



AkwaabaNEWS

Sustainable tourism for inclusive growth



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PRESIDENT AKUFO-ADDO

LAUNCHES “DESTINATION GHANA” TOURISM PROJECT



The President of the Republic, Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, on Sunday, 3rd April 2022, launched one of his government's flagship projects in our tourism sector, dubbed “Destination Ghana”, in London, United Kingdom. The “Destination Ghana” London event is the first in a series of activities of the “Destination Ghana” project, which has, at its core, the objective of inviting and welcoming the rest of the world to visit Ghana.

Building on the successes of the Year of Return, and with the slow but steady recovery being witnessed in the tourism sector, after the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, President Akufo-Addo noted that interest in nature-based adventure and leisure tourism has grown, offering new opportunities to visitors.

“Ghana has an abundance of these offerings, and that is what we are here to present to the world, using our historical connection with the United Kingdom as a launchpad,” the President said. He was of the belief that the tourism industry offers a great avenue to deepen Ghana-Britain relations for the mutual benefit of the two countries,

adding that “we can turn the tourism and hospitality industry into a major tool for the positive transformation of the Ghanaian economy, and into a win-win situation for investors”.

According to President Akufo-Addo, “Ghana is not only gifted with a rich culture but is also the best place for doing business in West Africa, as well as the safest and most stable country in the Region, with a governance system that rests on the separation of powers, with an independent Judiciary promoting accountability in public life, and that respects the rule of law, human rights and the principles of democratic accountability. Indeed, she has been for several years the recipient of the largest foreign direct investments in West Africa.”

To this end, the President Akufo-Addo indicated that Ghana, over the last few years, in addition to the abundance of natural resources, has embarked on a product improvement plan, where several tourist sites in the country are currently undergoing site renovations. These, he said, include the Aburi Botanical Gardens, modelled after the famous Kew Botanical Garden here in London, the Yaa Asantewaa Memorial Museum and the Kente Museum both in Kumasi.



This year alone, President Akufo-Addo revealed that some \$25 million would be expended to upgrade some of our iconic sites, including the famous Elmina and Cape Coast Castles, the Kwame Nkrumah Memorial Park, the Mole and Kakum Parks, and cultural Museums in Yendi in the Northern Region, Ejisu in the Ashanti Region, Akropong in the Eastern Region, and Ho in the Volta Region, under the Ghana Tourism Development Project, supported by the World Bank.

In addition to this, the President noted that funds will be directly injected into supporting SMEs in the hospitality and beverage sector, with negotiations currently ongoing with the World Bank.

“This forty-million-dollar (\$40 million) project is expected to position the tourism and hospitality sectors as key drivers of social and economic development. Some of the benefits that the project is expected to bring are an enriched access to Ghana's tourism market, better provision of tourism products and services, and the upgrading of skills in the labour force in the tourism, arts, and culture sector,” he added.

Ghana, the President said, needs the support of business partners the world over and challenged the ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture and its agencies to ride on the back of the “Destination Ghana” project to help attract, by 2024, one million tourists annually from Britain and Europe.

“I have made my contribution by lifting, a week ago, virtually all the COVID-19 restrictions, including the opening of all Ghana's borders, to enhance movements in the hygiene protocols, like the wearing of face masks at indoor gatherings,” he added.

“I want to invite you, here in London and Britain, Europe and the rest of the world, to the CENTRE OF THE WORLD, where longitude zero degrees crosses latitude zero degrees; where the bright sunshine enriches the quality of the skin and bodies of all; where music, dance and culture not only create fun, but also excite the body, soul and mind for spiritual growth. Indeed, I welcome you to Ghana, the CENTRE OF THE WORLD, to enjoy our famed hospitality, and take advantage of our favourable investment climate,” the President added.

CUBAN AMBASSADOR PAYS COURTESY

CALL ON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM, ARTS & CULTURE

The Minister of Tourism, Arts and Culture, Hon. Dr. Ibrahim Mohammed Awal has called for a South-South co-operation between Ghana and Cuba through intensifying exchanges in Tourism, Arts, and Culture.

