

**SESSIONAL ADDRESS DELIVERED BY HON. HAJIA ZUWEIRATU
MADA NASHIRU, THE DISTRICT CHIEF EXECUTIVE FOR
CHEREPONI, ON THE OCCASION OF THE FIRST ORDINARY
MEETING OF THE CHEREPONI DISTRICT ASSEMBLY HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 3RD MAY, 2023 IN THE PRESBY CHURCH**

Hon. Presiding Member,

Hon. Assembly Members,

Heads of Department and Unit, present,

Heads of Security Agencies present,

Media Present,

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen.

I am pleased to join the Hon. Presiding Member to welcome you to the 1st Ordinary meeting of the 4th Session of the Chereponi District Assembly.

Hon. Presiding Member, I will like to use this medium to acknowledge the commitment of our dear Hon. Assembly Members to the work of their respective Sub-Committees and the Executive Committee. Management is impressed with the sacrifices made during the Sub-Committee meetings.

We are gathered here today as duty bearers, to as usual discuss issues that affect the development fortunes of the Chereponi District Assembly.

There is no doubt that, the Assembly made modest gains in the implementation of its development plans for 2022 despite the many conflicts witnessed in the District during the period.

As Hon. Assembly Members, you have since my assumption of office shown consistency in your support for our development efforts and while thanking you for the kind gesture, I wish to appeal for your continuous support and cooperation as we execute the development agenda for 2023 and beyond.

I am optimistic that, the District will make more in roads in pursuit of its development goals in 2023 despite the chieftaincy conflict witnessed at Wenchiki in the first quarter. What is required of us as development agents is to galvanize the energies of our people towards the development of our dear district and I am confident that we would live up to expectation in that respect.

Fiscal Performance

Hon. Presiding Member, as expected, revenue generation continuous to engage the attention of the Assembly and the significant improvement witnessed in that area in recent time, shows that, the revenue strategies we are implementing are yielding the desired dividends.

It is worth-mentioning that, the Assembly mobilized Sixty-six Thousand, One Hundred and Ten Ghana Cedis (GH¢ 66,110.00) as at 27th March, 2023 as against Thirty-Three Thousand, Five Hundred and Sixty-Seven Ghana Cedis (GH¢ 33,567.00) realized during the same period in 2022. We remain relentless in our quest for more successes in our revenue mobilization efforts and I urge all Hon. Assembly Members to support our efforts in that regard.

Hon. Presiding Member, Issuance of stickers to tractors operating and rendering services in the District is an area we need to prioritize especially, given that the 2023 cropping season has begun, and we are already seeing tractors from other parts of the country coming into the District. I want to appeal to the Hon. Assembly Members to join efforts with the finance Department to rake in more revenue for the Assembly.

Health

Hon. Presiding Member, My commitment to providing for the health needs of our people is unmatched and this is exemplified by the numerous support being extended to the sector under my tenure.

Hon. Presiding Member, I am happy to announce that, the construction of Bunburiga CHPs Compound which was awarded on contract under the District Development Facility (DDF) has been completed and handed over for use. I must state that, the facility is one of the state of the art projects within the District considering its uniqueness. Plans are far advanced to provide the facility with the needed equipment to enable it operate and render the needed services.

As part of efforts to attract and retain doctors in the District, the Assembly will be constructing a 3-bedroom self-contained for the recently posted Doctor to the District. Designs and bills of quantities of the project have been prepared and the advert will be floated by the close of this month May, 2023 to pave way for the rest of the procurement processes to be carried out.

I am pleased to inform the House that, a new anesthetic machine has been procured for the hospital through the efforts of the Assembly and the Hon. MP and cases which were hitherto referred to Yendi or Saboba due to the breakdown of the old machine are now being attended to at the Chereponi Hospital.

Hon. Presiding Member, the Assembly in partnership with ZIPLINE Ghana has established a medical drone center at Naja community to provide the needed services in the District.

