fishing sector to identify alternative sources of the fuel and lobby the Ministry of Fisheries for more outboard motors to be supplied to the fishermen.

Ms. Fanny Amartey (CPP) would solicit help from both local and foreign investors like the Chinese, to supply fishermen with outboard motors.

Mr. Hugo Kofi Huppenbauer (PPP) informed constituents of not wanting to see any foreigner at the beaches of Krowor, which was probably in response to Madam Fanny's suggestion of using foreign investors to assist in solving the problems related to fishing. He said he would rather strengthen the distribution system to reduce all the bottlenecks.

#### Enhancing Gender Equity in the Social and Economic Sectors

Mrs. Agnes Naa Momo Lartey (NDC) suggested the introduction and implementation of punitive measures for parents whose children were found loitering in the community during school periods. She emphasized on the implementation of existing laws and providing sex education for children and the youth.

Ms. Fanny Amartey (CPP) declared that she would set up a counseling center for single parents and educate children on their rights by using social workers to advocate in churches and schools. She also advised parents to disallow children to attend social gatherings such as funerals and rather use the time to study. Again, she suggested using advocacy in solving the problem on child marriage.

Mr. Hugo Kofi Huppenbauer (PPP) attributed the deterioration of family morals to the economic situation because parents are not able to take care of their children by even sending them to school. He would therefore collaborate with the traditional authorities in solving the problem. He reiterated the breakdown of family ties and the harsh economic conditions as the causes of child marriage. He will therefore collaborate with churches to educate the youth on sex and its consequences and hopes this might help reduce the cases of teenage pregnancy in the area.

#### Mainstreaming Disability and Compliance of Disability Law (Act 715)

Mr. Hugo Kofi Huppenbauer (PPP) promises job creation for PWDs. According to him, the PPP presidential candidate in his personal capacity had created more jobs and that was the experience he was bringing into government so the youth should be assured that more jobs would be created so the youth would channel their energy into making money.

Mrs. Agnes Naa Momo Lartey (NDC) pledged to ensure the timely disbursement of the Common Fund to assist them in whatever way possible. She indicated that PWDs should have representation on committees within the assembly in order to facilitate the disbursement of the fund. She promised to liaise with the social policy sub-committee chair to make sure that assessments are accurately done and reports released are a true reflection of the needs of the people.

Ms. Fanny Amartey (CPP) would solicit the views of all PWDs and have a consensus to use the Common Fund allocation for a communal project beneficial to them. She intends to establish a

rehabilitation and employment center to enhance their skills to be employable in the various sectors of the country.

#### HIV Stigmatization and Discrimination Issues

Mrs. Agnes Naa Momo Lartey (NDC) pledged to ensure that persons living with HIV/AIDS are not discriminated and stigmatized by society. She stated that currently there is law that will deal with people who stigmatized against them. She on her part, would embark on advocacy on the law so that the citizens will be educated on the law. She also suggested that Persons living with HIV would be sensitized on their rights and empowered psychologically and economically to help overcome self stigmatization.

Ms. Fanny Amartey (CPP) pledged to reduce stigmatization through promoting “know your HIV status” education. She said she would first go for the voluntary counselling and testing and share her status with the constituents. This would motivate the constituents and reduce their fear of conducting the HIV test. She would also collaborate with CSOs and other agencies to embark on sensitization in the Krowor Constituency.

Mr. Hugo Kofi Huppenbauer (PPP) stated that he had been an advocate on the rights of Persons living with HIV. He stated that people stigmatized against Persons living with HIV due to the way it was initially portrayed. He would liaise with other institutions especially the Ministry of Health, Ghana AIDS Commission and the District Assembly to embark on education on HIV for awareness creation and to encourage the citizens to know their HIV status.

#### Conclusion

The Krowor debate started on time with the three candidates out of the four candidates contesting the Krowor seat. The debate was well attended by the PWDs, traditional leaders, media and the constituents. One unique group that participated in the debate was the fishermen association representatives.

#### 5.2 Tema West Constituency

The second debate for the Greater Accra Region took place on November 25, 2016 at the Glorious Wave Church premises at Sakomono. The candidates present at the time of commencing the meeting were Mr. Petikin Adango (CPP), and Mr. Kweku Awotwe (NDP). Mr. James Enu (NDC) joined later. Mr. Carlos Ahinkorah (NPP) and Mr. Marshal Dogbatsey (PPP) did not participate in the debate.

#### Candidates' Presentation of Vision and Programs

Mr. Kweku Awotwe (NDP) pledged to transform lives and to eliminate all developmental challenges in health, education and energy.

Mr. Petikin Adango (CPP) stated that his vision was to change the district into a tourist attraction city and ensure that laws were functional and improve education, health, employment opportunities and energy.

### Youth Unemployment and Education Challenges

Mr. Petikin Adango (CPP) would categorize the youth, making job placement feasible, train them to have vocations according to their interest and provide them with jobs that would earn them a living. In order to encourage them to be interested in agriculture, he would introduce high yielding seeds for production to encourage the youth to engage in farming. Some youth would also be employed in the hospitality industry because he would transform the beaches into tourist sites to attract private investors to establish hotels and restaurants in the area, which would generate some revenue for development as well. He would ensure that the labor law is fully implemented to reduce exploitation by companies.

Mr. Kweku Awotwe (NDP) pledged to provide jobs for both the educated and uneducated youth to enable them make a living.

### Socio-economic Development: Road and Sanitation

Mr. Kweku Awotwe (NDP) would lobby the necessary authorities and stakeholders to assist in mending the roads in the area. On sanitation, he advised residents to desist from the use of rubber bags to reduce the garbage generated daily. The reduction in the use of rubber bags would eventually reduce the amount of waste generated and this can be helpful in the longer term in managing waste.

Mr. Petikin Adango (CPP) would collaborate with the assembly to undertake projects on road rehabilitation and kilometers of tarred roads in the area by constructing new ones. In partnership with the assembly, some stakeholders can be brought on board to assist. He would ensure that the roads are constructed to last a lifetime to give the tax payer value for money. In which case some funds can also be saved for future projects. On sanitation, he said that waste generated in the area will be managed using modern technology. The dumping site at Kpone would be upgraded to become a treatment center where the waste will be segregated and processed. He said this can even create employment for the youth and the assembly can also earn revenue through recycled waste.

### Mainstreaming Disability and Compliance of the Disability Law (Act 715)

Mr. Kweku Awotwe (NDP) promised to ensure that the Disability Law is fully implemented by working with the authorities such as the assembly. He would also make sure that jobs are created for PWDs. He assured the people that NDP is all about the people.

Mr. Petikin Adango (CPP) proposed employing PWDs at toll booths as a first and sure way of giving PWDs some means of livelihood. This is because the work at the toll booth does not demand a highly skilled person and moreover it has to do with sitting which would be ideal for especially those in wheelchairs. He would also set up a special fund in addition to the Disability Fund which they receive from the assembly's Common Fund to assist PWDs address their special needs.

Mr. James Enu (NDC) would lobby for public places and offices to be made accessible to PWDs and provide wheelchairs to those who have none. He mentioned that government already provides the enabling environment for PWDs to be employed and socially accepted so he would make sure that institutions comply with Act 715. He would give priority to PWDs. He would review the NHIS to cover their health needs, analyze delays related to the disbursement of the Disability Fund and rectify them. He however disagreed with the earlier submission that PWDs should be the ones to work at toll booths. He was of the view that since there is no law to this effect, labour laws would have to be reviewed to include such provisions.

#### Socio-economic Development: Health

Mr. Petikin Adango (CPP) would negotiate with government to have a hospital built in the constituency precisely at Texpo and Adjei Kojo to boost the health services in the constituency.

Mr. James Enu (NDC) would lobby for government to expand facilities and services at the Tema General Hospital and upgrade the Tema Polyclinic to a hospital standard.

Mr. Kweku Awotwe (NDP) would consult the people through the assembly to know their health needs so he can better address them because the NDP is all about the people.

#### Deepening Decentralization and Social Accountability

Mr. Petikin Adango (CPP) would use the part of the MPs Common Fund to address educational challenges and maternal health issues of the people in the constituency. He disclosed that with assistance from friends, he would set up a revolving fund to enable him deliver on his promises to the people. In order for government to raise more revenue for undertaking development projects, he would advocate for the reduction in taxes and rather look at ways of increasing the number of people that are being taxed. This is because the more people pay taxes in the country, the more revenue the country can generate.

Mr. Kweku Awotwe (NDP) pledged to consult the electorate to know their needs in order to use the MPs Common Fund appropriately to address such problems within the constituency. Again, he would ensure that funds meant for development projects in the constituency are used for the intended purpose and the assembly through the town hall meetings, renders accounts to the people at all times.

Mr. James Enu (NDC) said the MPs Common Fund is for development projects and so he would use it for projects on sanitation in the constituency such as building toilet facilities, educational facilities, and free registration of the needy onto the NHIS.

#### Conclusion

The debate was successfully carried out with aspirants, in their closing remarks pleaded with the electorate to vote for them in the election.

## 6.0 ASHANTI REGION PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

The debates in the Ashanti Region took place in seven (7) constituencies, namely: Bekwai, Asante Akim South, Bosome Freho, Kwabre East, Obuasi East, Obuasi West and Sekyere Afram plains. The following indicate the proceedings of the debates organized in the region.

### 6.1 *Bekwai Constituency*

The debate was held in Bekwai on November 11, 2016 and began at 10am. Two candidates out of the five candidates vying for the Bekwai seat participated in the debate. Mr. Erasmus Boateng of All People's Congress (APC) and is currently an Assistant Director at the Ghana Education Service and a headmaster at a primary school in the district. Mr. Joseph Osei Owusu who is the incumbent Member of Parliament was seeking reelection on the ticket of the NPP. He is a lawyer by profession and serves on several select committees in parliament including: Legal, Constitutional and Parliamentary Affairs, Appointment, Judiciary, and Standing Orders.

#### Candidates' Presentation of Vision and Programs

Mr. Erasmus Boateng (APC) pledged development for the district.

Mr. Joseph Osei Owusu (NPP) pledged to be the mouthpiece of the constituency.

#### Socio-economic Development and Utilizing the PWD Common Fund:

Mr. Erasmus Boateng (APC) pledged to implement scholarships to support students with disabilities. Additionally, he pledged to create mobile money business and sales of mobile phone credit cards for the youth to be engaged in employment. He would encourage PWDs in skills development and petty trading to serve as jobs for the marginalized groups.

Mr. Joseph Osei Owusu (NPP) promised to evaluate the capabilities of PWDs and assist them accordingly. He assured that support would be provided to those who need to be engaged in skill training, educational assistance, and those who are indisposed and cannot work would be given support for their up-keep. The support to the marginalized groups would be provided by liaising with the appropriate authorities in charge of the social protection systems such as the Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty (LEAP) program, PWDs share of the District Assembly Common Fund for effective utilization.

#### Mainstreaming Disability and Compliance of Disability Law (Act 715)

Mr. Erasmus Boateng (APC) promised to ensure that contractors comply with the Disability Law regarding accessibility when constructing public facilities.

Mr Joseph Osei Owusu (NPP) will ensure that the Disability Law on accessibility is inculcated into the local building regulation in the district. He opined that this would be implemented at the

Assembly level, in order to make buildings easily accessible by PWDs. He proposed that the Assembly should have an affirmative action to allocate funds for project to work on all existing government social centers that are are not disability friendly to make it accessible to all PWDs.

#### HIV Stigmatization and Discrimination Issues

Mr. Erasmus Boateng (APC) promised to find measures to reduce pre-marital sex and teenage pregnancy. He pledged to visit schools in the district and encourage the children to study and conscientize parents as well.

Mr. Joseph Osei Owusu (NPP) promised to ensure that constituents are efficiently educated on HIV issues in order to reduce false-based assumptions that fuels stigmatization.

#### Reducing Maternal Mortality Rate

Mr. Joseph Osei Owusu (NPP) stated that he would ensure that the emergency ward unit in the District hospital is improved. He pledged to implement the national budgetary allocation to antenatal care as stated in the National Health Insurance Scheme. He promised to effectively improve the NHIS policy so that funds can be released on time to all health centers as stated in his party's manifesto.

Mr. Erasmus Boateng (APC) would ensure that pregnant women are encouraged to visit health centers frequently for antenatal care.

#### Youth Unemployment

Mr. Joseph Osei Owusu (NPP) began by saying that he had already had discussions with some youth that are unemployed and had provided them assistance with his share of the District Assembly Common Fund (DAFCF). Some had been given educational support, skills training but had been unable to support those who want to engage in petty trading. He said he had provided equipment for artisans (providing dryers for hair-dressers), supported some group to acquire transformer to equip them in their field of work. He had also been providing free counseling to those who want to be employed in the government sector on the qualification criterion that would permit them to work in their field of interest. However, when his party comes into power he is confident that more youth would be gainfully employed to fend for themselves.

Mr. Erasmus Boateng (APC) hoped to encourage the youth to engage in lucrative work such as farming.

#### Maternal Care

Mr. Joseph Osei Owusu (NPP) promised to liaise with the health directorate in order to lobby for health equipments such as scanners, delivery beds and cesarian equipments for the hospitals.

Mr. Erasmus Boateng (APC) stated he would encourage pregnant women to sleep in treated mosquito nets that are provided to them at the health centers, and visit health centers regularly during pregnancy. He further asserted that he would encourage pregnant women to renew

their National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) cards annually to reduce the cost they incur in receiving healthcare.

#### Enhancing the Participation of more Women in Politics

Mr. Erasmus Boateng (APC) would ensure that the challenges and the welfare of women in the constituency are addressed.

Mr. Joseph Osei Owusu (NPP) mentioned that he would encourage capable women in the constituency to take up positions in the District Assembly. For him, the Assembly work would serve as a training for the women to prepare themselves for higher political office.

#### State Funding of Political Parties

Mr. Erasmus Boateng (APC) advocated strongly for state funding of political parties to ensure fairness. He highlighted that the government should give out some funds to all political parties for their campaigns.

Mr. Joseph Osei Owusu (NPP) was of the view that the structures of new political parties should be strengthened and also old political parties should be provided with offices by the government and partly bear the cost of administration of the office since they are also working for the state.

#### Understanding the Work of the Member of Parliament

Mr. Joseph Osei Owusu (NPP) promised to liaise with the NCCE to educate constituents on the specific roles of the MP and District Chief Executive (DCE). In relation to the usage of the Common Fund, he would have suggested that it is used in educating constituents on the specific roles of the MP and the DCE.

Mr. Erasmus Boateng (APC) pledged to educate his constituents on his specific duties so that they will not look up to him for developmental projects in the constituency.

#### Education

Mr. Joseph Osei Owusu (NPP) said he was already motivating teachers. He posited that to achieve functional literacy and numeracy among children graduating from public schools, teachers need not to only have a good knowledge base information and but must also adequately be motivated. He had established reading clubs for the past 8 years and provided 1000 novels to the district Director of Education with which reading contests have been organized occasionally. The school that wins provides teachers with tokens as motivation. He opined that the community library would be equipped and made more attractive to children so that they can visit and learn. Additionally, he conveyed that special needs schools are also given special support. He indicated that untrained teachers are being trained by Akrokeri College of Education to promote effective learning.

Mr. Erasmus Boateng (APC) would advocate for an increase in the number of teachers at the basic level to reduce the workload of the teacher.

#### Providing Support for Petty Traders

Mr. Erasmus Boateng (APC) pledged to ensure that appropriate markets are the only places for the sale of products.

Mr. Joseph Osei Owusu (NPP) promised to support the central government to reduce taxes and cost of energy. He opined that the assembly had already provided market centers and spaces for the petty traders and he had also contributed his quota for the same purpose.

#### Ensuring Secure, Free and Fair Elections

Mr. Erasmus Boateng (APC) informed the electorate on the need to prevent violence and uproar in the constituency.

Mr. Joseph Osei Owusu (NPP) advocated that all rules and regulations governing elections should be duly followed. He highlighted the need for the state to provide security to avoid a situation where individuals take to self-defense, leading to riot. He further encouraged moderators of radio stations, security agents and all stakeholders to ensure peace and security at all levels.

#### Employment

Mr. Joseph Osei Owusu (NPP) pledged to seek job opportunities for vegetable farmers in the constituency. He would support training for farmers so that their produce meet the required standard. Also, he would seek job opportunities for professional welders to also be employed in the sector.

Mr. Erasmus Boateng (APC) promised to encourage parents and students to study craftwork or technical education so they can be employed in the sector. He will also assist constituents with appropriate skills training to work in the sector.

#### Auxiliary Questions:

- a. *How would you make the old social centers disability friendly (Question was directed to the NPP candidate)?*

Mr. Joseph Osei Owusu (NPP) proposed that there would be full compliance with the Disability Law that would allocate some funds from the local budget of the district assembly to ensure that in the next four years all social centers would be disability compliant.

- b. *How would you ensure the common fund is accessible to the PWDs?*

Mr. Joseph Osei Owusu (NPP) proposed that there should have been a legislation backing the distribution of the 2% share of the DACF. Also there should be a representation from the

Federation of Persons with disabilities to represent them at the Assembly level to discuss how effectively their monies should be dispersed to them.

Mr. Erasmus Boateng (APC) proposed that there should be representative from the PWDs to discuss with the Assembly on how to distribute the Common Fund.

*c. What support would you provide for hearing impaired person when they visit the hospital?*

Mr. Erasmus Boateng (APC) promised to provide facilitates with sign language facilitators.

Mr. Joseph Osei Owusu (NPP) said he had liaised with the Health Directorate in the district and promised to provide the health centers with facilitators who would assist the hearing impaired persons.

*d. What support would you provide to HIV patients when medical officers go on strike?*

Mr. Erasmus Boateng (APC) pledged to liaise with pharmacies to continually provide medication.

Mr. Joseph Osei Owusu (NPP) said he would liaise with the district budgetary allocation representative to ensure that the ARV drugs do not run out of stock in the district.

*e. What would you do if you are not elected as MP, what support would you provide to the MP elect?*

Mr. Erasmus Boateng (APC) pledged to support whoever wins the election because they are all one people from the same constituency.

