

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION, PURPOSE OF WORKSHOP AND OBJECTIVES, PARTICIPATION, FACILITATION

1.0 Introduction

The Government of Ghana through the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development (MLGRD) has secured funding from the World Bank to implement the Ghana Secondary Cities Support Programme. The Programme seeks to provide resources for participating Municipal Assemblies to improve urban planning and services, urban economic development and competitiveness, sustainable urban systems, and urban resilience and climate change/disaster risk management. Twenty-five (25) Municipal Assemblies are beneficiaries of this programme. The Eastern Region has five (5) Mas in the programme, namely New Juaben South, Abuakwa South, Birim Central and Lower Manya Krobo Municipal Assemblies and West Akim Municipal Assemblies.

Under the Regional Window, the Eastern Regional Co-ordinating Council have been allocated funds to undertake series of activities under the Capacity Support Grant. One of such activities is the holding of review meetings with participating Municipal Assemblies.

1.1 Purpose and Objectives

1.1.1 Purpose of the Review Workshop

The overall purpose of the Review Workshop was to provide a common platform for the four participating Municipal Assemblies to share experiences, challenges and best practices on the implementation of the Programme.

1.1.2 Objectives

The main objectives of the workshop were as follows:

1. To enable participating Assemblies to brief the RCC and other participating Municipal Assemblies on the status of implementation of UDGs and CSGs

2. To ascertain the level of preparedness of participating Assemblies towards the forthcoming Independent Verification Agents (IVA) assessment.

1.2 Participants and Participation

Invitation was extended to seven (7) officials from each of the participating Municipal Assemblies. The invited persons were Municipal Chief Executive, Municipal Co-ordinating Director, Municipal Development Planning Officer, Procurement Officer, Head of Physical Planning Department, Head of Works, and Finance Officer. Also invited were Fifteen Regional Officers. The Invitation letter has been attached to this report as **Annex 1**.

A total of forty-six (48) municipal and regional officers participated in the workshop. Forty-one (43) representing 89 percent were males while five (11%) were females. A copy of the attendance sheet has been attached to this report as **Annex 2**.

1.3 Date, Duration and Venue

The workshop was held on Tuesday, 18th May, 2023 from 9:00am – 3:00pm. The venue for the workshop was the Regional Co-ordinating Council Conference Hall.

1.4 Facilitation

Facilitation of the Workshop was led by Audrey Amoah, PhD, the Regional Development Planning Officer

CHAPTER TWO

STATEMENT BY THE REGIONAL MINISTER, WORKSHOP APPROACH AND KEY ISSUES ARISING FROM THE PRESENTATIONS BY PARTICIPATING MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLIES

2.0 Introduction

This chapter gives summary of the Regional Minister's Opening Statement, examines the workshop approach used, as well as the key issues from the presentations made.

2.1 Statement by Regional Minister

The Regional Minister welcomed participants to the workshop. He stated that the Eastern Region was very proud to have an additional Assembly (West Akim) brought on board to the Programme. He reiterated that the Regional Co-ordinating Council was very mindful of its role in ensuring that the implementation of the Programme was successful, hence the review workshop. He further stated that the workshop was organized to provide a common platform for participating Municipal Assemblies to peer review themselves and strategize on how to make the implementation of the Ghana Secondary Cities Support Programme a success in the Region. He again indicated that that it was to afford the Regional Co-ordinating Council have a fair knowledge of the implementation of the Programme in participating Municipal Assemblies, to enable its Officers to come in to offer technical assistance when the need arises.

2.2 Workshop Approach

The workshop was conducted in a way where each participating Municipal Assembly made a 15 – minute presentation on the status of implementation of both the Capacity Building and Investment components of their Work Plan and Budget. Another 15 – minute plenary was opened for participants to make comments of the presentations made.

2.3 Key Issues Observed from Presentations

1. Most of the contract works are delaying yet contractors are refusing to raise payments certificates for funds.
2. Delay on the part of the Consultant in bringing out estimates for UDG 2 projects in the case of Abuakwa South.
3. Participating Assemblies have limited or in some cases no authority on the contractors executing the projects. All instructions to contractors come from the project consultancy firm.
4. Lower Manya Krobo and Abuakwa South Municipal Assemblies UDG 1 Projects are still behind schedule.



