

**ANNIVERSARY ADDRESS DELIVERED BY THE HON. DISTRICT CHIEF  
EXECUTIVE, HAJIA ZUWEIRATU MADA NASHIRU ON THE OCCASION OF THE  
67<sup>TH</sup> INDEPENDENCE ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION HELD ON WEDNESDAY 6<sup>TH</sup>  
MARCH, 2024 AT THE CENTRAL PRIMARY PARK AT CHEREPONI**

**Fame Chairman,**

**Hon. Member of Parliament for Chereponi Constituency,**

**Hon. Assembly Members,**

**Other Traditional Rulers present,**

**Our Esteemed Queen Mothers,**

**District Coordinating Director,**

**District Director of Education,**

**Heads of Department/Institutions,**

**The Delegation from Mongu,**

**Heads of Security Agencies,**

**Opinion and Religious Leaders,**

**Representative of the Various Political Parties,**

**Civil Society Organizations,**

**Teachers, Students, pupils, Identifiable Organizations,**

**The Media**

**Distinguished Invited Guests,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen.**

I am happy to be with you today on this important occasion to mark yet another year of nationhood and to renew our pledge to the service of Ghana, as we attain the age of 67 years. The day has profound historical significance in Ghana's

struggle for emancipation. It's a day on which we honor our forebears whose toil and sacrifices won us our Independence.

I congratulate the parade commander, the security agencies, students, teachers and all the groups who form this parade and took time to successfully rehearse for this occasion. Your efforts deserve commendation.

Before I proceed, I would like to join the District Director of Education in welcoming you all to this colourful event, especially our guests from Mongu who have joined us to celebrate the event. The fact that our brothers and sisters from Mongu are here to grace the occasion indicates the degree to which they are committed to the long-standing relationship between the two sister districts of Chereponi and Mongu and I am optimistic that, this relationship will grow from strength to strength for the mutual benefits of the two districts.

Feme Chairman, Ghanaians in 1992 decided through referendum to endorse and accept the 1992 Constitution as the fundamental law of the land. Since then, we have witnessed 32 years of sustained and uninterrupted constitutional role and periodic elections some of which saw peaceful transfer of power from one democratically elected government to other, a feat that remains unsurpassed in the democratic history of the West African sub region and of which we should be proud.

Our standing as the beacon of African democracy as evident by the political tolerance, freedom of the press and the independence of the judiciary to mention a few, is not in doubt and we cannot afford to reverse the clock.

There is no doubt that, Ghana has come of age in its democratic practice and as we celebrate this year's Independence Anniversary under the theme; "OUR DEMOCRACY, OUR PRIDE", it is imperative to demonstrate commitment and consistency in our contribution towards consolidating the gains made by consciously preserving, protecting and defending the Constitution even at the peril of our lives. I find the theme very appropriate, considering the fact that this is an election year and we need to support the on-going efforts towards creating a more conducive political environment within which free and fair elections can be guaranteed.

Ladies and gentlemen, recognizing the need for more efforts in terms of safeguarding the democratic gains made, government has been implementing deliberate and well thought out policies and strategies aimed at ensuring further strengthening key democratic institutions such as parliament, Judiciary, Electoral Commission, the Police, the media, among others and the intention is to enhance their capacities to enable them properly discharge their constitutionally sanctioned mandates. As citizens, you are enjoined as a matter of duty to support government efforts at ensuring that, these institutions operate within their respective mandates.

The 2024 elections will yet again, provide a litmus test for the resilience of our democracy and we cannot afford to fail the test, which is why we must all work hard to protect the sanctity of the elections. I wish to re-iterate government commitment to ensuring free and fair elections in December.

As a government, we call for an insult- free campaign in the run-up to this year's Presidential and Parliamentary elections. Political discourse should be conducted with civility and decorum. We should ensure that political debate is based on issues, policies and programmes. We should endeavor to rise above tribalism, sectionalism and divisive politics which are hall-marks of backward and stagnant societies.

Ladies and gentlemen, we need peace in our quest for sustainable development. We must therefore shun conflicts of all forms and rather embrace peace. Indeed, the suspension of the District Assemblies Elections in four electoral areas in the district has cast a slur on the image of the district and we stand the risk of being left behind in the nation's democratic journey as a consequence. There is therefore a need for urgent resolution of all lingering issues associated with the conflict in all the areas, so as to pave way for peaceful conduct of the elections.

