

**WELCOME REMARKS BY THE HON. MUNICIPAL CHIEF EXECUTIVE, MR. BENJAMIN KESSIE, DURING THE 2<sup>ND</sup> ORDINARY MEETING OF THE 4<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE 8<sup>TH</sup> ASSEMBLY, HELD ON TUESDAY, 29<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST, 2023 IN THE MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY HALL.**

**HON. PRESIDING MEMBER,**

**HON. MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT - TARKWA-NSUAEM  
CONSTITUENCY,**

**HON. ASSEMBLY MEMBERS,**

**HEADS OF DEPARTMENT/ AGENCIES/ INSTITUTIONS,**

**STAFF OF THE ASSEMBLY,**

**FRIENDS FROM THE MEDIA,**

**DISTINGUISHED LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.**

**Good morning.**

It is with great honor and joy to see all of us gathered here once again as one people to deliberate on issues that would promote development of the Municipality and ultimately transform the lives of the people and the future generation. It is against this background that I welcome all and sundry to this all-important meeting. As you may be aware, this is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Ordinary Meeting of the 4<sup>th</sup> session of the 8th Tarkwa-Nsuaem Municipal Assembly and I am delighted to fulfill the legal mandate as MCE to address this August House on the state of the Municipality and present to you the Executive Committee Report of the Assembly.

**Hon. Presiding Member,**

With a heart full of joy, I am happy to announce to you that our Municipality has once again become the envy of the Western Region and the country at large as the Assembly has been awarded as the **“Best Partner District”** under GIZ’s **“Governance For Inclusive Development”** programme which was started in October 2019, nationwide and expected to end in September this year. The Municipal Internal Auditor and the Municipal Planning Officer of this Assembly under the same programme also won the **“Best Accountability Partner”** and the **“Best Collaborating Officer”** respectively. I am once again flattered to say that this feat came as a result of the sense of purpose, unity and peaceful co-existence between Hon. Assembly Members, myself, and our hard working Technocrats. This has also made the inhabitants of this Municipality to continue to enjoy the numerous developmental initiatives set out by the Assembly and the government of His Excellency, Nana Addo Danquah Akufo Addo. On this note, I say **“Ayekoo”** to us all.

**Hon. Presiding Member, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

In another vein, the Assembly recognizing the growing demand for greater openness and the need to improve on existing civic participation within the Municipality made the decision to join Government Reformers across the globe through the Open Government Partnership (OGP) in 2022.

The Open Government Partnership is based on the idea that an open government is more accessible, more responsive, and more accountable to citizens, and that improving the relationship between people and their government has long-term exponential benefits for everyone.

The OGP is a worldwide partnership that is made up of 78 countries, 104 local governments and thousands of civil society organizations across the globe. Through the Partnership, these powerful forces work together to co-create action plans with concrete steps, thus commitments – across a broad range of policy areas. This model allows civil society organizations and citizen engagement to play a role in shaping and overseeing government.

Currently, the OGP will be organizing a global summit of all partners and locals in Tallinn, Estonia (Eastern Europe) on the 6th to 8th September 2023.

**Hon. Presiding Member,** I am delighted to announce that the Tarkwa-Nsuaem Municipal Assembly has once again emerged as the winner for the **Best Initiative for Open Government Partnership Local, Africa Region** category with the **Youth and Women Entrepreneurship Programme (YaWEP)**.

Hon. Members, I am glad to indicate that I would be travelling to Estonia to receive the award on behalf of the Assembly. Let me therefore use this opportunity to appreciate all Honorable Members for your support and cooperation towards these commitments.

**Hon. Presiding Member,**

As provided by law, the General Assembly is the highest decision-making body of the Assembly which performs deliberative, legislative and executive functions based on reports and recommendations from the Executive Committee. It is on this basis that I present to this House, some recommendations brought forward by the Executive Committee at its meeting held on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> August, 2023 and also update the House on the progress of the Assembly in critical sectors.

At this point **Hon. Presiding Member**, permit me to update the house on critical sectors of the Assembly and the progress made so far.

**SECURITY SITUATION**

The security situation in the Municipality has been relatively calm. Crime rate is on the decline. The security detachment is on the ground monitoring the activities of illegal artisanal mining, though we have as a matter of extreme importance reduced the number of men on the ground to a manageable level.

**FINANCIAL UPDATE**

The revenue position of the Assembly in 2023 has not been encouraging. As at the month of July, the Assembly was able to mobilize a total revenue of GHc 9, 223, 402.61 as against GHc 14, 122, 738.52 in 2022. In the area of expenditure, the Assembly spent GHc 9, 777, 778.23 as against GHc 11, 388, 357.63 in 2022. The drastic drop is as a result of the Central Government policy to partner MMDAs for the collection of revenues on Property Rate across the country. We however, anticipate that the problems which has stalled this revenue mobilization process would be resolved as early as practicable to enable us successfully complete our planned projects and programmes in the year.

