

CENTRE FOR ACTIVE LEARNING

AND

INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT



**CALID**



## 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

*ENHANCING COMMUNITY LED DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES BY PROMOTING  
GOOD GOVERNANCE, ACCESS TO QUALITY AND SFAE BASIC EDUCATION*

January to December, 2020

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## LIST OF ACRONYMS

ACIC	Atlantic Council for International Cooperation
BECE	Basic Education Certificate Examination
CALID	Centre for Active Learning and Integrated Development
Carter	Centre A Partner
CDM	Community Development Monitors
CETAGE	Citizen Empowerment for Transparent and Accountable Quality Education
CHPS	Community-Based Health Planning Services
CHRAJ	Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice
CLA	Citizens Led Assessment
CMC	Community Monitor Committee
CRC	Citizen Report Card
CS	Circuit Supervisors
CSC	Community Score cards
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
DPAT	District Performance Assessment Tools
DSW	Department of Social Welfare
EC	Electoral Commission
EGRA	Early Grade Reading Assessment
EMMA	East Mampurusi Municipal Assembly
FOAT	Functional Organisational Assessment Tools
FOSDA	Foundation for Security Development in Africa
FUChASS	Fighting Unapproved Charges for Health Services
GES	Ghana Education Service
GIZ	An NGO
GNAT	Ghana National Association of Teachers
GSAM	Ghana Strengthening Accountability Mechanism
ICT	Information Communication Technology
INGOs	International Non-Governmental Organisations
ISODEC	Integrated Social Development Centre
LoYA	League of Youth Association
M & E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MA	Municipal Assembly
MCE	Municipal Chief Executive
MDAs	Ministries, Departments and Agencies
MMDAs	Metropolitan, Municipal, District Assemblies
MPCU	Municipal Planning Coordinating Unit
MSC	Municipal Steering Committee
MTDP	Medium Term Development Plan
MWD	Municipal Works Department
NaBco	Nations Builders Corps
NCCE	National Commission on Civic Education
NCDMs	Network of Community Development Monitors
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organisations
NHIA	National Health Insurance Authority

NHIS	National Health Insurance Scheme
NORSAAC	An NGO
NRCC	Northern Regional Coordinating Council
NYA	National Youth Authority
OXFAM	An NGO
PPUs	Project Performance Updates
PTA	Parent Teacher Association
PWD	People With Disabilities
RCC	Regional Coordinating Council
SA	Social Accountability
SHS	Senior High School
SMC	School Management Committee
SMS	Short Message Service
SNV	An NGO
Songtaba	An NGO
STAR Ghana	Strengthening Transparency Accountability and Responsiveness
STKD	Sawla Tuna Kalba District
TCH	Tamale Central Hospital
TLMs	Teaching and Learning Materials
TTH	Tamale Teaching Hospital
TV	Television
TWH	Tamale Central Hospital
URBANET	An NGO
USAID	United States of America International Development
VSO	Village Savings Organisation
WASSCE	West African Senior School Certificate Examination
WMMA	West Mampurusi Municipal Assembly
WUSC	World Universities of Canada
YDA	Youth Development Authority
YEF	Youth Enterprise Funds
YEfL	Youth Empowerment for Life

## FOREWORD



**Mr Coleman Agyeyomah, Board Chairman**

The Chairman of the Board of Directors of CALID extends his greetings and gratitude to you all for your support in whatever way in ensuring that the year 2019 was a success. A new Board of Directors was constituted in 2019 and has since started working. Membership of the board is made up of professionals from various backgrounds.

CALID in the course of the year with the support, cooperation and commitment of donors, communities and other major stakeholders, all projects have been implemented successfully. Stress and challenges associated with programme management and implementation has been overcome.

I salute our donors for their wonderful support to CALID for without them, the objective of CALID would not have been met. CALID is forever grateful to; Care International, GIZ, OXFAM and STAR Ghana.

We will not forget the overwhelming contributions of citizens and community structures like; Youth Networks, PTA/SMCs Networks, Young Women groups, PWDs, media, Traditional rulers and Community Development Monitors among others who played great role in our advocacy agenda.

The Board is also grateful to the entire staff and management of CALID for their resilience, hard work and dedication to duty.

I hope and believe that we will together sustain the partnership in the interest of developing Ghana. To achieve this, your continue support and in year 2021 and beyond will still be relevant.

Best regards.

## CHAPTER ONE

### ORGANISATIONAL PROFILE

#### 1.1 ABOUT CALID

The Centre for Active Learning and Integrated Development (CALID) was formed in April, 2001 as a Non-Governmental, Non-profit and Non-Partisan organisation committed to the promotion of quality life for the poor and marginalized in society particularly women and children. CALID is registered with the Registrar General's Department with registration number: **CG203202015** and with the Department of Social Welfare with registration number: **DSW 3053**. CALID has over sixteen years' experience in development work. CALID major areas of interest or thematic areas are; Education, Governance and Health.

##### 1.1.1 Geographic operational areas and location of offices:

Geographic operational areas of CALID are; North East, Northern and Savannah Regions of Ghana. The head office is based in Tamale, the capital city of the Northern Region, Ghana with sub offices in Bole and Sawla-Tuna-Kalba Districts in the Savannah Region.

##### 1.1.2 Board of Directors and Staff

CALID has 9 (6males/3females) member board appointed on the bases of professional competence, skills, knowledge and interest in community development. The staff strength is 9 (5males/4females) paid staff and 4 volunteers/interns.

CALID has a three member Senior Management Team responsible for the day to day running and decision making.

#### 1.2 OUR VISION, MISSION, GOAL, STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES AND VALUES

##### 1.2.1 Vision

A society of equal opportunities, where every person is able to assert their rights, fulfils their responsibilities and enjoys a secure life with dignity.

##### 1.2.2 Mission

To work with communities to expand their capabilities to assess their rights, maximize their potential and provide for the wellbeing of its members.

##### 1.2.3 Goal

To build the capacities of right holders and communities to access their rights to: quality education, good governance, quality health services delivery and secure livelihood for their wellbeing.

##### 1.2.4 Strategic Objectives

1. To enhance the opportunity of poor and marginalised children to have access to quality basic education through improved retention and ability of girls to complete Junior High School by 2020.

2. Empower citizens to actively participate in decision making at the local and national levels and demand transparency and accountability from traditional authorities, local government structures and basic services delivery institutions for the wellbeing of citizens.
3. To improve health care delivery to the doorsteps of marginalized citizens and communities.
4. To secure access of poor and marginalized men and women to a decent livelihood through access to productive resources, skills training and enterprise development.