Mr. Joseph Osei Owusu (NPP) pledged to give his maximum support for the development of the constituency to anyone who is elected as the MP.

## Conclusion

The moderator (Mr. Alexis Karikari) commended the audience for their time and cooperation to the success of the program in addition to showing gratitude to the efforts by the CDD-Ghana project team. Aspirants on their part encouraged constituents to vote them into office.

## 6.2 Obuasi–West Constituency

The program started at 10:15am at the AGA club house in Obuasi on the November 12, 2016. The opening remarks specifying ground rules for the debate were presented by the NCCE director, Mr. Emmanuel Atobrah and Nana Hagan (CDD-Ghana). Four aspirants were present at the debate, including: Mr. Bando Dabiyah Kwame (CPP), John Alexander Ackon (NDC) Mr. Kwaku Kwarteng (NPP) and Mr. Mohammed Yussif (PNC).

The Profiles of the aspirants highlight the following: Mr. Bando (CPP) is a teacher, Mr. Akon (NDC) was the MCE in the district in 2013, Deputy Defence Minister in 2013 and is currently the Ashanti Regional Minister. Mr. Mohammed Yussif (PNC) is the head-teacher for God Lives School, a private institution and Honourable Kwaku Kwarteng (NPP) is the current Member of Parliament in the constituency.

#### Candidates' Presentation of Vision and Programs

Mr. Bando Dabiyah Kwame (CPP) promised to reinstitute the Anglo gold mining company. He pledged to organize free vacation classes, and cater for facilitators and motivate teachers to improve on the educational sector in the constituency. In addition, he pledged to improve facilities and lobby for good road-network in both the towns and villages in the constituency. He would also liaise with extension officers to educate farmers on the good farming practices that would enhance crop yield and as well support them with agro-chemicals.

Mr. John Alexander Ackon (NDC) said he intended to ensure unity in Obuasi district and would also take advantage of the mines and leverage Obuasi.

Mr. Kwaku Kwarteng (NPP Incumbent) pledged to advocate for small scale miners and operators to be given the legal permit for mining as he believes that would help in the development of Obuasi.

Mr. Mohammed Yussif (PNC) pledged to motivate the less privileged in the society and to support the petty traders in the society, by securing soft loans to improve on their lives and businesses.

#### Socio-Economic Development: Provision of Health Services (HIV and Maternal Healthcare)

Mr. Bando Dabiyah Kwame (CPP) pledged to provide quality maternal healthcare and embark on HIV education to encourage all to go for the HIV test to know their status. He highlighted that he would establish a committee to set by-laws to improve sanitation and health of constituents; and also distribute mosquito nets to the constituents.

Mr. John Alexander Ackon (NDC) stated that he would provide more health facilities in the populated areas in the constituency. He pledged to carry out mass sensitization on HIV.

Mr. Kwaku Kwarteng (NPP) promised to ensure that funds allocated for the Health Directorate are released on time and pledged to expand the Maternal Health Center at the Obuasi General Hospital.

Mr. Yussif Mohammed (PNC) asserted that he would ensure there is frequent power supply at the various health centers in the constituency. Furthermore, he would ensure that all the old faulty machines are repaired for use. He highlighted lobbying for more mobile hospitals in the villages (van/mobile hospitals with health assistants).

### Mainstreaming Disability and Compliance of Disability Law (Act 715)

Mr. John Alexander Ackon (NDC) pledged to engage PWDs in welding, catering service and provide a rehabilitation center that is disability friendly. He had the vision of transporting the PWD golf team to travel abroad to participate in games.

Mr. Kwaku Kwarteng (NPP) promised to ensure that the Disability Law is enforced when elected. He would also ensure the formation of a national council for PWDs as stated in his party's manifesto.

Mr. Yussif Mohammed (PNC) stated that he would ensure that the Disability Fund is released to the leaders and discuss with members on how to utilize the fund.

Mr. Bando Dabiyah Kwame (CPP) stated that he would ensure that the Disability Law is enforced fully and ensure that public spaces are made disability friendly. He would also ensure that, the PWD fund is released on time when it is released to the district assembly.

### Education

Mr. Kwaku Kwarteng (NPP) stated that he would ensure the prompt release of Capitation Grant to basic schools. Also, he would improve infrastructure in the schools with the MP's Common Fund. He opined that the NPP party will provide free secondary education when it assumes governance. It is his vision to liaise with other prominent members of the NPP to help establish either a teacher training college or a nursing training college or a technical university that would be affiliated to an established university in the constituency. He further stated that, the NPP party would restore payment of the teachers training and nursing training college allowance; and, abolish the payment of utility bills by students in the tertiary institutions. He further promised to monitor the supply of government text-books to the various schools to ensure that books are effectively distributed.

Mr. Yussif Mohammed (PNC) stated that he would ensure that there is equal distribution of infrastructure in both the private and public schools. He would motivate teachers by awarding them at the national level. Also, he would improve on the building of the education office in the constituency; from negotiations with AGA to use one of their buildings as the educational office and their site for establishment of a tertiary school in the district. He added that he would monitor the source for delivery of government textbooks.

Mr. Bando Dabiyah Kwame (CPP) would set up a committee that would monitor the distribution of the text-books so that government text-books are not sent to private bookshops for sale. Also, he promised to employ auditors to audit the committees that would handle text-book distribution.

### Youth Employment and Participation in Sports and Creative Arts

Mr. Bando Dabiyah Kwame (CPP) promised to provide the youth with skill training through apprenticeship and provide them with accommodation during the training period. He promised

to support the youth and push them to join various football clubs so that they can also fend for themselves.

Mr. John Alexander Ackon (NDC) stated that he is the founding member of Gold-Fields Academy and he would keep on supporting the youth in sporting activities. He opined that the NDC government has already provided the youth with modern day developmental training skills in ICT and pledged that the government would assist youth entrepreneurs and create employment avenues.

Mr. Kwaku Kwarteng (NPP) indicated that he is the founder of the US support for Anglogold supporter in Ghana. He promised to provide skills training for school drop-outs and highlighted his party's manifesto to help in such training of the youth. Additionally, he promised to support the youth with his MP's Common Fund and educate various craftsmen in the constituency to improve on their skills.

Mr. Yussif Mohammed (PNC) pledged to groom children who have interest in sports and enforce technical education and encourage parents to allow their wards to enroll in technical education.

#### Mining (Small and Large Scale)

Mr. John Alexander Ackon (NDC) would ensure that small scale miners have been relocated for their operations.

Mr. Kwaku Kwarteng (NPP) seeks to reinstate the AGA mining company and deliberate with the AGA board to cooperate with the small-scale miners and legalize and regulate small scale mining. He pledged to ensure that all AGA staff who were laid off gain employment.

Mr. Yussif Mohammed (PNC) promised to ensure that royalties from the mining operation is reduced. Also, he pledged to ensure that Obuasi indigenes are employed in the mining sector.

Mr. Bando Dabiyah Kwame (CPP) promised to ensure that funds by the AGA mining company towards developmental projects are accrued and distributed fairly. He pledged to educate small scale miners on how to effectively carry out their operations

#### Conclusion:

The parliamentary aspirants who had participated in the debate presented their closing remarks and further encouraged constituents to vote for their respective political parties. They urged the electorate to maintain peace and tolerance before, during and after the elections.

### 6.3 *Obuasi-East Constituency*

The debate took place on November 12, 2016 at 2:15pm and was co-organized by NCCE and CODEO. All parliamentary aspirants in the constituency were invited for the debate; however, the NPP parliamentary aspirant refused to attend due to political tension in the constituency. The candidates present were Mr. Frank Aboagye Danyanse (PPP), Mr. Richard Ofori Agyeman

Boadi (NDC), Mr. Emmanuel Oduro Fosu (CPP), and Mr. Shiabu Fussini (PNC). Opening remarks were presented by NCCE director (Mr. Emmanuel Duah Attobrah) and Nana Hagan of CDD-Ghana admonished constituents to comport themselves to ensure a successful debate. The aspirants had varying degrees of experiences; Mr. Frank Aboagye Danyanse (PPP) an entrepreneur, Mr. Richard Ofori Agyeman Boadi (NDC) the Municipal Chief Director, Mr. Emmanuel Oduro Fosu (CPP), a Physical Education coordinator, and Mr. Shiabu Fussini (PNC) an electrical engineer at a mining company at Wassa- Akropong.

#### Candidates' Presentation of Vision and Programs

Mr. Frank Aboagye Danyanse (PPP) intends to provide a modern market center in the Obuasi constituency and establish a gold refinery in Obuasi to produce accessories. He pledged to create jobs for the youth in the constituency.

Mr. Richard Ofori Agyeman Boadi (NDC) pledged to create job opportunities and bring developmental projects in the constituency.

Mr. Emmanuel Oduro Fosu (CPP) hopes to help bring developmental change in the constituency and continue the good works of the former President Kwame Nkrumah.

Mr. Shiabu Fussini (PNC) hoped to improve the teacher to child ratio at the basic level for effective teaching and abolish the school shift system at the basic level. He would also ensure that uniform educational levels exist in the constituency; in view of that all schools would be provided with adequate infrastructure to motivate teachers to accept to work in the villages too. He would ensure that the mining company is revived again and also, he will provide good road-network for the constituency.

#### Socio- Economic Development: Provision of Health Service (HIV/AIDS and Maternal Health)

Mr. Frank Aboagye Danyanse (PPP) pledged to provide first aid health post for every electoral area and first aid services, and where necessary refer patients to the main hospital for further treatment. Additionally, he promised that midwives would be employed at first aid health posts and provide new ambulances at the health centers.

Mr. Richard Ofori Agyeman Boadi (NDC) would ensure that a welfare policy is established by the parliament of Ghana to support the less privileged in the society who cannot afford the national Health Insurance policy. He pledged to contribute 5% of his MP's Common Fund towards education to curb the spread of HIV menace. He promised mass education and sensitization on HIV.

Mr. Emmanuel Oduro Fosu (CPP) seeks to ensure that all children, from nursery to kindergarten, pregnant women are registered on the National Health Insurance Scheme. He opined that he has already lobbied for 5 ambulances for the constituency to enhance good healthcare for the constituents. He is also lobbying for the establishment of a government hospital in the Obuasi –East constituency.

Mr. Shiabu Fussini (PNC) asserted that he would provide adequate health infrastructure for maternity homes. He would also establish hospitals solely for pregnant women for effective healthcare. Also, HIV patients would be encouraged and well taken care of.

#### Mainstreaming the Disability Act

Mr. Richard Ofori Agyeman Boadi (NDC) promised to build a training center for PWD's under his regime as the MCE of Obuasi with the Common Fund. He intends to lobby for an increase in the percentage for PWDs from the Common Fund. He stated that, he has special interest in caring for persons with disabilities and in the next two weeks he would be equipping some disabled persons with skills in hairdressing, sewing and other forms of craftwork. When elected as MP, he would support some disabled persons to be entrepreneurs, which is his main vision for Obuasi municipality.

Mr. Emmanuel Oduro Fosu (CPP) promised to ensure that disabled persons are provided with free education as stated in his party's manifesto and also free skills training with capital to set up their own business after the training.

Mr. Shiabu Fussini (PNC) pledged to ensure that PWDs have access to education. He would provide PWDs with skill training, in addition to establishing a recreational center to provide special care.

Mr. Frank Aboagye Danyanse (PPP) promised to ensure that disabled children have access to free education. Also, he would ensure that all social and public centers are disability compliant. He pledged to construct a training center for PWDs. Lastly the Disability Fund would be used for skills training in the various craftwork so that the PWDs can gain employment.

#### Education

Mr. Emmanuel Oduro Fosu (CPP) promised to ensure that the basic teaching and learning materials and other logistics are provided to the schools. Also, he would provide a modern educational office and ensure that the teacher to child ratio in the classroom is reduced. He would also encourage sporting activities in the schools to increase attendance. He urged all teachers to vote for him in order to help them secure study leave to further their education. He also added that he would ensure that the funds allocated to support the provision of logistics at the educational office are duly released for effective administration of the office; to transport the various infrastructure including the textbooks to all the villages and towns in the constituency.

Mr. Shaibu Fussini (PNC) promised to lobby for scholarship for brilliant but needy students. He pledged to organize inter-school quizzes and provide adequate classrooms in the constituency, to reduce the teacher to student ratio for effective teaching and learning. He pledged to ensure effective distribution of textbooks to both government and private schools.

Mr. Frank Aboagye Danyanse (PPP) would ensure that free compulsory education policy is implemented in the constituency. He stated that as part of improving the educational sector in Obuasi municipality, he has distributed textbooks to some schools and donated cement for building of classrooms. Also, he would provide free basic education for girls in the constituency; 60% scholarship to brilliant but needy students and employ them after their tertiary education. He promised to ensure that both the private and government schools are provided with textbooks; headmasters will be treated equally so that no school will be denied the textbooks during distribution exercise. He stated that there should be a cordial relationship with the educational officers and the headmasters. He would as well set up modalities for effective distribution of the textbooks. He further admonished head teachers and educational officers to desist from politicizing the distribution of the textbooks.

Mr. Richard Ofori Agyemang Boadi (NDC) pledged to use 30% of his salary as endearment fund to support the needy students. He would also use his MP's Common Fund to support technical education and in four years' time he would give all trainees an amount of GH 5,000 as start-up for about 400 people in the constituency. The candidate also made suggestions on timely and appropriate distribution of government textbooks. He would ensure that all the corrupt practices confronting the distribution of the textbooks are eliminated. This can be well achieved through the "one-tablet one child" policy as stated in his party's manifesto and he would personally assist in the distribution of the tablets

#### Youth Unemployment, Sports and the Creative Arts

Mr. Frank Aboagye Danyanse (PPP) promised to establish a gold refinery and modern market that would provide job opportunities to the youth in the constituency. He expressed that he already had a recruitment agency that trains the youth in employable skills. He also indicated that he owns a TV and radio station that have created job opportunities for the youth, and has provided 100 youth with jobs in his private establishment. Unfortunately, as he was speaking there was a personal attack by an NDC supporter, despite the presence of security personnel, hostile advances were made towards the PPP supporters resulting in the PPP aspirant pulling out of the debate.

Mr. Richard Ofori Agyemang Boadi (NDC) said he employed 38 youth in skills training with over four hundred and seventy million Gh Cedis from his personal resources. According to the candidate, he has helped organize entrepreneurial training for the youth and provided start-up capital for over 300 youth in the constituency and supported 80 women with loans to establish their businesses. He has also spent about forty thousand dollars on Ashgold football club from his personal resource. He expressed that he assisted in the educational sector with schools in Obuasi and developed the sport section in the society. He further pledged to support the youth to engage in sports for job creation.

Mr. Emmanuel Oduro Ofori (CPP) revealed that had liaised with an NGO that had promised to provide an ultra- modern sports stadium in February, at Buortey Park. He pledged to provide a loan scheme with less interest to support the youth for job establishment.

Mr. Shaibu Fussini (PNC) promised to establish a sports complex in the constituency. He also promised that all school drop outs would be assessed to know their talents and engage them in sporting activities for job creation. He opined that he would liaise with NGOs for job creation and also support entrepreneurs to establish companies to employ the youth in the society.

#### Improving Road-network, Sanitation and Water

Mr. Richard Ofori Agyemang Boadi (NDC) highlighted that would work in tandem with the Assembly.

Mr. Emmanuel Oduro Fosu (CPP) would lobby for funds to help provide a good road-network. On sanitation issue, he commended the government for initiating the national sanitation day, which he would enforce when elected as an MP for the constituency.

Mr. Shaibu Fussini (PNC) pledged to ensure that there is a good road network in all the villages.

#### Oil and Gas

Mr. Emmanuel Oduro Fosu (CPP) maintained that he would ensure that the constituency has a fair share of the quota from the oil and gas sector for developmental projects in the constituency.

Mr. Shaibu Fussini (PNC) promised that he would establish more gas filling stations to reduce the shortage of gas in the constituency.

Mr. Richard Ofori Agyemang-Boadi (NDC) gave the assurance that he would make sure there is effective participation of local members in the oil and gas sector, hence, increasing employment.

#### The Development of Small Scale and Large Scale Mining

Mr. Shaibu Fussini (PNC) would monitor the registration of small scale mining.

Mr. Emmanuel Oduro Fosu (CPP) said he would hold deliberations with both the AGA company executives and the small-scale miners' executives to come to a consensus and work together. He would also legalize small-scale mining when elected as an MP for the constituency.

Mr. Richard Ofori Agyemang Boadi (NDC) assured the electorate that he would liaise with the minister for natural resources to support the small-scale miners. Also, he would discuss with the AGA Company to lease a site for the small-scale miners.

#### Conclusion

The debate ended at 4:45pm after the moderator had presented the vote of thanks and aspirants exchanged greetings to demonstrate unity. Apart from the confrontation between the PPP supporters and NDC supporters, the debate was very successful. The various aspirants admonished constituents to vote for their respective political parties and ensure peaceful elections.

#### 6.4 *Sekyere Afram Plains Constituency*

The Sekyere Afram Plains debate was held on November 14, 2016 at the Presbyterian Basic School. All parliamentary aspirants were invited for the debate, however, only Mr. Joseph Owusu of the NPP and Mr Peter Marfo of the GCPP honored the invitation.

##### Candidates' Presentation of Vision and Programs

Mr. Joseph Owusu (NPP) envisions a transformed constituency.

Mr. Peter Marfo's (GCP) vision was to promote the development of the constituency and the country at large.

##### Socio-economic Development: Utilization of the PWD'S share of the Common Fund

Mr. Joseph Owusu (NPP) proposed to increase the share for PWDs. Further, he suggested that NGO's support with funds to establish skill training centers to engage them and assist the PWDs to secure jobs so as to be independent.

Mr. Peter Marfo (GCPP) admonished abled persons not to look down on persons with disabilities. He also proposed that the percentage of fund should be increased to cater for all their needs. When he is elected, he will ensure that there is a skills training center established to train PWD's.

##### Mainstreaming the Disability Act

Mr. Joseph Owusu (NPP) would provide support by soliciting for funds from NGOs. He indicated that he had already negotiated with some NGOs for support items such as wheel chairs for easy mobility and has also negotiated for health equipment for the health centers in the constituency which would soon be supplied.

