

**SESSIONAL ADDRESS DELIVERED BY HON. BENJAMIN KESSIE, THE
MUNICIPAL CHIEF EXECUTIVE (MCE) FOR TARKWA-NSUAEM
MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY AT THE 1ST ORDINARY MEETING OF THE
4TH SESSION OF THE 8TH ASSEMBLY HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 29TH
MARCH, 2023 IN THE MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY HALL.**

HON. PRESIDING MEMBER,

HON MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT,

HON. ASSEMBLY MEMBERS,

MUNICIPAL CO-ORDINATING DIRECTOR,

HEADS OF DEPARTMENT AND UNIT,

THE PRESS,

DISTINGUISHED LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

It is with much pleasure that I warmly welcome you all to the First Ordinary meeting of the Fourth Session of the 8th Assembly.

Hon. Presiding Member, I am glad to stand before this august House as the Municipal Chief Executive of this Assembly to address Honourable Members and the good people of Tarkwa-Nsuaem on the state of our Municipality, in fulfillment of Section 28 (1) and (2a) of the Local Governance Act 2016, Act 936. This

address offers us, as usual, the opportunity to provide an honest assessment of our Municipality, and seek the support of all in addressing it with hope and confidence.

Hon. Presiding Member, may I use this opportunity to express my heartfelt appreciation and gratitude to all Heads of Department and Unit for their unflinching support towards the assembly in formulating and implementing key policies and programmes which have contributed significantly to the overall development of the Municipality.

Hon. Presiding Member, today's address is particularly focused on twelve (12) thematic areas which are as follows;

- ❖ Security
- ❖ Revenue
- ❖ Health
- ❖ Education
- ❖ Sanitation
- ❖ Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty (LEAP)
- ❖ Ghana Empowerment and Social Protection (GESP)
- ❖ Strengthening of Sub-Structures
- ❖ Recruitment
- ❖ Roads

❖ Developmental Projects

SECURITY SITUATION

Hon. P.M, Hon. Members, as the Chairman of the Municipal Security Council (MUSEC), I want to state emphatically that the current state of security in the Municipality is relatively calm and peaceful. This feat wouldn't have been possible without the undoubting efforts of MUSEC members who held quite a number of meetings to monitor events closely and take appropriate measures to defuse any potential threat to peace and security in the Municipality.

Hon. Members, it is with a heavy heart that I inform you of the misunderstanding that occurred on Thursday 16th March, 2023, between some community members of Subriso who were engaging in illegal mining activities on the concession of Golden Star Resource Company, this resulted to the Security personnel of the company ordering them to vacate the place, which led to a misunderstanding between both parties consequently leading to the death of one community member. In response to that, some angry youth of the community stormed the company premises to set ablaze vehicles belonging to the company. Details of the vehicles are as follows;

- 7 Toyota Landcruisers
- 3 Toyota Hilux
- 1 Honda CRV

- 2 Nissan Pickup
- 2 Tippers Trucks
- 1 Excavator
- 18 Trucks belong to two Mining Contractors
- 1 Bus had windscreen and windows all shattered.

The security services have however, been on grounds to restore peace in the community and its environs.

MEASURES TO IMPROVE REVENUE MOBILIZATION

Hon. PM, Hon. Members, without a shred of doubt, we can attest to the fact that revenue is the backbone of the Assembly, and the ability of the Assembly to undertake any meaningful developmental project is dependent on the availability of funds.

In this regard, I am pleased to report to you that Management has put measures in place to help the Assembly rake in more revenue in the year, 2023 and beyond.

Some of these measures are as follows;

1. Periodic audit of value books in the business centres.
2. Stakeholder engagements
3. Education of the public on fee fixing
4. Data update
5. Digitization of businesses
6. Training of Revenue collectors and Zonal Council Clerks on revenue mobilization strategies.