The Minister made this call, in Accra when the Cuban Ambassador to Ghana, Annette Chao Garcia paid a courtesy call on him at his office on Monday 14th March 2022.

Dr. Awal added that the cultural exchanges would be beneficial to both countries because they could afford them the opportunities to share ideas and pick lessons from the Cuban success story.

“We want to look at customer care especially and how we can attract and retain tourists which is the biggest issue of the sector” he indicated.

He said, his vision for the sector was to attract tourists who would repeat their visit to Ghana with their family and friends as the years go by.

He noted that cultural exchanges would enable Ghanaians to learn how Cubans treat tourists at the beaches and restaurants to make them happy.

He revealed that plans are far advanced to organize charter flights to bring tourists from Cuba and vice versa at least every fortnightly.

The minister said he wants to increase the number of tourists who visit Ghana from 1.1 million in 2019 to 2 million by 2024 and added that, his vision would be achieved through the massive rehabilitation of forts and castles.

He also stated that the ministry was in the process of developing a national festival that would enhance the diverse and rich cultural heritage of Ghana.

On her part, Ambassador Annette Chao Garcia said Ghana can attract the needed investment in the tourism sector because of the beautiful cultural history the country can boast of. She added that three (3) key things that make Ghana the preferred destination for many tourists are being a safe country, having more resources, and generally being a peaceful country.

She indicated that the highest contributor to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of Cuba was the Human Capital.

Madam Garcia added that of the 11 million population in Cuba 30% are blacks who are of Yoruba descent in Nigeria and Congo.

She revealed that the Cubans celebrate movie festivals and the Ballet dance festival which attracts lots of tourists to their country.

She, therefore, urged the minister to address flight challenges between Ghana and Cuba to make the collaboration smooth.

She said she would coordinate with the tourism minister in Cuba to extend an invitation to Dr. Awal to begin it.

Dr. Awal presented Madam Garcia with a beyond the return wrist band and tourism passport.



GHANA AND SOUTH KOREA

TO DEEPEN CULTURAL AND TOURISM TIES

Ghana and South Korea have underscored the need for both countries to collaborate and seize the opportunity to deepen their cultural and tourism ties. Despite the disruption caused by the Covid 19 pandemic, both countries still see the need to tap into their comparative advantage and reserves to forge closer collaboration in tourism, sports, and culture. This was the outcome of a bilateral meeting held between Ghana's Minister for Tourism, Arts and Culture, Dr. Ibrahim Mohammed Awal and the Minister for Culture, Sports and Tourism of South Korea, Mr. Hwang Hee in Seoul at the weekend.

Mr. Hee expressed the need for South Korea and Ghana to intensify their relationship more in the tourism, sports, and culture space. According to him, 60 per cent of South Koreans go abroad every year for tourism purposes, hence the need for both countries to deepen the tourism ties by taking advantage of such opportunities.



He said Koreans are deliberately trained to go abroad to learn other cultures and Ghana has some unique cultures, traditions that will be of importance to the people of Korea and vice versa.

For his part, Dr. Awal noted that Ghana has a unique and rich culture that will excite people from South Korea.

He said Ghana prides itself with her rich culture that depicts the lifestyles of both traditional and ethnic groups, adding that the country has about 32 Forts and Castles which is a unique selling proposition.

According to Dr. Awal there is a need for Ghana and South Korea to come up with a deliberate programme to promote both countries tourism and cultural heritage.

GOVERNING BOARD

OF GHANA MUSEUMS AND MONUMENTS BOARD INAUGURATED



Dr Awal added that there were enough funds to modernize and renovate the museums and castles. He also put across his expectations of the board as helping the sector in realizing the 2.3-billion-dollar target from tourism to the Ghanaian economy. Dr Awal noted that the National Museum, which had been closed for over eight years, had been renovated and would be opened by June this year, and as such the Board must work on how it could be modernized to attract local and international tourists.

The Board Chair, Dr Edith Dankwa, on behalf of members expressed appreciation to the President for the nomination

The Minister for Tourism, Arts and Culture, Dr Ibrahim Mohammed Awal has tasked board members of the Ghana Museums and Monuments Board (GMMB) to present a proposal on how they would turn the castles and museums into tourists' attractions within six (6) weeks.

