



TARKWA NSUAEM MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY



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My Ref. No. TNMA/DP/22/01

Your Ref. No.

8th February,20.....22

Dear Co-Chairs

APPLICATION TO JOIN THE SUBNATIONAL GOVERNMENT PROGRAMME OF THE OPEN GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP

The Tarkwa-Nsuaem Municipal Assembly wishes to express its commitment to join the Subnational Governance programme of the **Open Government Partnership (OGP)**.

The Assembly is one of the fourteen (14) Metropolitan/Municipal/District Assemblies (MMDA) in the Western Region of Ghana created in 2007 by Legislative instrument (L.I) 1886. According to the Ghana Statistical Service's Population and Housing Census (GHS-PHC, 2021), the municipality has a total population of 218,664 people with an annual growth rate of 3.0%.

It derives its mandate and functions from the Local Governance Act, 2016 (Act 936), section 12 sub section (1) to (9) as the highest political and administrative authority and responsible for the formulation and execution of plans, programmes and strategies for the effective mobilisation of the resources necessary for the overall development of the municipality.

Chapter 20 of the Constitution of Ghana, article 240 - 2 (e) states that "to ensure the accountability of local government authorities, people in particular local government areas shall, as far as practicable, be afforded the opportunity to participate effectively in their governance". Similarly, the Local Governance Act, 2016 (Act 936) has made it obligatory on the part of Metropolitan, Municipal, and District Assemblies (MMDAs) to involve citizens in their activities in order to promote an inclusive society predicated on public official accountability and responsiveness.

The Assembly in its quest to fulfill its mandate and to deepen transparency, accountability and ensure inclusiveness has instituted participatory measures aimed at creating the enabling environment for the citizens to fully and effectively participate in all activities. These include Social Public Expenditure and Financial Accountability (SPEFA) fora, Community Fora, Town Hall Meetings, Participatory Planning and Budgeting, Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation, Gender

Responsive Planning and Budgeting and Social Auditing among others. With the support of local NGOs/CSOs/Institutions such as Friends of the Nation, Hope for All Foundation, Hope for Future Generations, GIZ, University of Mines and Technology, Environmental Protection Agency among others have enhanced citizen engagements. Plans, budgets and implementation have become more participatory and addresses the needs of the people. Other intervention results areas include:

1. Water and Sanitation; a comprehensive Municipal Environmental Sanitation Action Plan has been developed with the citizenry. Water and sanitation Management Teams are established in all our point source communities.
2. Accountability and Transparency Programme: In collaboration with Hope for All Foundation a Popular Participation Strategy for 2021 to 2022 has been developed. Established a website, Facebook and other social media platforms for sharing information and display of project photos. Participation in Town Hall meetings have been enhanced to include people with special needs such as the deaf and dumb with the right interpretation. Visuals are used for clarity. There has been established Social Audit committees,
3. Spatial Planning: Spatial Development Framework, Spatial Development Plan and planning schemes for 30 communities developed.
4. Development Planning: Currently implementing a comprehensive Medium-Term Development Plan (2022 – 2025) based on the needs/aspirations of all communities within the area.
5. Gender: Gender Desk has been established in the Assembly to handle all Gender issues and ensure gender is effectively mainstreamed in our all activities particularly the plans and budgets. In collaboration with AngloGold Ashanti Iduapriem Mine, a comprehensive Community Employment and Scholarship procedure has been developed to cater for the needs of both sexes.

With the growing demand for greater openness, there is the need to equip all stakeholders with the necessary skills to improve participatory decision making and ownership.

Recognizing the strategic objective of the Open Government Partnership programme which is based on the idea that governments should be more transparent, inclusive, participatory and accountable to citizens, helping address their needs in a more efficient and equitable way, the Tarkwa-Nsuaem Municipal Assembly is fully committed to join the programme and willing to co-create action plans with concrete steps and commitments across a broad range of policy areas including healthcare provision, education and clean water and sanitation services among others.

