SECOND SESSIONAL ADDRESS OF THE THIRD SESSION OF THE FOURTH KETU NORTH MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY DELIVERED BY THE MUNICIPAL CHIEF EXECUTIVE, HON. DR. ANTHONY AVORGBEDOR

Let me begin by recognising:

- **Our Hon. Presiding Member – Hon. Byron Kpeli,**
- **Hon. Assembly Members,**
- **Hon. Member of Parliament – Hon. Dr. Klutse Avedzi,**
- **Our revered Chiefs and Queen Mothers Present,**
- **Heads of Decentralized Departments and Units,**
- **The Media,**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I must admit that times are hard but by the Grace of God we shall together come out of the woods and sing the wondrous songs of joy of yesteryears.

Let me also seize the opportunity to welcome you all to the Second Ordinary Meeting of the Third Session of the Fourth Ketu North Municipal Assembly.

Before I proceed, I wish to express my profound appreciation to all Hon. Members of this august House for the cooperation and support I continue to enjoy. But for your resourceful contributions many successes we have chalked as an Assembly would not have been possible. I say thank you.

Hon. Presiding Member, as mandated by the Local Governance Act 2016 (Act 936) Section 28(2) (a), the District Chief Executive is mandated to present a report on the performance of the functions of the Executive Committee of the office of the District Chief Executive as

well as of the state of the district to the District Assembly at the beginning of each session.

It is in line of the aforementioned that we are gathered here once again to apprise the House on our performances and development programs and projects that have taken place since our last meeting.

Today's meeting seeks to discuss and approve the following documents for the 2023 implementation year:

- Management report on implementation of Assembly's decisions
- The Annual Action Plan for 2023 fiscal year
- The Annual Fee-Fixing Resolution for 2023 fiscal year
- The Annual Composite Budget for 2023 fiscal year
- And the Auditor General's Report for 2021

PEACE AND SECURITY

Hon. Presiding Member, the Municipality remains generally peaceful especially against any external threats but for pockets of chieftaincy issues that continue to derail our collective progress.

During the period under review, the Municipality recorded the following criminal case:

1.	Robbery	-	1
2.	Rape	-	3
3.	Defilement	-	2
4.	Stealing	-	116
5.	Threat of death	-	14
6.	Causing unlawful damage	-	31
7.	Assault	-	124

Hon. Presiding Member, it is worth indicating that in recent times there had been the growing threats of terrorism attacks across the sub-region. Unfortunately, some of our neighbouring countries such as Burkina Faso, La Cote d'Voire and our immediate neighbour, the Republic of Togo have suffered these attacks.

As a Municipality, we are not isolated from this security threat. The situation calls for a proactive and more pragmatic measures to help prevent such unexpected attacks.

In this regard, the Municipal Security Council (MUSEC) is in constant touch with the leadership of our neighbouring district in the Republic of Togo through joint-border patrol activities and information sharing among other security measures to help identify these threats and nip them in the bud.

We have also written to request and continue to follow up to the Inspector General of Police to resource the Municipal Police with patrol vehicles to facilitate the operations of the police and post additional police personnel to augment the current number of 48 personnel which is woefully inadequate to serve the Municipality.

Hon. Members, Ladies and Gentlemen, as our security agencies continue to play their part in securing our territorial borders, let us also complement their efforts by remaining very vigilant and report any suspicious character or characters living in our communities for prompt action.

GOOD GOVERNANCE

Hon. Presiding Member, the continuous successes chalked by the Assembly could not have been possible but for the institution of good governance mechanisms and best practices management has adopted over the years. This is evident in the recent District Assemblies Performance Assessment Tool (DPAT) exercise where the Assembly was rated one of the highest scoring Assemblies with 94% in the Region.

As you may be aware, the DPAT is a diagnostic instrument for assessing the performance of Metropolitan/ Municipal and District Assemblies and for determining the allocation of the District Assemblies Common Fund (DACF) Responsiveness Factor Grant to the District Assemblies.