TOTAL REVENUE

Hon. Members, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, I am pleased to inform you that accumulated revenue received by the Assembly during the period under review was **Three Million, Eight Hundred and Ninety Thousand, Four Hundred and Seventy-Three Ghana Cedis, Eighty-Five Pesewas (GHC 3,890,473.85).**

EXPENDITURE

Hon. Presiding Member, Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, an amount of **Two Million, Three Hundred and Forty-Four Thousand, Four Hundred and Nine Ghana Cedis, Forty-Eight Pesewas (GHC 2,344,409. 48)** has been spent out of the revenue generated.

PROPERTY RATE

Hon. Presiding Member, Hon. Members it is worthy to inform you that, Central Government has ceded one of the main internally generated funds of the Assembly, that is the 'Property rate' to the Ghana Revenue Authority to collect on our behalf. We should therefore note that 70% of the total sum will be given to the Assembly for developmental projects and 30% for the Central Government.

HEALTH

Hon. Members, one of the main priorities of the Assembly is Health, in that regard I am happy to announce to you that despite the limited financial resources, the Assembly is in the process of providing 120 lecture hall chairs for the nursing training collage in Tarkwa to facilitate teaching and learning process.

EDUCATION

Hon. Presiding Member, education plays a pivotal role in the development of any society, therefore, the Assembly is committed to improving the teaching and learning conditions of both teachers and students. In this regard, the Assembly has supported the activities of the Municipal Education Directorate in diverse ways;

Funds, Logistics and Projects.

Hon. Members, the Assembly support the Municipal Directorate of Education in the organization of the 66th Independence Anniversary with an amount of Forty-Two Thousand Five Hundred and Two Ghana Cedis (GH¢ 42,504.00).

Hon. Presiding Member, in addition to the above, in the area of logistics, the Assembly during the period under review supplied the Municipal Education Directorate with **120 Dual Desks, 30 Teachers' Tables and Chairs, 10 ICT Tables and Chairs, 20 Hexagonal Tables, 120 Chairs and 120 Mono Desks**

which were distributed to public Basic Schools across the Municipality to facilitate teaching and learning activities.

Hon. PM, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, we are all aware of the fact that education remains one of the main priorities of the Assembly, we are therefore in the process of providing **100 beds** to Fiaseman Senior High School to improve the students' sleeping condition.

Hon. Members, with regards to physical infrastructure, the Assembly has embarked on projects such as rehabilitation and construction of schools in the quest to improve teaching and learning conditions in the Municipality. Details of the projects are provided in appendix marked 'A'.

AGRICULTURE

Hon. PM, Hon. Members, the agriculture sector, plays a significant role in the rural development of our people.

Our objectives in the area are:

- a. Improve production efficiency and yield
- b. Improve post-harvest management and
- c. Promote livestock and poultry development for food security and income generation in our Municipality.

In this connection, the Assembly will continue to support the agriculture sector to improve the lives of the people in the Municipality.

SANITATION

Hon. Presiding Member, the Assembly has supplied **fifteen (15)** refuse containers across the Municipality in a bid to improve the sanitation situation in the Municipality.

LIVELIHOOD EMPOWERMENT AGAINST POVERTY (LEAP)

Hon. Presiding Member, I am elated to inform you that the 81st and 82nd LEAP cycle payment has commenced. Seven Hundred and Ninety-Nine (799) people in Fifty-Four (54) communities are expected to benefit from the programme across the Municipality.

GHANA EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL PROTECTION (GESP)

Hon. Presiding Member, it is worthy to note that **sixteen (16)** physically challenged youth between the ages of 18-35 across the Municipality have been successfully trained under the GESP. The beneficiaries were presented with tool kits and business certificates.

COMMUNITY VISITATION BY THE HON. MCE

Hon. Members, as part of my mandate as the Municipal Chief Executive, I am expected to visit all communities in our municipality for needs assessment.

In this regard, I visited some communities in 2022. This year's has commenced and I have visited two Communities namely Adiewoso and Tetrem, the rest of the itinerary will subsequently be communicated to all Hon. Members whose communities have not yet been visited.

I therefore, entreat all Hon. Members, to be part of the organization when it is time to visit their respective Electoral Areas and also communicate to community members.

