

# FIRST QUARTER GHANA YMCA NEWSLETTER 2020

A Quarterly Publication of YMCA Ghana

**A STUNNING WARDROBE OF BRIDE AND HER MAIDS  
WERE PRODUCED BY GHANA YMCA VOCATIONAL  
TRAINING INSTITUTE**



**OUR VISION: EMPOWERING  
YOUNG PEOPLE FOR THE  
AFRICAN RENAISSANCE**

**OUR MISSION : TO ENHANCE THE  
DEVELOPMENT OF THE MINDS, BODIES AND  
SPIRIT OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN GHANA IN  
ORDER TO MAKE THEM PRODUCTIVE AND  
USEFUL CITIZENS**



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In this truly difficult time, I urge everyone to stay strong, stay indoors and stay healthy. It is important to observe all the advice prescribed by the health experts and the government.

While at home, keep in touch with your friends and family through virtual technology and only step out when it is absolutely critical.

Most importantly, do not outrightly believe or share everything you read online. Please verify all sources of information especially videos and photos about the virus before adhering to them or sharing with friends and family.

I wish you well. And may the GOOD LORD keep us safe. ***This too shall pass!***

[Read more](#)

Executive Director, Ghana YMCA  
**Kwabena Nketia Addae**

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# FEBRUARY

## THE WESTERN REGION - 2020 GENERAL MEETING

The Western Regional Council of Ghana YMCA held a General Meeting as part of the council's primary effort to engage members as well as revive leadership and membership interaction.

The meeting was held on 1st February, 2020 and was represented by members from 5 local branches (Takoradi, Sekondi, Tanakrom, Ketan Estate and Tarkwa) at the Takoradi YMCA hall.

This meeting was honored with the presence of the Executive Director of the Ghana YMCA, Kwabena Nketia Addae together with National Youth Chairman, George Dela Coffie.

The meeting discussed matters of membership- registration and ID cards, programmes and communication amongst other issues and concerns were raised by the members present.

In the end this meeting facilitated a good platform for a very good interaction between the members and leadership of the region towards building a stronger and more vibrant YMCA in the region this year.



## FRESH CRAFT MARKETING WORKSHOP



This Marketing workshop was part of the “Fresh Craft” training program to write, develop, produce and market a web-series. For the Marketing workshop “Fresh Craft” collaborated with film school and training programs from East Africa like the MAISHA Foundation in Kampala,

Uganda, the Rwanda Media project in Kigali, Rwanda, the One Fine Day Films in Nairobi, Kenya and in West Africa with NAFTI as well as the YMCA and Weltfilme, both in Accra, Ghana.

Former participants from "Make A Difference" and "Fresh Craft and European Film Project" benefited from facilitators from various platforms.

The Fresh Craft Film Marketing Workshop hosted by the Ghana YMCA was a three-day workshop aimed at helping young filmmaker

from Africa to gain knowledge on producing content that is good for the global market.

The workshop had participants coming from Ghana, Germany, Rwanda, Kenya, Nigeria, Uganda and France. There were 35 participants, 19 trainees and 16 facilitators during this 3 – day workshop.



## NATIONAL EXECUTIVE MEETING



On the 8th of February, 2020 the first National Board Meeting was held at the YMCA National Office Hall to deliberate on key issues that will benefit the organization.

In addition, the annual report for 2019 presented and deliberated on.

The programmes and budget for 2020 was also discussed.



Key decisions taken included the review and development of a new strategic plan and the laying out of the process to help organize and establish the Gender Committee of the Board.

This was to brief them on the 2019 annual report and the way forward for 2020.

The National Officers as part of their programmes for 2020, has decided to meet the past National Officers of Ghana YMCA and engage with them in terms of sharing and soliciting from them their inputs and tapping into their footsteps.



## TANOKROM YMCA DOOR TO DOOR BASIC LIFE SKILLS TRAINING

On Saturday 16th February, 2020, the Tanokrom YMCA held their first life skills training session for about 20 young boys living in a hostel.