Education

Hon. Presiding Member, the infrastructure deficit in the education sector remains a hindrance to the effective teaching and learning in our schools. Thankfully, the Assembly through different funding sources has started addressing the problem with the provision of classroom blocks of different shapes and sizes for some schools. The 1No. 3-Unit Classroom block with office, store and four seater KVIP, 2-Unit Urinal as well 75 Wooden Dual Desks at Nawieku which had been awarded for construction is progressing steadily and it is our hope that, the project would be completed on time for use.

Apart from the planned renovation of the 1No. 3-Unit classroom block at Kpani primary, under SOCO, the same community is being earmarked for the provision of 1No. 6-Unit Classroom block. The project when executed as planned will not only create classrooms for the KG, but also address the problem where pupils in different classes are put in one class. Other school blocks earmarked for face lifting under SOCO are: 2No. 3-Unit Classroom block at Garinkuka, 3No. 3-Unit Classroom block at Famisa. The Chereponi Senior High Technical School dining hall is also earmarked for renovation.

Also, as part of efforts to address the furniture needs of basic schools in the District, a contract will be awarded under SOCO for the supply of 932 metal dual desk furniture. The furniture when supplied, will be distributed to the schools based on their needs.

Hon Presiding Member, it should be noted with sadness that, the education sector in the District is witnessing unprecedented mass exodus of teachers and the situation as we all know is attributed to conflicts, bad roads and lack of other social amenities. My engagements with the GES, the ministry of Education and His Excellency, the Vice President, Dr. Mahamudu Bawumia as part of efforts to salvage the situation is

yielding the desired outcome as concrete steps are being taken to post teachers, especially indigenes to the District.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Hon. Presiding Member, the least said about the sanitation situation in the District, the better. It is nothing to write home about despite the numerous calls for the citizenry to refrain from the haphazard dumping of refuse as well as indiscriminate open defecation. We will have to institute the monthly mandatory clean-up exercises as part of measures to rid the District off filth. Our quest for improved sanitation in the District will remain a mirage if we continue to flout the sanitation bye-laws with impunity. The police have therefore been instructed to support the Environmental Health Unit to deal with offenders of our sanitation bye-laws.

Hon. Presiding Member, apart from the 25 No. boreholes being drilled under the MP share of the District Assemblies Common Fund, drilling of another 25No. boreholes are being awarded on contract for execution under the same funding source.

Also, frantic efforts are being made to get the contract for the drilling of 20No. boreholes supported by the Petroleum Commission executed. The Assembly has also earmarked four communities for provision of mechanized boreholes under SOCO. The efforts of the Assembly in all of this are geared towards providing the water needs of the people.

Security

Hon. Presiding Member, the Chereponi District remains relatively peaceful despite the recent chieftaincy conflict witnessed at Wenchiki on Thursday 23rd February, 2023. It is sad to mention that, four (4) lives were lost, and 37 houses burnt leading to the displacement of 385 persons during the Wenchiki conflict. Calm has since

returned to the conflict affected areas following the swift intervention by DISEC through the deployment of a combined team of military and police.

DISEC has also stationed police personnel at the Wenchiki police post as part of efforts to prevent further escalation of the conflict. DISEC in collaboration with relevant stakeholders drawn from the major clans in the Chereponi traditional areas has been engaging the conflict affected communities as part of efforts to avert further escalation of the conflict.

The paramount Chief of Chereponi was briefed on the outcome of the engagements on Thursday 28th March, 2023 and he is expected to engage all the chiefs in the traditional area on the need to sustain the peace being enjoyed in the District at a meeting yet to be scheduled. An official invitation will be extended to the Hon. Regional Minister to participate in the meeting as and when it is scheduled.

The calls for the perpetrators of the Wenchiki chieftaincy conflict to be arrested and prosecuted have been made repeatedly and the police I understand is handling that with deserved attention.

It is sad to say that, the once vibrant and peaceful District where business men and women wanted to associate with has now become a place where teachers, health workers and other government workers as well as private sector players do not want to be identified with all because of conflict.

Today, conflicts associated with land, ethnic, clan and chieftaincy are common occurrences in the District and this situation is of serious concern to us as duty bearers, given that, we cannot achieve meaningful outcome in our quest to develop the District without peace.

