

BEREKUM WEST DISTRICT ASSEMBLY

Office of the District Administration
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SESSIONAL ADDRESS DELIVERED BY THE HONOURABLE DISTRICT CHIEF EXECUTIVE, COLLINS ASOMA AT THE SECOND ORDINARY MEETING OF THE SECOND ASSEMBLY OF THE BEREKUM WEST DISTRICT IN THE ASSEMBLY'S CONFERENCE HALL HELD ON THURSDAY 6TH NOVEMBER 2025.

Honourable Presiding Member,
Honourable Member of Parliament,
Honourable Assembly Members,
The District Co-Ordinating Director,
Our Esteemed Divisional Chiefs and Elders,
Heads of Department Present,
The Media Fraternity,
Distinguished Invited Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen:

I welcome all of you, Honourable Members to today's Ordinary meeting of the General Assembly and wish the Honourable House a fruitful session. I do this with a heart of warm humbleness, on behalf of **His Excellency, John Dramani Mahama, the President of the Republic of Ghana and Commander in Chief of the Ghana Armed Forces.**

This address, Hon. Presiding Member, is pursuant to Section 28 (1&2) of the Local Governance Act, Act 936, (2016) which stipulates that, the District Chief Executive, ought to address the

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District Assembly in session on policies determined by the President and also to present a report on the functions of the Executive Committee (Section 28(2a) of Act 936 (2016)).

Honourable Presiding Member, I present to you the State of the District. How the Assembly had performed its functions to the District via the use of the various Departments/Units of the Assembly such as the Human Resource Department, Social Welfare and Community Development, Planning, Department of Agriculture, etc.

THE HUMAN RESOURCE DEPARTMENT

The number of permanent staff strength in the District currently stands at One Hundred and Fourteen (114) and four (4) casual staff. It is the desire of this new administration to keep a sizeable casual staff strength to ensure efficiency and the timely payment of their wages. Efforts had been made to clear a large chunk of the back log on the number of months owed to the casual workers and the rest is projected to be cleared before the close of the year. However, all outstanding payment due SSNIT regarding Casual Workers had also been made.

I wish to commend the staff of the Assembly for the selfless service put up during the immediate past DPAT Assessment which provisional results ranked the District third in the Bono Region a pass mark for pending financial assistance for the development of the District.

FUNCTIONAL OF AREA COUNCILS

Hon. Presiding Member, in order to deepen grass root democracy and entrench decentralisation, the four Area Councils namely; Fetentaa Area Council, Nsapor Area Council, Koraso Area Council and the Jinijini Area Council have all been inaugurated and the leaders sworn into office respectively. It is therefore our expectation that all the four Area Councils become functional and lead in the local development of their areas.

REGISTRATION/RENEWAL OF HEALTH INSURANCE

Hon. Presiding Member, about 6,758 people's Health Insurance Cards had been renewed District wide.

At the same time, Five Hundred and Fifteen (515) persons with disabilities had been registered and renewed their Health Insurance. Three Hundred and Twenty-five (325) females and One Hundred and Ninety (190) males were registered.

Twenty-One (21) persons with disabilities registered within the third quarter 2025 for various support such as medical, financial, educational and others. Ten (10) out of this number were males whilst Eleven (11) were females.

LIVELIHOOD EMPOWERMENT AGAINST POVERTY (LEAP)

The Livelihood Empowerment against Poverty (LEAP) programme is a flagship social protection initiative by the government of Ghana aimed at reducing extreme poverty and promoting social inclusion in deprived communities.

The 96th LEAP payment cycle started from **8th -9th July, 2025** whilst that of 97th LEAP payment was carried out from the **11th - 12th August, 2025**.

Below are the amounts households received;

1. One eligible member households - GHC320.00
2. Two eligible member households - GHC380.00
3. Three eligible member households - GHC440.00
4. Four or more eligible member households - GHC530.00

Two Hundred and Sixty-Seven (267) LEAP beneficiaries received their cash grants while Seventy- One (71) could not cash out their monies due to various reasons (wallets not credited, travel outside pay point, finger prints not picking).

DISBURSEMENT TO PERSONS WITH DISABILITY (PWD's)

The Assembly though the Department of Social Welfare and Community Development made a disbursement to 62 PWD's with the break down as follows;

- Medical Support – 4 PWD's
- Educational Support – 10 PWD's
- Financial Support – 29 PWD's
- Deep Freezers and Refrigeration's – 15 PWS's
- Fufu Pounding Machine – 2 PWD's

- Industrial Sewing Machine – 1 PWD
- Gas Oven – 1 PWD
- Welding Machine – 1 PWD.