This training was designed to bring to their door step, basic life skills they would need in order to survive the hostel life away from their parents.



The boys were very excited about this initiative and requested for more sessions. Augustina Araba Ampedu, the Regional Vice President of the Western Region YMCA who is a fashion designer and instructor was the special trainer for this session.

The training featured button fixing and stitches, tid bits on good grooming and some general information about YMCA programmes and projects, which they could participate in for the development of their mind, body and spirit.



## FIRST VISIT BY ANDREA BOLTE, CVJM-WESTBUND SECRETARY FOR INTERNATIONAL AND CULTURAL RELATIONS



Andrea Bolte, the new Secretary for International and Cultural Relations from CVJM-Westbund, Ulrike Messinger, volunteer leader, CVJM Deutschland and Gerhard Wiebe, also from CVJM Deutschland payed their first visit to the Ghana YMCA.

The team of Andrea Bolte together with the Executive Director, the National President of Ghana YMCA, Account Manager and the Principal of the Technical Training Centre went for an inspection at the Production Training Unit and the Media Hub. They further visited some partner branches at the YMCA Schools at Mpraeso, Takoradi, Jumapo and Koforidua. A number of meetings were held to discuss issues concerning the partnership including some new ways that the CVJM-Westbund and YMCA Ghana would continue to work.

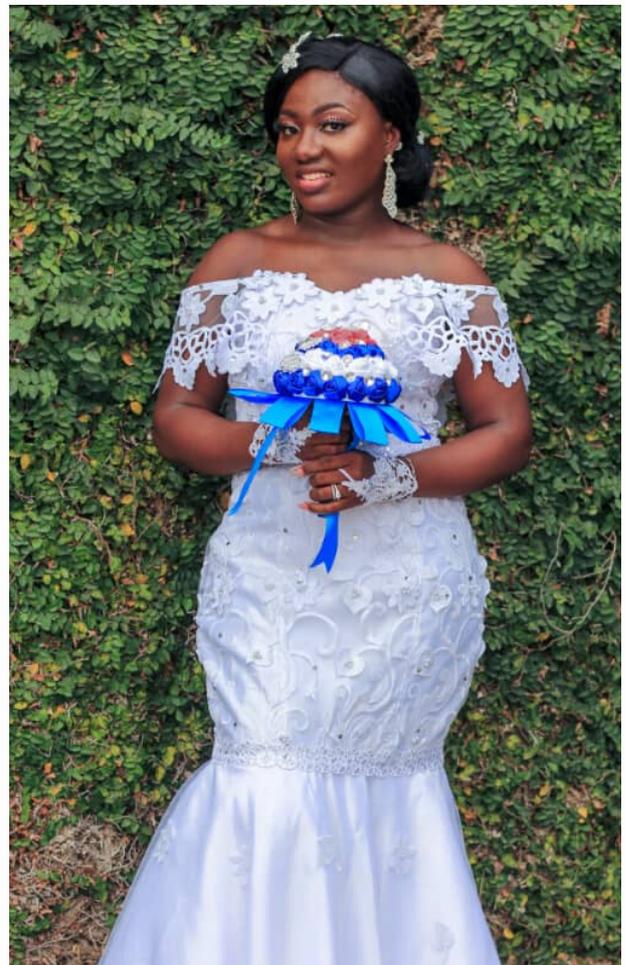


## ADVANCED DRESS PRODUCTION AT TAKORADI YMCA VOCATIONAL TRAINING INSTITUTE

On 14th and 15th February, 2020, two young YMCA volunteers got married and we are excited to share that the full wardrobe of the bride's maid and other traditional wears of YMCA staff and volunteers, who attended the traditional ceremony were produced by dress makers department of YMCA Vocational Training Institute (VTI) at affordable charges.



Acknowledging the generous support of CVJM particularly our foster partner Schnathorst-Tengern in helping YMCA VTI equip the production room of the center with some advanced tools and equipment for dressmaking, the dress department of the VTI has ventured into advanced dress production even for outside patronage.



