



NEWSLETTER



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OPPONG NKRUMAH LEADS JOURNALISTS TO DONATE BLOOD...

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MOI CELEBRATES CIVIL SERVICE WEEK

The Civil Service Week Celebration is an opportunity for Civil Servants to network, exchange experiences, ideas and upgrade their skills on emerging global reforms in public policies and programmes. It also enables them to foster unity and togetherness among themselves.

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MINISTRY OF INFORMATION MOBILIZES SUPPORT FOR THE MEDIA

The Ministry of Information together with its development partners and private sector players have commenced efforts at providing support for the media in Ghana.



4

INFO MINISTER SWEARS IN NEW GPCL BOARD... CHARGES THEM TO CONSOLIDATE GAINS

The Ministry of Information has unveiled its new innovative social marketing project, "Amplified" aimed at supporting young Ghanaian businesses embarking on selected causes.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF DIRECTOR

Welcome to our third quarter newsletter for the year 2021.

Over the last months, the Ministry has continued to effectively update citizens on Government's policies and programmes through the bi-weekly Minister's Press Briefings.

During the period under review, the Ministry organised 18 briefings. The briefings focused on developmental projects, digitalisation of the economy and updates on Ghana's COVID-19 status. The projects aim at reducing youth unemployment through agribusiness as well as moving the country towards a digital economy.

The Ministry undertook a Corporate Social Responsibility project and Media Enhancement Programme to support the National Blood Bank and Media Development in Ghana.

The Ministry will continue to facilitate free flow of adequate, timely and reliable information and feedback between Government and the public for socio-economic empowerment and enhanced democratic citizenship.

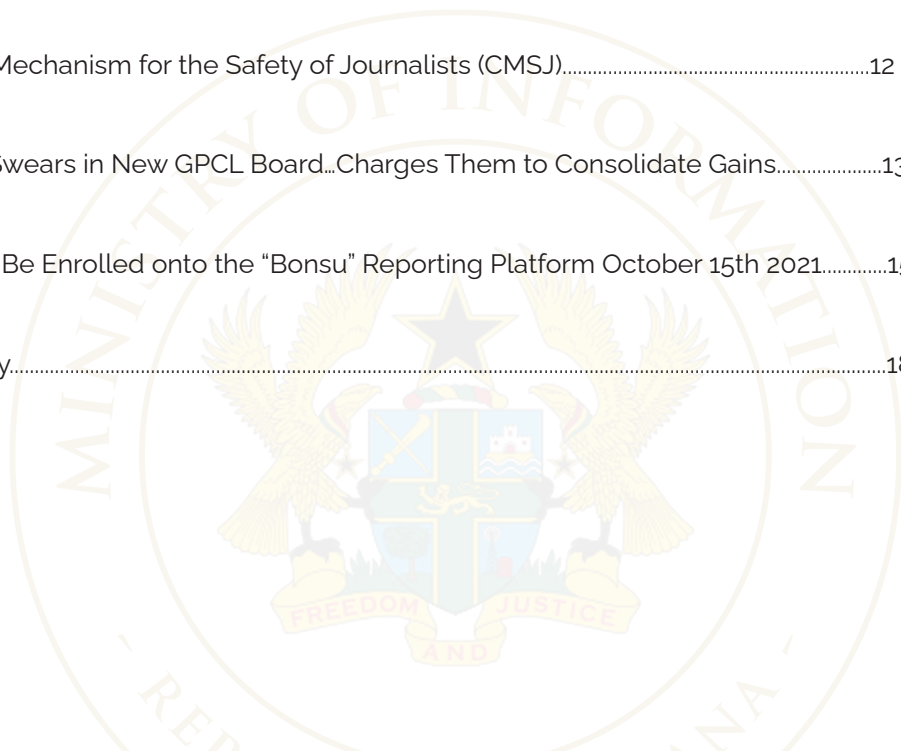
Mrs. Mamle Andrews

Chief Director of the Ministry of Information



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OPPONG NKRUMAH LEADS JOURNALISTS TO DONATE BLOOD



The Minister for Information, Honourable Kojo Oppong Nkrumah addressing the audience before the blood donation exercise

The Minister for Information, Honourable Kojo Oppong Nkrumah has led about 100 persons including journalists in the Ministry's press pool and staff of the Ministry and Information Service Department (ISD) to donate blood to compliment stocks at the National Blood Bank.

Five weeks ago, the Ghana National Blood Service had indicated during one of the Minister's press briefings that it needed more people to support the blood bank since it was running out of blood to save lives.

This, they explained was as a result of restrictions on social distancing

occasioned by the pandemic which affected mass blood donation across the country.

The Ministry responded by throwing the challenge to members of the press pool and staff of the Ministry to help fix the problem together.

Five weeks on, about 100 volunteers, journalists, staff and members of the general public inclusive came in their numbers to participate in the donation exercise.

The Minister who was excited at the turn out of the exercise thanked volunteers for their kind gesture in helping refill the bank saying

the exercise is worth emulating by corporate institutions.

He said the success of the exercise showed how much we can achieve if we bring our hands on deck.

At the end of the exercise, the National Blood Bank recorded 78 pints of blood.