Mr. Peter Marfo (GCPP) would advocate on behalf of the PWDs in the constituency and ensure that laws are enacted to make all public centers disability compliant. He would also ensure that a special school for the blind is constructed.

##### Securing Anti-retroviral Drugs for HIV Patients

Mr. Peter Marfo (GCPP) educated constituents not to discriminate against persons living with HIV (PLHIV) and pledged support with anti-retroviral drugs to prolong their life span.

Mr. Joseph Owusu (NPP) stated that he had already secured anti-retroviral drugs for donation to Vincent Clinic for the patients in the district. He used the opportunity to educate constituents on HIV transmission. He admonished constituents to show compassion on all HIV patients.

##### Retaining Medical Personnel in the Constituency

Mr. Joseph Owusu (NPP) stated that he had already supplied some health centers with equipment to enhance the services provided by the medical personnel. One of which he

mentioned was Ahmidu Health Center the supply of medical equipment valued at GHS 200 million that was donated to promote the health of all constituents which had qualified the center to be on the NHIS scheme to serve constituents. He would also lobby when elected for medical officers to volunteer to embark on medical screening of constituents which he had already lobbied for, and also, he will build more health centers to enhance healthcare in the constituency.

Mr. Peter Marfo (GCPP) would lobby with the government to build more health centers in all towns and villages in the constituency. As a form of motivation, he would ensure that the health officers area had electricity, good road network and also adequate supply of food. He will also lobby for befitting accommodation and ensure that they are paid attractive salaries for officers who accept to work in remote areas.

#### Education (Teaching and Supervision)

Mr. Peter Marfo (GCPP) pledged to ensure that basic amenities are provided for teachers. He would also set up a committee to monitor teachers in these areas to ensure that they are working to recompense the incentives and the social amenities that were provided by the government.

Mr. Joseph Owusu (NPP) mentioned that he had already adopted a village in the constituency that lacked teachers and also employed teachers personally from his own resources to teach in the school. He also promised of providing a befitting Teachers Quarters for teachers and pledged to ensure that teachers' allowances and arrears would be installed and paid in full as indicated in the party's manifesto to motivate teachers to ensure effective teaching.

#### Youth Unemployment

Mr. Peter Marfo (GCPP) stated he had already been supporting the needy in the society to further their education with his personal income to prepare them for the job market in future. He had also established a skill training center in soap making for the uneducated youth in the constituency. He would also ensure that the "one district one factory" policy that is indicated in his party's manifesto becomes a reality in the constituency or the President special initiative project that was initiated by ex-president Kuffour is reinstated. He indicated that he has already set up a team to research to identify the specific factory that can be established in the district to engage the youth in the constituency. Also, he would negotiate with the chiefs and initiate community base farming in maize cultivation to engage the youth in farming to help reduce the unemployment in the constituency.

Mr. Joseph Owusu (NPP) would encourage the youth to make preparations for the job market. He indicated that most of the youth after the basic education engage in welding training at Magazine in Kumasi. When he is elected, he would ensure there is a welding training center established in all the suburbs of the constituency to employ the uneducated youth. He also stated that, he would ensure that farmers have ready market for selling of farm produce, since

storage is a major issue. It is worth noting here that the aspirant flared up when the timekeeper prompted him to wrap up since his time was up. Mr. Marfo complained of unfair treatment because he came with a bicycle unlike his NPP counterpart who came in a Pajero.

#### Sanitation

Mr. Peter Marfo (GCPP) would ensure that there is provision of general cleaning facilities and ensure sanity in the environment, also, he would ensure that there were toilet facilities in the towns and villages to reduce the rate of cholera and malaria in the constituency.

Mr. Joseph Owusu (NPP) mentioned that he intends to initiate a program titled “The Golden Gateway to Sanitation in Ghana” in the constituency. He intends to achieve this by setting up a waste-recycling site; in which all biodegradable waste would be sorted from the non-degradable ones to be recycled. He pledged to provide incentives to all constituents who recycle waste to enhance the recycling project.

#### Women's Participation in District Assembly Politics

Mr. Joseph Owusu (NPP) said he would encourage more women to participate in active politics so that they can also contribute to the development of the district. He pledged to promote girl child education and set role models for the youth.

Mr. Peter Marfo (GCPP) would also promote girl child education and also support all girls in need to have access to education. He would ensure that women are given equal rights to speak about issues concerning the welfare of women and channeled to the government for support. He also indicated that women in political positions serve as role models, and this redefines the role of the women to the young girls in the society; this would help reduce teenage pregnancy in the constituency.

#### Education (Textbook Distribution)

Mr. Peter Marfo (GCPP) promised to solicit for funds from NGOs and another philanthropists to assist in distributing free textbooks. He expressed the desire to set up a special committee to monitor the distribution and also ensure that the education officers distribute the text-books fairly.

Mr. Joseph Owusu (NPP) stated that together with the NPP flag bearer, he would ensure that there's reduced corruption in the all sectors of government including the educational unit. To ensure reduced corruption there would be frequent auditing to ensure accountability to the constituents. He indicated that, he had already distributed free school uniforms to some schools in the constituency from his personal income. He had also solicited for funds from philanthropists to support the educational sector of the constituency which he would expand to seek for more funds to provide the needed teaching and learning materials to the schools in the constituency.

### Water (Accessibility and Affordability)

Mr. Joseph Owusu (NPP) indicated that he had already provided potable water in Abenuah, about 15 other villages and 9 bore-holes which cost him about 50,000 Ghana Cedis.

Mr. Peter Marfo (GCPP) stated that the current government is already providing pipe-borne water in Kwahu constituency which is been tapped from River Afram, a river in Drobonso. Hence, he will lobby for pipe-borne water for the constituency as well.

### Agriculture

Mr. Peter Marfo (GCPP) would provide soft loans to support women in agriculture. He would also ensure that there are tractors to plough the farmlands of women in farming. Also, he would ensure that there is a factory established for tomato processing, fish processing. He would as well educate farmers to engage in fish farming.

Mr. Joseph Owusu (NPP) indicated that the major problem is dependency on rains to feed the farms. However, he would ensure that the one million dollar per constituency by his presidential candidate would be used to provide tractors to farmers and this would unburden the plight of farmers. Also, farmers will be provided with good seedlings with enhance the yield of production.

### Peace and Security

Mr. Joseph Owusu (NPP) admonished the electorate to maintain peace during elections.

Mr. Peter Marfo (GCPP) highlighted the essence of peace and security.

### Oil and Gas

Mr. Peter Marfo (GCPP) pledged to ensure that there is gas generated for the constituency. In order to achieve this, he stated that he will ensure that there is a biomass/solar technology established for every community.

Mr. Joseph Owusu (NPP) explained the local content law which he mentioned states that: contract, 30% of the contract should be allocated to indigenes in the exploration site to also have access to basic technical knowledge (technological transfer) about the exploration. He also mentioned that he would produce fertilizer from the recycling project that he would establish to support farmers.

### Questions from the Audience

- a. *How would you help reduce the cost of accommodation in the constituency?*
- b. *How would you improve on the road network in the constituency?*
- c. *How would you ensure that trainers for the youth employment projects are paid?*
- d. *You stated that you had distinction during your elementary school days, as a teacher have you been able to help any student in the constituency achieve this? What will be the work of the circuit supervisor if you should set up a special committee to monitor*

*teachers (Directed to GCPP candidate)*

*How would you ensure that the Fulani-herdsmen do not destroy the farms of indigenes?*

Accommodation: Mr. Peter Marfo (GCPP) promised to employ the rent control board to regulate the prices of houses in the constituency.

Good road network: He pledged to ensure provision of accessible roads by lobbying with the government in power.

Payment of trainers of youth employment: He pledged to establish a fish cannery to create job opportunities.

Contribution towards Education and Issue of Fulani herdsmen: He indicated that he had contributed immensely by ensuring that he scored 100% for the BECE results for the subject he taught. However, since he is not in the capacity to teach all subjects he cannot ensure that all students pass out successfully in the other subjects. He mentioned that the circuit supervisors would be monitored by the special committee to ensure effective supervision at the educational unit.

Concerning the Fulani herdsmen, he stated that he would communicate with them through appropriate means to ensure orderliness in the constituency. In view of that he would ensure that law is enacted to restrict their movement in the constituency and also employ security officers to monitor their movement.

Accommodation: Mr Joseph Owusu (NPP) Pledged to provide teachers accommodation and also for the brilliant but needy students in the constituency.

Good road network: He will ensure that good road network is provided in all the suburbs of the constituency. He indicated that he had an engineering design for Sekyerso-Anhwieneso road, which will be implemented when elected; although it is not his responsibility as an MP. He would encourage the youth to form community base construction groups and to train local contractors, so that these local construction groups will be awarded contracts to provide good road network in the constituency. He would provide free consultation to these local contractors. He would ensure that this is backed by a new local content law, which would state that 70% of the contracts should be awarded to the constituents and not foreigners.

Payment of trainers of Youth employment: He promised to compensate the trainers since they trained the youth to promote the development of the constituency.

Ensuring that Fulani herdsmen do not destroy farms of indigenes: He stated that he would not condone fighting the Fulani herdsmen, however he would ensure that policy regarding cattle rearing would be enacted when the NPP party is in governance.

Question from Chief: The chief commended the project team for organizing the debate. He went ahead to inquire if the MP would continue consulting the chief once elected.

Response: Mr. Joseph Owusu (NPP) promised not to abandon the council of chiefs when elected but liaise with them to ensure development in the constituency.

Mr. Peter Marfo (GCPP) promised not to abandon the council of chiefs and involve chiefs in enacting laws and policies in the constituency.

#### Conclusion

The moderator admonished both aspirants to encourage their supporters to maintain peace, before, during and after the elections. The aspirants on their part assured the electorate of willingness to develop the constituency.

#### 6.5 *Kwabre-east Constituency*

The debate was held on November 15, 2016 with the opening prayer kicking off the program. Two parliamentary aspirants were present at the debate: Mr. Osei Boadi Emmanuel of the Convention People's Party (CPP), and Alhaji Adam Inusah, National Democratic Congress (NDC) and incumbent MP, Mr. Osei Boadi, works as an engineer at the Mampong Water and Sanitation Institute while Mr. Inusah has served as a District Chief Executive (DCE) since 2012.

#### Candidates' Presentation of Vision and Programs

Mr. Osei Boadi Emmanuel (CPP) intends to bring development to the people of Kwabre East constituency.

Alhaji Adam Inusah (NDC) intends to resolve challenges in the district.

#### Socio-economic Development: Utilizing the PWD Share of the Common Fund

Mr. Osei Boadi Emmanuel (CPP) would ensure that PWDs have easy access to medication in the area.

Alhaji Adam Inusah (NDC) would ensure that the welfare of PWDs are protected. He pledged to encourage PWDs to learn employable skills; such as soap making and tie and dye.

#### Women and Children

Alhaji Adam Inusah (NDC) opined that there would be a passage of new laws to support widows. Additionally, he would push for the implementation of the child labor law and the abolishing of child marriages.

Mr. Osei Boadi Emmanuel (CPP) promised to establish factories to reduce cases of unemployment among women. He also said women would be trained in employable skills, while children would be exposed to employable skills early in school.

## Women Participation in all Public Life in the Constituency

Mr. Osei Boadi Emmanuel (CPP) intends to provide women with education.

Alhaji Adam Inusah (NDC) agreed with the assertion that what men can do, women can do better thus promised to provide women with employable skills and encourage them to aspire to excel.

## Youth and Employment

Alhaji Adam Inusah (NDC) mentioned that the youth would be given financial assistance to get involved in agriculture.

Mr. Osei Boadi Emmanuel (CPP) mentioned that the youth would be trained in artisanship and be provided with facilities to work

## Education

Alhaji Adam Inusah (NDC) asserted that part of the MP's Common Fund would go into education. He pledged to establish an educational fund and pledged to construct schools to reduce the long distances pupils cover to go to school.

Mr. Osei Boadi Emmanuel (CPP) promised that three-tenth of his salary would go into education of the youth. He also assured orphans that the MP's Common Fund will be used to assist with their education.

## Health

Alhaji Adam Inusah (NDC) promised that at least every village in Kwabre would have a health facility.

## Road Network and Sanitation

Mr. Osei Boadi Emmanuel (CPP) pledged that he would ensure the DCE uses the District Assembly Common Fund judiciously. He also promised to ensure that water bodies are kept clean.

Alhaji Adam Inusah (NDC) promised to lobby with stakeholders to bring development in the form of road construction, water, and sanitation to the constituency.

## Questions from the Audience

*a. How are you going to help the deaf who visit the hospital?*

Mr. Osei Boadi Emmanuel (CPP) pledged to ensure the presence of an interpreter at hospitals to assist the deaf.

Alhaji Adam Inusah (NDC) promised to sponsor a small group of constituents to learn sign language and provide financial assistance for the deaf to pursue education to the higher level.

*b. How are you going to help we artisans in our business? How is the honorable DCE going to help solve unemployed situation in the constituency? How are they going to support the youth in sports?*

Alhaji Adam Inusah (NDC) mentioned that in solving unemployment, he would think through the challenge with constituents and further solicit for capital for those who are artisans, and those undergoing apprenticeship.

Mr. Osei Boadi Emmanuel (CPP) said he would create opportunities for skilled labor and work with traditional authorities to boost and promote youth sports

*c. What are you going to do to ensure that erratic power supply is dealt with?*

Mr. Osei Boadi Emmanuel (CPP) mentioned that his party would build solar energy in town.

Alhaji Adam Inusah (NDC) also mentioned that he would promote solar energy and also lobby for our roads to be constructed.

#### Conclusion

The moderator showed his appreciation to the organizers, audience and the aspirants at the program. The debate ended at 3:45pm after prayers were said by a Muslim Sheik.

#### 6.6 Asante-Akim South (Juaso) Constituency

The debate was a collaboration with NCCE in the Juaso municipal assembly, and began at 10:15am on the November 18, 2016. All aspiring candidates contesting for the parliamentary seat were invited for the debate, however, only CPP and NDC candidates were present for the debate. The project team was informed that the NPP candidate had received a letter from his party's head office in Accra refraining him from participating in any NCCE debate.

The aspirants for the debate were Mr. Kwesi Oteng (CPP) and Mr. De-Graft Forkuo (NDC). Mr. Forkuo is currently the District Chief Executive and Mr. Oteng is professional teacher.

#### Candidates' Presentation of Vision and Programs

Kwasi Agyemang Oteng (CPP) expressed that he stands for peace and therefore admonished all his supporters to ensure peace and stay calm.

De-Graft Forkuo (NDC) promised to develop the constituency.

#### Socio-economic Development: Role of the Member of Parliament (MP)

Mr. De-Graft Forkuo (NDC) explained that the major role of the MP is to liaise between the parliament house and the respective constituency and lobby for developmental projects for the constituency. He opined that the MP should act as a unifier and involve all constituents in carrying out his duties.

Mr. Kwasi Agyemang Oteng (CPP) pledged to ensure developmental projects to the district. Also, he expressed that the MP is part of the law makers of the government and must communicate laws enacted at the parliament to the constituents as well as addressing the concerns of the constituents to the government/ parliament.

#### Education

Mr. De-Graft Forkuo (NDC) expressed that he had already built 33 new schools, 6 classroom blocks and four apartments for teachers and supplied 7000 desks to schools in the constituency. In terms of recreation, he expressed that he had personally supplied 80 sets of jerseys and footballs to the schools in the constituency and when voted into office he would do more of such. Concerning the textbooks and other learning materials, he would ensure that they are distributed to elevate the education level of the constituency.

Mr. Kwasi Agyemang Oteng (CPP) pledged to invest in the building of kindergartens to strengthen the foundation of the education process. He will also enforce the school feeding program and improve it while linking agricultural produce to the program. He expressed that he would support brilliant but needy students within the constituency. He would in consultation with the stakeholders ensure that effective teaching is made affordable to the constituents and lobby for a school bus and new classroom blocks for Banka SHS. Concerning the learning materials allocated to the various schools, he would make sure that the education director would distribute them evenly to all the schools. Since there has been many complaints of the materials not reaching the specified schools, as a teacher by profession, he would follow it up himself to ensure fairness in the distribution of the learning materials.

#### Health (National Health Insurance Scheme)

Mr. Kwasi Agyemang Oteng (CPP) promised to use part of his Common Fund to register the aged and less privileged within the constituency unto the NHIS so that they can have access to the benefits of the scheme. He would also put forward a proposal in parliament to include some more common ailments for the common citizen to benefit.

Mr. De-Graft Forkuo (NDC) argued that the NHIS is working and that when his government retains power they would invest more into it and increase the number of ailments that it covers. When voted into power as an MP, he would support the scheme by providing subsidies for his constituents in obtaining healthcare. He would support the scheme to be very effective in the constituency. He would work on getting more hospital infrastructure for the people in the community.

#### Youth Unemployment

Mr. Kwasi Agyemang Oteng (CPP) promised to gather all the youth into groups and put them in groups of interests; qualifications etc. and then find some capital for them to start their businesses. He would support them with his share of the Common Fund to set up businesses. He also pledged to liaise with banks to secure capital and loans for the teeming youth and other unemployed persons to start up something.

Mr. De-Graft Forkuo (NDC) pledged to encourage the youth to go into farming and agricultural activities. He promised to also support them with his Common Fund. He would also ensure that jobs are assigned to those with the necessary skills and abilities. He would also have a business advisory center for counselling on the various job prospects of the youth. He pledged to also provide start-up capital with his common fund or liaise with banks for soft loans for those who want to set-up their own businesses. Additionally, he would engage the youth in skill training such as saw-dust processing for mattresses, etc.

Utilization of the PWD Share of the Common Fund:

Mr. Kwasi Agyemang Oteng (CPP) promised to lobby for an increment of the PWD share of the Common Fund. He expressed that he would provide free transportation for persons with disabilities and create a market for their artefacts.

Mr. De-Graft Forkuo (NDC) argued that due to the inadequate nature of the quota PWDs receive from the Common Fund, he would make it a point to increase it. Additionally, he would lobby government and other stakeholders to support PWDs with more funds.