He made this statement when he swore in a ten-member board of the GMMB which is chaired by Dr Edith Dankwa in Accra on Wednesday 23rd March 2022.

The Minister indicated that Ghana has over thirty museums and castles, which since independence, have not been modernized and renovated to meet the exigencies of the time. According to him, most museums across the world are profit centres, and as such we must ensure to do same, by developing a marketing strategy on how to drive people internally and externally to these attraction sites.

He urged the board that the proposal to be presented should entail the measures that would turn the museums and castles into tourist attractions and profit-making centres. According to him, the tourism sector is expected to create 150,000 jobs, increase domestic tourists to about 800,000 and bring in one million international visitors to Ghana by 2024.

and assured the minister of their readiness to work. As a board, she said, they would do their possible best to serve the nation and bring their experiences to bear on the sector. She said there were many potentials in Ghana that can help us generate revenue like the museums and castles, and which would help turn the fortunes of our nation around, because museums were now moving from just telling history to predicting what a nation or people of a nation would be in future.

“We have so much as a country so we will bring our efforts together to direct the affairs of the board and ensure that people internally and globally will be able to understand who we are and what we stand for through our museums,” she said.

The ten-member Board who were sworn in as members of the Ghana Museums and Monuments Board are as follows: Dr Edith Dankwa, Chairperson, Mr Kingsley Ofori Ntiamoah, Acting Director. Other members include Dr Hudu Issah, Nana Kodwo Eduakwa V, Nana Ofori Ofori-Atta Ayim, Umar Abdul Hamid Esq., Dr Samuel Adu Gyamfi, Prof. Wazi Appoh, Dr Edwin Bodjawah, Prof. Kwamena Kwansah-Aidoo

IRANIAN DELEGATION VISIT MOTAC



The Minister for Tourism, Arts and Culture Dr Ibrahim Mohammed Awal says there is a need to have a permanent joint business corporation between Ghana and Iran to widen and strengthen the relationship between the two countries.

He mentioned that Ghana is a very stable and peaceful country in the West African sub-region with the African Continental Free Trade Area (ACFTA) headquarters being stationed also here. Iran can therefore use this platform to promote trade among the 1.2 billion people in Africa and a combined Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of 3 trillion dollars.

The Minister made this statement when he met a delegation from the Islamic Republic of Iran led by H.E Dr Saeed Khatibzadeh, spokesperson and Deputy Foreign Minister in his office on Wednesday 30th March 2022.

Dr Awal proposed the establishment of the Iran-Ghana Business Council to promote agro-businesses, aviation, tourism and trade which can result in 350 million dollars in investment every year. He indicated that the Council should be situated in Ghana as a centre of trade between Iran and other African countries.

Dr Saeed Khatibzadeh, the Deputy Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, stated that they are not just looking into trade, but to seek friendship, build economic and cultural partnerships which will help promote a mutual understanding between the two countries.

According to him, there can be collaboration in other fields aside from trade between the two countries and suggested two projects on artistic and cultural relations, to begin with, and which can be used to expand the corporation between Ghana and Iran.

Dr Khatibzadeh extended an invitation to the Hon. Minister to lead a delegation from the tourism sector to attend the inauguration of the Joint Economic Commission on 27th May 2022 in Iran.

He indicated that the forum would be used to sign a Memorandum of Understanding between his outfit and the ministry.

He recommended an exchange programme dubbed Cultural Week Celebration where various artists from Ghana can perform at a musical concert and an exhibition of food, handicrafts and other cultural artefacts would be organized.

The two Ministers discussed the need to have a friendly match between the two countries ahead of the FIFA World Cup tournament to be hosted by Qatar in November.



SANKOFA FLAMINGO FOUNDATION

EXTENDS INVITATION TO THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM, ARTS & CULTURE

The Deputy Minister of Tourism, Arts and Culture, Hon Mark Okraku-Mantey said the Beyond the Return which is a follow up to the Year of Return initiative is to help recognize Blacks or Africans who for some reason have stayed or dispersed themselves in other countries or continents outside their homeland. According to him, the government is taking steps to ensure that a Bill is passed by Parliament to

ensure that diasporans who want to relocate and settle in Ghana could do so without challenges in obtaining citizenship and owning properties. Hon. Okraku- Mantey made these statements, when a Pan-African-Bahamian-based non-governmental organization, Sankofa Flamingo Foundation, led by its founder Christopher Davis paid a courtesy call on him at his office on Thursday 24th March 2022.

