

**ADDRESS BY THE METROPOLITAN CHIEF EXECUTIVE  
HON. ABDUL-MUMIN ISSAH AT A 2-DAY WATER,  
SANITATION AND HYGIENE TRAINING FOR SELECTED  
SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITY LEADERS TO END OPEN  
DEFECATION HELD ON TUESDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> AND WEDNESDAY  
30<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2021 AT STMA CHAMBER, SEKONDI.**

Heads of Department,

Teachers,

Hon. Assembly Members,

Nananom,

The Media,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This two-day capacity building for selected schools and community leaders on sanitation and health promotion to end open defecation is a further indication of the Assembly's commitment to end the problem of open defecation in the Metropolis especially along the coast. As a city that prides itself of being the Oil and Gas hub in the country, the least we could do is to collectively keep our environment clean and ensure that the menace of open defecation in any shape and form is brought to an end in the metropolis.

To this end, the Assembly on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> April, 2021 launched a campaign at Ngyeresia to end open defecation by 2024 in the Metropolis. As part of the campaign launch, a live radio programme carried by Sky

Power FM was held at Ngyeresia where key officers including myself took turns to discuss how we can collectively contribute to end open defecation in the Metropolis. In line with the campaign, three (3) billboards have been mounted (at Ngyeresia, Nkotompo and New Takoradi), 1,000 posters and 1,500 flyers have been developed and currently being distributed across the Metropolis to create Awareness on the campaign to end open defecation.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the funding for this campaign is from the prize money the Assembly received for placing 3rd in the Sanitation Challenge for Ghana Competition in 2019. The sanitation challenge for Ghana competition was a competition organized jointly by the Ministry of Sanitation and Water Resources, the United Kingdom's (UK) Department for International Development (DFID), IRC-Ghana, Maple Consult, and Ideas to make an impact on liquid waste management in over One Hundred and Thirty (130) Metropolitan, Municipal, and District Assemblies (MMDAs) from 2015 – 2019. The core objective of the Sanitation Challenge was to encourage MMDAs to team up with their citizens, innovators and solvers to design and implement liquid waste management strategies to transform the livelihoods of Ghana's Urban Centers.

One approach we have adopted as part of the campaign is to collaborate with community leaders and schools especially along the coast to form Sanitation Clubs to regularly hold community durbars to educate

community members through sketches, presentations and poems on healthy lifestyles.

Ladies and Gentlemen, from the Assembly's records, people arrested for open defecation are mainly youth living along the coast without toilet facility in their houses. A total of Eighty-Three (83) people have been arrested within the first half of the year with Seventy-Four (74) of them being made to pay spot fines and Nine (9) cautioned and released. Those released were mainly minors. The Assembly over the years through various intervention has supported landlords and community leaders to construct household and community toilets.

As part of our efforts to ensure that all landlords or houses without toilet facilities have one, the Assembly with funding support from the OGP Support Trust Fund being managed by the World Bank will undertake the following activities in 2022 to ensure a well targeted WASH interventions;

1. Conduct a baseline survey on the sanitation situation in the Metropolis and operationalize a publicly accessible online sanitation registry.
2. Develop a robust 5-year strategy and action plan for the water and sanitation sector, including the establishment of monitoring, regulatory, and social accountability mechanisms, and the mobilization of financial resources.

Ladies and Gentlemen, other programmes and strategies being pursued by the Assembly include;

- A. Partnership with the private sector to rehabilitate existing and develop new community and public toilet facilities. The Assembly currently have such projects ongoing at Nkontompo, Takoradi Amanful (main Spain), Takoradi Tarkwa Station among others.
- B. Partner with cooperate institutions to provide toilet facilities in selected slum communities' where it is practically impossible to construct household and public toilets as part of their corporate social responsibilities.

Heads of Department, Nananom, Ladies and Gentlemen, I will entreat the selected schools and community leaders from Ngyeresia, Nkontompo and New Takoradi to serve as Sanitation Ambassadors for the Metropolis and together we can make Sekondi-Takoradi great again.

Thank you.