Women Empowerment and Childcare

Mr. De-Graft Forkuo (NDC) expressed that he would empower various women's groups through other stakeholders like the Ministry of Gender and Social Protection, District Assembly, and empower them so that they serve their communities by availing themselves to leadership positions. He pledged to engage the Ministry of Gender and Social Protection on issues concerning women and children's abuse in a bid to reduce the level of abuse that females face both at home and at workplaces.

Mr. Kwasi Agyemang Oteng (CPP) explained that he would liaise with the NCCE personnel to educate the women in the communities concerning their rights and duties. He pledged to motivate women to aspire for leadership positions.

Auxiliary Questions:

- a. *How would you improve the educational sector (question was addressed to the NDC candidate)?*

Mr. De-Graft Forkuo (NDC) pledged to liaise with the educational officers and help solve the challenges in the sector.

- b. *What are your plans towards establishing a nursing training center in the constituency?*

Mr. De-Graft Forkuo (NDC) informed constituents that he had already put up a request to the ministry of health and he had also discussed with the chiefs to lease out lands for a nursing training school.

- c. *How would you ensure a peaceful atmosphere before, during and after the elections?*

Mr. Kwasi Agyemang Oteng (CPP) admonished his party supporters not to over jubilate when he is elected as an MP and promised to ensure peace.

Mr. De-Graft Forkuo (NDC) stated that, he always campaigns for peace. He admonished all his electorate to be circumspect in their utterances in order to ensure peace during the election period.

*d. How would you provide buses for the PWDs (question was directed to the CPP candidate)*

Mr. Kwasi Agyemang Oteng (CPP) stated that he will secure loans or use his common fund to purchase the bus for the PWD's.

*e. How would you provide accommodation for SHS students who do not stay in Juanso but want to enrol in the day SHS?*

Mr. De-Graft Forkuo (NDC) promised to liaise with the chiefs for affordable houses for the students.

*f. Is the school feeding program still working?*

Mr. De-Graft Forkuo (NDC) clarified that, the school feeding program was still in operation and more schools (about 38 schools) had been added on to the program. He stated that he had employed more persons in the catering services and this has reduced unemployment in the constituency.

After all these questions were asked, the moderator continued with research questions for the debate and candidates gave their opinions on the following issues.

#### Socio-economic Development: Attracting the Youth into Agriculture

Mr. Kwasi Agyemang Oteng (CPP) promised to make agriculture attractive to the youth. He pledged to help farmers to get the raw materials for the factories to complete the production and manufacturing process. He promised to establish a gari- processing factory in the district to reduce post-harvest losses. He promised to ensure that the school feeding project buys from the local farmers to promote the agricultural sector.

Mr. De-Graft Forkuo (NDC) promised to educate the youth on using modern technology in farming. He pledged to also use a part of his Common Fund to support the agriculture sector. He promised to revive the cocoa and cashew industry in the District.

#### Distribution of Free Textbooks

Mr. De-Graft Forkuo (NDC) stated that he had already assisted in the distribution of 700 uniforms that were provided for free to students by the government. He would provide buses for the educational directorate for the distribution of the government textbooks.

Mr. Kwasi Agyemang Oteng (CPP) promised to liaise with the directorate to ensure effective distribution of the government textbooks. He would personally assist in the distribution on his visit to the constituency.

#### Auxiliary Questions:

These were the questions from the audience after the candidates' submissions:

- a. *How would you improve on the cocoa farming in the district?*

Mr. De-Graft Forkuo (NDC) informed constituents that he had already lobbied for a center in the district for fertilizer application. He stated that the nature of the cocoa farming does not provide the opportunity to employ permanent staff for part-time job. However, 96 persons had been employed on contract basis by the center.

Mr. Kwasi Agyemang Oteng (CPP) promised to ensure that more youth are employed by the cocoa farming center that gives the privilege to the youth to work on vacation periods.

- b. *From your submissions, it seems you are already performing the role of the MP why are you then contesting for the MP's position? (Question was directed to the NDC candidate).*

Mr. De-Graft Forkuo (NDC) indicated that, he is not entitled to the Common Fund which is slated for developmental projects in the constituency. His role as the DCE is to liaise with the MP and help allocate funds for developmental projects. He is contesting for the position of the MP to carry out more developmental projects in the constituency.

#### Conclusion

Both parliamentary candidates in their closing remarks thanked the electorate and admonished them to ensure peace before, during and after the elections. The debate ended at 12:45pm, after prayers were said by a priest from House of Faith.

#### 6.7 *Bosome Freho Constituency*

The Bosome Freho parliamentary debate took place on November 20, 2016. All invited parliamentary aspirants were present except the NDC candidate. The EC official present used the debate platform to educate the public on the voting processes.

The parliamentary aspirants for the debate were: Madam Joyce Adwoa Arko Dei (NPP) Mr. Bright Baffour Asare (PPP) Samuel Yeboah (CPP) candidate and lastly, Dr Nana Yaw Ofori - Kuragu (Independent candidate).

#### Candidate's Presentation of Vision and Programs

Madam Joyce Adwoa Arko Dei (NPP) intends to improve the educational sector of the constituency and enforce the policies of the NPP. She seeks to ensure that the property-owning democracy of the NPP, which ensures that everyone has the chance of wealth creation, is achieved.

Mr. Bright Baffour Asare (PPP) promised to promote the developmental projects of PPP's parliamentary candidate for the constituency.

Mr. Samuel Yeboah (CPP) hoped to help solve all challenges in the constituency.

Dr. Nana Yaw Ofori (Independent) pledged to ensure that the constituency has access to modern toilet facilities and improve on the hospital facilities in the constituency.

Socio-economic Development: PWD Common Fund

*Question: What will you suggest as the best way of utilizing the 2% of DACF allocated to PWDs?*

Madam Joyce Adwoa Arko Dei (NPP) would ensure that those who are entitled to the money have cell phone numbers that would ensure that they receive their money. She pledged that Nana Addo's promise of "One million dollar per constituency" would go a long way to help persons with disabilities. In respect to HIV, she pledged to educate the public against stigmatizing persons living with HIV and ensure PLs also have access to anti-retroviral drugs.

Mr. Bright Baffour Asare (PPP) said he would educate PWDs on what they are entitled to. He also said that, per the constitution, the District Assembly has to give 2 per-cent of the Common Fund to persons with disabilities, and he would ensure that the District Assembly does that. He also promised to establish a Disability Fund for Bosome Fremo and provide employment opportunities for persons with disabilities.

Mr. Samuel Yeboah (CPP), would ensure that persons with HIV receive medical care.

Dr. Nana Yaw Ofori-Kuragu (Independent) pledged to give skill-oriented training to PWDs. He also pledged mass sensitization and education on HIV.

Representation for Persons with Disabilities

*Question: How will you represent PWDs in your constituency if you are elected as MP?*

Mr. Bright Baffour Asare (PPP) would ensure that disabled persons are not discriminated against. He promised to also ensure that monies allocated to the disabled are given to them on time. He also said that he would ensure that the 2% share of the DACF is well distributed to take care of the needs of disabled persons. He further promised to establish a fund for disabled persons. And form a research team to find out how much money would be needed for disabled persons to start their own businesses.

Mr. Samuel Yeboah (CPP) said he would ensure that all disabled persons get their fair share of the Common Fund. He also said that sometimes the government delays in paying the disability fund, and so what the CPP would do is to ensure the regular flow of the money. He further said that he would encourage disabled persons to learn particular skills to gain livelihood.

Dr. Nana Yaw Ofori-Kuragu (Independent) said the Disability Act 2010 was passed to safeguard the interest of disabled persons, and so when he becomes an MP he would ensure that disabled persons have all the necessary support.

Madam Joyce Adwoa Arko Dei (NPP) on her part, said she had already arranged for health screening for disabled persons. She promised to ensure that all constituents get the NHIS card and revealed that the national health insurance would be revived. She also assured the electorate that equipment for sterilizing clinical instruments would be supplied to the various clinics and CHPs compounds.

#### Quality Antenatal Care

*Question: What would you do to ensure that women have quality antenatal care in your constituency?*

Mr. Samuel Yeboah (CPP) promised that when he is elected as MP, he would make sure that the clinic at Asiwa is upgraded to a hospital. He also promised to make sure that all CHPs compounds and hospitals have qualified doctors and nurses to assist pregnant women. To attract nurses and doctors to the district, he promised to construct bungalows for nurses and doctors, who usually are very unwilling to accept postings to the district. He also said that he would make sure that drugs are supplied to all health centers. He also said he would ensure that a surgery theater is constructed in the district to cater for the needs of residents, particularly pregnant women.

Dr. Nana Yaw Ofori-Kuragu (Independent) on his part, said he would ensure that the district receives a hospital, and a good number of CHP compounds. He also promised to provide an ambulance and renew the health insurance cards for the people.

Madam Joyce Adwoa Arko Dei (NPP) promised to work to provide beds for clinics and CHP compounds in the district. She also promised to provide an ambulance for the district and promised that caesarean surgery would be free. She also said that the "one million dollars per constituency" policy would have a component to support maternity care.

Mr. Bright Baffour Asare (PPP) pledged to ensure that pregnant women enjoy free antenatal care. He also revealed that the Asiwa clinic does not have a generator, so what he would do when he is elected is to provide logistics, including a generator, for the clinic. He also promised that he would ensure that the clinic is upgraded to a hospital. He further said that he would negotiate with qualified medical doctors to come work at Nsuaem and Asiwa health centers. He again promised regular free health screening for the youth and elderly people in the district.

#### Youth Programs

*Questions: What ideas do you have for giving the youth hope for the future?*

Dr. Nana Yaw Ofori-Kuragu (Independent) promised to provide scholarships to youth who wish to further their education, since providing the youth with education would enhance their

chances of getting jobs. He also said that since there are no jobs for most of the youth in the district, he would support the “one district, one factory” promise of Nana Akuffo Addo, the presidential candidate of the NPP.

Madam Joyce Adwoa Arko Dei (NPP) said that the “one district, one factory” promise of her party would help provide jobs for the youth. She promised to ensure that the youth are trained in artisan skills, including: catering, baking, carpentry, masonry etc., while those who have high aptitude for academic would be given scholarship to pursue high education abroad. She promised that the youth would also get loans to set up their own business.

Mr. Bright Baffour Asare (PPP) said he would establish youth centers in the district and promised that the center would collate all the applications of graduates in the district to help them access jobs. Making reference to the industriousness of Dr. Papa Kwesi Nduom (his party's flagbearer), he said that his party is already providing jobs, and he would ensure that the youth in the district get jobs to do.

Mr. Samuel Yeboah (CPP) stressed that what the district needs is education. He, therefore, promised to encourage parents to take special interest in the education of their children. He said his party would grant scholarship to needy students to go to school. He also promised that his party would also have a good football team for both males and females as a way of creating job opportunities for the youth.

#### Women's Participation in Public Life

*Question: What would you do to increase women participation in public life at all levels in Ghana, particularly Bosome Freho?*

Madam Joyce Adwoa Arko Dei (NPP) pledged to promote girls' education in the district. She promised a special workshop to encourage young ladies to learn to be in active politics. She also promised that she would help girls in the district to enter professions, such as law, medicine, engineering etc. She finally said that girls must be educated and empowered to minimize their sense of low self-esteem.

Mr. Bright Baffour Asare (PPP) said he would implore the services of NCCE to educate women for them to know their role as Ghanaians. He also promised that there would be scholarship packages for young girls and ladies in the district. He assured the audience that in the district, if ten boys get scholarship, girls would have 15. He also promised other affirmative action programs for girls in the district. He also promised that the bulk of the scholarship scheme would go to females. He finally said that there would be an educational team to support and encourage girls on the relevance of their education.

Mr. Samuel Yeboah (CPP) pledged a scholarship package for girls and said he would provide loans to women to aid them in their businesses.

Dr. Nana Yaw Ofori-Kuragu (Independent) would provide loans for females to do their businesses.

Education: BECE Performance

*Question: The BECE for some time now records low performance in our constituency, what would you do to ensure that the education of pupils is uplifted?*

Mr. Bright Baffour Asare (PPP) pledged to provide temporary bungalows for teachers, provide a district library for the pupils, and organize extra classes for the pupils. He promised to use part of his salary to support teachers to organize extra classes for pupils.

Mr. Samuel Yeboah (CPP) would ensure that teacher absenteeism is stopped. He also promised to provide bungalows for teachers and freely supply logistics such as textbooks, chalks etc through the common fund to enhance teaching and learning.

Dr. Nana Yaw Ofori-Kuragu (Independent) would ensure that a secondary school is constructed for the district. He said there would be special bank rate to enable teachers to take loans from the banks. He also said that there would be free extra classes for students, as well as a regular maintenance of school facilities. He promised to also ensure that the school-feeding program is made effective.

Madam Joyce Adwoa Arko Dei (NPP) would help push the SHS education to four years. She promised to help build more schools in the district, and kindergartens would be built for the various villages in the districts. She promised that teachers would receive their salaries on time, and construct a teachers' quarters to accommodate them.

Agriculture

*Question: What things do you think is not helping our agriculture, and what solution would you provide?*

Mr. Samuel Yeboah (CPP), in responding to the above question, said that farming is the basic occupation for residents in the district, thus promised to provide pesticides to help with farming, and ensure that farmers get good pricing for their cocoa. Finally, he said farmers would be given loans at a good rate.

Dr. Nana Yaw Ofori-Kuragu (Independent) said he would ensure that farmers have their cocoa trees sprayed at no fee, and promised to build a cocoa-buying depot for farmers in the district.

Madam Joyce Adwoa Arko Dei (NPP) said she would reinforce mass spraying for the cocoa trees, and assist farmers to engage in mechanized farming. She also promised to provide pesticides to support cabbage farming, and further assured farmers of getting them a good bank rate for them to take loans from the banks.

Mr. Bright Baffour Asare (PPP) candidate said he would provide cutlasses and other farm equipment to farmers every three months. He would also institute district farmers' day, to reward hardworking farmers.

Auxiliary Questions from audience

- a. *The seat in parliament, is it for the NPP, CPP, PPP, or independent candidate?*
- b. *What would you do to stop teenage pregnancy, and how would you promote their education after they give birth?*
- c. *What laws would they enact to regulate 'galamsey'?*
- d. *What would you do about our road? How would you support mechanized agriculture? How would they promote tourism?*

Madam Joyce Adwoa Arko Dei (NPP) in responding to the above questions, and also summing up her promises to the electorate, said women would receive special education. In relation to 'galamsey', she said her party would reclaim lands destroyed by the activities of 'galamsey'. In terms of tourism, she promised to develop Lake Bosomtwi as a tourist destination in the Ashanti Region.

Mr. Bright Baffour Asare (PPP) promised that his party would provide antenatal care for teenagers who become pregnant. He promised to enact laws to regulate 'galamsey' in the district. He assured the electorate that part of his common fund would go into the construction of roads in the district. He also promised to promote Lake Bosomtwi as a tourist destination site.

Mr Samuel Yeboah (CPP) parliamentary candidate said girls would be properly and regularly counseled to cherish education. He also said there would be rules to govern 'galamsey'. As an MP, he promised to ensure that roads in the district are constructed.

Dr. Nana Yaw Ofori-Kuragu (Independent) said he would establish a district road fund to repair damaged roads in the district. As a lecturer who teaches a course in tourism, he promised to promote tourism in the district.

## CONCLUSION

At the close of the debate, the chairperson presented the closing remarks, bringing the debate to an end at 5:50pm.

Pictures



Cross-section of participants at Nkwanta North Constituency



Parliamentary Aspirants at Asuogyaman Constituency



Parliamentary Aspirants at Akan Constituency



Parliamentary Aspirants at North Dayi Constituency



Cross-section of participants at Akan Constituency



Cross-section of participants at North Dayi Constituency



An aspirant appearing at the venue, Nkwanta



Cross-section of participants at Lower Manya Constituency



Cross-section of participants at Asuogyaman Constituency



Students from the School for the Deaf at Akropong Constituency



An aspirant sharing his vision for the Akan Constituency



Cross-section of participants at Ho West



A participant asking a question at Akropong



SHS students at the debate session, Lower Manya



Cross-section of participants at Nkwanta-North Constituency



Aspirants at Biakoye Constituency



Participants at Ho West Constituency



Media presence at Akropong Constituency



CPP and NDC aspirants at Akropong Constituency



Media coverage at the Akan Constituency

## 7.0 BRONG-AHAFO REGION PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

### 7.1 *Tano-south Constituency*

The debate took place on November 17, 2016. Out of the 4 parliamentary aspirants within the constituency 3 of them (the PPP, CPP and the NPP candidates) were present: Timothy Anabila (PPP), Akwasi Addai Munukum (CPP) and Benjamin Yeboah Sekyere (NPP). Mr. Timothy Anabila (PPP) is a nurse at the Bechem government hospital at the HIV/AIDS, hepatitis and diabetic units. Mr. Akwasi Addai Munukum (CPP) is a trader and businessman while Mr. Benjamin Yeboah Sekyere (NPP) is an accountant by profession.

#### Candidates' Presentation of Vision and Programs

Mr. Timothy Anabila (PPP) pledged to improve the agricultural sector in the constituency by setting up a tomato factory through lobbying of funds from NGOs. He would also solicit for funds from the banks in the first year to within a year. He promised to improve health facilities by providing mobile hospitals and employ sanitary inspectors to ensure proper sanitation in the constituency.

Mr. Akwasi Addai Munukum (CPP) promised to improve the educational sector in the constituency. Also, he promised to improve the agricultural sector and construct a good road network for farmers to ensure easy transport of farm produce. He would liaise with the extension officers to educate farmers on new technologies including preservation methods to improve on farming. He would improve on the health sector. Also, persons with disabilities will be given skills training, and loans for them to set up their own businesses.

Mr. Benjamin Yeboah Sekyere (NPP) stands for good leadership, and pledged to provide job opportunities for the youth and liaise with other stakeholders to improve on the lives of the constituents and develop the constituency as well.