### **1.2.5 Values**

CALID is guided by these values:

1. Equity and Justice
2. Mutual Respect
3. Honesty & Transparency
4. Solidarity with the poor and marginalized.

### **1.3 Our Strategy and Approach to Work**

- Human Rights Based Approach to development
- Participation
- Promoting Gender Equity
- Partnership and Collaboration
- Learning and Sharing

### **1.4 Theory of Change**

CALID theory of change is an empowered citizen especially the youth and girls driving the agenda of change in their communities through vibrant networks, groups and coalitions that challenge duty bearers in dealing with developmental programmes.



**Mohammed Awal Sumani Bapio, Executive Director -CALID**



## **CHAPTER TWO**

### **KEY PROGRESS MADE IN THE YEAR 2020**

The SMC/PTA networks in the Northern and Savannah regions were actively performing their roles by dialoguing with education authorities and presented proposals on measures to improve academic performance and making schools safe for children under COVID-19. The network also pushed for the rights of the rural school children to be respected by calling on authorities to employ mechanisms that will ensure continuous learning for the rural children during the schools' closure period since their counterparts in the cities were having e-learning.

The SMC Networks also engaged in media advocacy for quality education. It is seen as an effective medium to press home the issues affecting quality education and also get their proposed measures for safety school reopening under COVID-19 heard and considered in the road map towards a safe school reopening.

There has been an improved performance, transparency, and accountability of MMDAs in Capital project delivery. Assembly's oversight responsibilities on capital projects monitoring have improved as the involvement and contribution of citizens have been pronounced.

The governance programme has led to an increased in citizen and CALID's knowledge, capacity in capital project monitoring and social accountability as well as their oversight of capital projects and participation in the development process. Citizens now see themselves as the primary beneficiaries of capital projects and are therefore playing critical roles to ensure that projects are constructed well.

Equally, citizens' engagements with MMDAs have seen a great increase. Citizens are constantly engaging the Assembly through several channels including; meetings, WhatsApp page, interfaces, and Town Hall interactions.

Perceived vigilante groups members were part of peace committees formed for the Vigilant for Peaceful Election 2020 and they carried out a number advocacy work for a peaceful election.

The citizens journalists trained reported timely on electoral disturbances and early warning signals and this generated the needed action by responsible agencies helping in minimizing electoral violence before and during the elections. The transition forum held enhanced the understanding of the youth groups in transition processes has also contributed to ensuring the peace after the elections.

## CHAPTER THREE

### REVIEW BY THEMATIC FOCUS

#### 3.1 RIGHT TO QUALITY BASIC EDUCATION

The overall goal for this thematic focus is *“to enhance the opportunity of poor and marginalized children to have access to quality basic education through improved retention and ability of girls to complete Junior High School by 2020”*. In the year 2019 CALID implemented a **project titled: “Citizen Empowerment for Transparent and Accountable Quality Education” (CETAGE)** as a contribution to the achievement of the above goal.

**CETAGE** has two components made of the Education for Active Citizenship and Youth Development and Empowerment. The project is implemented in Sawla Tuna-Kalba District and Sagnarigu Municipal.

Under the Education for Active Citizenship, the focus is on citizens advocating for increased investment and financing of education. Strategies used in our advocacy efforts include the use of networks thus SMC/PTA, Young Women and Youth Networks in STK District and Sagnarigu Municipality in ensuring quality learning outcomes. The effort of primary change agents is ensuring that the funding of workable models, improvement in the academic performance of children and the equitable distribution of education resources have been much concentrated on by CALID.

These structures and networks have built and are becoming credible alliances in the advocacy agenda of CALID. They are also advocating for better resources, opportunities using dialogue and engagement meetings as strategies. These citizen groups are therefore seen as change agents in their respective Districts. As a result, they were provided with the requisite advocacy and influencing skills as well as platforms for engagement to change their lives and others in society.

Under the Youth Development and Empowerment component, the project aimed at empowering young women to assert their rights as active citizens in participation in decision making as democratic rights. As a result, these Youth groups /networks lead campaigns that guarantee equal rights to education and employment opportunities for young people especially young women.

##### 3.1.1 Project Objective

The overarching objective of the project was *“to empower citizens, citizens’ groups/networks, school children, the youth and other civil societies with the relevant skills to demand their rights to quality education, skills development and employment opportunities while actively participating in decisions making processes that affect their lives”*.

The specific objectives for the year under review are;

1. Enhanced efficiency, progressive public financing/investment and accountability in education through CSO campaigns.
2. Youth groups /networks-led campaigns that guarantee equal rights to education and employment opportunities for young people especially young women.
3. CSOs, citizen groups and Networks are strengthened to engage duty bearers for accountable and efficient use of public resources especially education.

### **3.1.2 Strategy for Activities Implementation**

CALID deployed the strategy of allowing citizen groups to lead in the advocacy path as a build on already existing community structures as a way of ensuring sustainability of actions at the community and district levels. The Youth, SMC/PTAs are into Networks including the Past Students' Association of STK Girls Model School (PSAGMS) which made them strong to advocate on educational issues. The strategy used has supported these groups to become credible alliances to advocate for better resources, opportunities and using dialogue and engagement meetings.

### **3.1.3 Project Results**

Based on the project activities implemented, the following results were achieved;

**Result 1: SMC Network held two major fora with Regional Coordinating Councils in the Northern and Savannah Regions together with Education and Health authorities on re-opening of schools and the impact of E-Learning on pupils.**

With the education sector being one of the critical sectors affected by the ravaging effect of COVID-19, stakeholders in the sector have been engaged in finding and implementing measures to ensure continuous education and instituting measures for safe school reopening. As such the SMC Network in their bid to contribute to ensuring continuous education for all children during the lock down period of schools and safety measures for reopening schools. During this fora, SMC Network made a case for the rural school children on the fact that they are being left out in the online learning during the schools' closure and the need for rights to be respected by making efforts to bring them onboard. This contributed to the subsequent introduction of the timesheet so that, children without access to the e-learning services could make use of that to continue learning. The SMC Network also presented proposals to authorities to be considered for safety reopening of schools. Some of the proposals presented were the reintroduction of mono-desk, expansion in class size, and among others.



*Engagement with Northern Regional Coordinating Council and Regional Education Directorate*



*Engagement with the Savannah Regional Minister and his Team*

**Result 2: SMC Network held four dialogue meetings and a TV discussions on measures leading to safe school environment in regions with RCCs of the Northern and Savannah Regions, Education authorities and TV stations.**

The ultimate objective of the dialogues is to contribute ideas towards the re-opening of schools amidst COVID 19. It was also emphasized that maintaining a safe school operation when reopening schools requires many considerations to safeguard all children in the school setting. As such, the Executive Director of CALID said, “a stakeholder dialogue meeting becomes very important to point out the way forward and to understand the practical steps that should be put in place to ensure safety in schools as some category of students are already in school whilst preparations are underway for reopening of schools for all pupils”.