## **PROJECTS UPDATE**

The Assembly has made a budget from its Mineral Development Fund (MDF), the Internally Generated Fund (IGF), The District Assemblies Common Fund (DACF), and District Assemblies Common Fund Responsive Factor Grant (DACF-RFG) towards the realization of the under listed projects.

1. Construction of 1No. 6 Unit Classroom Block with Ancillary Facilities, Landscaping, and Tree Planting around the Facility, 120No. Dual Desks and 6No. Teachers' Tables and Chairs at Dompim.
2. Construction of 1 No. 20-Seated WC Toilet for Simpa Cluster of Schools.
3. Construction of 3No. Mechanized Boreholes at Mile 7, Brofoyedru, and Kyekyewere.
4. Fabrication and Supply of 240No, Dual Desks 24No. Teachers' Tables and Chairs 40No. Hexegunal Tables and Chairs, 3No. Bookshelves and 300 Tables and Chairs for Schools.
5. Procurement of 100No. Bunk Beds for Fiaseman Senior High School.
6. Procurement of Office Equipment to the Tarkwa Nsuaem Municipal Assembly.
7. Development of a Digitalized Revenue Mobilization System for Business Operation Permit.

## **DISASTER RESPONSE**

Recently in the Municipality, the heavy downpour caused destructions to some properties in 15 communities in the Municipality including loss of a life in the Nsuaem Community. A total of 974 persons from 472 households were affected. Some of the affected communities were, Nsuaem, Bansa, Bonsawire, Benso, Essuoso, Tarkwa Bansa, among others. The Assembly took a swift step to procure some relief items to support the affected persons. We also again linked up with the

mining companies in the Municipality to support the Assembly with relief items to complement our efforts.

## **POSTINGS/RETIREMENT**

The Municipal Works Engineer, Ch Ing. Ebenezer Annoh-Kwarfo proceeded on his compulsory retirement on 10<sup>th</sup> August, 2023. Mr. George Kwame Nyame has however, been posted to the Municipality to replace him.

### **Hon. Presiding Member,**

I now present to you the Recommendations by the Executive Committee:

1. That the hundred percent increment on rents for occupants of Government bungalows and stores in the Municipality should be maintained while plans were put in place to review the amount on regular basis.
2. That the Assembly should expedite action for the collection of Business Operating Permits by the Zonal Councils.
3. That the newly approved sitting allowances for General Assembly and Sub-Committee meetings should be implemented with effect from 31st March, 2023 after the first ordinary meeting held on 30th March, 2023.
4. That the Assembly should fix streetlights on the Hospital Road and Tarkwa main station to aid security in the night.
5. The Assembly should lead a joint action with the MTTD to remove parked and out of used vehicles from the shoulders of the road at Bogoso Junction to prevent accident on the stretch.
6. The Assembly should evacuate traders on pavements at Bogoso Junction to ease congestion on the roads.

7. That all completed projects within the Municipality should be handed over to the beneficiaries for use while plans were made for commissioning at appropriate time.
8. The Assembly should procure a new grader as soon as possible.
9. That the Assembly should have a Management Plan before the completion and handing over of the Tarkwa Na Aboso Sports stadium which is being funded by Gold Fields Foundation.
10. That Management should task the Inspectorate Unit of Works Department to cross check and bring down structures without permits on the railway land in the Municipality.
11. That the Assembly should collaborate with Forestry Commission to reclaim lands destroyed through the activities of illegal mining in the Municipality for future use.
12. The Tarkwa Forestry Commission should be invited to brief the General house on the Green Ghana Project and the cost involved in planting the trees in the Municipality.
13. The Assembly should nurse new palm seedlings for farmers in the Municipality to help boost the operationalization of the 1D1F project at Dompim.
14. The Assembly should procure relief items and logistics for the NADMO Department to enable them to adequately respond to disaster situations in the Municipality.
15. The Assembly should desilt the streams and storm drains in the following communities; Nsuaem (Anikoko/Duobun Stream), Tarkwa (Kawire), Tarkwa Kadadwen (main drain), Cyanide Junction (Patangye), Kwamenakrom (main drain), Brahabebome – UMaT, Railway Quarters, Bankyim, Akyempim,

Jerusalem, New Atuabo (Cape Town), TARSCO to mitigate flooding towards the rainy season.

16. The Assembly should renovate Tamso Anglican Primary School block to avert further disaster occurrence.
17. That the Assembly should provide the Municipal Education Directorate with two (2) Computers to aid in the effective discharge of their duties.
18. That the Assembly should compel Zoomlion Ghana to comply with their contract agreement with the Assembly since their performance has not been encouraging in recent times.

**Hon. Presiding Member, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I will end my remarks here but once again express a strong conviction that the months ahead would bring many good things to the Municipality, though we look forward to end the term of office of Hon. Assembly Members in this 8<sup>th</sup> Assembly.

Thank you all for your attention

May the good Lord bless us.

**God Bless Tarkwa-Nsuaem Municipality!**

**God Bless Ghana!**