

SESSIONAL ADDRESS DELIVERED BY THE HON. HELENA APPIAH, THE MUNICIPAL CHIEF EXECUTIVE (MCE) FOR WASSAAMENFI EAST MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY AT THE 2ND ORDINARY MEETING OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 5TH ASSEMBLY HELD ON THURSDAY, 23RD AND FRIDAY, 24TH JULY 2020 AT THE MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY HALL.

Hon. Presiding Member

Hon. Member of Parliament

Hon. Assembly Members

Municipal Co-ordinating Director

Nananom Present

Heads of Department and Unit Heads

The Press

Invited Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

I am filled with happiness to welcome you all to the Second Ordinary meeting of the First Session of the 5th Assembly.

Hon. Presiding Member, I feel much honoured to be given the opportunity to address this august house as the Municipal Chief Executive of this Assembly by giving Honourable Members and the people the Wassa Amenfi East Municipality, a message on the state of our Municipality. This is in pursuance of Section 28 (1) and (2 a) of the Local Governance Act, 2016, Act 936.

Let me congratulate the Honourable Members on their election to this Assembly, both first entrants and old members.

Hon. Presiding Member, permit me to use this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation and gratitude to all Hon. Members of the house and Heads of Departments and all Units for supporting the Assembly with formulation and implementation of key policies and programmes which has contributed significantly to the total development of the Municipality.

Hon. Presiding Member, it is my painful duty to announce to you the demise of one of the distinguished former members of our Municipality, the Late Hon. Felix Eugene Tettey Agor-Nortey of Suhyenso Electoral Area in 2019. May his soul rest and abide in the bosom of the Almighty until the last day of the Resurrection when we shall all meet again. Amen! Hon. Presiding Member, with your permission, let us observe a minute's silence in honour of our fallen former member.

Hon. Presiding Member (P.M.), the policy framework adopted by the Government of Ghana, H.E Nana Addo Danquah Akufo Addo is "Agenda for Jobs" Creating Prosperity and Equal Opportunity for All (2018-2021).

This Policy Framework is organized under the following broad themes:

1. Economic Development
2. Social Development
3. Environment, Infrastructure and Human Settlements

Hon. Presiding Member, my address today is categorized under three (3) thematic areas, namely; Economic Development, Social Development, Environment, Infrastructure and Human Settlements.

1. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Hon. P.M, I wish to take this opportunity to brief you on the state of development taking place in the Municipality as well as the performance of the Assembly and highlight some key programmes the Assembly has implemented or is implementing to improve socio-economic conditions of our people.

Hon. Presiding Member, the agriculture sector, is a major driver for improving household incomes and rural development for 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

The Wassa Amenfi East Municipal Assembly has continuously partnered with the private sector in the Successful implementation of the Planting for Food and Jobs (PFJ) as well as Planting for Export and Rural Development (P.E.R.D.).

The Assembly took the following initiatives for the purposes of improving the Agriculture Sector of our Municipality:

- The Assembly has raised 64,700 Cocoa Seedlings, 42,975 Oil Palm Seedlings and 66,500 Rubber Seedlings to be distributed to 628 beneficiaries farmers for the 2020 farming season in the Municipality under the Planting for Export and Rural Development (PERD) programme.
- The Assembly had received and distributed 100 bags of seed rice and 185 bags of seed maize for cultivation under the Planting for Food and Jobs Programme (PFJ). Also, the Assembly had taken delivery of 4000 bags of NPK Fertilizer which were distributed to 583 beneficiary farmers while the 1460 bags (25kg) out of the 2500 bags Granular Inorganic Fertilizer received has been distributed. The Assembly is still distributing the remaining 1040 bags.

Hon. Presiding Member, another focus area under this thematic area of interest to the Assembly is Private Sector Development. The objective in this area is to support entrepreneurs and Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) development. Thus we are committed to, among other things, assist businesses to access credit facilities, organize training programmes on business development services, and organize sensitization programmes on investment opportunities.

I am happy to inform the House that; the Assembly had registered a total of 1210 eligible businesses for the Business Support Loans under the COVID-19 Alleviation Package (CAP). The applications have been submitted for approval for the loans to be granted.

Also, Assembly has distributed two (2) Gari Processing Machines for groups of Gari producers at Tamakloe and Appiah Nkwanta. Soap Cutting Machines have been supplied to some selected Soap Manufacturers at Wassa Akropong, Abreshia and Ntwentwena.