The issues were further pressed home using TV and Radio discussions involving SMCs, parents, Youth and CSOs.



**SMC Network and project team engaged in TV discussions.**

**Result 3: Two Press Conferences on Education held in the Northern and Savannah Regions**

Communiqués were developed and submitted to the authorities of the Northern and Savannah RCCs. Stakeholders who participated in the programme lauded the committee for such a proposal. The communiqués were officially endorsed by all the stakeholders of education in the regions. Key among the participants were the Savannah Regional Minister and his team including the Regional Health Director, the Northern Regional Development Planning Director, and his team.

Hon. Salifu Adam Braimah, the Savannah Regional Minister applauded the initiatives of the Networks and acknowledged CALID’s effort in facilitation the process. He also emphasized that maintaining a safe school operation when reopening schools requires many considerations to safeguard all children in the school setting. He considered the issues raised as feasible except for the infrastructure which needs intensification across all schools in the country “it is a long-term issue and would take the government some time to implement it across” he said.

### **3.2 PROMOTING GOOD GOVERNANCE AND ACTIVE CITIZEN PARTICIPATION**

The overall goal for the Governance thematic area is to “*empower citizens to actively participate in decision making at the local and national levels and demand transparency and accountability from traditional, local government structures and basic service delivery institutions for the wellbeing of citizens*”. Projects implemented in this area were titled: “Ghana Strengthening Accountability Mechanism” (GSAM) and “*Enhancing Citizen Participation and Social Accountability at the District Level*”.

The Governance programme for CALID aimed at empowering citizens with information, skills, and knowledge of monitoring of capital projects of local authorities and also ensuring citizens involvement in participation in the decision-making processes of assemblies.

These projects were implemented in the; East and West Mamprusi Municipal Assemblies in the North East Region of Ghana.

#### **3.2.1 Project Objective**

1. Strengthening the capacity of citizens to monitor capital projects of their respective assemblies and to use the information generated through their monitoring to demand accountability and improvement in capital project delivery.
2. Enhancing Citizens’ Participation and Social Accountability at the local or community level.

#### **3.2.2 Strategy for Activities Implementation**

The use of the Community Development Monitors (CDMs) who lead in the generation of information and using evidence from the information gathered for advocacy as well as correction of defects.

#### **3.2.3 Project Results**

Some of the results achieved in the year 2020 are as follows:

##### **Result 1: Improved Transparency and Accountability of MMDAs in Capital Project Delivery**

Continues meetings of CALID and citizens’ representatives in the persons of the Assembly members with the Assemblies had served as an opportunity to inquire about progress and issues emanating from capital projects in their communities. This has ensured transparency and improved accountability to a greater extent. The use of the WhatsApp platforms in seeking for clarifications from the Assemblies have equally boosted the transparency and accountability levels of the Assemblies, in that it is serving as a platform where citizens can ask questions or raise issues easily at any time and the Assemblies’ Officials on the platforms also give answers to those issues promptly.

The GAS findings disseminations and the community interfaces all improved on Assemblies’ transparency and accountability. These platforms compelled Officials to offer explanations to issues raised by citizens and pledges were made for amends and

eventually resulted in effecting needed actions. The activities of GSAM led to the publishing of details of capital projects for citizens to know. Assemblies with the GSAM project are more responsive to concerns of citizens than non-GSAM Assemblies. This is because, while Citizens in Assemblies with GSAM projects have various engagement platforms with duty bearers, Citizens in Assemblies without GSAM do not have these platforms to engage duty bearers.

In all, GAS findings disseminations benefited 1202 making up of 725 males, 477 females and 55 PWDs direct beneficiaries. Generally, the exercise has empowered citizens by bridging the knowledge gap by impacting them with the knowledge regarding the initiation, planning and execution processes of capital projects in their communities by their Assemblies. This knowledge has been guiding them in performing their responsibilities which is also increasing the performance of their Assemblies in the delivery of capital projects. Citizens hitherto had no or less knowledge about the processes leading to the delivery of capital projects in their communities but thanks to the GSAM project, the story is no longer the case as citizens now have high knowledge level of capital projects initiation, planning, contracting and procurements and among others.



***Dissemination of GAS results at Alternative spaces/communities***

### ***General Findings***

1. Citizens were of the view that the, Assembly officials were not being fair and truthful to them. They said that, there were instances the assembly peddled falsehoods about completion some ongoing projects. For instance, Fataw Boure indicated that he heard on a local radio station in Nalerigu called “Nobia radio” in November 2019 that stated that **“The East Mamprusi Municipal Assembly has completed a CHPS Compound in the community and have commissioned and handed it over to the people”**. He added that he called and refuted the fact that the facility has been completed and commissioned. Citizens from such communities where projects have been completed but are not being put into use expressed their

disappointment in the Assembly for not putting completed projects into use due to delays in commissioning of the projects.

2. It also emerged from the exercise that citizens largely lack information about contract details of capital projects.
3. In one community (Langbina), Mr Adam Wamibo stated that **“There was a time when they saw strangers bringing sand into the community and when he wanted to find out what they were coming to do, they asked him not to interfere with their work”** This according to them has made monitoring of capital projects by the Assembly in the community difficult and made them inactive to monitor activities by the Assembly.
4. Citizens were unhappy about how some projects are being implemented based on political lines/affiliation. These concerns were expressed by Yakanzia community about the alleged diversion of a CHPS Compound which was supposed to be built in their community after digging the foundation but has now been diverted to a different community. They therefore urged that the Assembly should be impartial and not partisan when it comes to the delivery of capital projects in the various communities within the Municipality.
5. Some communities felt they were being left in the distribution the National cake (capital projects) this they said even though they contribute to the income generation of the Assembly, they were not being considered for any project by the Assembly. At the Gbintiri community, the head teacher of the Gbintiri Junior High School, Mr Paul stated that Gbintiri is generating a lot of funds for the Assembly through its popular market activities. However, citizens felt left out by the assembly despite the community’s enormous contribution through taxes collected on market activities especially on the Gbintiri market days.
6. Citizens are not consulted by their Assemblies in the provision of capital projects. Assemblies make their decisions based on their opinions without consulting the community members. They are worried about the fact that, the District Assemblies do not make conscious effort to get citizens informed before putting certain capital projects, this leads to most projects delivered being **“white elephants”** as they do not most at times solve their most pressing needs.
7. Citizens further stated that capital projects delivered were of low standard. In the Loagri community, members complained bitterly that the Assembly usually award projects to the various communities without conducting a need-based assessment. This makes projects executed become inferior and less standard. Also, politicians in the area are seemed to be the major cause of low standard capital projects delivery. According to them, they start projects in order to gain votes from the citizens and after winning, such projects comes to a halt. And whoever takes over does anything he or she likes.