Indeed, the current slow pace of development in the District is attributable to the many lingering land, clan and chieftaincy disputes dotted across the District and we

cannot be proud of this situation. Let me indicate that, DISEC together with the relevant stakeholders has been working assiduously to address all issues of conflicts in the District and we will not relent in our quest for success in that regard.

Through the collaborative efforts involving my humble self and the Hon. MP, the police have been given a brand new vehicle to aid their patrol activities and I believe strongly that this move will go a long way to minimize the occurrence of armed robbery in the District. The District police commander's bungalow has also been renovated to make it habitable. Let me indicate that the Assembly will continue to retool the police to enable them execute their mandate of maintaining law and order.

It is important to mention that, thirty-five (35) more police personnel with the FPU are being sent to the District to help sustain the peace we are enjoying and as we speak the Assembly is seriously searching for accommodation for them.

By virtue of its status as a border District, Chereponi is prone to the activities of violent extremists. I want to assure you that, DISEC has put in place adequate security measures aimed at dealing with threats from these groups.

As citizens, we owe it a duty to report all suspected characters seen in our respective vicinities "if you see something, say something" to the security agencies for action. This way, we can all contribute towards minimizing threats of violent extremists in our District.

Hon. Presiding Member, the Fire Service Station in Chereponi which had been awarded for construction under the District Development Facility (DDF) is almost at the verge of completion.

Rural Electrification

Efforts by the Assembly and the Hon. MP to provide the electricity needs of the people are beginning to bear fruits with the connection of the following communities in the Chereponi District to the National Grid under the Rural electrification project: Kulkpeni, Yorgu, Omati, Jimbiri, Adibo, Nawieku, Akunuyi, Angor, Akromabila no. 1&2, Kpenchi and Gnsndere. Our goal is to get all communities connected to the national grid and we are poised for success in that respect.

Implementation of Social Cohesion Project (SOCO)

Implementation of the SOCO project has commenced in earnest in the Chereponi District with the following activities already executed:

1. Identification and clustering of the communities
2. Engagement with the clustered communities
3. Selection of Community Project Implementation Committees
4. Selection of Community Facilitators
5. Selection of projects to be executed
6. Screening of projects
7. Assessment of the functionality of the Sub-Structures by a team from the Ministry of Local Government, Decentralization and Rural Development.

I want to re-echo the point I made at the last General Assembly meeting that, selection of a community for SOCO project is contingent on the peace of the community and any community that does not want to give peace a chance risk not getting SOCO project. It is against this background that, the 12No. lockable market stores which were originally meant for Wenchiki market have been relocated to Chereponi for execution due to the recent conflict at Wenchiki.

The following projects have been identified for implementation under SOCO:

- | | |
|--|---------|
| 1. Rehabilitate 1No. 3-Unit KG Classroom Block | Famisah |
|--|---------|

2. Rehabilitate 3No. 3-Unit Primary Classroom Blocks	Famisah
3. Rehabilitate 3No. 3-Unit JHS Classroom Blocks	Famisah
4. Rehabilitate 2No. 3Unit Classroom Blocks	Garinkuka
5. Rehabilitate 2No. 3Unit Classroom Blocks	Garinkuka
6. Rehabilitate 1No. 3-Unit Classroom Block	Kpani
7. Drill & Mechanize 1No. Borehole with polytank	Tiakasu
8. Drill & Mechanize 1No. Borehole with polytank	Namariku
9. Drill & Mechanize 1No. Borehole with polytank	Tigenga
10.Drill & Mechanize 1No. Borehole with polytank	Bumburiga
11.Construct 1No. 3-Unit Bedroom Medical Doctor's bungalow	Chereponi West
12.Rehabilitate 1No. Dining Hall for Chereponi SHS Technical	Chereponi West
13.Construction of 1No. 6-Unit Classroom block with anciliary facilities (Rest room for Teachers, Urinals for both Students and Teachers)	Kpani
14.Construction of 1No. 10-Unit Lockable Market Stores at Chereponi	Chereponi West
15.Rehabilitate 1No. Youth Skills Development Center	Chereponi West
16. Supply of 400 Metal Dual Desks to 8 selected Schools as follows: Kpani, Wenchiki Prim, Naja Prim, Naduni Prim, Nansoni JHS, Kudani Prim, Naweiku Prim, Tinchangu Prim.	