Hon Okra-Mantey indicated that the Year of Return campaign, initiated by the government of Ghana in 2019 has shown how vital the diasporans are to the country.

He added that the initiative was not only to commemorate 400 years of arrival of the first enslaved Africans but also, make Ghana the beacon and focus of millions of African descendants living abroad.

He further stated that the Year of Return program saw a lot of diasporans of African descent visiting and exploring various historical places across the country and reconnecting them back to their roots.

“We want to see you as not just partners but developmental partners, some of you may have knowledge, skills and experiences that we don't have as has been explained is done in Archaeology. I am sure if he decides to come home he will do a lot for us, some of you have unique talents that we can nurture and help grow the Africa you left some years ago”, he said in his interaction with the delegation.

He urged them to taste our food, music and experience the warmth of the people of Ghana.

On his part, Mr Christopher Davis said his NGO focuses on historical and cultural research, heritage tourism and edutainment.

Mr Davis said the foundation was embarking on a third goodwill and research initiative in Pokesu (Princess Town) in Ahanta West, Ghana. The initiative will highlight research done in the Bahamas and the people of Ahanta, with John Canoe being at the centre of a worldwide commemoration and this will come with endless progressive and beneficial possibilities.



He added that he hoped to make a profound impact in education, culturally and economically through its projects centred around its seminal research for the Bahamas and their linked heritage, Pokesu. Mr. Davis and his team urged the Hon. Deputy Minister to assist in connecting them with the various stakeholders such as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Year of Return Secretariat and Ministry of Chieftaincy and Religious Affairs to ensure that their dream of making the Junkanoo Festival, Kundum festival and Ankos Parade a World-Class, interconnected festival that will come to light. He added that this collaboration will build solidarity and unveil the Ahanta Region as the **Black Mecca**.



RETURN STOLEN CULTURAL ARTEFACTS

The Deputy Minister for Tourism, Arts and Culture, Hon. Mark Okraku-Mantey, has stated an urgent need to repatriate and restitute cultural artefacts, film and intangible cultural heritage of Ghanaian origin held in Western European nations. According to him, several negotiations have taken place for the return of these cultural objects outside the country, with their exact locations yet to be known, the demands, however, have been denied or ignored.

“There are about 46,000 of 90,000 African cultural objects that Europeans acquired on the continent between 1885 and 1960 now under the custody of the Musee du Quai Branly in Paris”, the Deputy Minister added.

Hon. Mark Okraku-Mantey made this statement during the inauguration of a twenty-two (22) member Ghana Focal Team on Reparation and Restitution of Illegal Trafficked and Stolen Cultural Heritage and Artifacts in Accra on Tuesday, 12th April 2020. The Team, chaired by Prof. Kodzo Gavua of the University of Ghana, has the following as its Terms of Reference: Be the liaison between the public and the government of Ghana through the Ministry of Tourism Arts and Culture on the issue of restitution and reparations, identify and support researchers to elicit data that will support the government's call and demand for restitution and reparation, prepare Ghana's case for restitution of cultural heritage assets and reparation for consideration and action by the government, work with researchers and the media to embark upon public outreach programmes that will garner support for the government to demand restitution and repatriation. It is also to collaborate with the Ghana Heritage Committee and mandate state institutions such as the Ghana Museums and Monuments Board (GMMB), the Security Services and the Judicial Service to minimize the illegal acquisition and trafficking of Ghana's cultural heritage assets.

Hon Mark Okraku-Mantey added that the ministry would lend its support to the team and implore citizens to offer the same to enable the team to meet their mandate. Speaking at the ceremony, Mr. Diallo Abdourahamane,



, from the UNESCO Country Office, congratulated Ghana on the decision to reclaim its lost and stolen cultural artefacts following the 1970 convention of UNESCO that prohibits the illicit import, exports and transfer of ownership of cultural properties acknowledging neighbouring African countries like Mali, Nigeria and Benin who have done the same. He noted that, even as actions are being taken to return these artefacts, there is the need to prepare well-structured and constructed Museums to house them and assured the focal team of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO's) full support.