### ***Some Recommendations***

- ✓ There should be effective and efficient collaboration between community members and the Municipal Assemblies so that they complement each other’s efforts



regarding the implementation and planning of project at all levels for an improved delivery of capital projects.

- ✓ The Ghana Shared Growth and Development Agenda is aimed at making sure the district assemblies draw their DMTDP by involving the people and factor their various community needs and aspirations into consideration. So the implementation and development of the districts assembly capital projects must reflect the needs and aspiration with the aim to prevent the community projects becoming a white elephant.
- ✓ The MAs must conduct post project evaluation regarding the implementation of capital projects at the districts and community levels.
- ✓ Projects must be constructed according to the contract specification in order to bring value for money and efficiency in the delivery of capital projects.
- ✓ The process by which the Engineers arrive at the budget estimates should be documented.
- ✓ Invitation of tenders should be advertised as required by PPA
- ✓ The MMDAs agree to increase supervision and instructs the removal of defect works and maintain instruction book of recording of capital project sites
- ✓ The MAs should follow the internal control process for payment of the capital projects. The internal Auditor should pre audit all the payment vouchers and must audit all payment vouchers regarding the implementation of capital project delivery.
- ✓ The MAs must make information regarding contract details available to citizens.

## **Result 2: Increased citizens and CSOs knowledge and capacity in capital project monitoring and social accountability**

GSAM has produced active citizens who are actively demanding accountability from duty bearers with the knowledge and exposures the series of activities of the project has given them. Citizens now monitoring capital projects of their Municipalities better. In the sense that, they have been trained on the District Assemblies capital projects execution processes. Additionally, CDMs are contributing in the monitoring of projects on behalf of the larger community.

CDMs understanding of GAS Performance audits of Capital Projects have been improved especially during the e-platform engagement. The exercise has given the opportunity for these Development monitors to have a comprehensive understanding of the GAS performance audits in both Mamprusi Municipalities taking into consideration the focal thematic areas that are considered in accessing the Assembly's efforts in delivering capital projects within their communities. CDMs especially the new ones also got to understand that they have a collective role to play by effectively monitoring capital projects through the engagement meetings held.

The knowledge and capacity of CALID staff has also been enhanced particularly in learning non-usage of completed projects, identification of gaps in collaborations between MAs and communities and identification of success stories and report writing.

A total of about 150 Community Development Monitors (CDMs) across the East and West Mamprusi Municipals respectively in the North East Region including 8 PWDs from both Municipalities benefited directly from the trainings to continue carrying out effect monitoring of capital projects.



***Training of CDMs at East and West Mamprusi***

### **Suggestion from CDMs/Communities**

- CDMs emphasized that, contract specifications are made available and also mount project signpost at project site for an effective and efficient monitoring.
- It was also suggested that partisan politics should be eschewed by the Assemblies to ensure that projects initiated are completed in due time irrespective of the government in power.
- Moreover, CDMs urged that, in order to promote their work on the site, they should be provided with some form of identification cards that will help portray who they are in terms of executing any monitoring service.
- They also appealed to the MAs to advocate for the contractors to employ the youth in the communities since there will be a sense of ownership and will strengthen monitoring and supervision.
- It was also suggested that, the Assemblies should try as much as possible to get certain projects completed which were initiated sometime back. They urged the Assemblies put aside partisan politics and serve them accordingly.

### **Result 3: Engaged in detailed monitoring of capital projects in the East and West Mamprusi Municipalities**

This activity was carried out by project staff of CALID together with CDMs in the project communities with a strict adherence to all COVID-19 protocols. This exercise revealed some completed projects like CHPS compounds were not still being operationalized. In view of the current situation of COVID-19 outbreak, it was our expectation that CHPS compounds that were completed but have not been operationalized yet should have been commissioned and furnished with the needed logistics to enable citizens make and feel the actual benefits of such capital projects. Some of these projects especially CHPS Compounds in Gadantinga and Nagbai are still not been put to use as they are yet to be commissioned. This exercise was carried out also together with key community stakeholders including Chiefs, Linguists and their Assembly persons/representatives respectively.

Again, Citizens across the two Municipalities especially those in the project communities see most capital projects executed without their involvement and consultation to be of low standard. They blamed the poor quality of most projects on the politicians since according to them, the projects mostly were for political expediency and for the good of the communities.

It has however been identified that, despite the Assemblies' efforts to develop communities within the Municipalities through the provision of capital projects, most communities still face the challenge of portable water, good road networks, toilet facilities amongst many others. These were raised as a matter of concern across all the communities where the exercises were carried out. Therefore, in the coming years of GSAM, the concept will be applied to ensure transparency and accountability for quality if such projects are to be delivered in these communities going forward.



***Engagement with Sumnibomah Community members on joint project monitoring using the game of Owura***



**Uncommission Completed CHPS Compound at Nagbai and Gadantinga**

### **3.2.4 Success/Change Stories**

#### **Staff of MMDAs advised to uphold integrity in their job**

Mr Sayibu Yarifa, the MCD of the WMMA urged staff of the Assembly to follow the rules religiously to avoid flouting the procurement law, which could be dire for their careers, despite the political pressures. He advised staff of the Assembly that if any of their superiors pushed them to do something, which would go against the rules, they should “Put it into writing and give it to them to sign and if they refuse to sign it, then they should not do it”.

According to him “It may cause disaffection for you and possibly transfer, but it is better than destroying your career or landing you in jail”.

A Senior Planning Officer from the North East Regional Coordinating Council, Ms Belinda Bukari advised staff of MMDAs to be diligent in the discharge of duties and avoid yielding to political pressures so as to circumvent rules and regulations in approving projects.

She said, there is the need for officers of the MMDAs especially senior officers to uphold their integrity as technocrats and insist that the rules and regulations are strictly followed to prevent infractions.

According to her, “politicians will go and you will remain at the Assembly to be surcharged by the Auditor-General because you sign the major documents”.

### **3.3. Project Title: Vigilant Citizens Against Political Vigilantism for a Peaceful Election 2020 (VIGILANT 4 ELECTION 2020)**

#### **3.3.1. Project Objective: To minimize Nefarious and Violent activities of political vigilante groups in Election 2020.**

**3.3.2: Project Strategies:** CALID adopted the following strategies to execute the project’s activities;

- I. The formation and use of district level Peace Committees.