#### Socio-economic Development: PWDs`

Mr. Timothy Anabila (PPP) would ensure that PWDs are provided with special aids such as wheel chairs and artificial legs to ensure easy movement. Also, as part of the PPP policy the party has a slot for supporting the PWDs. He then indicated that there should be no discrimination against persons with disabilities especially in the PPP party. He referred to some aspirants from the party who have been supported by the party's flag bearer with branded vehicles.

Mr. Akwasi Addai Munukum (CPP) would improve on the livelihood of PWDs by providing them with skills training and helping them establish jobs to ensure that their visions are met. He also said that he would register the various PWD groups as a unit and ensure that they have a fair share of government support. Finally, he pledged to improve the livelihood of the PWDs when CPP comes into power.

Mr. Benjamin Yeboah Sekyere (NPP) promised to ensure that PWDs receive their 2% share of the DACF on time. He promised to group them so he can easily identify each grouping and address their needs accordingly. He promised to provide PWDs with free education as stated in his party's manifesto and ensure dedicated airtime (radio/tv) to educate the public on treatment of PWDs. He pledged to also ensure that all social centers are disability friendly. Lastly, he concluded by saying that he would meet with various PWDs committees to address their problems.

#### Maternal Healthcare

Mr. Timothy Anabila (PPP) would ensure that NHIS funds are released on time to the various health facilities. Also, he would ensure that community health nurses embark on a door to door visitation to educate all pregnant women on healthy lifestyle to prevent complications that come with pregnancies.

Mr. Akwasi Addai Munukum (CPP) promised to ensure that women are not overburdened with household chores. He would also reinstate the NHIS and ensure funds are released to various health facilities to help provide good maternal care for the pregnant women.

Mr. Benjamin Yeboah Sekyere (NPP) would reinstate the health insurance policy so that all pregnant women would have access to free maternal care that existed in the previous government under the leadership of ex- president Kuffour. He would have a team that would educate women in the various towns and villages in the constituency to register with the National Health Insurance Scheme. More community health nurses would be employed to work in the villages to improve on the healthcare of constituents. He would also ensure that, a nursing training college is established in the constituency to train more nurses to help eliminate maternal mortality rate.

#### HIV and AIDS

Mr. Timothy Anabila (PPP) said that he would educate the public on living with Persons living with HIV. He would also solicit for funds to train community members to educate and sensitize constituents on HIV/AIDS.

Mr. Akwasi Addai Munukum (CPP) promised to educate the public in order to eradicate HIV/AIDS. He opined that parents would be encouraged to educate their wards on sexual health. He expressed that he would also select some people to educate the public on sexual matters as well and also ensure that health officers educate people on HIV.

Mr. Benjamin Yeboah Sekyere (NPP) indicated that he would ensure that HIV centers are not isolated from the mainstream HIV center. Also, he would encourage AIDS patients to be bold and declare their status to the public and form fun clubs. He would also provide support for the HIV patients. Also, more health workers would be trained to educate the public on HIV.

## Education

Mr. Timothy Anabila (PPP) promised to provide the entire necessary equipment for the study of math's and technology at all the sectors of education. He promised to ensure that jobs are provided for qualified teachers and salaries are paid on time to motivate them. He pledged to ensure that teachers are provided with befitting bungalows to accommodate them. Also, he would ensure that teaching aids including computers are provided in both the primary and secondary schools in the constituency.

Mr. Akwasi Addai Munukum (CPP) promised to encourage skill training in the constituency and help develop that area in the district. He promised to ensure that a technical school is established to promote the study of maths in the constituency. He would also ensure that teachers who have taught for about three years and beyond but have not been paid their salaries, are paid duly to motivate the teachers. He advocated that the old system of education which used the O' level system is employed for effective learning to take place. He would also provide facilities to enhance the educational sector.

Mr. Benjamin Yeboah Sekyere (NPP) would ensure that the study of maths and science is encouraged at the basic level. He would also consult the director of education to implement findings from research that would help promote the study of science and technology. He promised to organize fun- fairs and excursions for pupils in all the villages and schools to educate them on the various job prospects in the science and technology field. He agreed that some educational sectors are not easily accessible to constituents as teachers and students have to walk for about 15km to school every day. In solving this, he mentioned he had already provided bicycles to some teachers in the constituency. He promised to empower head teachers to monitor teachers and sanction the ineffective teachers.

## Women's Involvement

Mr. Timothy Anabila (PPP) mentioned that he would support women to assume political positions and ensure policies that would empower women. He expressed that guidance and counselling centers would be established to groom and educate women to assume positions in the society.

Mr. Akwasi Addai Munukum (CPP) pledged to involve women in decision making and also involve them in governance.

Mr. Benjamin Yeboah Sekyere (NPP) promised to ensure that all government appointees at the District Assemblies include women. He said that this would not be politicized so that all able women can be employed to serve. These women would serve as role models to other young ladies in the constituency. He suggested that at least there should be a course in social studies to empower women and also encourage other young ladies in the society.

## MP's Share of the District Assembly Common Fund

Mr. Timothy Anabila (PPP) said he would advocate for an increase in the MP's Common Fund and

solicit for funds and liaise with the government for good road network. He would also advocate for an increase in common funds for more developmental projects.

Mr. Akwasi Addai Munukum (CPP) promised to advocate for the maintenance of the Common Fund and also an increase in percentage for more developmental projects in the constituency.

Mr. Benjamin Yeboah Sekyere (NPP) advocated for an increase in the percentage of the Common Fund that it is effectively utilised for developmental projects.

### Sanitation

Mr. Timothy Anabila (PPP) pledged to provide mechanized bore-holes in all the villages for access to clean drinking water. Also, bio-gas would be generated from the waste that is disposed-off for energy and gas supply. He expressed that the Zoomlion waste management company would be motivated as well as sanitary inspectors and community health officers, to embark on house to house campaign to educate the public on ensuring sanity in the society. He pledged that KVIP toilet facilities would be provided in all towns and villages.

Mr. Akwasi Addai Munukum (CPP) promised to ensure proper disposal of waste. Also, toilet facilities would be provided in all towns and villages in the constituency.

Mr. Benjamin Yeboah Sekyere (NPP) commended the government for implementing the sanitation week, but urged that it should not be politicized but rather entrust the organization of the sanitation week to the churches and also there should be by-laws to ensure sanitation in the country. He promised to educate the children on good sanitation practices to keep the environment clean. He expressed that the district assembly should also provide dust-bins at the appropriate areas to ensure good sanitation in the constituency.

### Agriculture

Mr. Timothy Anabila (PPP) said that it is stated in his party's manifesto to set up a tomato factory and a cannery for processing pineapple, orange and all other fruits etc. He pledged to set up an irrigation project to support cultivation of raw materials to feed the factory in order to sustain it. He promised that farmers would be given financial support from the bank to expand, purchase basic amenities that would help increase farm produce. Additionally, farmers would also be given technical support by extension officers. He promised to establish a fish pond, animal farms, the PPP had already set up some of these factories in the country and it is stated in the party's manifesto to enhance the agricultural sector in order to provide job opportunities for the youth in the society.

Mr. Akwasi Addai Munukum (CPP) assured the constituents that he would encourage farming at the school level. He opined that farmers would be encouraged to form groups to solicit for funds.

Mr. Benjamin Yeboah Sekyere (NPP) promised to ensure that the one district one dam project is implemented as stated in the party's manifesto. He promised to renovate the dam that was

established by the former MP (Mr. Agyei- Yeboah) and pledged to provide an irrigation system for the youth. He also pledged to set up funds to support the youth in agriculture and encourage all youth who want to engage in farming to register so as to provide them with the fertilizers and basic farm tools for farming. He pledged to liaise with appropriate authorities to lease out lands for farming. He promised to liaise with agro- chemical retailers in the constituency and guarantee on behalf of the young farmers to supply farmers with agro-chemicals on credit even if they fail to settle their bills, he will settle the bill on their behalf. Additionally, he promised to educate the youth to engage in farming and motivate them with prizes for the best youth farmer.

#### Oil And Gas

Mr. Timothy Anabila (PPP) said he would ensure that there is equal allocation of resources and every citizen would get a direct benefit from the oil and gas sector in monetary terms in their account.

Mr. Akwasi Addai Munukum (CPP) mentioned that he would ensure that fuel prices are reduced since we now explore oil in the country and increment would not be rampant. The District Assembly would also have a percentage in the oil and gas sector.

Mr. Benjamin Yeboah Sekyere (NPP) indicated that every citizen in Ghana would be given free education through the oil fund as stated in his party's manifesto. He pledged to ensure that constituents are trained in the technical field related to the oil sector so they could also be employed in the oil and gas sector.

#### Conclusion

The debate was well attended with aspiring candidates urging the electorate to vote. The moderator thanked all those who contributed in several ways to make the debate successful.

#### 7.2 *Asutifi South Constituency*

The debate took place on November 3, 2016 at the Hwediem Senior High School assembly Hall. Out of all the parliamentary aspirants within the constituency who were invited, only two were present: Mrs Cecilia Gyan Amoah (NPP) and Mr. Samuel Adu Kent (PNC).

#### Candidates' Presentation of Vision and Programs

Mrs. Cecilia Gyan Amoah (NPP) pledged to ensure that parents are conscientized to appreciate the value of education. She said she would support women with financial assistance and improve their standard of living. She promised to ensure security, and work on the needs of the PWDs. She also intends to help farmers increase their yield.

Mr. Samuel Adu Kent (PNC) intended to reduce poverty and hunger by improving the standard of living of the people in the constituency. He would also champion the fight against youth unemployment, and also look for financial support for the constituency for developmental projects.

### Socio-economic Development - PWDs and HIV

Mrs. Cecilia Gyan Amoah (NPP) said that she would assess the needs of the disabled and those living with HIV, and address them at parliament, and also ensure that they are provided with financial support. She pledged to ensure that public buildings are disability compliant and promised to encourage PLHIV to visit hospitals for occasional check-up. She further indicated that directors and business owners who would employ such persons would be admonished not to disclose the HIV status of their employees. Further, she said she would ensure that the purpose of the Disability fund would be laid down to persons with disability, and also admonished them to use it for the creation of jobs so that they can get regular income to support themselves. She said she would visit them regularly to monitor whether the fund is being used effectively.

Mr. Samuel Adu Kent (PNC) pledged to ensure mass sensitization on HIV. He promised to support PLs to pay their medical bills to promote their health. He would educate persons on how they could judiciously use the Disability Fund given them. He also said that he would collaborate with the District Assembly to manage the funds and assist PWDs. He would spearhead follow-up visitations on persons with disabilities to monitor how effectively they use the fund given to them. He also said that he would explore other avenues to solicit for more funds for persons with disabilities

### Health

Mrs. Cecilia Gyan Amoah (NPP) indicated that every member of the constituency would be encouraged to register with the National Health Insurance Scheme to enable them to have access to every health facility in the District. She also said she would meet with constituents in all the towns and villages to educate them on the importance and benefits of the National Health Insurance Scheme.

Mr. Samuel Adu Kent (PNC) would liaise with the town and country planning committee in the district to monitor the sanitary practices of constituents in order to prevent them from getting sick. He indicated that every member in the constituency would be admonished to register with the Health Insurance Scheme. Given the nod, health facilities would be made accessible to every member in the district and that members in the district would have equal opportunity to visit any hospital of their choice, and possibly, be treated by any doctor of their choice. He said that persons who are dependent on others for sustenance would be assisted to register with the National Health Insurance Scheme. He said he would ensure a thorough auditing of service providers to ensure that the bills of patients are not inflated. More so, there would be adequate dissemination of service to NHIS holders; any health facility center that fails to provide appropriate care to NHIS holders will be dealt with accordingly.

### Women and Maternal Care

Mrs. Cecilia Gyan Amoah (NPP) pledged that clinics would be provided in remote areas in the districts. She promised to educate women in the district on the importance of antenatal care.

She said she would also ensure that qualified and competent medical health persons are employed in the new clinics that would be built.

Mr. Samuel Adu Kent (PNC) said he would ensure that nurses are educated to take proper care of all pregnant women.

#### Youth Employment

Mrs. Cecilia Gyan Amoah (NPP) reiterated the position of her party that every district would have one factory. She also said that since the district produces ginger in large quantities, there would be a ginger factory in the district that would produce ginger drinks. She promised to help farmers access the best locations for farming and also provide them with soft loans. She also said that there would be skills training for women in businesses such as soap making, beadwork, patch-work, etc. Also, self-employment would be encouraged since there are few government jobs in the district.

Mr. Samuel Adu Kent (PNC) mentioned that there would also be communication with foreign investors for assistance on job creation. He also said that members of the constituency would be trained in craft making. He said he would also assist constituents to get loans and other financial support.

#### Education

Mrs. Cecilia Gyan Amoah (NPP) would upgrade school science laboratories with modern equipment. Also, incentives would be provided to girls to study math and science. She promised to provide incentives to teachers who teach math and science and ensure qualified teachers are employed to teach the subject. She pledged to set up ICT centers in the District and also encourage remedial work for science and math students during weekends.

Mr. Samuel Adu Kent (PNC) said there would be educational reforms to train new teachers and provide teaching and learning materials. He would organize workshops for teachers and ensure teachers would also be registered to learn topics for lessons ahead of the time that schools would re-open. He promised to build Information Technology laboratories (ICT) for pupils at basic and secondary school levels. He pledged to make their local language the medium of instruction at the basic level. Again, he said that incentives such as accommodation would be provided for teachers and salaries of teachers would also be paid on time.

#### Women's Participation

Mrs. Cecilia Gyan Amoah (NPP) pledged to eliminate intimidation in the constituency so that women have an equal playfield to also assume positions in the District. Furthermore, she pledged to encourage positive thinking about women where women would be seen as co-equal with men in the community.

Mr. Samuel Adu Kent (PNC) was of the view that making basic school education easily accessible to women would empower them, hence encouraging them to participate in decision-making.

He also said that members of the constituency would be educated to embrace women empowerment. Similarly, members who unduly impede the education and empowerment of women would be dealt with by the appropriate authorities. Additionally, he would allow for female role models to mentor the youth.

#### Agriculture

Mrs. Cecilia Gyan Amoah (NPP) said the youth would be educated and encouraged to engage in farming and given incentives to motivate them as well. She would admonish the youth to form co-operative unions to support each other. She promised to make available tractors to ploughlands without any cost to farmers. She promised to provide fertilizers and soft loans to farmers.

Mr. Samuel Adu Kent (PNC) said that cash crop cultivation would be promoted. He would encourage the youth to engage in farming, in addition, to lobbying for loan facilities for farmers. He also mentioned that farmers would be educated to adopt new technologies to make farming easy. He stated that the Common Fund quota for farmers would be made known to farmers so as to make it attractive to other youth in the District.

#### Oil and Gas

Mrs. Cecilia Gyan Amoah (NPP) would ensure that there is transparency in the management of the oil sector. Also, she said the NPP government would consult other nations, such as Norway, which has oil and learn from them on how they have been able to use it to ensure development. She mentioned that the NPP government would set up effective committees to monitor the oil fund and these committees would be accountable to the government.

Mr. Samuel Adu Kent (PNC) stated that the PNC government would set up a body with expertise and in-depth knowledge about oil and gas.

#### Peace and Security

Mrs. Cecilia Gyan Amoah (NPP) admonished parliamentary aspirants to allow the police service to work effectively. She also said she would educate supporters on the effects that violence can have on the district because normally, investors would rather not invest in any business opportunity in an unsafe district and this would hinder development.

Mr. Samuel Adu Kent (PNC) said that in order to promote peace, law and order the police should ensure it is maintained in the constituency. He stated that the law will deal with anyone who defaults regardless of the person's position or political affiliations.

#### Conclusion

In conclusion, the moderator showed his appreciation to the project team, invited guests as well as the parliamentary aspirants. The parliamentary aspirants on their part, did not only call on the electorate to vote for their respective parties but also admonished the electorate to ensure peaceful elections.

### 7.3 Kintampo-north Constituency

The debate took place on November 7, 2016 at the Community Center in Kintampo. The Moderators were Mr. Antwi-Biosiako a retired educationist and Mr. Moses Okine, an evangelist (Local Moderator). All the parliamentary aspirants within the constituency were invited however only the NDC, NPP and CPP candidates honoured the invitation: Mr. Kwesietu-Bonde (NDC), Charles Nkangmah (NPP) and George Mensah (CPP). The incumbent MP is an Agribusiness and rural development consultant. Mr. Charles Nkangmah (NPP) is a professional teacher and a research officer. Mr. George Mensah (CPP) is also a trained teacher.

#### Candidates' Presentation of Vision and Programs

Mr. Charles Nkangmah (NPP) requested that the electorate vote for him because he is the right candidate.

Mr. George Mensah (CPP) stands for all and does not discriminate, he believes that all constituents have a common destiny.

Mr. Kwesietu-Bonde (NDC) believes in changing lives and transforming Ghana so he admonished the constituents to vote him into power so he can use his position to transform their lives.

#### Socio-economic Development: PWDs

Mr. Charles Nkangmah (NPP) suggested that the fund given to the PWDs should address the needs of the disabled persons and he would also educate them to invest in improving their lives. He said he would also ensure that as an ex-officio member of the District Assembly, the amount to be given to the PWDs is determined by the PWDs and not by the Assembly to improve their livelihood. He pledged to attend PWDs meetings and encourage other persons with disabilities who are not registered members of the Association of Disabled Persons to also join the association. Also, he would ensure that all disability acts and other laws that have not been implemented effectively will be enacted to take care of their educational needs and health care.

Mr. George Mensah (CPP) pledged to set up training centers for disabled persons to foster job creation He pledged to provide PWDs with capital to set up their own businesses and educate them as well so they can also assume higher positions in the society. He would also seek for sponsorship from NGOs to support them as well.

Mr. Kwesietu-Bonde promised to support the disabled with the Youth Enterprise support set by the NDC government. He pledged to assist the youth to write good proposal to solicit for funds to set up their own businesses. He would ensure that their 2% share of the DACF is given to them in a timely manner.

#### HIV

Mr. Charles Nkangmah (NPP) would ensure that the anti-retroviral drugs are freely provided to patients and also educate the constituents to test to know their HIV status. Also, patients would

be educated to take the drugs when it is administered to them.