We look forward to many exciting future developments with the kind support of both local and international partners.

## **NANA KOFI MARFO III DONATES TO KONONGO YMCA**

The Nkosoo Hene (Chief of Development) of Konongo presented a Table Tennis Board to the Konongo YMCA.

Dr Bernhard Bertelmann (Nana Kofi Marfo II) bemoaned the lack of recreational facilities for youth development in Konongo and surrounding communities within the Asante Akim Central Municipality.

Speaking at the ceremony, the Chief of Development cited that lack of these facilities could largely be the cause of a surge in betting among the youth in Konongo.



He therefore charged the executives of the Konongo branch of Ghana YMCA to make the table tennis equipment available and beneficial by organizing competitions among the youth.

The Chairperson of Konongo YMCA Madam, Dorcas Adade pledged that with the help of her executives, Konongo YMCA will make the table tennis useful for young people in the community.

# MARCH

## GHANA YMCA COMMUNICATION PROGRAMMES WORKSHOP

The Ghana YMCA has reviewed its communications strategy and as well as its programme activities and the strategic plan at a four-day workshop held at the National Secretariat of Ghana YMCA in Accra from March 2nd to March 5th 2020.



The workshop was attended by 5 Regional Directors, staff from each department of the National Office, 1 youth from each region and 4 National Youth Executives.



It aimed at discussing the efficiency of the Ghana YMCA's communication strategy, developing a better understanding of programme development and deliberating on the success of the organisation's most recent strategic plan.



The first two days of the workshop were facilitated by Ms. Linda Azeoda and Ms. Sarah Heinlin, as the communication officers, dedicated to analysing the results from a survey of the Ghana YMCA's Internal and External Communication. The participants concluded that there must be improved distribution of messages from the National Office to YMCA membership and vice versa.



Regional Directors were also urged to ensure more coordination between the Regional Office and branch leadership. Reports about events need to reach the communication office on time.

The first day focused on the improvement of the internal communication to deliver articles and reports timely and effectively to the right recipients.

On the second day with the focus on external communication the participants developed a new communication message in groups and worked on communication tools, contents and target groups for the revision of the old strategy.



Day three of the workshop which was facilitated by the Programmes Director, Mr Samuel Asamoah focused on using the PowerSpace philosophy to develop programmes for young people. Participants brainstormed on key development areas from where programmes can be designed especially ones with the objective of promoting peace in the 2020 general election in Ghana.



The final session for the day focused on communicating the impact of YMCA interventions from both the programmes and communications perspectives.



Mr. Palmas Tsyokplo, a marketing Consultant, led the discussions on day four of the workshop which focused on reviewing the old strategic plan for Ghana YMCA and also presenting the responses he has received for the development of a new one.

Participants were delighted with the planning of the workshop and shared lessons they have taken from the sessions.

One of the youth leaders, Maame Aba Dodoo, who serves as the National Youth Organiser of the Ghana YMCA believes that the workshop has taught her how to better distribute messages to enhance productivity. “This workshop has taught me how best to communicate and the appropriate channels for effective communication. These lessons will go a long way to help in making the members productive as well as helping in the development of the organisation as a whole,” she said.

The workshop was organised with financial support from Bread for the World.\*



## TRAINING FOR GHANA YMCA DAYCARE CENTER STAFF

The Human Resource Coordinator, Veronica Nanor with the help of the Executive Director, Kwabena Nketia Addae organized a three-day training in Koforidua in the Eastern Region for all YMCA Schools in Ghana from 11th to 13th March, 2020.

All regions with Day Care Centres invited the branches whose partners have financed this activity for two people to take part in this training.

In all there were nine branches including Akim Oda, Konongo, Nnudu, Hlefi, Jumapo, Donkorkrom, Anfoeta Tsebi, Tsyome Afedo and Wawase.

On the first day the purpose of the Education Policy was discussed and members were grouped into three to digest and make inputs in the draft policy.

On the next day the team visited the Mpraeso YMCA School to get better understanding of how the school had chalked many successes for the past years both in academic and extra-curricular activities to implement when they returned to their schools.