THE BUSINESS ADVISORY CENTER (BAC)

Hon. Presiding Member, the Centre continued to provide business advisory services in the District to our people. Under the Bizbox Project the following activities was carried out;

- Shared start-up kits (tarpaulin fishpond cages) to forty (40) Person with Disability comprising 26 males and 14 females to start their own business.
- Shared start-up kits (piglet) to thirty (39) youths under the piggery farming comprising 26 males and 13 females to start the business
- Management training for women in Business for 72 participants
- Management and technical training under the Food Processing model for 41 participants made up of 9 males and 32 females
- Management and technical training under the Fish Farming model for 41 participants also made up of 10 females and 31 males.
- Management and technical training under the Mushroom Farming model for 41 participants also made up of 19 females and 22 males.
- 72 business owners mainly females had been supported by the BAC for business registration and formalization under the Bizbox Project.

It is our hope that all of the above interventions and many others yet to come are going to help empower our people especially the youth, the physically challenged and the women in our District economically for a decent living.

THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Hon. Presiding Member, the Assembly through the Department of Agriculture under the Changing Lives Transformation Fund (CLTF) Project of the World Food Programme (WFP)

had taken delivering of 2,296 Cashew Seedlings, 39,019 Moringa Seedlings, and 11,148 Mango Seedlings and distributed to 372 farmers in the District.

Furthermore, the Department received 500 bags of fertilizers and 20,000 Coconut seedlings and distribution of these inputs to the farmers are on-going.

Again, under the Feed Ghana programme, the District would be a beneficiary of not less than 10,000 birds for the 'Akoko nketenkete project' and the Department had identified two main poultry farmers who are going to raise the day old chicks for some weeks before the redistribution to all who have registered, especially the youth for the project. In all, 209 Farmer Groups with a total farmer population of 1,752 had been registered onto the Feed Ghana Programme Platform to be beneficiaries of the

- Small scale poultry rearing (nkoko nketenkete)
- Piggery farming
- Input support.

Hon. Presiding Members, let the House be informed that, a team from the Ghana Irrigation Authority some few months ago were in the District to identify our various wet lands for the development of irrigation systems to support our farmers especially those into vegetable farming. May I thank our Hon. Member of Parliament for his immense assistance in making all of these achievable through his influence.

The Assembly had also supported the Department with its Internally Generated Fund (IGF) to construct four (4) chamber store rooms to help facilitate its activities.

I respectfully call on the Hon. Members to take keen interest in some of these interventions and assist their electorates to as it were benefit.

THE WORKS DEPARTMENT

The Assembly through the Department, supervises Physical Projects been undertaken in the District.

Roads

Hon. Presiding Member, the the Jinijini- Drobo high way has become a major concern to all of us not only because of its bad nature but also the increasing robbery cases being recorded

on the stretch recently. To help mitigate the situation, the Assembly earlier on deployed the DRIP machines to undertake resurfacing on some sections of the road which was in very bad shape. Thankfully, the Contractor awarded with the road, 'Rango Construction' had moved on site undertaking a full scale resurfacing on the whole stretch and this we believe had started bringing some relief to both drivers and pedestrians of the road.

Also through the Central Government, the Nsapor township roads had been awarded and construction is underway. The Assembly had carried out reshaping of some of the farm roads in the Communities and will continue to work on other ones very soon.

Education

Hon. Presiding Member, since education still remained a major priority to the government of the National Democratic Congress (NDC) and sharing in this vision, the Assembly is committed to providing our schools with the needed infrastructure and teaching aids to facilitate effective teaching and learning in the District. Once again we thank our Hon. Member of Parliament for securing a (1) number six 6 Unit Story Classroom block with ancillary facilities at the St. Augustine Senior High School and also establishing an Education Fund to support needy but brilliant students in the District.

Hon. Presiding Member, the future of our youth is been threatened with the upsurge of 'Drug Abuse' in our various schools and Communities. It is therefore our collective responsibility as Parents, Nananom, Assembly Members, Teachers, Religious Leaders, and all other relevant stake holders in education to work to fighting the canker.