- II. The selection and training Citizens Journalists.
- III. Engagement meetings with key stakeholders
- IV. Media discussions
- V. Scorecard exercise

### **3.3.3: Project Results:**

The Project achieved the following results:

#### **Results1: Citizens engaged in anti-vigilantism advocacy to ensure Violence free election 2020.**

The result to get “Citizens engaged in anti-vigilantism advocacy to ensure Violence free Election 2020” was achieved to a large extent by implementing the above-mentioned activities. At the end of the first phase of the project, the project achievements were that.

The formed Metro, Municipal or District Peace Committees met and engaged with key stakeholders like the; assemblies, traditional authorities, political parties, and youth groups to have conversations around peaceful Election 2020. They have reached out to radio stations who offered them free airtime to spread their advocacy messages for a Peaceful Election 2020 in their respective localities. The Peace Committees made use of the free airtimes support by the radio stations to advocate for a violence free Election 2020.

The Peace Committees and Vigilant groups have acquired knowledge on relevant content of the Anti-Vigilantism and Related Violence Act, Act 999. Their attention was brought to the fact that they are legally disbanded, and their actions are punishable by law.

Membership of the Peace Committees were made up of; Youth and Women Organizers of NDC and NPP, traditional authorities, religious leaders, National Peace Council, People with Disability and youth groups. All these parties to the committees were very happy and assured of their willingness to take up the responsibilities that comes with the membership and some of them even offered useful suggestions pertaining to some key personalities and tribes to be added to the committees. One striking thing about these committees’ membership was the inclusion of the people with disability association as the secretary for the Savulugu Municipal **Violence Free Election Peace Committee**. In all there is a membership of 107 making up the peace committees with 22 females, 98 males and 1 PWD.

Visits to Traditional Authorities and other stakeholders during the start -up meetings have yielded a very positive results where Chiefs, Opinion Leaders and other stakeholders embraced the project as a wonderful project to tackle youth vigilantism in the region. They described the project as “a precious commodity as such so much premium should be placed on it”. CALID and League of Youth Association embarked on introductory visits to the project districts where; MMDAs, Traditional Authorities, political vigilante groups

Electoral Commission, NCCE, National Peace Council, and the two major political parties (NDC and NPP) were met.

At the regional level, engagement meetings were held with the RCC, Ghana Police Service, Electoral Commission, NCCE, National Peace Council, and the two major political parties (NDC and NPP).

Stakeholders especially the MMDAs and the MDAs through the Directors have all expressed their intensions of even involving CALID in some meetings of the Municipal/District Level Elections Task Force so that we could work together. The Electoral Commission was also pleased with the project. According to them, the success of the project means they would be having a smooth electoral process devoid of violence. In effect, the support and blessings of stakeholders, is facilitating the achievement and recognition of the project in the implementing district. With this, the project will be effectively carried out without major difficulties.

Members of perceived vigilante groups awareness of the existence of the anti-vigilante and related offenses bill and the fact that such groups have been legally disbanded was achieved. For instance, in the words of Rafiq a member of the Kandaha group, a perceived vigilante group in response to the fact that such groups have been disbanded, he said “if you say they have ban us, who ban us? Nobody told us they have ban us, so we do not know that they have ban us”. Clearly the training educated him and his colleagues on the existing legal framework around violent activities.

The police and the electoral commission on their part took participants through what constitute an electoral violence/irregularities and areas classified as flash/hot spots which they did not know before the training. This has empowered participants to carry out their advocacy campaigns more effectively.

Development and playing of jingles (both English and Local dialect) on Radio is helping to a way promoting anti-political vigilantism. The messages have far reaching audience even beyond the project districts.



***Introduction of project to traditional authorities***



***Formation of Peace Committees***

**Result 2: Enhanced fight against Political vigilantism and election related violence**

To enhanced fight against Political vigilantism and election related violence quarterly review meetings and monitoring of activities were organised meant to identify what was working and what was not working effectively. At these events or meetings successes and lessons were learnt and findings helped in making implementation more effective. They also served as opportunities for lead implementer to stay focused and to be on the alert to actively monitor trends in the political landscape to be able to pick up issues and report quickly.

Again, the team visited all major stakeholders and got them renewed their commitments towards a peaceful poll. The engagement meetings provided us with enough ana appropriate platform for CALID and League of Youth to further share the project in terms of direction, achievements so far made. The engagement with the youth groups and the political parties enhanced their blessings and commitments in dealing with political vigilante groups found culpable of violent acts. The youth groups were open enough to inform us some of the frustrations and intimidations they go through because of political victimisation. Unemployment has been identified as one key motivation or vulnerability tools for used in getting them into such acts.

Citizens' Journalists were trained, and their capacities built around identifying and reporting stories in a concise and responsible manner. These individuals did not have the knowledge of to develop a story into a report but the training impacted them with the required skills. This will increase the sources information on this year's general elections. Their reportage will cover all aspects regarding the processes leading the elections and, on the election, day including violence acts for easy remedial actions to be taken. They capacities have also been developed around detection and reporting on early warning signals which crucial in helping to nib any violent acts with potential of affecting the elections negatively in the bud.

The scorecard exercise caused the youth to do a deeper self-introspection and tell whether it is worth engaging in acts of violence for politicians. They enumerated the possible factors that account for why they as youth engage in violent acts and they also professed some possible mitigation measures. Some of the causes they mentioned are, unemployment, poverty, low level of understanding in democratic processes and among others. Some of the solutions similarly professed are, employment opportunities, poverty alleviation interventions, intensification of public education and among others.

Below were the indicators developed for the implementation of the scorecard.

1. Unemployment is the reason why young people join vigilante groups.
2. Political parties who engage young people as vigilantes always fulfil their promises to the young people.
3. Education, Skills training, and entrepreneurial skills is what young people need to stop doing the bidding of political parties as political vigilante members.
4. Apart from voting for a political party, committing acts of violence is the only role young people have to play in the party they support.

Young people do not care if they have education, gainfully employed or whatever dreams they want to achieve, they are just ready to do anything for the political party they support.



***Training of Citizens Journalists***





***Peace Committees' Engagement meetings with stakeholders***



***Citizens engaged in community score card exercise***

**Result 3: A violent free transition period ensured.**

Samson Lardy Anyenini, a Lawyer and journalist was the speaker for all this important forum. Since majority of participants were, youth Samson was very excited about that and said usually it is the youth that cause trouble during transitioning period. In his speech, he made participants to understand that, transitioning processes normally begin 30 days before the general elections (7/12/2020). He indicated that, 30 days before every general election, all heads of public agencies are required by law to prepare and submit their handing over notes.