The Assembly through the Business Advisory Center (BAC) had given out Start-up Kits comprising of six (6) Poultry Structures, 1 Pig stile and four (4) Grass cutter cages as part of support to local businesses.

2.0 SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

The overall goal of the Government's social development strategies, over the medium term, is to create equal opportunity for all.

Hon. P.M., Education is a key aspect of national development, and have served as the main vehicle through which knowledge, skills, attitudes, values and character are acquired to build the requisite human capital.

As we may be aware, the Basic Schools were re-opened from 29th June -18th September 2020 to afford final year students the opportunity to adequately prepare for their Basic Education Certificate Examination (B.E.C.E) for 2020. This year's BECE has been scheduled for 14th -17th September 2020.

The Municipal Education Directorate has scheduled two (2) Mock Examinations as part of preparations towards the 2020 Basic Education Certificate Examination (B.E.C.E). The first mock has been slated for 20th – 24th July, 2020 while the second mock takes off from 17th August -20th August 2020.

Hon. PM, the education directorate had registered 101 Basic Schools with a total of 2,786 candidates for the 2020 B.E.C.E. This figure comprises of 1433 boys and 1353 girls. The examinations would be conducted at all the ten (10) centers in the Municipality. The centers are as follows:

S/N	EXAMINATION CENTER	NO. OF CANDIDATES
1	Afransie	354
2	Bawdie	290
3	Dawurampong	277
4	Gyapa	229
5	Nananko	218
6	Oppong Valley	185
7	Saamang	228
8	Nkonya	357
9	Amenfiman (A)	363
10	Amenfiman (B)	288

Hon. PM, I wish to inform the House that our Assembly is committed in every sense to ensure that all these candidates are provided with a safe environment to study and write their examinations.

In pursuit of this agenda, the Assembly had supplied Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs) to all the Junior High Schools in the Municipality. Items supplied includes the following:

- 101 Thermometer Guns for all 101 Junior High Schools in the Municipality.
- 152 boxes of Hand Sanitizers containing 24 pieces each (1 bottle each for students & teachers)
- 234 Washings Bowls
- 140 packs of Tissue Papers
- 410 Gallons of Liquid Soaps
- 3 Nose Mask per child for all the 2,786 registered candidates
- 90 Veronica Bucket stands
- 101 Veronica Buckets.

The quantities of items supplied to each school was based on their student population.

Hon PM, with respect to the 2020 WASSCE, preparation has also started. The Amenfiman Senior High School has registered 576 students of which 271 were males while the remaining 305 were females. The+ Eagle's Crest Senior High School (Private SHS) at Oppong Valley had also registered 38 candidates comprising of 18 males and 20 females.

The 2020 WASSCE will start from 21st July to 5th September 2020. Due to the reduction in the duration of the WASSCE from seven (7) weeks to five (5) weeks for this year, students would be writing some examinations papers on Saturdays.

Hon. Presiding Member, in furtherance of our commitment to protect the lives of teachers and students in our Senior High Schools, the Assembly had supplied twenty (20) Veronica Buckets with Stands and Washing bowls, 3000 Nose/Face Masks, 8 Thermometer Guns, 40 gallons of Liquid Soap, 40 packs of Tissue Papers and 900 mini bottles of Hand Sanitizers to

the Amenfiman SHS. The Assembly further supplied 6 Veronica Buckets with Stands and Washing bowls, 500 Nose Masks, 10 packs of Tissue Papers, 3 Thermometer Guns, 8 gallons of Liquid Soap and 200 mini bottles of Hand Sanitizers to the Eagle's Crest Senior School at Oppong Valley.

Hon. PM, permit me to use this occasion to inform this august house that the Amenfiman Senior High School has reported three (3) suspected COVID 19 cases on their campus. Samples of these suspected students has been taken by the COVID-19 Emergency Response Team for testing. The three students have since been isolated and are being treated awaiting their test results.

Hon. Presiding Member, in terms of educational infrastructure, our Assembly has delivered the following:

- Rehabilitation of 1 No. 3-Unit Classroom at Abreshia.
- Construction of 3-Unit Classroom Block at Ntowkrom which is completed.
- Construction of 1 No. 6-Unit Classroom Block at Marfo which is 99% completed.