Legacy Projects

Hon. Presiding Member, my administration inherited some number of legacy projects started under the previous government. The **President, John Dramani Mahama** had instructed and made provision in the Common Fund released, for all legacy projects across the Country to be continued and completed for use for the good people of Ghana. To this extent, the Berekum West District had complied with the directive by making some payments to contractors of the following projects;

- a. Jamdede Market – an amount of **Ghc. 433,450.00** fully paid to the Contractor and
- b. Nkyenkyemem D/A JHS Block – an amount of **Ghc. 176,549.46** as part payment made to the Contractor.

We shall continue to be committed to this directive and ensure that all other legacy projects which includes the District Police Headquarters, the AstroTurf Park, etc. are duly completed for the benefit of our people.

New Projects

Hon. Presiding Member, I am pleased to announce to this Honourable House, that, very soon the District would be flooded with new projects which would include KG blocks, Classroom Blocks, health post, refuse containers and many others to be scattered across the District. In all, we hope to award eleven new contracts for various projects and programmes before the end of the year. The Procurement Unit together with the Works Department have initiated processes for the award of all eleven contracts and for their commencement.

Hon. Presiding Member, we have repair the bore holes at Mesaasuo and Domfete respectively. Again, twenty-three (23) bore holes made up of fifteen (15) hand pumps and eight (8) mechanised pipes would be constructed in the following Communities or areas. They are **Botorkrom, Ayimom, Abansere, Fetentaa R/C, Domfete Islamic School, Nkyenkyemem, Mentukwa, Abisaase Kwaawari, Tewubabi D/A Basic School, Nanasuano, Benkasa, Prusu, Adom and Abi**. This will help give access to portable water for our people and prevent waterborne diseases in the Communities.

Additionally, two temporary toilet pits have been dug for the Koraso and Nkantanka Communities respectively. With support from a private individual, flowers had been provided for the landscaping works on the compound of our Assembly block to enhance the outlook of the Administrative block of the District.

Electrification and Street Lighting

Hon. Presiding Member, in an effort to lighting our Communities and Towns, street bulbs had be provided and fixed at the following areas;

- i. Street Bulbs to Prusu
- ii. Street Bulbs at the Koraso Market Centre
- iii. Street Bulbs at the Fetentaa Market Centre
- iv. New Transformer installation at Nanasuano for extension to new sites

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

Hon. Presiding Member, the finances of the District had seen some leap in improvement in the 2025 fiscal year even though it still needs our collective effort to boost revenue mobilisation. Tables 1 and 2 below shows the financial performance and the IGF mobilised as at the end of the Third quarter of 2025. It is refreshing to inform the Hon. House that, the third quarter Internally Generated Fund (IGF) for 2025 is equivalent to the total revenue mobilized for the 2024 fiscal year. As at the end of September 2025 an amount of **GH¢347,136.82** representing **60.37%** of the budgeted figure of **GH¢574,999.52** for the year had been collected. Data from the Accounts Office shows that for the first time, revenue under ‘Fees’ overtook ‘Lands’ becoming the highest revenue generation item line for the District for **2025**. As opined earlier, the figure reveals a tremendous increase in the revenue mobilization of the District over the same period for the year 2024 and this could be attributed to the Special Revenue Task Force commissioned and assisted by the Operatives of National Security to mobilized revenue during the tomatoes harvest season. We can also attribute this to the intensive public education which is on – going and is being carried out by the District Information Services Department.

TABLE ONE (1)			
COMPOSITE REVENUE PERFORMANCE AS AT MARCH 31, 2023			
Revenue Item	2025 Revised Budget	Actuals As At September 30 2025	Performance (%)
INTERNAL GENERATED FUNDS (IGF)	574,999.52	347,136.82	60.37
COMPENSATION	9,241,927.00	5,982,898.98	64.74
GOODS AND SERVICES TRANSFER	247,100.00	104,190.48	42.17
DACF	25,570,117.26	7,116,379.91	27.83
DACF(MP)	1,360,507.25	813,315.58	59.78
PWD FUND	863,218.39	228,892.84	26.52
DACF-RFG	1,384,542.00	0.00	0

CIDA/MAG	-	-	-
UNICEF	25,000.00	0.00	-
MSHAP/HIV AIDS	22,132.92	12,709.23	57.42
ASSEMBLY MEMBER ALLOWANCE	154,600.00	72,800.00	50%
SAFETY NET	2,630,360.18	0.00	0
GOG- ASSET TRANSFER	-	-	-
WORLD VISION	-	-	-
GRAND TOTAL	41,919,904.52	14,605,523.84	34.84