The objectives of the DPAT assessment are to provide information on District Assemblies' compliance with legal and regulatory frameworks, obtain performance information on the functional capacity of District Assemblies, identify capacity gaps of District Assemblies, establish a link between performance and capacity building support, and provide a basis for incentivising District Assemblies.

This great feat could not have been possible but for your resourceful contributions and oversight role you continue to offer. To all staff and heads of Departments and Units, your support and dedication during the assessment is worth commending. I thank you all and entreat you to continue to work harder to facilitate the development of our Municipality.

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

Hon. Presiding Member, finance continues to remain the life – blood of every organisation. Thus, the successful execution of our planned programs and projects depends on the availability of adequate funding.

During the period under-review, the Assembly mobilised an Internally Generated Fund (IGF) of One Hundred and Sixty Four Thousand, One Hundred and Forty Six Ghana Cedis, Twenty – Seven Pesewas **(GH¢164,146.27)** representing **14.0%** growth in revenue as compared to 2021 actual receipts. The growth in IGF was as a result of automation of the Assembly's billing system, effective monitoring of revenue collectors and attention to development control permits among other revenue improvement measures currently being implemented.

In the same period, a total of One Million, One Hundred and Thirty Four Thousand, Five Hundred and Twelve Ghana Cedis, Eighty Pesewas (**GH¢1,134,512.80)** was received in respect of DACF – RGF/ DPAT grant. This comprised an investment component of One Million and Eighty Thousand, One Hundred and Thirty Four Ghana Cedis, Eighty -

Pesewas (**GH¢1,080,134.80**) and a capacity building component of Fifty Four Thousand, Three Hundred and Seventy Eight Ghana Cedis (**GH¢54,378.00)**.

Due to the erratic flow of funds, the Assembly was unable to service its debt obligations to contractors and its creditors. As I speak, we are in debt to the tune of Two Million, Six Hundred and Sixteen Thousand, Seven Hundred and Sixty – Six Ghana Cedis, Seventy Three Pessewas **(GH¢2,616,766.73)** which includes outstanding payments from DACF projects, DACF – RFG/ DPAT projects, IGF projects, MP's projects and Ex-gratia to our Honourable Members.

As you are aware, our country is going through a very difficult economic times largely due to external shocks which are beyond our collective control. This has made the flow of funds for developmental very difficult. We must therefore begin to consider creative and innovative ways of mobilizing revenue from within and harnessing the human potential of our Municipality to promote the needed development for our people. Development must be seen as a shared responsibility in that the citizens must play their part in order to complement government's efforts in ensuring our collective development.

Hon. Presiding Member, it will interest you to know that the Assembly budgeted to receive a DACF of Four Million, Four Hundred and Thirty Four Thousand, Eight Hundred and Fifty Eight Ghana Cedis, Four Pesewas **(GH¢4,434,858.04)** in its 2022 Composite Budget but only received Eight Hundred and Fifty Five Thousand, Two Hundred and Sixty Two Ghana Cedis, Fifty Nine Pesewas **(GH¢855,262.59)** which is less than 20% of the budgeted figure as at the end of Third Quarter.

The implications of this phenomenon are that planned projects and programs are not accomplished, allowances are outstanding, running the daily activities of the office become extremely difficult, training and workshops are forfeited, and other activities are postponed due to the unreliable nature of DACF, which is a major revenue inflow to the Assembly.

This however calls for a more proactive and pragmatic ways to sore-up our Internally Generated Fund (IGF) to meet the critical needs of our people, service our debt obligations and enhance the effective administration of the office.

I therefore wish to appeal to all Hon. Members to assist in our revenue mobilization drive especially in the area of property rate collection in order to increase the Internally Generated Fund base of the Assembly.