Hon. P.M. during my last address I made mention of our plans to carry out certain projects in the Municipality which include:

- Rehabilitation of KG Block at Wassa Saa.
- Construction of 1 No. 6-unit Classroom Block with Office, Stores, Library and other facilities at Moseaso.
- Supply and delivery of 600 No. mono Desks.

I am happy to inform this august house that work on the Construction of 1No. 6unit Classroom Block at Moseaso has started and it's at approximately 60% complete. Also, contract for the rehabilitation of the KG Block at Saa has been awarded.

Another area of keen interest under this thematic area is health and sanitation. The Assembly has completed the Construction of 1No. Ultra-Modern Maternity Block at Wassa Akropong.

Hon. P.M., to improve water and sanitation in the Municipality, work on the following projects are at various stages of completion:

- Construction of 3 No. Refuse Collection Point at W/Akropong, Japa and Bawdie at approximately 66% complete.
- Rehabilitation of 1 No. Slaughter House at Wassa Akropong.
- Supply and Delivery of 10 No. Refuse Containers at Wassa Akropong.
- Construction of 4 No. Boreholes fitted with pump at Nhyiase; Ntowkrom; Kofi manie; Nyametease.
- Construction of 10 No. Limited Mechanised Boreholes at some selected communities at approximately 85%.
- Completion of 1No. Limited Mechanised Borehole at some selected communities at approximately at 32%.

Hon. Presiding Member, further to these, the Assembly has passed the Bye-Laws on sanitation which is expected to fight sanitation challenges.

In the medium term, the goal of Government regarding environment, infrastructure and human settlement development is to ensure a resilient built environment while safeguarding the natural environment.

In the Wassa Amenfi East Municipality, our Municipal Assembly aims at improving efficiency and effectiveness of road transport infrastructure and services while promoting sustainable, spatially integrated, balanced and orderly development of human settlements.

2.1 Distribution of Support Items to PWDs

Hon. Presiding Member, Persons with Disability (PWDs) have not been left out in the pursuit of Social and Economic Development in the Municipality. Right after the lifting of the lockdown restrictions, the Assembly has procured and distributed both items and cash worth GHc65,807.80 to Sixty (60) beneficiary PWDs in the Municipality. Forty (40) persons of these 60 beneficiaries received various items while the remaining 20 PWDs received a cash support of GHc1000.00 each.

The details of items distributed to the PWDs are follows:

S/N	Item Description	Quantity Distributed
1	Cocoa Spraying Machine	3
2	Iron Sheets	4 packets
3	Cement	36 bags
4	Fufu Pounding Machine	5
5	Pop Corn Machine	1
6	Electric Sewing Machine	7
7	Keating Machine	1
8	Industrial Electric Sewing Machine	1
9	Refrigerator	7
10	Deep Freezer	7
11	Hair Dryer	2

2.3 Security and Public Safety

Hon. Presiding Member, I am happy to inform that the regular presence of Security Personnel has contributed to the Maintenance of peace and security during the period under review.

On your Behalf, I wish to commend the Security Agencies for their hard work and sacrifices towards the maintenance of peace and stability. The Municipal Security Council will continue to work with all key stakeholders to address and resolve all the security matters in the Municipality.

The Wassa Amenfi East Municipality has been relatively peaceful and calm during the first two quarters of 2020.

However, the outbreak of novel COVID-19 March 2020 has altered dreams, programmes and strategies of many all over the world, and the Wassa Amenfi East Municipal Assembly is no exception.

Following the directives from the office of the president, the Municipal Security Council convened meetings to deliberate on how to manage the partial lockdown and other protocols to curtail the spread of COVID -19 in the Municipality.

The Wassa Amenfi East Municipal Assembly was also instructed by the Western Regional Coordinating Council (WRCC) to institute measures to contain and reduce the spread of COVID- 19 Virus as the Municipality serves as one of the entry points to the region.