Again, he indicated that, political parties often are ready with their transition committees hence in the event of a change of government, these transition committees will have to hold their first meeting within 48hrs. Participants were also made to understand when power is changing hands and the two transition committee has to work together for a

smooth transition, in the event of a standoff, and advisory committee made up of the Speaker of Parliament and two other people elected by both parties that is the incumbent and incoming government to represent them and these two citizens from the parties must citizens in good standing and are not partisan in nature to join the speaker to objectively resolve the impasse.

He urged the youth to respect laid down procedures and allow them to work.

On his Mr. Nicholas Ayensu the grants manager for the Star Ghana Foundation in his remarks thanked, CALID, the speaker and the participants for taking part in the programme. He also stated that the forum is so important and so the participant should give it all the seriousness it deserved since for him most often than not so attention was being placed on peace before and during elections and not much attention is given to transition period.



***Transition forum with Lawyer Samson Anyenini -Tamale***



***Media advocacy by project team and Peace Committee for a peaceful election 2020***

### **3.4 BRINGING RELIEF TO THE MOST VULNERABLE IN COVID-19**

**DISTRICT/ REGION NAME:**

Sawla-Tuna-Kalba District / -Savannah Region

**PROJECT/ACTIVITY TITLE:**

COVID-19 Social Support to Selected Vulnerable Households and Individuals in Sawla-Tuna-Kalba District. (August - October, 2020).

**PROJECT OBJECTIVE (S):**

To support vulnerable households in Sawla-Tuna-Kalba District to respond to the negative impacts of COVID 19.

Since the emergence of COVID-19 in the Ghanaian setting on the 11<sup>th</sup> of March, 2020, the impact of the virus has been deeply felt across the length and breadth of the country. However, major cities like; Accra and Kumasi have been hit the hardest. This is clearly evident in the fact that major cities have become the epicenters of the COVID-19 disease, as they serve as entry points for most international travels. These hardships were accompanied by the nationwide preventive measures that were instituted by the President of the Republic of Ghana. These includes the suspension of public gatherings, strict enforcement of social distancing and good personal hygiene, closure of all land, sea and air borders to human traffic, and lockdown of the epicenters of the disease.

Various support systems were in this regard provided at the national level to relief the economic hardships that the virus has on citizens following the partial lockdown. Some of these items included rice and oil. Even though these relief items could not be extended to the rural indigenes, the impact felt by these people could not be under-narrated.

Oxfam in Ghana as part of her humanitarian support mechanisms to the vulnerable in the communities, supported her partners including CALID with some Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs) and Food items to be distributed to selected most vulnerable households and individuals across the Sawla-Tuna-Kalba District of Savannah region.

**Items Received and Bought**

As part of the items, a stock of PPEs was received from Oxfam by CALID to include; 60 veronica buckets and stands, 60 tissue containers, 60 hand washing containers, 22 bottles of hand sanitizers, 270 face masks, 550 stickers on COVID-19 and 11 reusable goggles.

Items bought by CALID were; 270 boxes of locally made rice with each box containing 4 bags of the 5kgs of rice totally **1,080 5kgs** and 88 boxes of frytol oil were also procured with each box containing 12 bottles of the 1litre oil also totaling **1,056** 1litre oil.

**Process of Selecting Beneficiaries**

CALID employed a consultative approach by contacting the Department of Social Welfare through the District Assembly for the beneficiary selection. The target was 400 vulnerable persons to directly benefit from the food items distribution in the area. With the information given to the Department to assist in getting the neediest population, a list of these category of people was compiled for CALID for the exercise. However, CALID also did a grassroots needs based assessment on the names provided by engaging with the Assembly Persons of the communities in which these beneficiaries were selected from in order to validate the list that was provided by the Assembly. This is to ensure that the intended beneficiaries are obtained for the exercise and also, to eschew partisan politics which community members and other stakeholders may drive the exercise towards.

### **Beneficiaries Selected**

In all, 200 vulnerable widows, 100 aged and 100 PWDs were considered as the intended beneficiary population.

The hand washing containers and stands, reusable goggles, nose masks, hand sanitizers and others were first handed over to the STK District Assembly for further redistribution. These PPEs are later handed over to the GES for further distribution to schools in the district at the time the Form two were about to go to school. This is to enable students' practice effective hand washing especially when schools fully re-opened.

### **Distribution**

Though distribution staff were working/distributing items based on the agreed list that was provided by the Department of Social Welfare and confirmed by CALID, it was obvious to see other most vulnerable at the distribution centers whose names were not captured on the master list and are most in need. In this regard, considerations were made by giving those who are most in need but of which their names were not included. By doing so, those people received 5kgs of rice and 1 ltr of the oil instead of the 10kgs and 2ltrs respectively. This extra mile gone was as a result of the additional rice and oil that were procured by CALID.

By ensuring a safety and a conducive environment for the exercise, several distribution centers were earmarked. These includes Sawla specifically in CALID's office, Tuna (Near market), Danivaar, Gando, Yipala, Gindaboa, Nyange, Sindaa amongst other centers.

### **Beneficiaries**

In total, **568** beneficiaries were reached out to. They include; **228** widows, **183** aged (**110** males and **73** female) and **157** PWDs (**45** males and **112** females). The process was fair as the most needy and vulnerable in the district has been captured. The PWDs included the; hearing impaired, blind and the physically challenged.

**FOOD ITEMS DISTRIBUTION AT DANIVAAR**



**FOOD ITEMS DISTRIBUTION AT GANDO**



**FOOD ITEMS DISTRIBUTION AT TUNA**

## CHAPTER FOUR

### OUR SUPPORTERS AND DONORS

#### 4.1 Collaboration and Partnership

Our partnership with organisations is guided by our mission, vision and core values.

##### 4.1.1 Donors/Partners

The major donors of CALID in the year 2019 who supported our work are;

1. Care International
2. OXFAM
3. STAR Ghana

##### 4.1.2 Other NGOs/ Collaborators

The organisation CALID more often than not collaborates a lot with the following like-minded organisations.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Choice Ghana</li> <li>• FOSDA</li> <li>• ISODEC</li> <li>• NORSAAC</li> <li>• League of Youth Association</li> <li>• PAPADEV</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Northern Network for Education Development (NNED)</li> <li>• Songtaba,</li> <li>• Trent University</li> <li>• Youth Empowerment for Life(YEFL)</li> <li>• ACEP</li> <li>• Carter Centre</li> </ul>
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##### 4.1.3 Government Institutions and Community Level Collaborators

The following institutions, bodies and networks are often collaborated with whenever CALID has an activity that falls within their mandates.