Prof Kodzo Gavua from the Department of Archeology, University of Ghana indicated that there would be a need for the general public as well as researchers to re-access and reinterpret these artefacts to evoke positive images of the African identity and also inspire the youth and give them a future. He added that there is a need to rethink and conceptualize the kind of museums the country would need. He also urged the media to play their role strategically, such that they will not only provide coverage but play active roles to ensure they disseminate information to the public.

The members of the team include Madam Janet Edna Nyame, Mr. Richard Commey Fio, Miss Josephine Ohene-Osei, Mr Christopher Wetcher, Mr Kofi Ohene Benning, Mr Alexander Koomson, Mr William Boateng, Mr Mii Kwate Owoo, Abigail Naa Odoi, Mr George Kojo Amoah, Mrs Nelly Spio-Abadio, Mrs Esther Esther Gyebi-Donkor, Mrs Emelia Lomo-Tettey, Mr Malik Saako Mahmoud, Mrs Mavis Kusorgbor, Mr Diallo Abdourahamane, Okotwaasua Kantamanto Oworae Agyekum III, Nana Ofosuaa Ofori-Atta Ayim, Mr Kingsley Ntiamoah, Mrs Akosua Saah Buckman and Prof Apoh Wazi.



11 MOTAC STAFF RECEIVE AWARDS

AT THE MAIDEN BEST WORKER AWARD CEREMONY

The Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture (MOTAC), has organized the Best Worker Award Ceremony to recognize staff whose performance was outstanding in the year 2021.

The outdoor event which included a familiarization tour and staff durbar was used to receive feedback, address concerns of staff and sought the way forward from staff to promote good governance, meet the ministry's target and enabled staff to socialize and interact with management.

The event took place at the Papaye Recreational Centre, Aburi in the Eastern Region on Friday 1st April 2022. Mr. Ebenezer Kwabena Asiedu emerged as the overall Best Worker for the year while Mrs. Harriet Nana Owusuah Aidoo received the special award from the Chief Director.

In his remarks, the Deputy Minister, Hon. Mark Okraku-Mantey thanked the staff for a successful first quarter and indicated that he was glad to see his team without nose masks for the first time in over two years. He added that the Tourism Industry has suffered due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"It is cash cow time for the ministry because certain restrictions have been eased and this implies that beaches, restaurants, hotels among others will be operating at full capacity" he opined.

According to him, the ministry launched the "Christmas in Ghana" in December 2021 and which recorded 62 events being held. He revealed that Arts and Culture have the potential to contribute immensely to GDP. According to him, this sector gave the USA 876.4 billion dollars in 2021 and added that in 2018 South Africa also raked in 8 891 billion dollars while Spain



All eleven hardworking staff were recognized by six directorates of the ministry and each awardee received a cash prize of GH¢2,000 and a citation. The rest of the awardees are Miss Naa Dede Awula Tetteh for the Arts and Culture Directorate, Miss. Barbara Amponsaa for Human Resource Management Directorate, Mr Killian Bunuso Gyader from the Project, Programmes, Budgeting and Monitoring and Evaluation Directorate, Mr Andy William Amoo for Research, Statistics and Information Management Directorate, Ms Isabel Norkor Duwuona from the Tourism Directorate. Recipients of the award for the Finance and Administration Directorate were Ms Priscilla Dzoboku - Procurement Unit, Ms Tawakaltu Raji - Accounts, Ms Suad Usif - Records and Ms

obtained 16.2 billion dollars in 2021. Again in 2021, the sector contributed 1.9 trillion dollars to the gross domestic product of the USA.

