

REPORT

MINISTER'S INTERACTION

WITH

NATIONAL HOUSE OF CHIEFS

KUMASI

ON

24TH MAY 2006

The Minister of Finance and Economic Planning was invited by the National House of Chiefs to brief them on the State of the Economy and the 2006 Budget Statement in Kumasi on 24th May 2005.

The brief report below details issues raised.

1. INTERACTION WITH NATIONAL HOUSE OF CHIEFS

Status of Chiefs in the Local Government System

- a. The Local Government Act does not give chieftaincy a role in Decentralisation, an anomaly which the Government needs to address. The District Governance truncates the traditional leadership. Truncating our traditional system is the course of indiscipline in society. Traditional Leadership should be recognised and given a definitive role in the District Assembly
- b. There is the need for our country to inculcate our positive traditional values into the educational system to aid development just like India, Singapore, and South Korea.
- c. A quota of the seized vehicles should be loaned to the Chiefs at very low rates to be paid over a period of time.
- d. Constitution guarantees the institution of chieftaincy (article 270) and assigns responsibilities (article 272) to the National House of Chiefs. There is a financial component to the responsibilities assigned to Chieftaincy institution so what can done to ensure that the role assigned in the Constitution is executed.
- e. Request for Minister of Local Government to address policy issues with reference to the chieftaincy

National Economy

- f. What the nation is doing to support our own budget rather than depending on external resources which are not sustainable?
- g. Rural banks should be assisted to provide long-term financing with acceptable interest rates.

Accountability of Public Office Holders

- h. What procedures are put in place to monitor the MDAs and MMDAs for efficient usage of funds?

Enhancing Community Development

- i. A percentage of District Assembly Common Fund should be allocated to the Paramount Chiefs for Development Projects such as food production. Administrative capacity should also be built for the traditional leaders to be accountable.
- j. Unless Community development is enhanced, development in the country would not be possible.
- k. Tractors acquired by the Ministry of Agriculture should be loaned to the Chiefs. Their land could be used as collateral.

Infrastructural Development

- l. Road network in Upper West need to be given priority.
- m. Water Resource is very important for farming. What is government doing to provide the water resources to aid food production?

Educational System

- n. Serious attention should be given to the Educational Sector. Since we believe that education is the bedrock of development, the educational system should inculcate a positive view of farming and agriculture in general. Currently, the educational system portrays farming in a very negative way.
- o. It is important that Teachers' compensation be reviewed alongside with changes in the curriculum.

THE NECESSARY ACTIONS WOULD BE TAKEN TO ADDRESS THE ISSUES RAISED.