

ADP IMPLEMENTS SOCIAL PUBLIC EXPENDITURE AND FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY (SPEFA) FORUM IN GA EAST MUNICIPALITY

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **More women and persons with disability participate in SPEFA forum in Ga East**
- **Unemployment benefits absent from Ghana's social protection system**
- **Ghana ranks 56 out of 168 countries in CPI ranking...Corruption still a problem**



Charles Othniel Abbey, Ag Executive Director of African Development Programme facilitating the learning session

The African Development Programme (ADP) in its implementation of the Social Public Expenditure and Financial Accountability project (SPEFA) project in the Ga East Municipal Assembly (GEMA) has been successful in the first quarter of the project cycle.

SPEFA was borne out of the third component of the Local Government Capacity Support Project (LG CSP) which is to stimulate demand for accountable governance and service delivery and it aims to improve citizens perceptions of urban management and increase their engagement with urban assemblies.

The SPEFA forum, one of the two pronged approach in the process, is also a learning platform for citizens to acquire knowledge to better engage their Metropolitan and Municipal assemblies on issues of public financial management.

The first SPEFA forum was held on the 26th January, 2016 at the Church of Pentecost, Haasto. The forum brought together staff of ADP, National Coordinating Unit of SNV, GEMA staff, Traditional Authorities, Assembly Members, Unit Committee Members, Women's Groups, Zonal Council Members, Persons with Disability, Business Owners, Residents Associations, Trade Unions, Driver Unions, Representatives of UNICEF among others.

In all 118 people took part in the forum of which forty-three (43) were women and seventy-five (75) men.

Mrs. Sarah Agbey in a welcome address commended the good works the Municipal-

ity has done over the years relative to citizen involvement in the development process. She called on all stakeholders to see themselves as partners in development in the municipality and stressed the need for citizens to be well informed and knowledgeable on issues regard-

ing sustainable development in the municipality.

Mr. Alex Amoah recapped what transpired during the 2015 forums and town hall meetings as well as the lessons learnt. He called on participants to be actively involved in the assembly's activities where they can. He further advised that they should participate consistently in the forums to build on the acquired knowledge so that they will be in a position to ask the relevant questions from the assembly.

The focus for the learning session was ***Understanding Social Accountability and Roles of Citizens.***

The ADP team led by Mr. **Charles Othniel Abbey** facilitated the learning session. The areas discussed were Social Accountability; Regulatory Frameworks for Social Accountability; Principles and Key Agents of Social Accountability; Pillars and Rights Issues of Social Accountability; Steps in promoting Social Accountability and Pitfalls of Social Accountability.

A break-out session organized the participants into three (3) groups to discuss some of the benefits of Social Accountability;

challenges of Social Accountability and identify some roles citizens can play in promoting social accountability. Presentations were done by the group leaders as well.

Mr. Sampson Agbeve urged participants to frequently use the Client Service unit to engage the assembly by following the laid down channels. He reminded the citizens to continuously collaborate with the assembly in order to fulfill the constitutional mandate and help make the assembly work effectively in the discharge of its duties.

Afua Agyapomaa had a short interaction with participants on the District League Table (DLT) and the performance of Ga East Municipal Assembly over the past two (2) years.

In a closing remark Nii Annang Ofori, called on the citizenry to partner the assembly in the present development projects in the Municipality and to avoid apathy in activities concerning assembly members, unit committees and zonal council members.

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Participants in a break-out session discussing Social Accountability issues.

WORLD EMPLOYMENT SOCIAL OUTLOOK—WORSENING YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT



According to the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the world economy is estimated to have expanded by 3.1 per cent in 2015, over half a percentage point less than had been projected a year earlier. If current policy responses are maintained, the outlook is for continued economic weakening, posing significant challenges to enterprises and workers. Indeed, over the next two years, the world economy is projected to grow by only around 3 per cent, significantly less than before the advent of the global crisis.

The continuing slowdown in economic growth is being driven by weakness in emerging and developing countries. China is facing a pronounced slowdown. This, combined with other factors, has contributed to a steep decline in commodity prices, particularly those related to energy. This situation has, in turn, affected large emerging economy commodity exporters, such as Brazil and the Russian Federation, which have entered a period of recession. The benefits accruing to net commodity importers have been insufficient to offset the decline affecting exporters. Another sign of economic weakness is the fact that global trade, which had typically expanded twice as fast as the global economy, is now growing in line with or at a lower rate than global growth.

The economic weakening has caused a further increase in global unemployment. In 2015, the number of unemployed people reached 197.1 million – approaching 1 million more than in the previous year and over 27 million higher than pre-crisis levels. This increase in the number of jobseekers in 2015 occurred mainly in emerging and developing countries. The employment outlook in some of these countries, notably those in Latin America, as well as some Asian countries (especially China) and a number of oil exporters in the Arab States region, is expected to have worsened in recent months.