Mr. George Mensah (CPP) suggested that the drugs should be very affordable to patients and if possible, made free to patients with or without health insurance. He opined that the National Health Insurance Scheme should also cover the health bills of patients as well. He highlighted the need to educate patients who refuse to take this medication on the pros and cons of taking the medication to improve their health and also reduce the transmission rate.

Mr. Kwesietu-Bonde (NDC) also opined that anti-retroviral drugs should not be sold to the HIV patients. He suggested that patients should be motivated with incentives to go for medication to prolong their lives.

### Maternal Health

Mr. Charles Nkangmah (NPP) would make sure that members would be educated and training for health specialists would be provided. He pledged that pregnant women would be given special care. He promised to further provide refresher training for nurses on healthcare for pregnant women. He stated that he would ensure that his MP's common fund would be allotted based on the needs of his constituents to ensure continuity in providing adequate health facilities to improve antenatal care.

Mr. George Mensah (CPP) promised to task nurses to visit pregnant women regularly to monitor the pregnancy. He mentioned that all health persons who are posted to remote areas would be provided with incentives as a form of motivation. He pledged to set up funds to train health officers and pre-post them to rural areas during schooling; Upon agreeing to the posting they would be given some incentives during the training period and also sponsored for training. He promised to ensure that antenatal drugs are available at all the health centers.

Mr. Kwesietu-Bonde (NDC) would ensure that all electoral areas are provided with health facilities for effective healthcare of pregnant women. He would also improve accommodation of health persons who are posted to rural areas by furnishing their rooms with his common fund or solicit for funds from donor partners. He pledged to improve upon road networks in the rural areas in the constituency for easy transportation in case of emergencies to save lives of the pregnant women. He promised to educate women to visit the hospital regularly during pregnancy and ensure that the health centers have adequate health infrastructure to cater for the health needs of the pregnant women. He promised to examine the concerns of women and address them upon deliberations and help resolve any issue pertaining to quality antenatal healthcare.

### Employment

Mr. Charles Nkangmah (NPP) stated the "one-district-one factory" project as stated in the manifesto of the NPP presidential aspirant would curb unemployment in the district.

Mr. George Mensah (CPP) would liaise with the chiefs in the municipality to release lands to the youth for farming, after which he will consult agriculture extension officers to give technical advice to them based on soil fertility tests on what to cultivate on the land. He promised to provide free seedlings for farming and encourage the cultivation of cash-crops such as mango, cashew, and groundnut. He pledged to liaise with chiefs and all affluent members in the constituency to lobby for job positions in the government sector.

Mr. Kwesietu-Bonde (NDC) would help set-up agricultural based business enterprises in the municipality. He also stated that he would solicit for funds to establish a yoghurt factory and a cassava factory to provide jobs for the youth and assist the youth with capital to establish their own businesses and pay off at a later date. He pledged to lobby for most of the youth to be employed in the government sector as well.

### Sanitation

Mr. Charles Nkangmah (NPP) pledged to ensure that appropriate drainage systems and proper waste disposal systems are provided for constituents. He promised to organize special awards for communities that keep their environment clean to motivate others to also keep their environment clean.

Mr. George Mensah (CPP) mentioned that he would educate members through the media, NHIS teams, and visit churches on keeping their environment clean. He stated that he would also liaise with the chiefs for a piece of land to be used as a dump-site at the outskirts of the town and also ensure that prompt payment is made to the appropriate authorities in charge of disposal of waste so they can work effectively.

Mr. Kwesietu-Bonde (NDC) said he would ensure that dustbins are placed at vantage points in all towns and villages in the municipality. He would also monitor the authorities in charge of waste disposal to work effectively. He promised to educate members on keeping their environment clean to reduce the cost of sanitation so that those funds can be used to provide other necessary amenities in the constituency.

### Agriculture

Mr. Charles Nkangmah (NPP) said that the major problem he stated was the processing of the raw materials and in solving this, together with the NPP party he would establish one factory in the district as stated in his party's manifesto. He would then help to determine which factory to be established in the constituency. He will also ensure that farmers have a ready market for their farm produce and also eliminate unnecessary taxes on farm produce. He pledged to create access to facilities to improve farming.

Mr. George Mensah (CPP) stated that the major problem was with accessing the farm and transporting the produce to the market areas, therefore, he would pressurise the ministry of roads and highways to provide a good road network in the constituency. Also, he would ensure that a mango fruit processor is established in Kintampo for mango processing.

Mr. Kwesietu-Bonde (NDC) indicated that the major problem was the provision of input (funds) to support the farmers and a ready market to sell farm produce. He also said he had been assisting mango producers in securing soft loans and he promised to support other farmers in securing loans for their farms. He pledged to organize farmers and solicit for interest-free loans to support them. He also stated that he would re-establish the maize market that was previously in existence for farmers to improve the livelihood of farmers.

#### Oil and Gas

Mr. Charles Nkangmah (NPP) expressed that gas would be refined for useful purposes. He promised to educate constituents at the Assembly level on the content law on oil and gas so that, the constituency can also have a fair share from the oil and gas exploration.

Mr. George Mensah (CPP) stated that there would be establishment of a second refinery that will provide an additional \$5million and this money would be used for developmental projects in the district. He promised to raise a motion in parliament to re-visit the deal with the partner countries to increase the percentage rate of the nation from the oil and gas exploration to enhance national development as well as developmental projects in the constituency.

Mr. Kwesietu-Bonde (NDC) mentioned that he would educate members of the constituents including chiefs on the by-laws governing oil and gas exploration and also inform constituents on the new site that has been discovered for oil exploration in Kintampo. The youth would as well be encouraged to take studies in oil and gas exploration so that they can be employed to work in the new oil and gas companies that would be set up in the district very soon.

#### Peace and Security

Mr. Charles Nkangmah (NPP) admonished all the electorate to maintain peace and security in the constituency while supporting the security system to ensure peace and security. He further promised to educate constituents on maintaining law and order during and after the elections.

Mr. George Mensah (CPP) admonished his supporters not to engage in any violent acts. He also admonished police officers to punish anyone who violates the laws on peace and security without political interferences.

Mr. Kwesietu-Bonde (NDC) used the platform to educate his supporters to maintain peace and avoid violence before, and after the elections.

#### Perception of Corruption in Parliament

Mr. Charles Nkangmah (NPP) would ensure that all issues of perceived corruption would be queried by appropriate authorities to help curb corruption. He promised to ensure that the institutions that check on corruption are not influenced by any political party so that they can work effectively.

Mr. George Mensah (CPP) would ensure that the media act is implemented when elected as an MP for the constituency.

Mr. Kwesietu-Bonde pledged to ensure that state institutions that are established to fight corruption are well resourced. He pledged to ensure that the bill that solves corruption is enacted to ensure transparency and accountability in the country.

#### Conclusion

The moderator thanked the audience, the organizers, all invited guests as well as the aspirants for making the debate a success.



## 8.0 NORTHERN REGION PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE

The parliamentary debates in the Northern Region were expected to take place in three constituencies, namely: Saboba, Kpandai and Chereponi. However, due to certain challenges, the debates only took place in Saboba and Kpandai. This section of the report presents proceedings of the debate in these constituencies. It covers the candidate's presentation of vision and programs for the constituencies. Due to certain upheavals, time was not allowed for the audience to ask aspirants questions.

### 8.1 *Kpandai Constituency*

The debate took place on November 14, 2016 at the Kpandai Basic School Park. The Moderators were; Mohammed Suhuyini Shaharan (CDD) and the NCCE Director (Local Moderator). All the parliamentary aspirants within the constituency were present: Mr. Matthew Nyindam, (NPP), Mr. Likpalimor Kwajo Tawiah (NDC), Muniru Salifu Ali Nnan (PPP), Donkor Eric Nipani (APC) and Inusah Rashid (CPP). The incumbent MP is a trained teacher and serves on the committees of Poverty Reduction Strategy, Education, Youth, Sports and Culture and the Food, Agriculture and Cocoa Affairs committee in parliament. Both the NDC candidate, who is a former MP for Kpandai and CPP candidate are trained teachers. The APC candidate is a farmer while the PPP candidate who is the youngest candidate (at age 26) is a business consultant and a farmer.

#### Candidate's Presentation of Vision and Programs for the Constituency

Mr. Matthew Nyindam, (NPP) pledged to tackle issues on health, youth unemployment and improve agriculture within Kpandai.

Mr. Likpalimor Kwajo Tawiah (NDC) proposes to focus on challenges associated with education, youth employment, agriculture and water.

Mr. Muniru Salifu Ali Nnan, (PPP) promised to use his business skills to bring NGOs on board to help develop Kpandai.

Mr. Donkor Eric Nipani, (APC) plans to address health and education issues within Kpandai.

Mr. Inusah Rashid, (CPP) intends to prioritize education and attract teachers to accept postings to Kpandai and tackle youth unemployment.

#### Socio-economic Development: Infrastructure Development

Mr. Matthew Nyindam, would ensure his district is given one million dollars for development as enshrined in the NPP 2016 election manifesto.

Mr. Muniru Salifu Ali Nnan, (PPP) also said he would work on the roads in Kpandai.

Mr. Donkor Eric Nipani, (APC) said he would make sure the roads in Kpandai are maintained in good conditions.

#### Health

Mr. Matthew Nyindam, (NPP) pledged to provide motorbikes, ambulances and anti-snake vaccines to the health centers. His party would allow residents to visit the hospital free. His government will decouple management of the NHIS to increase productivity.

Mr. Likpalimor Kwajo Tawiah (NDC) said his government would make sure that access to health care is improved. He indicated that his government is putting up a big Nursing Training School in Nkancheda Kpandai to cater for the health needs of the community.

Mr. Muniru Salifu Ali Nnan, (PPP) also said he would put in measures to prevent diseases such as malaria and cholera. He would pay attention to the facility gap that health centers within Kpandai face.

Mr. Donkor Eric Nipani, (APC) pledged to ensure that about 90% of Kpandai residents are registered on the NHIS. He would make sure that the sanitation problem of Kpandai is tackled. He would also train people to help sensitize and take care of mentally unstable persons.

Mr. Inusah Rashid, (CPP) mentioned that his party would ensure that there is free access to healthcare. He also stated that his party would also improve upon the NHIS.

#### Disability

Mr. Matthew Nyindam, (NPP) said he would ensure that any public structure/facility that would be put up shall have provisions for the physically challenged. He again stated that he would ensure that the quota for the disabled in the DACF shall be duly given them. Lastly, he said his party shall provide free education for persons living with disability.

Mr. Likpalimor Kwajo Tawiah (NDC) pledged to mainstream PWDs into the governance structure. He promised to ensure that the quota of disabled persons from the Common Fund would be used purposefully among other allocations that would be added. He pledged to ensure that the common fund provides educational support to the disabled.

Mr. Muniru Salifu Ali Nnan, (PPP) indicated that he would perform more surgeries for the blind when given the nod. He said he was working with an organisation on improving the livelihood of persons living with epilepsy and mental illness and he would use that platform to assist more constituents when voted.

Mr. Donkor Eric Nipani, (APC) would champion free education for the disabled and motivate them to learn various skills and also be involved in sports. He promised to give equal opportunities to PWDs in public service.

Mr. Inusah Rashid, (CPP) will ensure the enrolment of persons with disabilities into the public service. His government would provide free health service to PWDs right from childhood to adulthood. He indicated that his party would financially also support parents of children who are disabled.

### Education

Mr. Matthew Nyindam, (NPP) would re-introduce teachers allowance to motivate teachers. He pledged that his government would put in more allowances for teachers who will be posted to deprived communities and provide requisite facilities to teachers.

Mr. Likpalimor Kwajo Tawiah (NDC) promised to ensure strict supervisory and monitoring roles to ensure teachers are at post. He promised to ensure the school management committees are strengthened for increased output. He expressed that he would make the teaching environment conducive for the teachers.

Mr. Muniru Salifu Ali Nnan, (PPP) would ensure that the bad roads which deter teachers from accepting postings to Kpandai are worked on. He promised to ensure proper monitoring and supervision of teachers to make sure they stay at post teaching. He mentioned his party would enforce the FCUBE program and also make it continuous as well. He promised to establish the school “police system” in order to monitor teacher and student performance.

Mr. Donkor Eric Nipani, (APC) would make it a point to motivate the teachers to increase their output. He pledged to provide appropriate TLM's to the schools and provide infrastructure for the teachers to be accommodated. He pledged the construction of a modern library for both teachers and students to broaden their knowledge. Concerning recreation, he said he would strengthen and support the Kpandai football team and register them in the division two football league. He pledged to create two playing parks for school children to play on during school breaks and weekends. Lastly, he would establish a school league for the junior high and senior high teams to harness their talents in handball and football through recreation.

Mr. Inusah Rashid, (CPP) mentioned that his government would make sure that when a teacher is posted, within one month their salary would be paid. Additionally, he stated that his government would not tax the teacher's salary and would ensure that teachers get good conditions of service and end of year bonuses to compensate for their hard work.

### Youth Employment

Mr. Matthew Nyindam, (NPP) said his government would ensure that all fresh graduates who are going to be employed in the public service would be granted tax exemption. His government would provide credit and financial support to all fresh graduates going into entrepreneurship.

Mr. Likpalimor Kwajo Tawiah (NDC) pledged to provide farming centers to employ the youth into mechanized farming. He indicated that his government has a teaching, health and sanitation

module to employ the youth. He said his government would give incentives to the youth to go into farming activities on their own.

Mr. Muniru Salifu Ali Nnan, (PPP) mentioned that his government would ensure that the youth employment policy is run devoid of government to make sure that all the youth are captured and not only those affiliated with the ruling government.

Mr. Donkor Eric Nipani, (APC) would inspire the youth to view agriculture and introduce the Ghana Universities Programs to replace the ineffective Youth Employment program. He promised to support youth in agriculture and facilitate rubber industries such as gari industries.

Mr. Inusah Rashid, (CPP) mentioned that his government would launch the Ghana Emergency Performance Project which would employ about 2 million people. Additionally, his government would support the youth with credit facilities to entice them into agriculture. He said his government plans on setting up industries to employ many of the youth without jobs.

#### Oil and Gas Fund

Mr. Matthew Nyindam, (NPP) said his government shall ensure that 1 million dollars would be allocated to Kpandai to cater for its infrastructural needs. Additionally, he pledged to lobby for projects from the oil fund.

Mr. Likpalimor Kwajo Tawiah (NDC) pledged to ensure that allocated revenue that is due Kpandai is properly used and accounted for to attract more of such funds. He opined that his government will utilize the fund to expand agriculture and set up the Heredity Fund under the oil fund to secure the future of the nation.

Mr. Muniru Salifu Ali Nnan, (PPP) said his government would ensure that the oil revenues are managed by Ghanaians themselves so they can channel the proceeds into the country's needs other than fall on foreigners to harness it on our behalf

Mr. Donkor Eric Nipani (APC) pledged that his government would train more personnel in order to avoid foreigners managing the resource.

Mr. Inusah Rashid (CPP) mentioned that money from the oil fund would be channelled into health, education and the agricultural sector. He expressed that his government would ensure that constituents have free access to health and education from the fund.

#### Agriculture

Mr. Matthew Nyindam (NPP) opined that his government would provide a dam to every village and move farmers into irrigation to address the dry season farming challenge. He pledged that his government would bring in tractors and planters to mechanize agriculture, making it more attractive to the youth.

Mr. Likpalimor Kwajo Tawiah (NDC) promised that his government would continue to subsidise farm inputs for farmers, in addition to establishing fish farming for the people of Kpandai. He pledged that his government would provide improved breeds through artificial insemination to support those in animal husbandry to increase their production.

Mr. Muniru Salifu Ali Nnan (PPP) indicated that his government would modernize agriculture by using the state purchasing power to buy the agricultural products from the farmers to create an immediate market to farmers.

Mr. Donkor Eric Nipani (APC) promised to ensure that electorate access farm credit and would ensure that farmers get free access to farm mechanization. He pledged to revamp the irrigation facilities in Kpandai and manage the land tenure systems that affects agriculture. Additionally, his government will also provide markets for the farmers.

Mr. Inusah Rashid (CPP) mentioned that his government would ensure food security and improve the nutrition of the people. He opined that his party would facilitate and revamp irrigation farming. Additionally, his government would provide financial support to farmers. He promised to reduce the cost of fertilizer and the cost of ploughing drastically.

#### Election Security

Mr. Inusah Rashid (CPP) mentioned that his party has liaised with the EC to employ credible officials for the election and also to make sure that election materials are delivered to the polling stations on time. He had also urged his supporters not to indulge in the use of unsavoury words and statement that can bolster violence.

Mr. Muniru Salifu Ali Nnan (PPP) said his party is treading on the peaceful process by going to the law courts during the recent disqualification of their flag bearer hence the party as a whole cherishes and endorses peace before, during and after the elections.

#### Conclusion

The debate was very successful due to the presence of all the candidates on the platform. There were no questions from the audience based on the advice of the District Police commander who sensed high tensions if questions were allowed.

#### 8.2 Saboba Constituency

The debate took place on November 7, 2016 at the Saboba Cluster of Schools Park. The Moderator were: Murtala Kpambe and a representative from Radio Gaaki. All the parliamentary aspirants within the constituency were present: Honourable Joseph Bukari Nikpe, (INCUMBENT NDC), Joseph Amuzu Ngmangnag (INDEPENDENT), Abdul Aziz Issah (CPP) and Honourable Charles Binipom Bintin (NPP).

### Candidate's Presentation of Vision and Programs

Mr. Joseph Bukari Nikpe, (NDC) pledged to attract more development partners to Saboba and tackle issues on education and health and agriculture.

Mr. Joseph Amuzu Ngmangnag (INDEPENDENT) sought to represent the people by improving upon agriculture within Saboba and ensure equity in government projects and contracts.

Mr. Abdul Aziz Issah (CPP) promised to engage stakeholders and develop Saboba.

Mr. Charles Binipom Bintin (NPP) plans to address youth unemployment, health and education issues and develop Saboba.

### Socio-economic Development: Water

Mr. Joseph Bukari Nikpe, (NDC) who was seeking re-election, promised to construct more boreholes within the community.

