

# SHAMA DISTRICT ASSEMBLY

(S.D.A.)

OUR REF: SDA/ DEPT10/VOL.2/20/324

YOUR REF:.....

[www.shamadistrict.gov.gh](http://www.shamadistrict.gov.gh)



REPUBLIC OF GHANA

P. O. BOX 37  
SHAMA  
GPS WR-003-7798  
TEL: 031 – 2093236  
031 – 2092060  
FAX: 031 – 2046908

30<sup>th</sup> September, 2020

Dear Co-Chairs,

## APPLICATIN TO JOIN THE SUBNATIONAL GOVERNMENT PROGRAMME OF THE OPEN GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP

I write on behalf of the Shama District Assembly to express our sincerest commitment to join the Subnational Government Programme of the **Open Government Partnership**.

The Shama District Assembly was created by a Legislative Instrument (LI) 1882 in 2007 by the President of the Republic of Ghana upon the powers conferred on him by section 1, subsection 2 of the defunct Local Government Act, 1994 (Act 426) which was later amended as Local Governance Act, 2016 (Act 936).

According to the population estimates by the Ghana Statistical Service (GSS), 2010 population and housing census there were 81,996 people in the District in 2010 and estimated at 112,875 in 2020 with an Annual Growth rate of 3.2% (GSS-PHC, 2010).

By the enactments creating the District, it is designated as the **overall/ highest political and administrative authority** with the powers to “exercise deliberative, legislative and executive functions”, planning and budgeting, “promote and control development” and ensure the socio –economic prosperity of the citizens among other functions (see section 12 subsection 1 and 2) of (Act 936) as mentioned above.

Subsequently, section 40 of the Act 936 mandated the District Assembly to “enable the residents and other stakeholders in the district to participate effectively in the activities of the District Assembly and the sub-district structures of the District Assembly”, a mandate which squarely fits into the OGP goals and Objectives. This is the spirit that drives Shama District Assembly to fully commit to the OGP principles and the entire programme.

In order to achieve/fulfil these legal obligations, the Assembly has been pursuing critical measures that create the enabling environment for the citizens to fully and effectively participate in its activities. Notable among them are the civic participation programme, People’s Forum, Town Hall Meetings, Participatory Planning and Budgeting, Gender Responsive planning and budgeting and revenue mobilization, Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation, Accountability and Transparency mechanisms, among others. With the support of local NGOs such as Friends of the

Nation, GIZ and CDD Ghana, the plans and budgets over the years are prepared based on the needs/aspirations of the people and the progress of implementation presented to them. The District has enjoyed the active participation of NGOs in co-creating its DMDTP and budgets that fully reflect the prioritised needs of the people.

Specific Interventions/results as part of our tract records include the following:

1. Spatial Development framework which resulted in a Spatial Development Plan for the District in 2010 to 2016. The first Assembly to do so in Ghana.
2. Implementation of the Domestic Revenue Mobilization Programme by Friends of the Nation, a Local NGO.
3. Accountability and Transparency Programme. Through this programme, the Assembly has formed Social Audit Committee, Social Action Group in all Six Area Councils and always display our projects on Bill Boards and Revenue League Table.
4. Currently implementing a comprehensive Medium Term Development Plan (2018 – 2021) based on the needs/aspirations of the people. This plan was prepared for the first through consultation with each of the 54 communities in the district.
5. Water and Sanitation Boards in place
6. Through the Department of Social Welfare and Community Development, we are supporting the PWDs, promoting child rights and welfare and ensuring that gender is effectively mainstream in our programmes particularly the plans and budgets.
7. Developed a Popular Participation Strategy for 2017-2019. Which is being implemented with the support of the NGOs working in the District.

However, we are not able to reach all the citizens and get them involved in our activities as required due to resources constraints and limited informed citizens. As a result, our people are seeking greater openness in the governance process, enhanced civic participation in our activities, and calling for means of greater transparency, responsiveness, accountability, and effectiveness in the functions of the Assembly.

To achieve the above, there is the need for a well – informed citizen base which is active enough to contribute meaningfully to the development and governance process. The technical capacity of the staff of the Assembly also need to be upgraded and sustained.

Having recognised the significance of the Open Government Partnership programme as an International Multinational Intervention designed to propel good governance and built a vibrant civic participation mechanism for the citizens of member countries, the Shama District is fully committed to join the OGP programme and prepared to implement strategies that are consistent with the policies and priorities of our government and relevant to achieving the aspiration of our people.

In this OGP partnership, our thematic areas, which were carefully selected based on the needs of both the Assembly and citizens, comprised the following:

1. Civic participation
2. Extractive Industry
3. Water and Sanitation
4. Gender
5. Public Service Delivery

The Shama District in joining the OGP stands the chance of benefiting immensely from its numerous activities. The Assembly is convinced that, with the effective implementation of the OGP programme, which are committed to, the staff would be empowered to build a strong active citizenship that will help facilitate our good governance agenda, ensure maximum security and inclusive development. It will also enhance citizens' participation in decision making and strengthen the local governance system. The District in partnership with OGP will also enhance information dissemination of activities of the Assembly to the citizens through its periodic community and stakeholders engagements. It will enable the assembly to minimised corruption level, human rights violations, crime and maximised transparency and accountable governance in our locality.

In terms of capacity to execute the OGP programme, the Assembly is more than ready and capable. The District Assembly has 11 Core Departments and three new ones, making a total of 14. These departments are headed by qualified staff who are supported by their technical staff to run the affairs of the District under the Political and the Administrative leadership of the District Chief Executive and the District Coordinating Director respectively. The departments include Central Administration Department, Department of Social Welfare and Community Development, Ghana Education Service, Ghana Health Service, Department of Agriculture, Business Advisory Centre/ Department of Trade and Industry, National Disaster Management Organisation, Works Department, Department of Health, Environmental Health Department, Physical Planning Department/ Land Use and Spatial Planning Department. There are other Non-Decentralized departments but which take administrative from the District Chief Executive. These are the Information Services Department, Ghana National Fire Service, Ghana Police Service, Electricity Company of Ghana, National Commission for Civic Education, Electoral Commission.

We therefore hope to join the OGP programme to learn some lessons from members of the OGP platform and use their examples to implement better results oriented activities. It will also afford us the opportunity to present our programmes for peer review within the OGP membership fraternity where suggestions will be made for improved implementation of our programmes for greater impact in the life of our people. We assure you of the fullest commitment of the Shama District Assembly for a successful implementation of the OGP programme in our district.

In case of further information on our application please contact the District Development Planning Officer, Alhaji Abu Antuonogwen Mahama on +233 246373077 or email ; [amahama94@gmail.com](mailto:amahama94@gmail.com).

Thank you very much for the opportunity.



**Richard Blevi**  
**(District Coordinating Director)**  
**For: District Chief Executive**