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REPUBLIC OF GHANA

**MINISTRY OF CHIEFTAINCY &
TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS
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1st April, 2014

**THE AG DIRECTOR
INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT
HEAD OFFICE
ACCRA**

**REPORT TO INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT
MINISTRY FOR CHIEFTAINCY AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS
DR. HENRY SEIDU DAANNA ASSURES NANANOM OF GOVERNMENT'S
COMMITMENT TO STRENGTHENING THE CHIEFTAINCY INSTITUTION.**

The sector Minister for chieftaincy and Traditional Affairs Dr. Henry Seidu Daannaa has completed a one week familiarization tour and an outreach programme to some selected traditional councils in the Brong Ahafo Region. The tour took him to sixteen traditional councils in the region. It was Dr. Daannaa's fourth official regional tour to the regions since he assumed office as the sector Minister, besides the occasional trips he had undertaken upon invitation to address the National/.Regional Houses of Chiefs. The sector Minister had previously toured some traditional Councils in the Volta, Northern, Central and Upper East Regions.

Purpose: The purpose of the tours according to Dr. Daannaa was to show appreciation to the Chiefs for their support during his (Dr. Daannaa's) nomination to the high office of a minister for Chieftaincy and Traditional Affairs by H.E. John Dramani Mahama. Secondly, his visits/tours to the various Traditional Councils were for him to acquaint himself of the challenges at the various regions with a view to discussing with the Chiefs the way forward in addressing the challenges

Thirdly, the tours were meant to bridge any communication gap between the government and the traditional councils on government policies, programmes, plans and expectations from the chieftaincy institution and vice-versa. Addressing the Traditional Councils:

The highlights of Dr. Daannaa's address to the various traditional councils visited touched on the need for peace and unity among all stakeholders of the Chieftaincy Institution to facilitate the development of the country. He said the government will continue to pursue programmes and policies that will bring chieftaincy practice closer to the doorstep of the traditional councils. He said the government will not relent in its programmes to strengthen

the institution of Chieftaincy because of the complementary role of the institution to national development. He appealed to chiefs to justify the trust and confidence the government reposed in Nananom. He appealed to Nananom to endeavour to settle any misunderstanding among them using the appropriate channels and in particular the provisions in the Chieftaincy Act 759 (2008).

He reminded the chiefs that the chieftaincy Institution is a noble and revered one and therefore urged Nananom to always work hard to protect the dignity and sanctity of the institution.

Address to the Brong Ahafo Traditional Councils:

The sector Minister commended the Traditional Councils in the Brong Ahafo Region for the peace and unity among them. He appealed to the chiefs and people of both Drobo and Dzatokrom to amicably resolve any issues between the two Traditional Councils through the Regional House of Chiefs.

Section 63 (d): Dr. Daannaa touched on the amendment to section 63 (d) of the chieftaincy Act (759). He explained that the Amendment is currently before Parliament for consideration. He stated that the Amendment takes into account any of the three categories of people who would be affected. These are

- i. indigenes of the traditional area
- ii. a person who is permanently resident in the traditional area
- iii. a person who is neither an indigene nor permanently resident in the traditional area, but carrying out at any harmful social or economic activity in the area.

Criminal & civil matters:

Dr. Daannaa said the amendment was to ensure that the institution of chieftaincy is strengthen, especially for chiefs to ensure the rule of law and order where there were no official law enforcement agencies, particularly the polices. He asked the chiefs to exercise their powers responsibly Dr. Daannaa cautioned Nananom to distinguish between criminal and civil matters and always refer all criminal matters to the police, the constitutional body mandated to handle criminal matters.

Workshops:

The sector Minister Dr. H.S. Daannaa also informed Nananom that his Ministry will continue to promote programmes to build the capacity of both staff and chiefs. He said one area of utmost priority was the Chieftaincy Act 759 (2008).

Relevance of the Institution

The sector Minister Dr. Daannaa emphasised on the relevance of the chieftaincy institution and described as “unfortunate” the view by some people that the institution should be abolished He however cautioned that the practice of Chieftaincy today is completely different from the practice 300 years ago Dr. Daannaa said the institution in modern times is anchored on constitutional rule and therefore the need for Nananom to be conscious of the changing times. He said if the institution of chieftaincy will continue to exist for the next century, it all depends on what Nananom do today.

Code of Ethics:

Dr. Daannaa explained that the launch of the Royal Code of Ethics by the National House of Chiefs last year was to give guidance and direction to Nananom, but not to stifle the chieftaincy institution or for the code to serve as the ground for destooling chiefs. He advised Nananom to be abreast of the code.

Some of the Traditional Councils Dr. Daannaa visited in the Brong Ahafo Region included Yeji, Drobo, Sunyani, Dzatokrom Traditional Councils. He took the opportunity to resolve some of the pending Chieftaincy disputes in the region. The Chiefs appealed to the Minister to resource The traditional Councils.

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(PRO)

Hon. Minister

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