Mr. Abdul Aziz Issah (CPP) promised to bring on board more NGOs and other organizations to provide water for the community as World Vision has been doing. Due to the presence and flow of the River Oti through Saboba, he will make sure that they will purify it and make it safe for the people to use. He stated that he will bring in more stakeholders to address the issue of water. He promised to provide mechanized boreholes to serve all the communities.

Mr. Charles Binipom Bintin (NPP) made it known to the constituents that his party plans to provide a dam for every community and he would champion that when he gets the nod. He said that his party had promised \$1 million per year per constituency to support development aside from the DACF, he said he would utilize his share of the DACF to support communities in drilling mechanized boreholes and potable water.

### Education

Mr. Joseph Bukari Nikpe, (NDC) said he had initiated a Secondary Education Improvement Project which is giving assistance to the schools. Out of this project, two students have benefitted through scholarships so far and he promised to increase the numbers when voted into power. He said he had used his Common Fund to support teaching and learning material and he had improved access to textbooks from 4 students to 1 textbook to 1 student per 1 textbook within the schools. He pledged to do more in his next term.

Mr. Joseph Amuzu Ngmangnag (INDEPENDENT) pledged to consult stakeholders of Ghana Education Service(GES) and Ghana National Association of Teachers(GNAT) to address the falling standards of education.

Mr. Abdul Aziz Issah (CPP) promised to establish a yearly awards scheme for the best performing school to motivate the other schools to put in their best performance. He told the constituents that he would award scholarships every year to the best performing student in the constituency.

His party would make sure that schools would be well equipped with teaching and learning materials (TLM's) for better performances. He would ensure that there would be an annual meeting for all teachers in the constituency to motivate and encourage them to put in their best. He also promised to give teachers in deprived areas added incentives to motivate them to put in their best for a positive increase in the Saboba's education.

Mr Charles Binipom Bintin (NPP) would organize education for a with the stakeholders to discuss better education performance. He would enforce effective supervision among the teaching staff. He said when he is voted for as MP, he would assist and put measures in place to instill discipline in the education sector so the performances would improve. He stated that his government would make SHS free for all to attend so that students can concentrate on their books and not be labouring elsewhere in a bid to pay school fees.

#### Disability and Physically Challenged

Mr. Joseph Bukari Nikpe, (NDC) said his government is currently serving 17,083 PWDs and he would increase the numbers when given the nod. He has also added more beneficiaries on the LEAP program and has registered many of them on the NHIS without a charge and he would continue to do more of such interventions.

Mr. Abdul Aziz Issah (CPP) promised that the CPP government would ensure that all contracts awarded would include provisions for PWDs so that they can also get access to such services. The CPP has also indicated that they will provide free healthcare for PWDs. He said his party under their manifesto would make sure that PWDs, women and children (vulnerable groups) are catered for. At the District Assembly level, he would ensure that their representatives are chosen in consultation with their associations and if possible increase their representation at the assembly. He promised to give training to PWDs to help them acquire skills for their livelihoods.

Mr. Charles Binipom Bintin (NPP) promised to lobby for PWDs and their children to be put on the LEAP program. He told constituents that he introduced in 2006, the percentage for PWDs within the DACF as the then minister for local government and he would do more when given the opportunity. He mentioned that he had already built a resource centre for PWDs and had supplied a desktop computer and a motorbike to them and would do more when given the nod as MP. He promised to use a chunk of his share of the DACF to establish some skills training centers for PWDs to help them acquire skills to assist them earn a living.

#### Women Issues

Mr. Joseph Bukari Nikpe, (NDC) said his government had set up the Ghana Social Opportunities Project (GSOP) that empowers women to get employment during the dry season to either assist in roads or construction of dams etc. in order to earn a livelihood during that season. He said he had put women into groups and had set up investment accounts that had accrued over 2 billion old cedis (GH¢ 200,000) which they borrow from, to do business themselves. He mentioned that under the ring project, women are being empowered to farm soya beans and groundnuts

and he promised to increase the access when given the nod.

Mr. Abdul Aziz Issah (CPP) pledged to ensure that girl child education issues would be addressed and that women would be trained to acquire skills. With other development partners and NGO's, he promised to empower and train women in soap making and give them loans so they can do business to earn a living.

Mr. Joseph Amuzu Ngmangnag (INDEPENDENT) he promised to educate women and assist them in acquiring loans to engage in farming and other businesses so they can have a meaningful life.

#### Oil and Gas

Mr. Joseph Bukari Nikpe, (NDC) said he had personally secured two scholarships through GETFUND for members of Saboba to attend the University of Leeds to study oil and gas for onward employment at the Atuabo gas plant and he will increase the beneficiaries when given the nod. He told the constituents that he has also secured 2000 gas cylinders through the Ministry of Petroleum from the oil and gas fund for the women in Saboba. He promised to increase the quantum of student support with the oil and gas fund. He said his government will target the technical institutions to fully utilize the oil and gas resources adequately.

Mr. Joseph Amuzu Ngmangnag (INDEPENDENT) indicated that the proceeds from the oil and gas will be distributed fairly to the constituents of Saboba.

Mr. Abdul Aziz Issah (CPP) said his party would revise the current agreement on the oil and gas to enable the nation to benefit more from it. He said a CPP government would make sure that the resources that are derived from the oil and gas will be channelled into the economy. Again, a CPP government will retool and revamp the Tema Oil refinery and expand its capacity as well. If voted as an MP, he will bring in developing partners to establish a gas station to make gas accessible for the people of Saboba.

Mr. Charles Binipom Bintin (NPP) made it clear that through the oil fund, his party's government would give 4 million Ghana cedis to every district aside from the District Assembly Common Fund (DACF) which will strictly go into infrastructure development. He said his government will utilize the gas efficiently and will not import from Nigeria anymore.

#### Youth Employment

Mr. Joseph Amuzu Ngmangnag (INDEPENDENT) promised to identify the youth who are unemployed and know their educational background to be able to know the particular jobs they need. He said he would educate them on government interventions such as Savanna Accelerated Development Authority (SADA) so they can access them. He promised to assist the youth with his share of the DACF to be able to go into agriculture especially rice, soya bean and yam farms.

Mr. Abdul Aziz Issah (CPP) said the CPP government would improve agriculture and make it very attractive to the youth. A CPP government would produce subsidies on farm inputs in addition to bringing developing partners on board to solve job creation challenges. He would also ensure that the youth are empowered and trained to acquire skills. He will initiate an irrigation system through the river Oti to ensure all year-round farming.

Mr. Charles Binipom Bintin (NPP) He said his party would establish a factory in each district and also construct a dam in every village to enable the youth to go into dry season gardening for farming to be an all year-round activity. He mentioned his party would expand the youth employment programme. Listing a couple of things in his party's manifesto, he said the NPP government will establish the Northern Development Fund to give employment to the youth and would also establish the Zongo (slum) Fund. He promised to encourage young graduates to form some Community Based Organizations (CBO's) and introduce them to NGOs for some credit facilities and support so they can set up their own businesses. He lastly said he will support the youth with part of his share of the Common Fund to go into agriculture to create employment for them.

#### Health

Mr. Abdul Aziz Issah (CPP) noted that since typhoid is the dominant disease affecting the people of Saboba, he would put mechanisms in place together with development partners to revert this challenge. He promised to expand the existing CHPS compound and equip them with more facilities.

#### Culture

Mr. Abdul Aziz Issah (CPP) said that since the people of Saboba do not have a festival to celebrate, he would institute a festival with a yearly celebration to be able to attract development partners, donors, tourists which will bring income and development to Saboba through their attendance and participation. He will do this in collaboration with the chiefs and traditional leaders.

#### Agriculture

Mr. Abdul Aziz Issah (CPP) pledged to educate farmers on the weather pattern and best crops to cultivate for plentiful harvest.

#### Administration

Mr. Abdul Aziz Issah (CPP) promised to ensure that the MP establishes an office in the constituency so that the people can have access to the MP at all times.

#### Conclusion

The team decided to skip questions from the audience due to a warning from the District Police Commander that tensions were heightened and some members wanted to ask personal questions that could cause some commotion in the programme and the constituency at large. The

candidates pledged their full support for peaceful elections and urged all electorates to vote for them.

### 8.3 *Chereponi Constituency*

Chereponi has been a swing constituency with its parliamentary seats alternating between NDC and NPP. The constituency has also been flagged as a potential flashpoint for electoral related violence due to major conflicts that occurred in recent years. The location of Chereponi tends to fuel such conflicts as residents are closer to neighbouring Togo and sometimes seek refuge there after causing confusion in their home districts.

The following candidates took part in the Chereponi debate: Mr. Azumah Namoro Sanda vying for the Chereponi seat on the ticket of the NPP. Mr. Samuel Abdulai Jabanyite represents the NDC. Daniel Musah Nanyame contesting the position as PPP candidate. Eugene Tamado Koffi Kan Bashiru contesting the Chereponi seat on the ticket of the PNC.

#### Conclusion

After brief introductions by candidates, the debate ended abruptly after a misunderstanding ensued between the NPP faction and officials of a local radio station carrying the debate live. The main issue was that the FM station was biased in coverage and did not air the introductory remarks by the NPP Parliamentary Candidate Mr. Azuma Namoro Sanda, instead carried only the remarks of the NDC candidate Mr. Jabanyite.

This resulted in a heated altercation that led to one radio official receiving a slap from a member of the NPP faction. Despite the presence of the police, chaos quickly escalated leading to an abrupt end of the program.

## 9.0 UPPER EAST REGION PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

Two debates were held in this constituency namely; Builsa North and Bawku constituency respectively. This section provides a narrative report of the vision and programmes discussed by the various parliamentary aspirants.

### 9.1 *Builsa North Constituency*

The debate was held on 2 November, 2016. The moderator was Murtala Kpambe of GBC Radio and Mr. Wilson Osei of NCCE. Present at the debate were the following parliamentary aspirants: Mr James Agalga (NDC- Incumbent), Mr. Thomas Alongsi (NPP) and William Abaayaik (CPP). The profile of the aspirants showed that except for Mr. William Abaayaik, currently an accountant, who had never had any political experience, the remaining had held political offices before. While, Mr. Thomas Alongsi, who is a lawyer was a former District Chief Executive for Builsa North between 2005 and 2008; Mr. James Agalga, the incumbent is a lawyer, served in various law firms and is the deputy minister of Interior. The main issues were related to infrastructure and improvement of the livelihoods in employment, education, potable drinking water, maternal health. The section that follows looks at the candidates vision as well as issues discussed from the various aspirants:

#### Candidates' Presentation of Vision and Programs

Mr. James Agalga (NDC) pledged to consider issues on education, infrastructure development, and employment. Additionally, he hopes to use revenue from the oil exploration for electrification of rural communities. Other priority areas would also be the improvement of maternal health, gender mainstreaming, poverty alleviation, responding to the plight of the physically challenged as well as the provision of potable drinking water.

Mr. Thomas Alongsi (NPP) promised to improve education health and agriculture. Again, he pledged to provide employment to the youth, potable drinking water and also see to the needs of PWDs. He also highlighted the issue of the Oil find and how he intends to see the amendment of the Petroleum Management Act. He also added that he would attach a lot of importance to gender mainstreaming.

Mr. William Abaayaik (CPP) pledged to see a transformed Builsa North constituency in areas such as education, employment, provision of potable drinking water and gender mainstreaming. He also promised an improvement in maternal health, provision of support for PWDs and lobby for the appropriate use of revenue from the oil.

#### Socio-economic Development: Education

Mr. James Agalga (NDC) promised to lobby for more Senior High School (SHS) blocks to be constructed in addition to the ones he had already championed for the constituency. He

promised to eliminate schools under trees within the constituency and further stated that he had shown commitment to education, supported needy but brilliant students with a total sum of over 100,000 Ghana Cedis and another 70,000 Ghana Cedis in different stages of their education. He assured the constituents that he intends to increase these amounts if given the nod come December.

Mr. Thomas Alongsi (NPP) mentioned that his vision regarding education was to make sure that students would graduate from their various levels of education with competitive grades. He opined that incentives would be given to teachers.

Mr. William Abaayaik (CPP) promised to invest in education.

### Employment

Mr. James Agalga (NDC) stated that with regards to job creation for PWDs his government had shown commitment by appointing a PWD as the Minister for Chieftaincy and Culture. He also said the Affirmative Action Bill yet to be passed by his government would also help to clear all discriminations against PWDs in terms of seeking employment.

Mr. Thomas Alongsi (NPP) mentioned that his party had proposed a start-up capital fund for the youth to set up businesses and indicated the NPP had promised “one village one dam” in areas that had difficulty farming in the dry season. In relation to employment he highlighted that factories for the following areas would be set up in the constituency: sheabutter and livestock. He also said his party would provide free SHS to students to attend school and acquire skills. He opined that some of the jobs in the public sector would be reserved for PWDs in line with Act 715

Mr. William Abaayaik (CPP) emphasized that his party had a record of job creation from the inception of the veranda boys and girls, work and happiness etc. therefore, when given the nod, would create jobs and with their foreign policy.

### Oil and Gas

Mr. James Agalga (NDC) explained that his party shall further continue oil exploration in the Volta basin to increase revenue. He concluded by citing examples of some rural electrification projects that the fund has helped to support and he will bring more of such projects to the district once he is re-elected into office.

Mr. Thomas Alongsi (NPP) promised to advocate and champion the review and amendment of the Petroleum Economic Management Act 2011 to support investment and revenue. He emphasized that the NPP government will ensure that efforts are intensified to explore on more sites for these resources such as the Keta and Volta basins.

Mr. William Abaayaik (CPP) indicated that he would rather go in for full production and sharing policies so the nation is also involved in the exploration of these resources. This he said would respond to the current poor management of the resource and rather create opportunity for all

stakeholders to benefit equally.

### Improving Maternal Health

Mr. James Agalga (NDC) pledged to set up new-born care units and incubators in the District Hospital for the constituency, revamping the ambulance service and CHP compounds which would have midwives at post to aid maternal cases. He highlighted that his government is on course to increase the bed capacity of hospitals in the constituency and refurbish the Sandema hospital.

Mr. William Abaayaik (CPP) emphasized that one of the ways to improve maternal health was to increase the period of maternity leave from three months to four months. Additionally, his party would train traditional birth attendants so that they could offer safe delivery at home.

Mr. Thomas Alongsi (NPP) assured the audience that the National Health Insurance Scheme will be revamped to serve its intended purpose so community members can enjoy its full benefits.

### PWDs

Mr. James Agalga (NDC) promised that his party will also continue to ensure that the Act 715 is enforced fully to ensure that public infrastructure are made disability friendly. He said the NDC had packages for PWDs of which he has personally contributed to. Also, he will make sure he increases the scope of the LEAP so more persons living with disability can benefit from it.

Mr. Thomas Alongsi (NPP) promised to ensure that the 2% provision for PWDs in the DACF gets to PWDs in order to enable them equip themselves with basic needs in order to set up business if they so desired.

Mr. William Abaayaik (CPP) said his party had demonstrated that they have the best policy for PWDs by selecting a flagbearer who is disabled. Hence, when given the nod, he would ensure that facilities are disability friendly in the community.

### Potable Water Provision

Mr. James Agalga (NDC) began by saying that his government had increased access to water supply from 56% to almost 80% nationwide. He also said he singlehandedly brought a rig from the national security outfit to drill 30 boreholes in his community and the people are his witnesses.

Mr. Thomas Alongsi (NPP) mentioned that his party's position on water is captured "potable water for all". He added that the NPP had invested heavily in the water sector from 2001-2008. He expressed that the Wiaga small town water systems were constructed under his watch. The same was extended in the Fumbisi Township. He promises to construct water projects when voted for to ensure there will be potable water for all.

Mr. William Abaayaik (CPP) promised that he would construct a pump house at Nadisa and Sandema to give them water.

#### Gender Mainstreaming and Women Empowerment

Mr. James Agalga (NDC) began by saying that his party, the NDC has already tabled various policies in parliament to mainstream gender. These are mainly: 1. The Affirmative Action bill. 2. The Intestate Succession Amendment Bill. 3. Property rights of spouse's bill which will help women have a fair share of the property when there is a dissolution of marriages. The NDC had acknowledged the role of queen mothers, also they have improved the MASLOC initiative. He said that 19 women from Sandema had received over 30,000 Cedis. He plans to continue to increase the scope and make more people access the MASLOC scheme.

Mr. Thomas Alongsi (NPP) mentioned that apart from men and women, there was the need to recognize children and PWDs in the society. The NPP therefore plan to increase the 2% share of the DACF for PWDs to 3%.

Mr. William Abaayaik (CPP) said although he acknowledges the potentials of women, he disagreed with the notion of women being heads of households. He therefore said he would encourage gender equity rather than gender equality.

#### Conclusion

In conclusion, all candidates spoke both English and Bulli for the audience to comprehend. All candidates urged electorates for their vote and urged them to maintain peace during elections.

#### 9.2 *Bawku Central Constituency*

The debate took place on November 16, 2016 at the Bawku Community Center. The Moderators were: Mohammed Suhuyini Shahan and Sulemana Abdul Hakeem. Out of all the parliamentary aspirants within the constituency who were invited, only two were present: Awini Paul Mbilla (PPP) and Ayuba Seidu (INDEPENDENT). Mr. Awini Paul Mbilla, 32 years of age is a radiologist at the Bawku government hospital while his counterpart Mr. Ayuba Seidu, 47 years of age is a teacher by profession with 20 years of experience.

#### Candidates' Presentation of Vision and Programs

Mr. Awini Paul Mbilla (PPP) as a health worker pledged to tackle issues on health, disability and youth unemployment within Bawku Central.

Mr. Ayuba Seidu, (Independent) proposed to focus on challenges associated with education, health, youth employment and agriculture.

#### Socio-economic Development: Agriculture

Mr. Awini Paul Mbilla, (PPP) said his party would organize and improve farming and rearing of animals. He promised to provide loans to the farmers to support their activities.

Mr. Ayuba Seidu, (Independent) stated that he would put measures in place to ensure all year round farming as against the seasonal farming currently practiced. This he will do by assisting farmers with inputs at farm gate prices. He said he would also organize workshops on best farm management practices in conjunction with the relevant stakeholders to improve production. He pledged to provide improved seeds to farmers and provide agricultural support to farmers. Additionally, he promised to provide mechanical dugouts to support continuous farming in the short term and lobby for an irrigation dam in the long term to support farmers.