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Hon. Presiding Members, the Assembly continues to undertake activities that promote the social well-being and human development of our people despite its funding challenges. This section highlights activities undertaken by the Municipal Health Department, Municipal Education, Youth and Sport Department and the Social Welfare and Community Development Department.

i. Health Department

During the period under review, the department carried out the following activities:

- 6,405 citizens were vaccinated under the mass COVID – 19 vaccination program across the municipality.
- Children across the municipality were also vaccinated against diseases such as tuberculosis, poliomyelitis, measles, pneumonia, hepatitis B, malaria, diarrhoea, meningitis and yellow fever among other diseases.
- A total of 978 Child Welfare Clinics were conducted across the municipality to help families to understand that healthy ways of life are important for a child from the early years on.

Hon. Presiding Member, the department was unable to achieve its targets especially COVID – 19 vaccination as a result of vaccine

hesitancy. Let us join forces to clear the myth around the COVID vaccine in order to protect our population from the disease.

ii. Education, Youth and Sport Department

Hon. Presiding Member, education continues to remain the bedrock for the training and development of our human resource capacities. In this regard, the Education, Youth and Sport Department continues to coordinate the implementation of government's flagship programme on Free Senior High School (SHS) and other programmes aimed at providing quality and equal access to education across the Municipality. In fulfilment of its mandate, the department carried out the following activities during the period under review:

- The department initiated and implemented a remediation activity aimed at providing additional hour of extra support to learners to acquire numeracy skills.
- Head teachers were trained to adopt play based teaching method to facilitate knowledge acquisition by learners.
- A total of 1,775 BECE candidates comprising 937 boys and 838 girls were registered for the examination and taking through carrier guidance seminars and series of mock examination.
- A total of 1,947 candidates comprising 968 boys and 974 girls sat for the WASSCE examination from 20th August to 9th October, 2022 across the Municipality.
- The department also supervised the organisation of reading festival both the circuit and inter-circuit level.
- The department also presented participants for the regional competition of the reading festival which took place at the Ola Girls Senior High School, Ho on 3rd August, 2022. In-spite of our target for the first position, the Municipality took the fourth (4th) place out of eighteen (18) participating schools.

iii. Social Welfare and Community Development Department

Hon. Presiding Member, all effort is being made to protect and secure the welfare of the vulnerable in our society while promoting the holistic development of our communities.

I am happy to inform you that the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection will soon be collaborating with the Social Welfare and Community Development Department to undertake a baseline survey on the Ghana National Household Registry project within the Municipality. The survey when completed will pave way for the commencement of the registration of all vulnerable groups and individuals in our Municipality which will later be integrated into the national database for appropriate and targeted support to beneficiaries.

I wish to urge you all to give them the necessary collaboration and support required to make the exercise successful within your various electoral areas.

Hon. Presiding Member, during the period under review, the Department of Social Welfare and Community Development undertook the following activities to improve the welfare of the vulnerable in our communities:

- Collaborated with the National Health Insurance Authority to register and renew 8,540 NHIS cards for beneficiaries.
- Supervised the disbursement of GH¢207,460 for the 77th and 78th LEAP cash grants cycle. In all a total of 1,603 households comprising 375 males and 1,228 females from fifty-six (56) communities were paid.
- 635 persons comprising 572 females and 63 males were given public sensitization on domestic violence, child marriage and trafficking in 15 communities namely: Tarfoe, Ablorme, Adagbledu, Danfornyami, Bokorgakope, Kave, Awlikope, Konta,

Atsukope, Wueve, Kasu, Gbegbekope, Bame, Kemekope and Akpablikope.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Hon. Presiding Member, this section highlights efforts being made to improve the economic well-being of our people through skill acquisition and job creation. It touches on economic activities undertaken by the Ghana Enterprises Agency through the Business Advisory Centre (BAC) and the Department of Agriculture. It concludes with the Assembly's spatial planning efforts and some developmental projects currently on going in the Municipality aimed at providing the enabling environment for the socio-economic development of the people.

i. Ghana Enterprises Agency/ Business Advisory Centre (BAC)

During the period under review, the Business Advisory Centre (BAC) undertook the following activities:

- Seven (7) Small and Medium Scale Enterprises were legally registered with the Registrar General's Department.
- The BAC is currently spearheading the registration of both Junior High School (JHS), Senior High School (SHS) and Tertiary graduates under the Ghana Jobs and Skills project (GJSP) to equip them with skills and grant or start-up kits upon completion of their training.
- The Centre has also facilitated the registration of 48 persons to obtain the National Vocational and Technical Institute (NVTI) certification. These includes persons in dressmaking, tailoring, cake decoration and sugar craft, floral and balloon decoration and cookery.

ii. Department of Agriculture

The Department continues to support farmers through the provision of extension services that build the capacities of the farmers to increase

food and animal production through government's flagship programs of Planting for Food and Jobs (PFJ), Rearing for Food and Jobs (RFJ) and Planting for Export and Rural Development (PERD).

During the period under review, the department undertook the following activities to boost agricultural productivity:

- Home and farm visits by Agricultural Extension Agents (AEAs) to educate farmers on best agronomy practices. 1,600 farmers comprising 978 males and 622 females benefited from the farm extension services.
- 773 farmers comprising 563 males and 211 females were supported with inputs under the Planting for Food and Jobs program.
- 50 pigs were distributed to 10 farmers under the Rearing for Food and Jobs. Each farmer received 5 pigs and expected to multiply them for onward distribution to other beneficiaries.
- 4,000 mango and 500 coconut seedlings were distributed to 20 farmers comprising 14 males and 6 females under the Planting for Export and Rural Development (PERD) program.
- A capacity build program was organised to build the capacities of 4 Farmer Based Organisations (FBOs) in group dynamics, value addition and agribusiness.
- 4 Farmer Based Organisations (FBOs) were upgraded to a Cooperative status. They include **Enyonyoge** at Agorvega, **Weta FBO-AWORPA** at Avalavi IDA, **Norvienyo** at Agbadomi and **Legacy Love** at Zukpe – Gadorkope.
- 70 dogs were also vaccinated against rabies disease.

iii. Spatial Planning and Developmental projects

Hon. Presiding Member, in order to improve orderliness in our spatial developmental effort, the Physical Planning and Works Departments are

collaborating to educate the public on the need to comply with building regulations of the Assembly.

I am happy to inform you that this effort is yielding the required result. So far 37 applications are before the Spatial Planning Committee for consideration and subsequent approval. Demand notices have also been served on building permit defaulters awaiting prosecution.

Hon. Presiding Member, the following development projects are currently on-going across various communities within the Municipality:

Newly Awarded Projects						
S/n	**Project description**	**Location**	**Contractor**	**Duration /start date**	**Funding source**	**Status**
1	Construction of 1No. 12-unit lockable stores at Dzesime, Dzodze	Dzesime, Dzodze	Babloss Enterprise	Six (6) Months, October,2022	DDF	Newly Awarded
2	Construction of 1No.6-Unit lockable stores at Afife	Afife	Chrisfie Company Limited	Six (6) Months, October,2022	DDF	Newly Awarded
3	Construction of Health Center Unit-1 at Devego	Devego	Tatraco Limited	Six (6) Months, October,2022	MP	Newly Awarded
4	Construction of health Center Unit-2 at Devego	Devego	The Next Gold Company Limited	Six (6) Months, October,2022	MP	Newly Awarded
5	Construction of 1No.3-Unit Nurses Quarters at Penyi	Penyi	Christian Cofie Construction & Enterprise	Six (6) Months, October,2022	MP	Newly Awarded
6	Construction of 1No. 20- seater WC Toilet at Tsiaveme	Tsiaveme	Azigizag Royal Ventures	Six (6) Months, October,2022	Bui Power Authority	Newly Awarded
7	Construction of 1No. 6-Unit Classroom	Ehi Kaledzi	Vizo Investments	Six (6) Months,	GetFund	Newly Awarded