Ghana has an aggregate of tourism, arts and culture elements, and therefore if we are to work well with these elements, we should be the strongest ministry in Ghana. He stated that tourism derives all its assets from the arts and culture industry which includes heritage sites, traditions, a creative economy, and educational sites and if this is well packaged, would help the sector achieve its set target of 2.3-billion dollars

MAIDEN BEST WORKER AWARDS

The Chief Director, Mr John Yao Agbeko, in his welcome remarks, indicated the ministry had a great year despite the challenges being faced. For the year 2022, the Ministry has to also grapple with the challenge of experiencing a 30 per cent budgetary cut as a result of a decision by the government to reduce expenditure for the year 2022. He said it was important that staff who had contributed meaningfully to achieving the targets in 2021 are duly recognized by the ministry.

The Director for Human Resources, Mr. Vitus OttoLangmagne lauded the staff for their hard work and team spirit demonstrated even in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic and urged them to keep working hard to achieve the goals of the ministry. Staff were allowed to voice out their concerns and make recommendations as to how to run the activities of the ministry effectively

Some concerns were raised about the stoppage of buses plying the Kasoa and Adentan routes and the Chief Director assured them that buses would be restored and encouraged them to contribute a token to support the fueling of these buses when the need arose.

Some also requested electronic gadgets and monthly data to handle the ministry's social media accounts, while others complained about the lack of air conditioners in their offices thus making work difficult during the dry and hot days of the year.

The event provided an opportunity for socialization among the management and staff of the ministry.



MAIDEN BEST WORKER AWARDS



TOURISM MINISTER MEETS

MANAGEMENT STAFF OF MoTAC

The minister for Tourism, Arts, and Culture (MoTAC) Hon. Dr. Mohammed Ibrahim Awal met the management of the Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture (MoTAC) on 22nd February 2022 in Accra to discuss his plans for the sector.

He indicated that his target for the ministry was to adequately resource it and address the issue of lack of funding for the Ministry.

Dr. Awal revealed that he had secured funding from the World Bank to undertake major infrastructural development for the tourism sector.

According to him, the investments that would be made would help reduce poverty by creating about 250,000 jobs that would provide revenue to the government in terms of taxes.

He noted that his legacy as a minister for tourism would be to build attractive tourist sites that can boast of cultural heritage.

He said in line with his goal, he would improve the cultural assets of the various tourist attraction sites in the country.

Dr. Awal also stated that Ghana's strength in the promotion of tourism is based on the extensive cultural assets which include castles and museums.

He outlined the rehabilitation of the Christiansborg Castle at Osu and the building of a modern museum as a key priority for his tenure.

He added that the gallery at the Accra Museum had been fully renovated and would be operational between March and April 2022. According to him, His Excellency, Nana Addo Danquah Akufo Addo would open the gallery this year where the Ministry would generate income out of the old vehicles used by Osagyefo Dr. Kwame Nkrumah.



He mentioned that works are currently ongoing at the Kwame Nkrumah Mausoleum in Accra to give a facelift to the facility. The works when completed would double the number of visitations annually to the centre.

Dr. Awal, said, he believed when all these works have been done, Ghana can attract between 2 or 3 million tourists annually to the country.

He further stated that Ghana was closely observing the pattern of the COVID-19 pandemic to enable the government to relax the restrictions.

He added that the initial four-year project by the World Bank, to improve the tourism sector would end in October 2023.

He said additional resources would be sought to enable the Ministry to renovate heritage sites that were in deplorable states.

He called for the commitment and involvement of the staff to collectively move the agenda forward.

He thanked management immensely for their support and success chalked so far. According to him a lot had been done, but far more needs to be done, he concluded.

Management also expressed their profound gratitude to the minister for making time to attend the meeting. Members took turns to raise concerns for various directorates and for which the minister responded positively.



MoTAC ORGANIZES

TWO-DAY WORKSHOP FOR MANAGEMENT

The Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture (MoTAC) has organized a two-day intensive training workshop for Senior Management on Budgeting and Cabinet Memorandum Drafting in Accra. The workshop which was held under Component 4 of the Ghana Tourism Development Project (GTDP), took place at the Hill View Guest Centre, Abokobi in the Greater Accra Region from 29th – 30th December, 2021.

In a brief remark at the workshop, Mr. John Yao Agbeko, Chief Director for the Ministry, informed participants that the training was intended to sharpen and enhance the skills of all Senior Managers of the Ministry in order to improve work performance. He thanked participants for availing themselves for the training and added that the sector Minister, Dr. Mohammed Awal has called for the strengthening of the existing budget team of the Ministry as well as urged the team to initiate preparations for 2023 budget early.