Government Institutions Collaborators	Community Level Collaborators
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ghana Education Service (GES) at Regional and District levels</li> <li>• Regional Coordinating Council</li> <li>• Metro, Municipal and District Assemblies,</li> <li>• CHRAJ,</li> <li>• NCCE,</li> <li>• Department of Children</li> <li>• National Youth Authority</li> <li>• Electoral Commission</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Traditional Rulers,</li> <li>• Religious leaders</li> <li>• Community/Youth Organisations (CBOs)</li> <li>• STAMPATA</li> <li>• Youth Networks</li> <li>• PTA/SMC Networks</li> <li>• Girls Clubs /Parliament</li> <li>• Young Women</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: right;">Based</p>
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**CHAPTER FIVE**  
**HUMAN RESOURCE, ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE**



*Programme Staff educating citizens*



*Finance Team of CALID undergoing training*



### **5.1 Human Resource**

The staff strength of CALID for the year 2019 was 9 (5males/4females) paid staff and 4 volunteers/interns in. We have worked with over 10 volunteers/interns both national and international for the past years.

### **5.2 Income and Expenditure**

CALID have been audited for the period of 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2019 by Sappor & Agyekwena, Chartered Accountants of the Institute of Chartered Accountants (Ghana). Our budget for the fiscal year 2019 stood at **GHC384,617.00**. The year under review was equally used for extensive fundraising both internally and externally.

## CHAPTER SIX

### LESSONS, RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSION

#### 6.1 Lessons Learnt

Some lessons that have been learnt throughout the projects implementation that can be useful for future projects design and implementation are as followed;

- ✓ The use of the media platforms as a form of engagement by citizens on the issues of extortion/abuse/service delivery of hospitals made the authorities take the issues serious.
- ✓ Collaborating with citizens taking part in decision making and monitoring capital projects in their communities make them co-owners of the projects. This approach is good to ensure quality and sustainability of government capital projects.
- ✓ It has been revealed that, engaging with the youth on issues bordering them is a very effective way to get the youth channel their energy into positive activism for vigilantism and extremism.

#### 6.2 Key Implementation Challenges

It is important to note that the implementation of the projects have not been completely smooth but fraught with some challenges. Below are some of the challenges we faced:

- ✓ The Municipal Assemblies also complained that some projects delay as a result of the delay of government's release of funds to contractors and encouraged citizens to check on the source of funding. As a result contributing to projects lagging behind schedule.
- ✓ The views of participants divided along their personal interest and political lines. Thereby putting their commitment to monitoring of capital projects into questioning.
- ✓ Citizens attached to politics or afraid to be tagged find it difficult to accept the responsibility of presenting findings of scorecards at Town Hall meetings.
- ✓ There was also a serious delay in disbursement of funds from CARE to partners.
- ✓ Most citizens (victims of unapproved charges) are reluctant to report issues of unapproved charges and to open and report to CHRAJ for fear of victimization.
- ✓ Coldness on the part of duty bearers in taking actions on issues of extortion and abuse rose due to what they term as legal issues.
- ✓ Difficulty in getting duty bearers to come on radio because of bureaucratic issues in their organizations/departments.

#### 6.3 Recommendations

Based on the issues identified or encountered in the course of the project's implementation, it is therefore recommended that;

- ✓ CALID would have to continue to collate key advocacy issues to other bigger platforms like those created by STAR Ghana, OXFAM, Care International etc for effective and national level actions to be taken on them.
- ✓ The youth should be engaged religiously in a dispassionate discussion on their issues and they prove to be a powerful asset to their communities and the nation.

- ✓ Authorities should always engage and involve citizens in the planning and execution of capital project to deliver quality and useful capital projects.
- ✓ Citizens should be encouraged to complement the effort of Assemblies in monitoring capital projects.

#### **6.4 Conclusion**

The year 2019 though with some challenges had been successful. The plan for the year has been more than 90% complete. It is our hope that the coming years will be very prosperous.



## APPENDIXES

### Appendix 1: News Items



# Ghana News Agency

## District Peace Committees undergo training

By Albert Futukpor

Tamale, June 26, GNA – Members of District Peace Committees in four Assemblies in the Northern Region have undergone training to empower them to engage the youth in their communities to eschew violence before, during and after this year’s elections.



They were taken through election related security situations, violent incidents and early warning signs, peace building, conflict resolution and Anti-Vigilantism and related Offences Act, and electoral processes for the 2020 elections.

The District Peace Committees are composed of traditional authorities, religious leaders, political parties, youth groups previously noted for political vigilante activities amongst others from the Tamale, Savelugu, Gushegu and Nanton Assemblies.

They were constituted by the Centre for Active Learning and Integrated Development (CALID) and the League of Youth Association, both non-governmental organisations, as part of their “Vigilant Citizens for Peaceful Election 2020” project, which is being implemented in the four Assemblies with funding from the STAR Ghana Foundation.

The project, which will end in February, 2021, seeks to amongst other things ensure peace before, during and after the 2020 elections. The District Peace Committees work to identify youth groups, who have the potential to cause violence in the build up to election 2020, engage them to appeal to their conscience to refrain from violence and embrace community development and embark on peace campaign to advocate peaceful coexistence.

Mr Salifu Saeed, Northern Regional Minister, whose speech was read on his behalf during the two-day training, which ended in Tamale on Thursday, called for education of the public especially the youth to abide by the country's laws to ensure incident-free elections.

Police Superintendent, Mr Iddrisu Mohammed Tanko, Tamale District Police Commander, who made a presentation on the topic: "Electoral Related Security Situations: Violent Incidences and Early Warning Signals and Electoral Hot Spots," said the Police Administration had created various units to promote peace in the upcoming 2020 general election.

Superintendent Tanko mentioned some of the units, which included; Counter Terrorism to curtail all sorts of violence, where there would be the use of weapons, Formed Police, Ballot Security Agencies, and standby men at all polling stations.

Reverend Father Thaddeus Kuusah, Executive Secretary of the Northern Regional Peace Council, who made a presentation on "Peacebuilding, Conflict Resolution and Early Warning Signs, and Anti-Vigilantism and related Offences Act," expressed the need for the residents to live at peace with one another.

Reverend Kuusah advised the youth not to be misled by unscrupulous persons to foment trouble before, during and after this year's elections, saying there were severe sanctions for those who would flout the laws.

Mr Lucas Yiryel, Northern Regional Director of Electoral Commission explained the electoral processes for the 2020 elections and urged all qualified citizens to participate in the elections.

Mr Mohammed Awal Sumani Bapio, Executive Director of CALID said "We all are aware that the activities of youth vigilantism in the past had potential of threatening the existing peace the country is enjoying. We must not allow the peace of our country to be destroyed by political vigilantism."