Poor job quality remains a pressing issue worldwide. The incidence of vulnerable employment – the share of own-account work and contributing family employment, categories of work typically subject to high levels of precariousness – is declining more slowly than before the start of the global crisis.

Vulnerable employment accounts for 1.5 billion people, or over 46 per cent of total employment. In both Southern Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa, over 70 per cent of workers are in vulnerable employment.

As well as having limited access to contributory social protection schemes, workers in vulnerable employment suffer from low productivity and low and highly volatile earnings. There are also significant gender gaps in job quality. Women face a 25 to 35 per cent higher risk of being in vulnerable employment than men in certain countries in Northern Africa, Sub-Saharan Africa and the Arab States.

The global economic slowdown that occurred in 2015 is likely to have a delayed impact on labour markets in 2016, resulting in a rise in unemployment levels, particularly in emerging economies. Based on the most recent growth projections, global unemployment is expected to rise by nearly 2.3 million in 2016 and by a further 1.1 million in 2017.

Emerging economies are expected to see an increase in unemployment of 2.4 million in 2016. This largely reflects the worsening labour market outlook in emerging Asian economies, in Latin America and in commodity producing economies, notably in the Arab States region and Africa.

In developed economies, the number of unemployed is expected to decline slightly, but this will only marginally offset the increase expected in emerging economies. In a number of European countries, unemployment rates will remain close to historical peaks. In the United States and some other developed economies, unemployment will decline to pre-crisis rates, but the outlook is for continuing or increasing underemployment. Depending on the economy, this takes the form of involuntary temporary or part-time work and lower participation rates, especially among women and youth.

In the coming years, the share of vulnerable employment is expected to remain at around 46 per cent globally. The challenge will be particularly acute in emerging economies, where the number of vulnerable workers is projected to grow by some 25 million over the next three years.

In emerging economies, the size of the middle class (with daily consumption levels ranging between US\$5 and US\$13, in purchasing power parity (PPP) terms) rose from 36 per cent of the total population in 2011 to just under 40 per cent in 2015. In the coming years, the present trend of an increase in the size of the middle class is projected to slow or even end. Among developing economies, the share of the middle class is expected to continue to increase, but more slowly than in recent years.

The improvement in the labour market situation in developed economies is limited and uneven, and in some countries the middle class has been shrinking, according to various measures. Income inequality, as measured by the Gini index, has risen significantly in most advanced G20 countries. Progress in terms of employment quality at the lower end of the earnings spectrum has also begun to stall. In 2015, an estimated 327 million employed people were living in extreme poverty (those living on less than US\$1.90 a day in PPP terms) and 967 million in moderate or near poverty (between US\$1.90 and US\$5 a day in PPP terms). This represents a significant reduction in extreme poverty compared with the levels in 2000, but the improvements since 2013 have been more limited (especially within the least developed countries). Furthermore, the number of persons employed in moderate and near poverty has increased since 2000, and evidence from other sources suggests that work-

ing poverty is on the rise in Europe.

When there is a shortage of decent jobs, more workers may give up looking for work. In 2015, the number of working-age individuals who did not participate in the labour market increased by some 26 million to reach over 2 billion. Participation rates are expected to stabilize at 62.8 per cent of the global working-age population (aged 15 years and above) but then to follow a moderate downward trend, reaching 62.6 per cent in 2020 and falling further in subsequent years. Only developing economies are expected to experience stable labour force participation rates, whereas developed and emerging economies are likely to experience further declines in activity rates. In this regard, migration is an important mechanism for balancing labour market supply and demand across countries.

The current slow growth in the global economy and the prospect of lower long-term growth have many causes, but falls in the working-age population and labour force participation rates as well as rising inequality, vulnerable employment and poor job quality, mentioned above, are prominent factors.

ADP CALLS ON GOVERNMENT TO SYNCHRONIZE ALL YOUTH DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES UNDER THE NATIONAL YOUTH AUTHORITY

Ag. Executive Director of ADP Charles Othniel Abbey in a discussion with Accra / UK-based Rainbow Radio (87.5mHz), on 22nd January, 2016 underscored the fact that the increasing trend of youth unemployment in the country pose a national security threat.

He further highlighted the fact that absence of a social protection programmes such as unemployment benefits has increased the extent of social vices throughout the country.

He expressed worry of the way tertiary institution are now shifting away from their core mandate and providing lebral arts courses. This he warned is not helping us develop as a country and further worsening the unemployment situation.

He called for retention of National Service Personnel in their places of posting for some time and also high investment and development of the agriculture sector which is needed to provide raw materials to feed the manufacturing industries, this he assured could contribute to absorbing the growing youth unemployment and provide good jobs for those in vulnerable employment.