The measures instituted included the following:

S/N	MEASURES /CONTINGENCY PLAN	IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES
1	Mounting of Security Check point at Nkonya and Bawdie to monitor Vehicular movement into the Municipality and the region as a whole.	WAEMA/Security Agencies
2	Assigning Nurses and other Medical personnel to the various checks point in the Municipality.	WAEMA/ Municipal Health Directorate

3	Screening of all persons entering into the Municipality from neighbouring Districts.	WAEMA/Security /Health Personnel
4	Making provision for Isolation/Quarantine Centres in the Municipality to contain suspected and confirmed cases .	WAEMA/ Municipal Health Directorate
5	Commercial Vehicles (Taxis) operating from Wassa Akropong to all neighbouring towns within the Municipality were to carry a maximum of three (3) passengers in addition to a Driver	WAEMA/Security Agencies/GPRTU
6	Commercial Vehicles (Trotro) operating within the Municipality who used to carry four (4) persons on a roll could henceforth carry a maximum of three (3) while those previous carrying three (3) passengers could now carry two (2) passengers on a row.	WAEMA/Security Agencies/ GPRTU.
7	Commercial Tricycles (Pragia) operating within the Municipality were to carry a maximum of two (2) passengers in addition to the rider.	WAEMA/ Security Agencies/ GPRTU.
8.	Activities of Okada operators was suspended in the Municipality.	Security Agencies.
9	Commercial cutting of nails (both figure and toes) by Zammerama men has been suspended	WAEMA/Security Agencies
10	Major Markets in the Municipality were closed down.	WAEMA/Security Agencies

2.4 Update on the Covid-19 Situation in the Municipality

Hon. Pressing Member, following the outbreak of the COVID-19 Pandemic, several meetings were held by the Public Health and Emergency Planning Committee of the Assembly to devise strategies to contain the spread of the virus in the Municipality.

The Assembly took the first batch of eight (8) samples to the Kumasi Research Center for testing. All the eight samples tested negative.

However, the Wassa Amenfi East Municipality on Tuesday, 23rd June 2020 recorded its first six (6) confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the Municipality. The victims were isolated, treated and have been discharged. The Municipal Health Directorate had since started active contact tracing.

Hon. Presiding Member, as at Wednesday, 23rd July 2020, the COVID -19 situation for the Municipality is as follows:

COVID- 19 REPORT	
26 ACTIVE CASES	60 Total Confirmed
34 Recoveries/Discharged	0 Death
Total suspected Routine	74
Total contact Listed	87
Total Contacts traced	77
Cumulative Samples Collected	134
Results Received	108
Total Pending	26
Total Negative	48
Total Confirmed	60
Total Recoveries/Discharged	34
Total Active Cases	26

Hon. Presiding Member, though the Assembly has rented a Hotel facility that is being used as an Isolation Centre to host confirmed and suspected cases, these cases were being managed from their homes to avoid stigmatization.

2.5 COVID -19 Donation Items received

The Assembly had received a number of items from various stakeholders such as Zoomlion Ghana Ltd and the Western Regional Co-ordinating Council (WRCC) to help fight the COVID-19 virus in the Municipality. The items received included the follows:

- Veronica Buckets -262
- Veronica Bucket Stands-150
- Hand Washing Basins -250
- Tap Screws-127
- Liquid Soap-550
- Nose Mask - 16,656 (4,596 was sewed by the Assembly)
- Hand Sanitizers-10,369
- Thermometers Guns- 17 (2 was bought by the Assembly)
- Tissue Papers-514
- Mega Phones-10
- Stickers- 97
- Dustbins -335

2.6 Distribution of COVID -19 items in the Municipality

The Wassa Amenfi East Municipal Assembly distributed over 16,000 pieces of Nose Masks in all Major communities in the Municipality. The communities include the following:

Bawdie	Abesewa Gyaman
Adamanso	Gyapa
Ankonsia	Dadieso
Subriso	Abreshia
Wassa Akropong	Nananko

Adesu	Ntwentwena
Dompoase	Princeso
Adiembra	Nkenase
Tieku	Wantram
Mamieso	Aserwadi
Afransie	Gyedua
Nyamebekyere	Dikoto/ Dikoto Junction
Jukwa/ Himan	Wassa Kumasi
Saamang	Buraso
Adansi	Akrofrom
Dawurampong	Marforom
Nsuaem	Oppong Valley

Hon. Presiding Member, there were many other communities that were supplied with Nose Masks but I have mention just a few to save time.

Also, the Assembly supplied Hand Sanitizers, Tissues Papers, Liquid Soaps, Nose Masks, Veronica Buckets to all the Departments and Subverted Agencies of the Assembly. The Assembly gave out Thermometer Guns to the Wassa Akropong Police Command and the Hiawa Prisons. This was replicated to all the Religious Bodies and Market Centers as well.