Participants were happy to be part of this observation and promised to impact the ideas learnt in their various schools.



The objectives of the training were to:

- Appreciate and learn from best administrative practice.
- Agree on and finalize an Education Policy for the YMCA Day Care Centres.
- Decide on a feasible road map for the implementation of the Education Policy.

## GOODBYE TO OUR WELTWÄRTS VOLUNTEERS

Ghana YMCA for the past six (6) years have received German interns from CVJM-Westbund. These intern's usual spend a year with us working mainly in our branches in the Eastern and Western Regions. We received the last group of interns from CVJM-Westbund in August

2019 and they were supposed to complete their internship in July 2020.

The interns were Marvin-Julian Martin and Jonas Kaupp who were placed at the YMCA Junior High School at Mpraeso and Hannah Laib and Sophie Barth, both at the YMCA Girls Vocational Training Institute in Takoradi.



It is sad to state that the interns had to cut short their wonderful stay and cordial working relationship with our two schools in March 2020 due to the COVID-19.

Unfortunately, we did not have the opportunity to offer them a befitting send off at the end of their stay with us. This has been an acerbic moment for the students, teachers and Local Branch members of the two YMCAs.

We wish our interns very well in their next endeavours and pray that they and their families would continue to be safe and we look forward to welcoming them again to Ghana whenever it is possible.

## OUR FRENCH VOLUNTEERS

Ghana YMCA through the Greater Accra Regional Council went into a partnership with the France YMCA in the latter part of 2019. The Greater Accra agreed to receive volunteers for civic service for a period of 12 months.

Three volunteers in the persons of Kevin GUESNON, Kezia SAINT ANGNAN and Swann GLORIEU.

All three volunteers arrived safely in Ghana with Kevin arriving first on the 3rd January 2020 and Swann being last on the 12th January 2020.



The first month stay was at the Accra guest house where orientation and familiarization with the national staff took place. All three are attached to the Kpone Bawaleshie YMCA local branch and are helping with the teaching of the French Language at the Kpone Bawaleshie Presby Primary and Kpone Bawaleshie KKDA JHS. They also helped the local branch to develop sustainable programs.

The three lodged at the Kpone Bawaleshie YMCA hostel and were comfortable and get along with the local people quite well until the unfortunate entry of the Covid-19 pandemic. All three were recalled by the French government to return home to their families thereby suspending the mission until the situation returns to normalcy. In the same manner as they came, Kevin was the first to return home and Swann was the last to go.

It is hoped that the Almighty God intervenes to heal the world of this deadly virus in the shortest possible time for our volunteers to return to complete their civic service.

## **PREVENTION OF THE SPREAD OF COVID-19 IN GHANA**

Ghana like all other nations has not been spared the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic.

It has been very devastating to us in the YMCA just as it has happened all around the world. Based on the governments' directive, all YMCA schools including our Technical, Vocational Training and our Day Care Centers have been closed down. Again our hostels and guest house in Accra have all been closed down. This obviously is having a negative impact on the projected incomes that we have estimated for the year 2020.

As a result of the partial lockdown which was instituted by the government to help reduce the spread of COVID-19, all staff of YMCA in Accra and Kumasi are working from home for 2 weeks, which started from 30th March and it is expected to end on 10th April 2020.

This is also subject to review by the government for a further extension or otherwise. This is a challenge we are currently trying to find a way around.

We are presently putting all our efforts into sensitizing our members and stakeholders with preventive information online. We plan to further provide support to street children and women who are homeless and are bearing fiercely the brunt of the lockdown in Ghana which by all indications would be extended by the of 10th April 2020 for a possible 2 weeks.

We urge all stakeholders and partners who can support us in this effort to contact the office of the Executive Director through these emails; [nketiaaddae@ymcaghana.org](mailto:nketiaaddae@ymcaghana.org) and [knketia74@gmail.com](mailto:knketia74@gmail.com) .

I wish you well. And may the GOOD LORD keep us safe. This too shall pass!

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