TABLE TWO(2)			
IGF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE AS AT SEPTEMBER 30th 2023			
Revenue Item	2025 Revised Estimate (GHC)	Actuals As At September 30th 2025 (GHC)	Performance (%)
RATES-(Property Rate, Basic Rate, etc.)	110,473.00	66,870.00	60.53
LANDS-	198,413.25	92,129.82	46.43
RENTS- (Assembly's Stores @ Jinjini/Fetentaa)	8,250.00	6,750.00	81.82
LICENSES-(Fuel/LGP dealers, Private School)	45,540.00	23,956.00	52.60
FEES- (Market tolls, Marriage Certificate, Sales of Tender Documents, etc.)	160,723.27	110,431.00	68.71
FINES- (Court fines, Spot fines, General Offences)	1,500.00	0.00	0
ROYALTIES	50,000.00	47,000.00	94.0
INVESTMENTS	-	-	
TOTAL	574,999.52	347,136.82	60.37

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THE BUDGET UNIT

The Assembly through the Budget unit partook in the 2025 Regional budget hearing for 2026 and had also prepared the District Annual Budget for 2026 pending the approval of this august House at today's sitting. I look forward to seeing Hon. Members take keen interest in the 2026 Composite Budget and contribute meaningfully to it, as well as approving same to become the working document for the Assembly for the 2026 fiscal year.

THE STATISTICAL UNIT

The Statistical Unit of the District is relentlessly on the field collecting administrative data and data of Small and Medium Enterprises (SME's) to help build a good revenue data base for improved revenue mobilization in the District.

Hon. Presiding Member, a number of our people in the District are still reluctant to honoring their civil responsibility by paying their taxes and levies which is one of the many indicators used to determine how much District Assembly Common Fund-Responsive Factor (DACF-Responsive Factor) are allocated to our District. May I therefore call on the Honourable House to complement the effort of the Assembly to sensitize our people to accept and honour their civil responsibility.

THE PHYSICAL PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Hon. Presiding Member, the Assembly through the Physical Planning Unit continue to develop Jinijini layouts and also working on the 'Street Naming'. Additionally, the Unit is working on the land layouts for Jamdede and Nsapor. In compliance with the Land and Spatial laws, the Unit had held the Technical Sub-Committee and the Spatial Planning Committee meetings respectively to consider and review various land use issues and also giving building permit approvals. They also engaged in regular monitoring of new development (structures) within the District and embarked on planning education in some Communities.

THE DEVELOPMENT PLANINIG UNIT

Hon. Presiding Member, the Development Planning Unit is one of the important Units in the discharge of the functions of the Assembly. The Unit helps to coordinate the developmental plans of the District and had so far carried out with the processes of drafting the Composite

Annual Action Plan for 2026 which will be presented to this Honourable House for approval. Likewise, it is in the final stage of the preparation of the 2026-2029 District Medium Term Development Plan to be submitted for approval by the National Development Planning Commission (NDPC) for inclusion into the national medium term development plan. Also, the DPCU undertook a mid-year performance review meeting as well as monitored and evaluated the Physical Projects in the District.

HEALTH

Hon. Presiding Member, The Ghana Health Service rolled out a sensitization programme District wide to create awareness on the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) campaign and successfully vaccinated a greater number of our young female pupils in the District. The coverage rate according to the health directorate was very encouraging in the District.

Hon. Presiding Member, it is the vision of my office together with the Hon. Member of Parliament to ensure that all (12) CHPS zones in our District, remain functional. Records from the District Health Directorate indicates that only six (6) out of the twelve (12) CHPS zones were with compounds. Together with the MP, we are going to find the resources to increase the number of functional CHPS zones with compounds to help improve health delivery services in the District.

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Hon. Presiding Member, the District Continued to have clean environment due to the untiring service of the Environmental Health Unit of the Assembly. As the old adage goes. ‘Cleanliness is next to godliness’. As you may already be aware, **His Excellency the President** through the sector Minister had pronounced that Sanitation is going to be one of the bench marks to measure performances of MMDA’s. The Assembly through the Environmental and Health Unit and together with the Hon. Member of Parliament, had since the lunch of the ‘**Clean Ghana Campaign**’ rolled out a number of clean up exercises in four major towns of the District. All of these exercises carried out, saw the massive participations of our Sub-Chiefs, Hon. Assembly Members, Community members, the Media and other stakeholders. I on this note passionately appeal to the Honourable House to adopt the once in a month clean-up exercise in their respective electoral areas to help maintain good sanitation and hygiene in our respective

Communities and Towns District wide. In order for this not to be a one-day wonder, the
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Assembly through the Environmental Unit is prepared to provide the necessary support to any Assembly Member who takes up this initiative.