It should be said with emphasis that, the District Security Council is leaving no stone unturned in its quest to safeguard the relative peace being enjoyed in the district and the collective efforts of all relevant stakeholders are required for success in that regard.

As a district, we are tired of continually being associated with conflicts and we need to be bold and decisive in our approach towards changing the narrative. We

all have roles to play in helping to change the narrative and the conversation around that must start with our traditional authorities. Our destiny is in our hands and changing that will require the collective efforts of all of us.

Feme chairman, in recognition of the challenges associated with the implementation of the Free Senior High School program, government is undertaking massive Infrastructural development in the Senior High Schools across the country as part of efforts to ameliorate the situation. I wish to state that the Chereponi Senior High/Technical School will have its dining Hall renovated as part its share of the infrastructure. The feeding challenges are also being addressed with deserved attention.

The Free Senior High School is a huge success and has thus come to stay and so, people associated with plans to scrap or review it should not be given the space to do so in order not to jeopardize the future education of our children.

It is refreshing to note that, the infrastructure deficit in the education sector in the district is being addressed with the provision of educational facilities of different shapes and sizes. Some of the projects are: Construction of 1no 6-unit class room blocks each at Famisah, Jilma and Nabujuku as well as construction of teachers' quarters at Wenchiki. Whiles Akolma Bla has been earmarked for provision of a clinic for which site has been possessed, the kpamamba bridge will also witness reconstruction with funding from Social Investment Fund. I must emphasize that, the projects have come about as a result of the collaborative efforts involving the Assembly and the Hon. MP.

I am happy to state that, construction works on the Astro Turf will resume in the coming days following a constructive engagement I have had with the contractor. The project when completed and utilized as envisioned, will not only provide a platform for the youth to unearth their sporting talents, but also promote social cohesion among our people. Justice delivery system in the district has also received a big boost following the recent inauguration of the Chereppni District Court and we will begin to witness drastic reduction in crime rate when the court commences operations. Also, the construction of the fire service which is the first of its kind in the district has been completed and will soon be operationalized to serve the fire needs of the people.

The construction of the rice processing factory has also long been completed and ready to commence operations. The initiative will as expected boost rice production in the district through value addition and also helps generate employment for the teeming unemployed youth.

Feme Chairman, the Chereppni District is privileged to be a beneficiary of the SOCO project, an initiative designed by the NPP government to address issues of poverty, conflicts and climate change among others in poor communities. The following projects are being done as part of the implementation of the project in the district;

1. Construction of 1no 6-unit classroom block at Famisah,
2. Construction of 1no 3-unit bungalow for Medical Doctors,
3. Construction of 1no 6-unit market stores,
4. Construction of an abattoir,
5. Renovation of the disability centre,
6. Drilling and installation of 11 boreholes and 1 mechanized borehole,
7. Supply of 550 metal dual desk furniture.

Seven projects have also been earmarked for execution under the second phase of the project, among which include: renovation of the CHESTEC dining Hall and construction of a lecture Hall for use as a Nurses Training School. Contract for the execution of the projects will soon be awarded.

Ladies and gentlemen, it should be noted with sadness that open defecation and indiscriminate dumping of waste both liquid and solid, are still rampant in the district and continue to provide the fertile grounds for the spread of diseases such as cholera, typhoid, diarrhea among others. Report of increasing cases of typhoid in the district is worrying and we should all try very hard to keep our immediate surroundings clean and avoid open defecation so as to minimize the risk of contracting the disease. I appeal to zoom lion to take its waste collection responsibilities seriously as we strive for improved sanitation in the district.

We are in the peak of the heat season, with its associated CSM disease. Let's avoid overcrowding, we must open our windows for proper ventilation, drink a lot of water and other fluids and avoid being in the sun for a very long time.

I want to commend and congratulate our teachers and our flamboyantly dressed school children as well as other groups who are happily participating in today's event. I commend the planning committee and all those whose collective contributions, whether overtly or covertly have ensured the success of this ceremony.

On this note Feme Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, on behalf of His Excellency, President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, I wish you all a fruitful 67th Independence Day Celebration.

Long Live Mother Ghana

And May the Good Lord Bless Us All.

Thank you.