	Block at Ehi Kaledzi M/A Basic School	M/A Basic School	Limited	October,2022		
8	Construction of 1No. 6-seater WC toilet with mechanized borehole and elevated water tank at Ehi Kaledzi M/A Basic School	Ehi Kaledzi M/A Basic School	The Next Gold Company Limited	Six (6) Months, October,2022	GetFund	Newly Awarded
9	Construction of 1No. 2-Unit Kindergarten Block at Adevukope M/A Basic School	Adevukope M/A Basic School	Rugyim Investments Company Limited	Six (6) Months, October,2022	GetFund	Newly Awarded
10	Construction of 1No.6-Unit Classroom Block with offices, stores and Mechanized Borehole with elevated tanks at Atiteti Basic School	Atiteti Basic School			GetFund	Newly Awarded
11	Construction of 1No.6-Unit Classroom Block with offices, stores and Mechanized Borehole with elevated tanks at Deme	Deme			GetFund	Newly Awarded
12	Construction of 1No.2-Unit Kindergarten Block with offices, stores and Mechanized Borehole with elevated tanks at Penyi Anglican School	Penyi Anglican School			GetFund	Newly Awarded
13	Renovation works on Magistrate Bungalow and Assembly Guest House	Dzodze	Vizo Investments Limited		DACF	Newly Awarded

On-going projects				
S/n	**Project description**	**Location**	**Funding source**	**Status**
1	Construction of CHPS Compound/Nurses Quarters at Kuli	Kuli-Dzogbefeme	DACF	Finishing level
2	Construction of 3-unit Classroom Block at Adrume	Adrume	DACF	Completed
3	Construction of 1No.2 Unit Kindergarten Block at Adzoatsi M/A Basic School	Adzoatsi	GetFund	Footing level
4	Construction of 1No. 6-Unit Classroom Block at Afife	Afife	GetFund	Footing level
5	Construction of 1No. 6-Unit Classroom Block at Tsiyinu M/A Basic School	Tsiyinu	GetFund	Gabel level
6	Construction of 3-Unit Classroom Block for ICCES(Dzodze Technical Institute)	Azilakope, Kave	CODA	Roofing level

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SANITATION MANAGEMENT

Hon. Presiding Member, the well-being of citizens through the conservation of the environment and promotion of good hygiene practices continue to remain a major concern for development actors. In this regard, the Management is collaborating with the Environmental Health Unit, NADMO, the Department of Agriculture and other developmental Agencies to protect and conserve the environment through the adaption of climate change mitigation strategies and disaster risk reduction measures.

Some of the activities carried out to promote and improve sanitation within the Municipality include:

- Screening and certification of 83 food and drink vendors to sell to the public
- The Unit supervised the disinfection of some public toilets, school toilets and refuse container sites in the Municipality.
- Conducted 355 home visits under the Unit's routine home visit and inspection program.
- Inspection of hospitality facilities. These include: sun flower hotel, A-Plaza, and Steve Kings Lodge.
- Public health education sensitisation on sanitation and solid waste management was carried out on Revival FM at Tadzewu.
- The Unit is also promoting the construction of household toilet facilities in order to prevent open defecation.
- Other measures to improve and conserve the environment include Disaster Risk Reduction Awareness creation and sensitization on tree planting across the municipality.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Hon. Presiding Member, the Executive Committee of the Assembly met to deliberate on reports from the various statutory Sub-committees and made the following recommendations for the consideration and approval of the General House:

- Management should allocate funds to open up new roads in the Dzodze Township.
- Management should take the appropriate steps to regulate the indiscriminate drilling of boreholes in the Municipality.
- Management seek approval from the General Assembly to write-off rent totaling Ghc7,460.00 owed by seven tenants whose whereabouts are not known. Furthermore, management

should implement the earlier decision of the Assembly that any occupant who defaults payment of rent should be ejected.

- The Assembly should consider increasing various sub-committees' Chairpersons current sitting allowance from Ghc100.00 to Ghc150.00 and Hon. Presiding Member's current sitting allowance from Ghc100.00 to Ghc200.00.

CONCLUSION

Hon. Presiding Members, Ladies and Gentlemen, I wish to urge you to discuss the content of the documents that have been laid before this August House dispassionately and I pray that the necessary approvals will be granted to ensure their effective implementation in the 2023 fiscal year.

Thank you for your kind attention and I wish you a very fruitful deliberation.