#### Youth Employment

Mr. Awini Paul Mbilla, (PPP) said he would lobby to create more jobs for the youth in the constituency.

Mr. Ayuba Seidu, (Independent) indicated that he would use the CBT (Confidence-Based Training) model to train the youth in technical vocations to create jobs. He promised to support the TVET institutions and provide entrepreneurship and financial management training for all small-scale businesses including women at the markets. He pledged to ensure that people are able to acquire loans at low-interest rates to set up businesses. Additionally, he promised to lobby for employment positions at the public sector for the youth.

#### Health

Mr. Awini Paul Mbilla, (PPP) stated that he would work to bring back the vibrant NHIS. He promised to support the scheme with equipment and drugs. He pledged to support people in renewing of their NHIS cards. He also made it clear that he would support the X-Ray department of the Bawku hospital specifically with free medical equipment. He also promised to help equip the health institutions with ambulances and other facilities. In reference to health infrastructure, he pledged to liaise with the opinion leaders to secure a land for the construction of buildings that would house health workers and keep them close to their workplaces to promote efficient healthcare delivery. Lastly, he said he would use his resources to rehabilitate the dilapidated health structures.

Mr. Ayuba Seidu, (Independent) promised to tackle the prevention aspect of health rather than treatment. He pledged to embark on periodic screening in the constituency; targeting common diseases. He promised to utilize the media in Bawku to sensitize the electorate on prevention methods instead of advertising on registering them for Health Insurance. He promised to support students who wish to pursue health-related programs such as nursing, midwifery, medicine etc. and equally support the nearby institutions to improve their training. He promised to liaise with other development partners to support health facilities in improving healthcare.

#### Education

Mr. Awini Paul Mbilla, (PPP) said he would supply and support GES with Teaching and Learning Materials (TLMs) since this would encourage the teachers to teach better and also encourage students to study. He promised to ensure a non-partisan quota of the school feeding program so that all schools will benefit with equity.

Mr. Ayuba Seidu, (Independent) mentioned that he would provide relevant TLMs especially practical training materials for Junior High and Senior High teachers and students. Additionally, he pledged to organize extra classes for all final year students and organize intra and inter-circuit Mathematics, Science and English quiz competitions. He would further liaise with authorities to improve supervisions within GES while motivating the teachers in rural communities. He promised to gather potential stakeholders and potential development partners in education to improve the performance of the education sector and the BECE and WASSCE examination performance. He promised to partner with development agencies that will link the production of food to the schools that benefit from the school feeding program.

#### Persons with Disabilities

Mr. Awini Paul Mbilla, (PPP) said he would support those who are in school with aids and equipment and ensure that they benefit from allowances as well. He indicated that his government would not discriminate against PWDs and pledged to donate 5% of the Common Fund for the disabled and market women to be shared equally.

Mr. Ayuba Seidu, (Independent) mentioned that he would ensure that PWDs are trained in other aspects of their lives where they are capable, so they can also earn a livelihood. He also pledged to increase the common fund that is allocated to PWDs from 2% to 5%.

#### Oil and Gas

Mr. Awini Paul Mbilla, (PPP) pledged to ensure that resources and quota from the Ghana's oil and gas are presented on time to each constituency. He promised to tackle corruption in the area of oil and gas.

Mr. Ayuba Seidu, (Independent) mentioned that he would ensure that part of the fund is channeled to the secondary and technical institutions within the constituency. This would aid their studies and training in the oil and gas sector to be able to get employment.

#### Gender Issues

Mr. Awini Paul Mbilla, (PPP) pledged to focus on girl child education.

Mr. Ayuba Seidu, (Independent) promised to champion women inclusion and support girls in education, training etc. to have equal opportunities available to their male counterparts.

#### Conclusion

Due to the absence of the NDC and NPP parliamentary candidates the debate was very calm. The debate began and ended in a serene environment.

## 10.0 UPPER WEST REGION PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

The parliamentary debates in this region took place in Lambussie Karni and Jirapa Constituencies. This section of the report presents proceedings of the debate, highlighting aspirants' presentation of vision and programs for the constituency.

### 10.1 *Lambussie Karni Constituency*

The debate took place on November 12, 2016 with two candidates present: Mr. Edward Kaale-Ewola Dery, (NDC) and Bakye Yelviel-Dong Baligi, (NPP). Whereas the incumbent is an auditor from the then Institute of Professional Studies and serves on the committee for Food, Agriculture and Cocoa Affairs and the Public Accounts Committee in parliament, Bakye Yelviel-Dong Baligi (NPP) is a lecturer at the UDS campus in Wa and a development consultant.

#### Candidates' Presentation of Vision and Programs

Mr. Edward Kaale-Ewola Dery, (NDC) pledged to tackle issues on water, education, oil and gas, youth unemployment as well as disability.

Mr. Bakye Yelviel-Dong Baligi, (NPP) intended to focus on challenges associated with education, youth employment, oil find and water.

#### Socio-economic Development: Water

Mr. Edward Kaale-Ewola Dery, (NDC) pledged to construct more bore holes and rehabilitate the faulty water projects in the community.

Mr. Bakye Yelviel-Dong Baligi (NPP) said he would liaise with NGOs to come aboard to help solve the water needs of the constituency. Additionally, he intends to revive the Lambussie water project.

#### Education

Mr. Edward Kaale-Ewola Dery, (NDC) stated that he had aided 582 students to benefit from his share of DACF. He therefore promised to fund more students when given the nod. He promised to continue to provide motorbikes to circuit supervisors to ensure adequate monitoring. He pledged to lobby for more qualified teachers to the constituency to teach the students. He added that in 2016, he ensured that Lambussie had the highest number of teachers posted to the school and would continue to lobby for more qualified teachers to the constituency.

Mr. Bakye Yelviel-Dong Baligi (NPP) asserted that he would support the buying of text books and reading materials for the students to develop interest in reading. Additionally, he would collaborate with parents in providing teaching and learning materials on a yearly basis especially to the final year students. He pledged to provide pamphlets to the various schools to

help them revise better for examination. He further promised to liaise with NGOs to sponsor brilliant students within the constituency.

#### Persons with Disabilities

Mr. Edward Kaale-Ewola Dery, (NDC) pledged to continue to include PWDs to benefit from the DACF. He promised to ensure that infrastructure that would be built would comply with the Disability Act (Act 715).

Mr. Bakye Yelviel-Dong Baligi (NPP) emphasised that he would advocate for social inclusion of PWDs in the constituency.

#### Oil and Gas

Mr. Edward Kaale-Ewola Dery, (NDC) promised to lobby for part of the oil fund to be used in constructing roads and other infrastructure.

Mr. Bakye Yelviel-Dong Baligi (NPP) pledged to lobby the energy commission to bring in more social interventions to the Upper West Region.

#### Youth Employment

Mr. Edward Kaale-Ewola Dery, (NDC) assured that he would push for the review or modification of the national youth employment Act to support long-term engagement instead of the short term or contract form of employment which leaves people unemployed after the contract.

Mr. Bakye Yelviel-Dong Baligi (NPP) pledged to identify young residents and pay for their skills training and provide them with a starter kit so they can run their own businesses.

#### Healthcare

Mr. Edward Kaale-Ewola Dery, (NDC) said he had been able to provide 7 CHPS compounds and would put up more when voted for. He promised to lobby for the construction of more roads in addition to existing ones to ease access to CHPS compounds. He stated that his administration had registered over 10, 000 people onto the NHIS and he plans to expand the numbers when he gets the nod.

Mr. Bakye Yelviel-Dong Baligi (NPP) pledged to dispatch a medical team on quarterly basis and bear the cost of treatment for the people of Lambussie. He promised to make available health care materials and facilities to the healthcare centers.

#### Conclusion

The debate was very competitive due to the participation of the two major parties. Frequently, questions posed by the moderator had a rebuttal by the other candidate. This further conveys the depth of knowledge that each candidate had concerning local issues as candidates had served as DCE and MP and thus appreciate such issues. The audience were initially allowed to ask questions however it resulted in a state of disorder so the question period ended abruptly.

## 10.2 *Jirapa Constituency*

The debate was held on November 29, 2016, candidates present were the incumbent; Mr. Paul Derigubaa (Independent), Dr. Francis Bawaana Dakurah (NDC), Mr. Jesse Sung Kpieta (NPP) Ms. Jacqueline Paalee (APC), Mr. Maxwell Mane (IPP).

The incumbent parliamentary candidate Mr. Paul Derigubaa holds a BSc. (Hons) Agric Economics from the University of Ghana and an MSc. (Agric) Soil Science & Water Management from the University of Wageningen, Netherlands. He has served on the committee on Members Holding Offices of Profit and the committee on Food, Agriculture and Cocoa Affairs. He has also worked with MoFA as an Agriculture Officer prior to his political office. Dr. Francis Bawaana Dakurah (NDC) has a background in Social Policy, Social Psychology and a Masters in Social Anthropology and a Ph.D. in Social Anthropology (from University of St. Andrews). Mr. Maxwell Mane (IPP) schooled at Jirapa NTC in 2011. He is a senior staff nurse for a hospital within Jirapa. Ms. Jacqueline Paalee (APC) who schooled at both Jirapa Teacher Training College and proceeded to UDS for her post graduate diploma is currently a teacher at the Nadowli District. Mr. Jesse Sung Kpieta (NPP) is the youngest aspirant and is a graduate (Sociology and Social Work) of the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology. He is currently an Administrative Assistant at University of Development Studies.

### Candidates' Presentation of Vision and Programs

Mr. Paul Derigubaa (Independent) pledged to address issues in education, health and welfare of PWDs.

Dr. Francis Bawaana Dakurah (NDC) promised to establish more community based clinics. Additionally, he hoped to provide quality education and employment in his constituency.

Mr. Jesse Sung Kpieta (NPP) said he would bring improvement in education, employment and health.

Ms. Jacqueline Paalee (APC) envisioned creating avenues to bring massive improvement in education and health to the district. She hoped to create a Graduate Fund and establish Youth Training Institutes in a bid to solve the problem of youth unemployment.

Mr. Maxwell Mane (IPP) hoped to improve education significantly by ensuring teachers in the constituency are validated to receive their salaries. Again, health, agriculture, employment and the wellbeing of PWDs would be issues of top priority.

### Socio-economic Development: Health

Mr. Paul Derigubaa pledged to strengthen the NHIS so that mothers can have healthcare for free during and after pregnancy.

Dr. Francis Bawaana Dakurah (NDC) promised to set up more Community-Based Health Planning

and Services (CHPS) Compounds. He added he would ensure the institutionalization of a National Maternal Health Policy which would carry out community outreach to the communities with increasing maternal health issues to reduce the number of cases.

Mr. Jesse Sung Kpieta (NPP) promised to establish more CHPS compounds and dedicate a portion of his share of the DACF solely to maternal health. The NPP candidate said since there were three Nurses Training Institutions in the Jirapa community, he would utilize them so they would be posted to attend to the local people of Jirapa in order to improve the health of the community.

Mr. Maxwell Mane (IPP) in responding to issues on health, asserted that he would rather provide health equipment for the CHPS compounds and provide emergency vehicles all over the communities to transport the women during childbirth to avoid the many maternal deaths. He promised to ensure that there were enough nurses on duty to handle both regular and emergency cases.

Ms. Jacqueline Paalee (APC) planned to provide maternity homes for the deprived communities to reduce the maternal deaths. Furthermore, she intended to provide waste bins all over Jirapa to ensure proper sanitation. She said she would institute the training of basic skills in pregnancy related issues for residents and women specifically.

How would you Deal with Challenges Facing PWDs?

Mr. Maxwell Mane (IPP) said he would train the physically challenged, and equip them with skills so they can secure sustainable work

Ms. Jacqueline Paalee (APC) stated that she believed in educating and training PWDs. This was because it would become easier for them to grasp the skills they were comfortable with so they can be successful in ventures in the fields of their skills.

## Education

Dr. Francis Bawaana Dakurah (NDC) promised to partner the PTA of the various schools to come out with strategies to increase good grades at the BECE level. Finally, he said he would invest in past questions for all JHS students for revision to prepare them for the BECE examination.

Mr. Jesse Sung Kpieta (NPP) asserted that the free SHS education policy would be introduced when his party wins the polls. He would establish an educational fund for students and a teachers' fund to support the teachers as well. He would increase the motivation for teachers to enable them give of their best.

Mr. Maxwell Mane (IPP) opined that he would ensure mass validation of teachers so that the teachers in Jirapa would enjoy their salaries. He also talked about establishing a teachers' fund to enable teachers to feel comfortable in the profession and finally, he would establish a Jirapa education fund which would also cover the teachers as well.

Ms. Jacqueline Paalee (APC) promised she would introduce and strengthen guidance and counseling within the education system. Also she would advocate for more incentives for teachers so to enable them give their best .

#### Employment

Dr. Francis Bawaana Dakurah (NDC) stated that he would establish an ICT facility for skills training for the youth. He pledged to set up a youth enterprise fund which would provide soft loans, interest-free of up to 5,000 Ghana Cedis to the youth to start their own businesses.

Mr. Jesse Sung Kpieta (NPP) expressed that his party would launch the “one district, one factory” policy to establish a sorghum processing factory in Jirapa to provide the youth with employment. Finally, he said he would invest in skills training and set up a skills development fund to assist the youth in creating their own businesses.

Mr. Maxwell Mane (IPP) promised to liaise with LESDEP to address unemployment and establish a fund that would contribute a token to all the unemployed youth to start businesses of their own.

Ms. Jacqueline Paalee (APC) promised to establish a graduate fund to cater for graduates. She would also set up skills training institutes for the youth to enable them start their own businesses.

#### Conclusion

The candidates, at the end of the debate, pledged to solve issues raised during the debate.

### 10.3 Lawra Constituency

The parliamentary debate for the Lawra Constituency in the Upper West Region was held on the November 15, 2016 at the Fore court of the District Assembly. Two Candidates participated in the debate; Mr Harisu Saeed who represented the Convention Peoples' Party (CPP) and Mr. Samson Abu, an incumbent hwho was contesting the seat as an Independent Candidate.

The Parliamentary debate was moderated by Mr Latif Mahama, Citi FM's Correspondent in the Upper West Region and Mr John Boscobody from CHRAJ in the Lawra District.

#### Candidates' Presentations of Vision and Programs

*What would you do to ensure that women receive quality antenatal care in your Constituency?*

#### Socio-economic Development: Health

Mr. Abu the incumbent MP highlighted that he gave two ambulances to the district to transport pregnant women from their respective communities to the health centers for safe delivery. He stated that he would work closely with the Ghana Health Service in the district to reduce high rates of maternal and infant mortality. He further pledged to support maternal health

education and awareness creation to ensure that unwanted pregnancies among the youth within the district is reduced.

Mr Saeedu informed the constituents that education and sensitization on antenatal care would be his major focus if given the chance as an MP. He promised to initiate sensitization programs to create awareness among women on the issues of maternal and infant mortality. He opined that he would provide free medical care for pregnant women in the Lawra District to ensure safe delivery.

Socio-economic Development: Education

*What would you do to reverse the falling standard of education if elected as a Member of Parliament in your constituency?*

Mr. Samson Abu (Independent) promised to introduce a special speech and prize giving day to award students who perform well in the BECE. This would boost the morale of other students in the district. He further indicated that he would dialogue with the Ghana Education Service, the District Assembly, parents, students, chiefs and other stakeholders in the district to fashion out strategies in terms of dealing with the menace of teenage pregnancy among young girls which sometimes impede their education. He pledged to set up a scholarship scheme to support brilliant but needy students from Junior High School up to the tertiary level.

Mr. Hasiru Saeed (CPP) promised to provide incentives for teachers to motivate them to work harder to improve the quality of teaching and learning in the district. He added that income tax would be reduced for all teachers to serve as motivation. Mr. Saeed also indicated that, teachers who accept postings to the rural areas would be given special incentives to motivate them to offer their best. He pledged to provide special education for children with mental health.

Socio-economic Development: Youth Unemployment

Mr .Samson Abu promised to provide financial assistance for the youth to venture into small and medium call enterprises. He promised to use part of his share of the DACF to subsidize fertilizer and other logistics to motivate the youth to go into farming.

Mr. Saeedu promised to establish small scale irrigation schemes and also to liaise with vibrant NGOs to get tractors and other logistics to create jobs for the youth in the district.

Mainstreaming Disability

Mr Saeed of the CPP pledged to offer incentives to companies which employ PWDs. He promised also to help them secure loans from banks to start their own businesses.

Mr. Samson Abu (Independent) promised to facilitate the creation of a youth center for PWDs in the district. He pledged to create a disability friendly environment by making public facilities easily accessible to PWDs.

Conclusion

In summary, the debate was successful. The candidates commended CDD-Ghana/OSIWA and the NCCE for creating such a free platform for them to showcase their policies and programs to their constituents.

## CONCLUSION

Generally, the debates were successfully implemented and patronized by vulnerable groups in the various constituencies. The debate platforms served as a good opportunity for constituents to put forth questions to aspiring candidates and created a dialogue interface that fueled conversations between electorates and candidates.

Debates were highly patronized with a majority of constituents comporting themselves and attentively nodding promises being made by candidates. There was security presence during the debate proceedings to ensure safety at all the venues. However, in regions considered tense the police advised against the “question and answer” sessions. This happened at the Jirapa constituency of the Northern Region.

Candidates ended engagements on cordial notes; holding hands to signify peace and further urging constituents to offer their vote and maintain peace within the constituencies before and after elections. The local media houses had live broadcasts of the debate proceedings. This ensured that constituents who were not present heard the proceedings on radio.

Additionally, Traditional Authority were fully present also voicing concerns to candidates during “question and answer” sessions of the debates. They urged candidates to caution their supporters to campaign in such a manner that the country will remain peaceful before, during and after the elections.

The Project Advisory Committee members participated in debate proceedings and some served as moderators for the debates.

The choice of language of the debates, being that they were carried out in both English and the local languages enabled constituents to easily understand proceedings and contribute towards discussions effectively.