STRENGTHENING OF SUB-STRUCTURE AND UNIT COMMITTEE

Hon. PM, we can emphatically testify that the role of the sub-structures is very essential in the decentralization process especially in the area of development and revenue mobilization. Therefore, it is important to strengthen these sub-structures to aid in the development of the Municipality.

With regards to the above, six Administrative Officers have been assigned as Administrators to the sub-structures. The Assembly has also trained Revenue collectors and Zonal Council Administrators on revenue mobilization.

RECRUITMENT (I.G.F)

Hon. Presiding Member, despite the limited financial resources of the Assembly, seven new personnel have been enrolled onto our payroll.

Below are the details of the recruitment made;

NAME OF STAFF	JOB TITLE
Adriana Addadey Sedonu	Revenue Inspector
Bright De-Graft Agyapong	Revenue Inspector
Elisha Kwakwa	City Guard
Felix Kofi Saah	Garden Boy
Peter Arthur	Sanitary Laborer
Gifty Nkrumah	Sanitary Laborer
Richard Kwofie	Sanitary Laborer

RECRUITMENT (G.O.G)

Hon. Members, I am pleased to inform you that the Government of Ghana under the leadership of His Excellency Nana Addo Dankwa Akuffo-Addo, is dedicated in reducing the unemployment rate that has plagued the country over the years.

In view of the above, those absorbed onto the GOG staff list during the period under review include the following;

NAME OF STAFF	JOB TITLE
Beatrice Agyei -Oppong	Asst. Director IIB
Christabel Ama Prah	Asst. Director IIB
Stephen Acquah	Senior Information Technology Technician
Dennis Nana Ghansah	Asst. Engineer
Emelia Adubea Affum	Executive Officer
Robert Ghansah	Asst. Security Officer
Afia Asamoabea Dua	Agricultural Extension Officer
Emelia Biney	Cook
Abdulai Abdul Aziz	Driver Grade III
Dennis Kobina Wood	Asst. Budget Analyst
Aaron Ato Eshun	Asst. Development Officer
Sampson Awuye	Asst. Programmer

Hon. Members, the following officers have been posted to our Assembly during the period under review;

NAME	GRADE	PREVIOUS STATION
Boffour Ahmed Haruna	Co-ordinating Director	Wassa East
Augustine Armoh	Assistant Director I	Wassa Amenfi Central
Alex Dampsey	Assistant Environmental Health Analyst	Wassa Amenfi East

RETIREMENT

Hon. Members, the following officers have retired from active service;

NAME	JOB TITLE
Frank Ernest Odro	Municipal Co-Ordinating Director
Sarfo Kantanka	Environmental Health Officer

IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW PROJECTS

Hon. Members, the Assembly has duly followed procurement processes and initiated the implementation of two (2) new projects and award letters issued to the successful bidders.

The projects are as follows;

1. Construction of No. 6 Seater Institutional Latrine and 2-Bay Urinal with landscaping and Horticulture Works at Tarkwa Methodist Primary School.
2. Construction of 1No. Community Centre with Landscaping and Horticulture works at Railway Quarters.

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

Hon. Presiding Member, I am pleased to bring to your notice that the Assembly is undertaking many projects under the Internally Generated Funds, District Development Facility, District Assemblies Common Fund and the Mineral Development Fund. The projects are at various stages of implementation.

Appendix 'A'

<u>NO</u>	<u>PROJECT NAME</u>	<u>FUNDING</u>	<u>PERCENTAGE OF WORK DONE</u>	<u>REMARKS</u>
1	Construction of 1No. 3 Unit Classroom Block, Office, Store and Computer Room, 1No. 6-Seater Enviro-Loo Toilet Facility and 2-Bay Urinal with landscaping at Nsuaem Mile 5.	DACF	100% completed	Practical Completion
2	Landscaping and Pavement works at the Forecourt of the Tarkwa	MDF	100% completed	Completed and Retention withheld