Hon. Presiding Member, as part of measures to further reduce the spread of COVID-19 in the Municipality, the Wassa Amenfi East Municipal Assembly provided Veronica Buckets, Liquid soaps, Tissues papers, and Hand Sanitizers to all the Lorry Stations and Market Centres in the Municipality.

The Assembly also distributed Nose Masks to the afore-stated Centres. The Assembly has constituted a Special Task Force that monitors all the Lorry Stations and Market Centers to ensure that the Social Distancing protocols were observed including wearing of Nose Masks.

The Task Force further ensures that all commercial vehicles load the appropriate number of passengers. City Guards were also assigned to monitor these centers on daily basis to ensure compliance.

3.0 ENVIRONMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

In the medium term, the goal of Government regarding environment, infrastructure and human settlement development is to ensure a resilient built environment while safeguarding the natural environment.

In the Wassa Amenfi East Municipality, our Municipal Assembly aims at improving efficiency and effectiveness of road transport infrastructure and services while promoting sustainable, spatially integrated, balanced and orderly development of human settlements.

Hon. P.M, it must be noted that in meeting the targets set above, the following roads, as part of part of routine road maintenance have been reshaped:

- Reshaping of Nyame Adom – Marfokrom- Akwaboah Feeder Road (14.70km), completed.
- Reshaping of Ntowkrom Junction- Ntowkrom Feeder Roads (2.5 km), completed
- Reshaping of Jukwa/Himan Feeder Roads (19.0km), completed.
- Maintenance of Moseaso – Ghana Telecom Mast Feeder Road (3.40km), completed.
- Maintenance of Mehame Junction – Mehame Feeder Road (3.0 km), completed.
- Maintenance of Nsupon Junction- Nsupon Feeder road (4.7km)

With respect to periodic maintenance of roads under the Cocoa roads programme, the following bituminous surfacing projects are on-going in the Wassa Amenfi East Municipality:

- Wassa Akropong- Saamang-Adansi (12.7km).
- Adesu- Afransie-Jukwa/Himan-Ankwaso Road (55.5km)

4.0 STREET NAMING AND PROPERTY ADDRESSING SYSTEM

Hon. Presiding Member, I wish to state that the Assembly has completed the mounting of Sign Post but there are a lot to be done and I will use this opportunity to appeal to Hon. Members and Nananom to support the Assembly to come out with strategies to complete the exercise in order to broaden the revenue base of the Assembly.

Hon. Presiding Member, the Assembly will soon initiate a programme to generate GPS address for all properties with the legal jurisdiction of the Municipality.

This would enable the Assembly to know her true boundaries to perpetually end the “perceived” boundary dispute between the Wassa Amenfi East Municipality and our neighbouring Districts.

5.0 PRESENTATION OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

Hon. Presiding Member, the Executive Committee of the Wassa Amenfi East Municipal Assembly met on Thursday, 16th July 2020 to discuss the report of the various Sub-committees of the Assembly. The following recommendations were brought forth for discussion and possible adoption by this august house:

1. The Assembly should engage Cocoa Marketing Companies to provide Cocoa Depots in Communities that shares boundary with neighbouring Districts to halt the loss of Cocoa output to other Districts.
2. The Assembly should expand access roads in the major communities in the Municipality for possible bituminous surfacing (taring) in future by Urban Roads.
3. Adequate budgetary provisions should be made in the 2021 Composite Budget for acquisition of proper documentations of all Assembly lands.
4. The Assembly should write to the Ghana Highways Authority for the necessary road markings, especially, Zebra –Crossings on the Bawdie-Ayanfuri Highway.
5. Management should write to the Regional Police Command for technical inspection and operationalization of the Nkonya Police Post.

6. The Assembly should write to the Ghana First Ltd for permission to take over the construction of the Toilet Facility at the Wassa Akropong Lorry Station in order to complete the projects.
7. The Assembly should constitute a five-member committee to ensure that office accommodation is provided for all the Zonal Councils of the Assembly as a matter of urgency.
8. The Assembly should consider putting up permanent offices for the Zonal Councils by building at least one Zonal Council Office each year.
9. Management should invite all the occupants of the Assembly's Stores to come with their documents for a re-negotiation.

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

Thank you.