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Special points of interest:

- Maiden Media Training for on Social Protection a success
- Advocacy on Social Protection and Disability Act. ADP calls for the implementation of the Disability Act
- ADP calls for an end to sexual abuse of girls and punitive measures enforced to make our school environments safe and friendly for all.

Centre For Development Education (CEDE) Hosts Maiden Media Training on Social Protection at the SSNIT Guest House

The African Development Programme through its research and development wing, the Centre for Development Education (CEDE), hosted its maiden media training on 19th June 2014 at the SSNIT Guest House, Accra. The program which was targeted at the media (print and electronic) had 47 media persons in attendance. The training which was under the theme ‘The Emergence of Social Protection on the Development Agenda: The Role of the Media’ was chaired by Mr Mohammed Ag Bendech a Senior Nutrition Officer of FAO. In attendance were Mr. Mawutor Ablor, Director of Social Protection at the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection as the Guest Speaker, Dr. William Ahadzie, Executive Director Morbu Policy Institute and a Senior Fellow of ADP and Mr. Charles Abbey Executive Director of ADP as resource persons.

The Chairperson, in his remarks, underscored FAO’s support to social protection as demonstrated in their new programmatic approach to work, especially the Strategic Objective 3 that explores the linkages between agriculture and social protection. He mentioned that an impact assessment of the

LEAP (using FAO’s PtoP methodology) showed a positive correlation between agriculture and social protection. Mr. Abbey presented on “The Emergence of Social Protection on the Development Agenda”. He took participants through the definitions of social protection (especially by the development partners such as World Bank, UNICEF, ILO, etc); key concepts in social protection; functions of social protection; and the relevance of social protection to human development.

tection System. Speaking on behalf of the sector Minister on the topic “Prioritizing and Mainstreaming Social Protection in National Development through a Ministry for Gender, Children and Social Protection”, participants were informed on the steps towards the creation of departments at the ministry. Dr. Ahadzie in his presentation on “Ghana’s Social Protection: Overview, Issues and Prospects for Development Cooperation” highlighted the successes of some of the social protection instruments in helping achieve



L-R Dr. Ahadzie, Mr. Ag.Bendech & Mr Abbey

The Director of Social Protection at the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection in his speech focused on current happenings in Ghana’s Social Pro-

development outcomes. Participants had the opportunity to ask questions that bothered on how the Government was dealing with the challenges confronting some of the social intervention programs.

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Advocacy on Disability and Social Protection

The month of June saw the celebration of the world Disability day which brought into retrospection strides taken by the government of Ghana to meet the needs of the physically challenged in our society. The Executive Director of ADP Mr Charles Abbey in a radio discussion with one of the media houses reiterated the need to place the needs of the physically challenged in our society as one of our topmost priority as a country. Mr Abbey called on the need to expedite action in the implementation of the Disability Act that was passed about 10 years ago.

According to the WHO, there are more than 600 million disabled persons in the world, of which approximately 80 % live in low-income countries. Ghana estimates the disability rate to be between 7 and 10 per cent. There is a need to cater for these citizens as well. However that is not the situation currently. We have public facilities, Schools, hospitals not catering for the need of the physically challenged and this has to stop now.

The African Development Programme is an NGO that has been in existence since 1993. In collaboration with national and international partners, it has been actively engaged in Social Protection Issues with core specialization in Education, Health, Social Development, Vulnerable and Excluded Group and the Physically Challenged in Society. Governance and Gender Issues are cross-cutting programme areas.

Day of the African Child: No More Delays in Ending Girl-Child Sexual Abuse in Schools

On the International Day of the African Child, the African Development Programme sought to draw the attention of the Ministries of Education; Gender, Children and Social Protection and development partners to join civil society in stemming the increasing tide of sexual abuse amongst children, especially in schools through a press release.

Since Ghana's adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (Universal Declaration) with focus on the provision of basic education to all children, several strides have been made by successive governments to ensure the achievement of 100% enrolment in basic education. However available statistics indicate that this has not been met (Education Sector Performance report, 2013). Dropout for girls in education has been increasing as the girls climb up the educational ladder. All stakeholders (state and non-state actors) have been calling for policies, strategies, and programs that will aid in the retention of pupils, most especially the girl child.

Recent studies have indicated that unfriendly school environment has been one of the causes of pupil drop-out in schools. The school environment has been one of the unsafe places for most children, particularly the girl-child with regards to sexual abuse. Statistics from the study revealed that the main perpetrators of child sexual abuse were classmates (89%), teachers (21%) and relatives (13%) with perpetrators going unpunished in most cases (CRRECENT, 2009).

This calls for uttermost concern in bringing a solution to the menace of child sexual abuse that has been on the increase lately in the media. Not a single day passes without reportage on a sexual abuse case in the media. In the wake of this year's Day of the African Child which is themed "A child friendly, quality, free and compulsory education for all children in Africa", it is imperative to critically examine issues that hinder the achievement of EFA and MDG goals. Thus the African Development Programme on the day of the celebration of the Day of the African Child, reiterates the call on government and stakeholders to provide Child-friendly school environments where sexual abuse will be eradicated, and in cases of abuse, perpetrators would be severely dealt with.

In examining the linkage between Social Protection, Social Development and Crime, Mr. Abbey mentioned that there is a direct link between the state which spends little to enhancing Social Protection and the rate of crime. For this reason government must do enough to support Social Protection which is virtually about advancing holistic human development.



Left: Mr. Charles Abbey Executive Director ADP delivering a speech