	Nsuaem Municipal Assembly Office complex at Ahwetieso			
3	Construction of 2No. Mechanized Boreholes for TARSCO and Benso SHS and 16-Seater W/C Toilet facility for FIASEC	MDF	100% completed	Handed over, In use and retention released.
4	Construction of 1No. 2-Unit Classroom Block, Office, Store & Canteen, 1No. 4-Seater Enviro-loo Toilet facility, a Bathroom and 1No. 2-bay Urinal with landscaping at Israel	MDF	90% completed	Super structure completed; external works on-going
5	Procurement and supply of Furniture and Office Equipment to Tarkwa-Nsuaem Municipal Assembly office complex at Ahwetieso	IGF	70% completed	
6	Continuation and Completion of TARSCO Sick Bay, Rehabilitation of Yam Sellers Shed at Tarkwa Central market, Renovation of Classrooms for Benso SHS and re-roofing of Adiewoso JHS School Building	MDF	74% completed	Adiewoso school re-roofed, TARSCO Sick Bay completed and in use. Yam sellers Shed on-going.

7	Construction of Male/Female Laboratory Facility with ancillary facilities and landscaping at Benso	DACF	95% completed	Super-structure completed; external works ongoing.
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ROADS

Hon. Presiding Member, I am happy to inform this august House that the Assembly has started laying pavement blocks through the bad area stretch of the main road of Kwabedu in Tarkwa which works will soon be completed.

INSTALLATION OF TRAFFIC LIGHTS AT NSUTA JUNCTION

Hon. Members, the Assembly in collaboration with AngloGold Ashanti Iduapriem Limited has commenced the installation of traffic light at the Nsuta Junction to ease the traffic situation at the said location.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Hon. Members,

May I now present to the House the report from the Executive Committee. At the Executive Committee meeting held on Tuesday 21st March, 2023, the following recommendations were made for the attention and approval of the General Assembly;

1. That, there should be upward review of rent for occupants of Assembly's quarters and stores.
2. That sitting allowance for the Assembly be increased from GH¢250.00 to GH¢350.00 while allowance for Chairpersons to Sub-committees be increased to GH¢400.00.

3. There should be a presentation on the new Digital Business Operating Permit collection platform to the General House.
4. That the 2021 Auditor General's report be presented to the House.
5. That the Ministries Block garage at Old Town be re-roofed since the roofing could collapse at any time.
6. That Assembly should support the Department of Social Welfare and Community Development and Municipal Guards Unit with patrol Vehicle to enable them tackle streetism in Tarkwa.
7. That the Assembly should reshape bad roads in the Municipality to make them motorable.
8. That the Assembly should liaise with the Electricity Company of Ghana (E.C.G.) to extend electricity to new sites at various communities across the Municipality.
9. That the Assembly should include residential accommodation in the design of the Adieyie / Mile 8 Police Station.
10. The Assembly should liaise with the Contractor to water the road under construction in order to reduce dust.
11. That the Assembly should adequately resource the Roads Department to enable them place road signs at vantage points within the Municipality.
12. The Assembly should take over the Tamso Police Station Project and ensure its completion or support the residents of the area who initiated the project to complete it.
13. That management should provide update or status of implementation of committee's reports approved by House to Members.
14. That the Assembly should allocate one of the classrooms of Effuanta School Block to the Assembly Member of the area to be used as an office.
15. That the Assembly should provide furniture to Mahamo and Mile 5 schools which are in advance stages of completion.
16. That the Assembly should pursue the scholarship package for the best WASSCE candidate (Male and Female) with sponsorship from Mining Companies in the Municipality.
17. That the Assembly should create a central market Point for farmers to offload their farm produce from different locations to enable them sell to customers other than selling by the road side.

18. That a ready market should be identified for the purchase of oil palm fruits and transport to the 1D1F at Simpa to commence production.
19. That palm seedlings should be supplied in larger quantities so that all oil palm farmers within the Municipality would benefit from its cultivation.
20. That there should be constant education, re-enforcement and regular monitoring of all communities that are involved in oil palm cultivation to access their progress.
21. That the Assembly should assist to acquire farmlands for the 1D1F to cultivate oil palm to feed the factory.
22. That the Assembly should document all public places lands such as Cemeteries, Refuse Bay sites and public toilets facilities in the Municipalities.

Hon. Presiding Member, I move that this document be accepted for discussion and approval by this August House.

Thank you.