The Unit continued to screen food vendors to ensure they were medically fit to prevent food transmitted diseases.

SECURITY

Honourable Presiding Member, the District continue to enjoy relative stability and peace with no political unrest. However, a developing Chieftaincy disturbances in Nsapor over who becomes the next Queen mother threatens the peace currently been enjoyed by the Community and the District. The District Security Council had placed a ban on any enstoolment and directed the factions involved to desist from any action(s) that could spark anxiety in Nsapor. DISEC will be following development keenly in the Community to avert any unrest.

Another troubling security concerns in the District have been the surge of Illegal Mining menace popularly known as galamsey and armed robbery on the Jinijini – Drobo Highway which is in a very deplorable state.

With the Illegal Mining, DISEC had taken a strong position not to allow any such activities in any part of the District. Since I took over, I have led the security agencies to carry out two separate raids upon tip offs where equipment and tools were seized and two persons involved arrested and in the custody of the police for prosecution. I would like to appeal to this Honourable House to give their full backing to DISEC in order to nip the menace to the back. With regards to the robbery cases on the Jinijini-Drobo Highway, the Police and the other Security Agencies from the Berekum West and Jaman South Districts are collaborating to provide security to our road users through intensified patrols and mounting of check points.

Hon. Presiding Member, situational report received from the District Office of NADMO reveals that there is a resurgence of Ivoirians at the Fetentaa Refugee camp due to the upcoming general election in Cote D'ivoire our neighbouring country. NADMO had so far registered thirty-six Ivoirians as at October 21st, 2025 while intelligence picked by the office indicates that buses full of Ivoirians are on their way to the camp. DISEC is on the alert to making sure that their presence in the camp and by extension the District, would be peaceful and have instructed NADMO and the Immigration Service to ensure that the necessary protocols are followed while preparing for all necessary humanitarian support for our brothers and sisters.

On this note I wish to commend the Commanders of the various security agencies in the District for their professionalism and tactfulness in the discharge of their duties.

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THE NEW DEVELOPMENT IN THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE

Hon presiding member, I want the Hon. House to be informed that, there had been a new development in the Local Government Service in the exercise of the District Performance Assessment – (DPAT). Before now, an assessment team was sent to the various Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies (MMDA's) to conduct the assessment. This would no longer be the case. The MMDA's are now going to be accessed through the District Data Development Platform (DDDP) which is a development data tracker software and this is what was used for the 2025 DPAT IX. I wish to assure the Hon. House that Management is putting in place all the necessary structures to ensure that all staff are abreast with the software for the smooth usage of it so that our District will stand prepared for future assessment not only for the DPAT activities but for any other ones that may be deemed necessary using the DDDP as its primary data source.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

Hon. Member Presiding, in step with section 28(2a) of the local Governance Act, Act 936(2016), I submit herewith the report of the Executive Committee of the Assembly as deliberated and concluded by members. The following were considered report worthy by the Committee:

1. Management should pay attention to the payment of ex-gratia arrears for the former Assembly members as soon as possible.
2. In consideration of IGF projects, communities where higher revenues are generated must be prioritized to encourage them to pay more.
3. The Assembly should pay attention to the roads in the District by grading and reshaping them where necessary, especially the inner roads and general farming Communities.

4. There should be regular maintenance of faulty streetlights and extension of new ones within the district.
5. The necessary action should be taken to curb the galamsey operations in the district.
6. Efforts should be made to appoint new Management Team for the Nsapor and Nanasuano water system to reduce the tension around it in the communities.
7. There is the need to intensify sensitisation on drug abuse and ban illegal sale of drugs and herbal medicines.
8. There is a rampant robbery activity on the Jinijini, Botokrom, Drobo high-way which management must pay attention to.

CONCLUSION

Hon. Presiding Member, may I use this opportunity to wish all Hon. Members a happy Christmas and a promising new year in advance and hope that all of us would stay safe during the yuletide and come back very well-conditioned so that we could deliver public service together to our beloved people in the District.

Hon. Members, I will conclude by encouraging all to participate in the business of the house to have a fruitful deliberations and approvals of the day's business as laid before you. Thank you and have the best deliberations on the floor of this House!!!!

LONG LIVE GHANA

LONG LIVE BEREKUM WEST DISTRICT. !!!!

THANK YOU.