Finally, he made a call for the coordination of all youth development programme by a single unit and stressed the need for young women also to be involved in the labour markets given the strong multiplier effects in their engagement.

Transparency International, the leading civil society organization fighting corruption worldwide, has released its 21st Annual Corruption Perceptions Index on Wednesday, 27th January 2016 globally. This year's index ranks 168 countries/territories by their perceived levels of public sector corruption. The index draws on 12 surveys covering expert assessments and views of business people.

The Corruption Perceptions Index is the leading global indicator of public sector corruption, offering a yearly snapshot of the relative degree of corruption by ranking countries from all over the globe.

The CPI 2015 showed that when people work together, they can succeed in the battle against corruption. According to the report corruption is still rife globally but more countries have improved their scores than declined. However, overall, two-thirds of the 168 countries on the 2015 index scored below 50, on a scale from 0 (perceived to be highly corrupt) to 100 (perceived to be very clean).

Ghana In Perspective

The CPI 2015 made use of eight data sources out of the 12 data sources to compute the index for Ghana. These sources that have

assessed Ghana with regards to corruption, are the World Bank (CPIA) – 47, the African Development Bank (55), the Bertelsmth Foundation (45), the World Economic Forum (33), the World Justice Project (37), the Economic Intelligence Unit (54), the PRS International Country Risk Guide (50) and the HIS Global Insight (52).

The Ghana score is, therefore, an average of the scores from these data sources. The institutions are independent institutions with a high level of credibility and their assessments are considered credible.

The CPI 2015 scored Ghana 47 out of clean score of 100 and ranked the country 56 out of 168 countries. Thus, Ghana slid back by one percentage point from the 48 points scored in 2014 but better than its performance in 2012 when it scored 45 and 2013 when it scored 46 points. Ghana performed below six African countries (Botswana - 63, Cape Verde - 55, Seychelles - 55, Rwanda - 54, Mauritius and Namibia 53). However, as in previous years, Ghana's score and ranking show that the country has performed much better than several other African countries, including South Africa, Senegal and Tunisia. Thus, although scoring lower than six

African countries, Ghana has scored higher than all the rest of the African countries included in the CPI 2015.

According to a press statement by Ghana Integrity Initiative (GII), the local chapter of Transparency International, the progress does not mean that corruption is not a serious problem in Ghana because, like two thirds of the rest of the 168 countries/territories ranked by their perceived levels of public sector corruption, Ghana scored below the 50 pass mark. Although the government of Ghana has also started pursuing the corrupt in the country, this still remains selective and needs to be improved. The pursuance of the officials of the National Service Secretariat, the National Health Insurance Scheme, the Smartys and the GYEEDA needs to be commended but there is a lot more to be done. The AMERI case needs to be investigated. The African Automobile cars are left to rot at the Institute of Local Government Studies even after the Judgment Debt Commission has concluded its work. Some of the people indicted by the Commission's report are still holding public positions. Public officers who won their parliamentary primaries are still holding onto their public positions. This shows that we

have still not put in enough effort and commitment in tackling corruption.

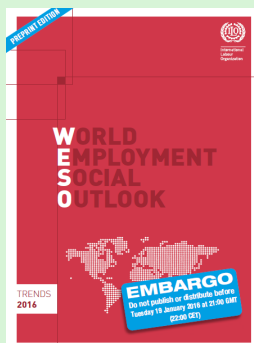
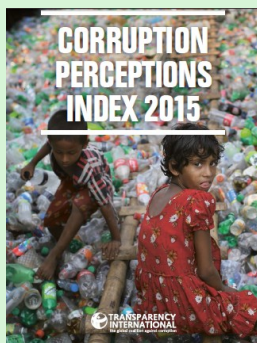
African In Focus

In Africa, Botswana came up first with a score of 63, ranking 28 globally, followed by Cape Verde and Seychelles scored 55 and ranked 40 while Rwanda scored 54 and ranked 44 globally. Both Namibia and Mauritius scored 53 and ranked 45. Clearly, all the six countries that performed better than Ghana passed the 50% pass mark. Although always the best performer in Africa although Botswana seems to be sliding backwards as in 2014, the country scored 63 as against 64 and 65 in 2013 and 2012, respectively.

However, many African countries still remain at the bottom of the CPI 2015. Somalia (8) remained at the very bottom with North Korea. Sudan (12), South Sudan (15), Angola (15) and Libya (16) performed slightly better, beating only Afghanistan (11) outside the continent. Other African countries, such as Guinea-Bissau (17), Eritrea (18), Zimbabwe (21) and Burundi (21) are also at the bottom although slightly better.

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RESOURCES



<http://www.transparency.org/whatwedo/publications>

http://www.ilo.org/global/research/global-reports/weso/2016/WCMS_443480/lang-en/index.htm

AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

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