On his part, Mr. Otto Langmagne, the Director of Human Resource Management and Development (HRMD) Directorate, noted that Capacity building was part of the requirement of the Civil Service. He revealed that, his Directorate had developed a well-coordinated training plan for 2022 to enable the Ministry train both Senior Managers and Lower Level Staff effectively. He also indicated, that such training workshops when organized enables staff adopt best practices within their scope of work and enhance productivity within the work place. He however bemoaned the lack of financial resources for the HRMD Directorate to undertake training in a timely manner.

Mr. Kwabena Biritwum, a Principal Economic Officer from the Ministry of Finance, who facilitated the training session on Public Sector Budgeting, took participants through an Overview of the Public Financial Management (PFM) Act, 2016 (Act 921), Objectives of Public Financial Management, Public Sector Budgeting, Program-based budgeting, Public Sector Financial Management Software (hyperion) and the Sanctions regime under the PFM Act.

The second resource person, Mr. Cephas Adjei-Mensah, a Deputy-Director of the Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation (MESTI), also taught, an Overview of a Cabinet Memorandum, Policy Development Process, Conditions for submitting a Cabinet Memo, Types of Cabinet Memorandum, Preparation of Cabinet Memorandum, Analysis Document, Communication Plan and Executive Summary.

The Management Staff who participated in the training were drawn from Human Resource, Policy Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation, Arts & Culture, Finance & Administration Research, Statistics and Information Management, and Tourism Directorates as well as the Audit Unit and Accounts Unit.



MOTAC TRAINS STAFF ON NACAP

The Ministry of Tourism Arts and Culture (MoTAC) on the 10th February 2022 organized a day's sensitization training for Senior Level Managers on the National Anti-Corruption Action Plan (NACAP) by Government. The training which was held in Accra was aimed at building the capacity of senior management staff to strengthen their resilience in corruption reduction and prevention.

Speaking at the training, the Chief Director, Mr. John Yao Agbeko said, the subject matter was highly technical which required an in-depth understanding of participants.

He, therefore, urged staff to let circumspection be their greatest guide in the discharge of their duties as Civil Servants. He added that the program which was in the 7th year of implementation has not achieved any tangible result due to the complexity and scope.

The Head of Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) and focal person for NACAP, Dr. Alphonse Kumaza, who facilitated the training, took participants through the following topics namely Introduction, Anti-corruption Institutions, Policy recommendation, Principles, Strategies in corruption prevention and challenges.

He noted that NACAP was a national policy agenda adopted by Parliament in 2014 to establish a blueprint to prevent and fight corruption and restore integrity to public sector financial and non-financial administration as well as provide a forum for improving governance through safeguarding integrity in the public space.

Dr. Kumaza revealed that the program which was in the 7th year of implementation has two main objectives which include identifying corruption and making its practice low gain and unrewarding as well as institutionalizing efficiency in public space through transparency and accountability.

The training also outlined recommendations which included making Ethics a critical policy theme if the fight against corruption could be effectively addressed.

Dr. Kumaza, therefore, called for target-specific group training in ethics for the public officials and provide legal backing for such training.

Dr. Kumaza additionally, took participants through strategies in corruption prevention which would include strengthening anti-corruption institutions such as the Ghana Police Service, Economic and Organized Crime Office (EOCO), and Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice.

He indicated that practitioners in anti-corruption institutions should be equipped with a variety of skills, tools and adopt effective implementation mechanisms for new initiatives.

Dr. Kumaza also outlined some challenges faced in the fight against corruption which involved many new initiatives with the view of fighting corruption yet they become counterproductive and there should be a balance between control, flexibility, and judgment.

At the end of the training, it was recommended that M&E Unit organize a session for Heads of Agencies and other staff of the ministry in the year.

Participants for the training were drawn from all the directorates of the Ministry.



KWAHU 2022





KWAHU

PARAGLIDING
FESTIVAL 2022



MINISTRY OF TOURISM,
ART & CULTURE



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