Mr Bapio, therefore, reminded members of the District Peace Committees that "you are seen as peace ambassadors of your various districts and communities," urging them to play their roles effectively to ensure incident-free elections this year.

Some of the participants said the training had equipped them with skills to manage and

resolve conflicts in their communities in the lead up to this year's elections to ensure peaceful polls.

GNA

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[26.06.2020 General News](#)

[District Peace Committees Undergo Training Ahead Of Election 2020](#)



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—GNA



News Ghana

District Peace Committees undergo training

By Ghana News Agency

Jun 26, 2020





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Ghana News Agency

Friday 22nd November, 2019

## Minister lauds GSAM for promoting accountability



**By Albert Futukpor, GNA**

Walewale (NE/R), Nov 22, GNA – Mr Solomon Boar, North East Regional Minister has lauded the Ghana’s Strengthening Accountability Mechanisms (GSAM) project for promoting performance audits, which will help to protect the public purse.

He was convinced that performance audits, which involved amongst others assessing actual projects vis-à-vis the contract specifications, would ensure that projects were done according to specification to promote quality, saying that would help to transform the country within the next few years.

He was speaking during a town-hall meeting organised by the Centre for Active Learning and Integrated Development (CALID) at Walewale to present findings of a performance audit conducted by the Ghana Audit Service (GAS) in 2018 on two capital development projects executed by the West Mamprusi Municipal Assembly (WMMA) from 2014 to 2017. It was attended by officials of WMMA, citizens' groups and some civil society organisations.

This formed part of the Ghana's Strengthening Accountability Mechanisms (GSAM) project being implemented by OXFAM, CARE International, and ISODEC with funding from USAID to strengthen citizens' oversight of capital development projects to improve on local government transparency, accountability and performance. The projects included; two three-unit classroom blocks with ancillary facilities at the Buakudow and Namiyela communities.

The performance audit report, which was presented by Mr Abdul Samad Issahaque, Senior Performance Auditor at GAS, showed that the WMMA did not strictly adhere to the Public Procurement Act in the award of the two contracts and the execution of the projects, which led to poor quality of the projects.

Based on the performance audit, a scorecard generated by GSAM project implementers, citizens' groups and GAS, gave the WMMA an overall score of 55 per cent as assessment of the projects in the areas of project initiation and planning, procurement and contracting, execution, and project benefits to the people.

This score placed the WMMA at 21st position in comparison to 49 other Assemblies in which the GAS conducted the performance audit on capital development projects as part of the GSAM project.

Mr Boar challenged coordinating directors, engineers, and planners at the assemblies and community members to intensify monitoring of projects under construction to ensure that such projects were executed according to specification to ensure quality work to last a long time to serve the needs of the people.

Mr Sayibu Yarifa, West Mamprusi Municipal Coordinating Director, urged staff of the Assembly to follow the rules religiously to avoid flouting the procurement law, which could be dire for their careers, despite the political pressures Mr Yarifa advised staff of the Assembly that if any of their superiors pushed them to do something, which would go against the rules, they should "Put it into writing and give it to them to sign and if they refuse to sign it, then do not do it". He said "It may cause disaffection for you and possibly transfer, but it is better than destroying your career or landing you in jail".

Chief Emmanuel Sebiyam, Chief of Namiyela described the forum as an eye-opener expressing hope that the Assembly would henceforth follow the procurement law in awarding contracts to ensure value for money.

Mr Mohammed Awal Sumani Bapio, Executive Director of CALID, advised the people in the area to respect time and attend events on time to help increase productivity.

GNA



Ghana News Agency

Friday 22nd November, 2019

## MMDA staff warned not to circumvent rules to approve projects



By Albert Futukpor, GNA

Gambaga (NE/R), Nov. 21, GNA - Senior staff of Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies have been advised to be diligent in the discharge of their duties and avoid yielding to pressures from politicians to circumvent rules and regulations to approve projects.

Madam Belinda Bukari, Senior Planning Officer at the North East Regional Coordinating Council, who gave the advice, said there is the need for the senior staff to uphold their integrity as technocrats and insist that the rules and regulations are strictly followed to prevent infractions. She said "politicians will go and you will remain at the Assembly to be surcharged by the Auditor-General because you sign the major documents. She was speaking during a town-hall meeting organised by the Centre for Active Learning and Integrated Development (CALID) at Gambaga to present findings of a performance audit conducted by the Ghana Audit Service (GAS) in 2018 on two projects executed by the East Mamprusi Municipal Assembly (EMMA) from 2014 to 2017.

It was attended by officials of EMMA, citizens groups and some civil society organisations. This formed part of the Ghana's Strengthening Accountability Mechanisms (GSAM) project being implemented by OXFAM, CARE International, and ISODEC with funding from USAID to strengthen citizens' oversight of capital development projects to improve on local government transparency, accountability and performance. The projects included a three-unit classroom block with ancillary facilities at Nalerigu Health Assistants Training School (HATS) and a three-unit classroom block with ancillary facilities at Nagboo.

The performance audit report, which was presented by Mr Benjamin Danso, Principal Auditor at GAS, showed that whilst only the HATS project was captured in the District Medium Term Development Plan, there was also a significant difference between the estimated cost and the contract sum of the two projects. It revealed that the Engineer and the Planning Officer of the EMMA were part of the panel to evaluate the tenders for the projects and were also directly involved in the award of the contract.

It also revealed that whilst the contractor for the Nagboo project did not provide a performance guarantee before undertaking the contract, the contractors also used sub-standard materials and the projects were not executed according to specification. The report recommended the need for the EMMA to adhere to the rules and regulations to award contracts as well as need for the Engineer of EMMA to increase supervision of projects to ensure quality of the projects. Based on the performance audit, a scorecard generated by GSAM project implementers, citizens groups and GAS, gave the EMMA an overall score of 50 per cent as assessment of the projects in the areas of project initiation and planning, procurement and contracting, execution, and project benefits to the people.

Madam Bukari described the situation at the EMMA as captured in the GAS report as appalling adding that there is the need for the Coordinating Director, the Engineer and Planning Officer to work to ensure that such a practice did not occur again. She told them not to succumb to the pressures of politicians to do the wrong things, which she said would negatively affect the development of the Assembly.

Mr Bukari Basintale, East Mamprusi Municipal Coordinating Director, said those who committed the infractions were no longer at the Assembly adding that measures have been instituted to ensure that such practice did not recur.

Mr Mohammed Awal Sumani Bapio, Executive Director of CALID, commended the citizens groups for their keen interest in the affairs of the Assembly, and said it would improve on its transparency and accountability efforts.

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