With a total of 12 Core Decentralized Departments, the Assembly is well positioned with the requisite human resource and capacity to execute the OGP programme and the local action plan. Under the Political and the Administrative leadership of the Municipal Chief Executive and the Municipal Coordinating Director respectively, these departments are headed by qualified, well-motivated and well-trained staff poised to deliver the objectives of this partnership.

There are also competent civil society organizations within the Municipality, some with over 20 years of experience in open governance.

The Municipality is equally one of the highest as far as Internally Generated Funds generation is concerned. About 20% of the Assembly's total revenue receipts within the year are channeled into open governance activities

Based on prioritized community needs, our thematic areas for this OGP partnership include the following:

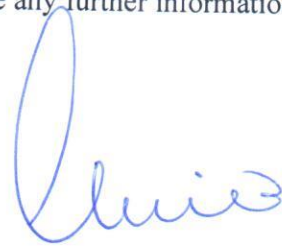
1. Public Service Delivery
2. Civic participation
3. Extractive Industry
4. Water and Sanitation
5. Gender

The Assembly looks forward to benefiting immensely from the numerous opportunities this partnership presents. Specifically, in the areas of capacity building for staff and stakeholders to be empowered to build an active citizenry that will help facilitate our open and inclusive governance agenda. It will also enhance citizens' participation in decision-making, and information dissemination through frequent public engagements. Ultimately, this partnership will make the Assembly deliver transparent and accountable governance, minimize human rights violations, crime and other social vices in our municipality.

The Assembly hopes to tap from the wide range of resources, peer exchange, mentorship and networking opportunities offered by the OGP to improve on service delivery for the achievement of our developmental goals and objectives. We are optimistic of a fruitful collaboration with selected CSOs and assure you of the fullest commitment of the Tarkwa-Nsuaem Municipal Assembly towards the successful implementation of the OGP programme in our municipality.

You may contact the Municipal Development Planning Officer, Pln. Mrs. Amanda Adjei on +233 24 223 5282 or email; amandapokua@yahoo.com in case you require any further information on our application.

We look forward to your kindest consideration.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Frank Ernest Odro', is positioned to the right of the closing text.

for: **MUNICIPAL CHIEF EXECUTIVE
(FRANK ERNEST ODRO)
MUNICIPAL COORDINATING DIRECTOR**

**THE CO-CHAIRS
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Date: February 17, 2022

Ref. No: FoN/ADM/2022

To whom it may concern

LETTER OF SUPPORT

This is to demonstrate Friends of the Nation's support for the Expression of Interest from Tarkwa Nsuaem Municipal Assembly to join the Open Government Partnership (OGP) Local 2022 cohort.

As a civil society organisation, Friends of the Nation has over 25 years' experience in advocacy and research on civic participation, good governance and the use of technology and innovation to demand transparency and public accountability. We are the OGP Local civil society partners for Sekondi-Takoradi and Shama in Ghana.

Since 2018, we have been working with the Tarkwa Nsuaem Municipal Assembly in promoting social accountability and active citizenship. We have collaborated to empower market women and persons with disability to effectively engage with the Assembly to address issues that affect them. We have also developed their capacities on the planning, budgeting and monitoring cycles of the Assembly and exposed them to how the Assembly utilizes revenues from central government, internally generated funds and mineral royalties to improve the lives of people. Currently, we are working on an initiative to influence the allocation of at least 30% of mineral royalties for projects and programmes of which women are the primary beneficiaries to achieve gender equity and women economic empowerment.

We believe Tarkwa Nsuaem Municipal Assembly has demonstrated enough commitment towards public accountability, transparency and civic participation in governance which are in line with the OGP values. Joining the OGP Local 2022 cohort will provide the opportunity for the Assembly to share their experiences and learn from others in deepening transparent, accountability and good governance. The Assembly will also benefit from technical support from the OGP to advance open governance.

For any follow-up information please contact Solomon Kusi Ampofo through email: s.ampofo@fonghana.org . We look forward to a successful application from Tarkwa Nsuaem Municipality.

For Humanity,

Executive Director
(MEVUTA Donkris)