Ghana Productive Safety Net Project (GPSNP)

Hon. Presiding Member, under the second phase of the GPSN Project, the Assembly has opened bids for the award of contract for the execution of the following project:

- Rehabilitation of Tinchangu-Naturi Road (5km)

Roads

Hon. Presiding Member, despite being the food basket of both Northern and North East Regions and a gateway to countries such as Togo, Benin and Nigeria. The Chereponi District cannot boast of a single motorable road. The situation is inimical to development of our dear District and we must continue to demand for attention to be paid to the sorry state of the roads in the District. It was one of the numerous issues mentioned in the Chereponi Feme's address during the visit of H.E the Vice President, Dr. Mahamudu Bawumia and we are hopeful that, something good will come out of that. We are pushing for the contractor working on the Chereponi-Ugando road to be paid so, he can return to site and continue with the work.

Local Economic Development and Job Creation

Hon. Presiding Member, it is gratifying to note that, the equipment meant for the rice processing factory have arrived in Chereponi and will soon be installed to pave way for the commencement of operations of the factory. There is no doubt that, the factory when operationalized as intended, will not only add value to our farm produce, but also generate employment for our teaming youth. The Assembly has earmarked Chereponi market for the provision of 12No. lockable stores under SOCO.

Social Protection

Hon. Presiding Member, as you are aware, the disability center which serves as a training center for people with disabilities is in a deplorable condition and as such is no longer serving the intended purpose.

The Assembly intends to apply part of its share of the SOCO funds to renovate the facility so as to enable it regain its lost status as the resource center for people with disabilities.

The Assembly through the Disability Fund Management Committee is currently planning to disburse funds received under the Disability fund. I want to urge the managers of the fund to make sure that, the funds are disbursed within the guidelines on the utilization of the fund.

Auctioning of Unserviceable Vehicles of the Assembly

Hon. Presiding Member, in line with the decision of the General Assembly, management recently engaged an auctioneer to facilitate the sale of six (6) unserviceable vehicles belonging to the Assembly. The processes leading to the auctioning of the vehicles were generally open and transparent.

Installation of Streetlights

Hon. Presiding Member, the recent installation of new streetlights on the principal streets of Chereponi and other areas in the District demonstrates our commitment to providing the streetlight needs of the people and we will not relent in our efforts in brightening the entire District to curb armed robbery and other criminal activities.

Reports from the Executive Committee Meeting

Hon. Presiding Member, for the past weeks, the various Sub-Committees met to deliberate on their recommendations to the Executive Committee for onward submission to the General Assembly for consideration and approval.

The Executive Committee met on Friday, 14th April, 2023 to consider the statutory Sub-Committees' Reports and other matters of interest to the Assembly. Some recommendations from the various Sub-Committees were considered, scrutinized and finally adopted for the General House's consideration and approval.

1. JUSTICE AND SECURITY SUB - COMMITTEE

- It was recommended that, a bore hole should be drilled at the Police Commander's bungalow and other needed areas in the District.

2. DEVELOPMENT PLANNING SUB - COMMITTEE

- Hon. Members recommended that management should mount sign posts indicating either you are leaving or entering the District at major entry or exit points of the District.

3. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION SUB COMMITTEE

- It was recommended that, the Assembly should get two additional revenue collectors to support in revenue mobilization in the District, especially on the Tinchargu- Nakaku and Wonjuga routes.

4. WORKS SUB-COMMITTEE

- It was recommended that Hon. Assembly Members should be involved in the selection and implementation of social cohesion (SOCO) Projects in order to give priority to the community needs.

5. SOCIAL SERVICES SUB- COMMITTEE

- It was recommended that the District Child Protection Committee be supported with funds to conduct education on child trafficking and Teenage pregnancy issues in the District.

6. FOOD AND AGRICULTURE SUB COMMITTEE

- It was recommended that, the Agric Extension Agents (AEAs) in their respective operational areas should work hand in hand with Hon. Assembly members to provide them with firsthand information on agriculture activities in their Electoral Areas.

Thank You for your attention and may God Bless us all.