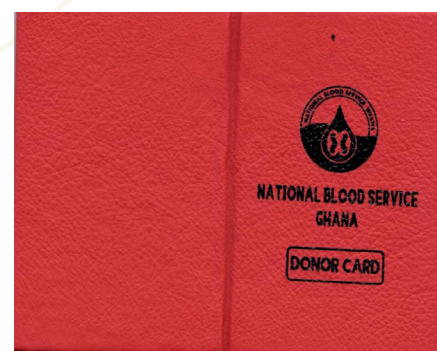
The exercise was sponsored by Arla Foods, Ocean Spray, Cocoa Processing Company Limited, Accra Brewery Limited, Tobinco Pharmaceuticals, Fan Milk Ghana Limited, Awake Mineral Water and Special Ice Mineral Water.



Hon. Kojo Oppong Nkrumah granting an interview to the media



Staff of MOI displaying products from sponsors



A Donor Card

MOI CELEBRATES CIVIL SERVICE WEEK

The Civil Service Week Celebration is an opportunity for Civil Servants to network, exchange experiences, ideas and upgrade their skills on emerging global reforms in public policies and programmes. It also enables them to foster unity and togetherness among themselves.

This year's Civil Service Week Celebration was on the theme "Economic Transformation amid COVID-19 Pandemic: The Responsibilities of an Adaptive Civil Service."

The Week's Celebration begun on Thursday August

5th, 2021, and ended on Friday August 13th, 2021.

In view of this, the Ministry of Information outlined the following activities as part of the week-long celebrations.

- Monday 9th August, 2021: Career Progression Session in the Civil Service & Photo Exhibition
- Wednesday 11th August, 2021: Inter-Directorate/Unit Quiz
- Thursday 12th August, 2021: Cleanup exercise
- Friday 13th August, 2021: Health Talk (Sickle Cell Disease) & Indoor Games

MONDAY 9TH AUGUST, 2021 | CAREER PROGRESSION SESSION

The facilitator was Mr. Noah Tumfo, the Chief Director of Ministry of Sanitation and Water Resources. He spoke on promotion and conversion in the civil service. The Staff took turns to ask all the questions with regards to promotion and conversion in the service. He advised civil servants to upgrade and belong to professional bodies in their respective field since it is one of the key requirements when it comes to career progression in the service.



WEDNESDAY 11TH AUGUST, 2021 | INTER-DIRECTORATE/UNIT QUIZ



Mr. Lanyea, the quiz master facilitating the session

The Research Statistics and Information Management Directorate (RSIM) at the Ministry of Information (MOI) emerged winners of the maiden inter-departmental quiz after breaking a tie with the Human Resource Management Directorate (HRDM).

The quiz was organised by the Ministry as part of its activities to mark the 2021 Civil Service Week Celebration.

The Chairman of the Planning Committee of the 2021 Civil Service Week Celebration and Chief Director of the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, Dr. Aggrey Darko applauded

the initiative by the Ministry and said that it was worth emulating.

"Activities like this provide an opportunity for one to access him or herself about their knowledge of the Civil Service," he added.

The rest of the Directorates and Units that participated in the quiz were the Policy Planning, Budget Monitoring



Dr. Aggrey Darko, Chairman of the Planning Committee of the 2021 Civil Service Week Celebration and Chief Director of the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, addressing participants

and Evaluation (PPBME), Finance and Administration (F&A), Internal Audit and the Public Relations Unit.

This year's Civil Service Week Celebration was on the theme "Economic Transformation amid COVID-19 Pandemic: The Responsibilities of an Adaptive Civil Service".

The 2021 Civil Service Week Celebration begun on Thursday August 5th, 2021, is ended on Friday August 13th, 2021, with a health talk on Sickle Cell Disease and inter-departmental indoor games.

Present at the event were the Chief Director, Mrs. Maamle Andrews, Heads and Directors of the participating Directorates/Units, staff of MOI and the Information Service Department (ISD).



Doreenda and Mavis (RSIM) Emerged Winners



Chief Director, other participants looking on in suspense



Mr. Benning (Dir. of RSIM) anxiously waiting for his team to win



Participants cheering contestants on



Head of PR, Munira Karim obviously troubled about Team PR.

THURSDAY 12TH AUGUST, 2021: CLEANUP EXERCISE

On Thursday 12th August, 2021, the staff of Information Service Department (ISD) joined staff of MOI to clean the building and its surroundings.



Staff of MOI and ISD displaying strength at the clean-up exercise



Chief Dir. 3rd from left, other Dir. and staff in a group photograph after the exercise

FRIDAY 13TH AUGUST, 2021: HEALTH TALK

On Friday 13th August, 2021 the Ministry of Information organised a Health Talk on symptoms, prevention, and treatment of Sickle Cell Disease.



Dr Enam Sefakor Bankas making her presentation

FRIDAY 13TH AUGUST, 2021: INDOOR GAMES

On Friday 13th August, 2021 the Ministry of Information organized an Indoor Games between ISD and MOI.



Mrs. Patricia Dovi, Dir. F/A waits patiently to make her move



Chief Director presenting awards to the overall winners (ISD)

MOI BAGS FOUR AWARDS AT THE CIVIL SERVICE AWARDS NIGHT CEREMONY

The Ministry of Information (MOI) picked Four Major Awards for outstanding performance in the 2021 Civil Service week and Awards ceremony held on Friday August 13, 2021 at the Accra International Conference Centre (AICC) to climax the civil service week celebrations.

The Night saw Mrs. Mamle Andrews (Chief Director), Mr. Mawuli Segbefia (Director PPBME), Mrs. Patricia Dovi Sampson (Director Finance and Administration and Mrs. Comfort Martey (Director HR, all picking 2020 outstanding achievement awards. Over 100 persons including staff, chief directors were awarded for their dedicated leadership and service in 2020.



From right, Dir. HR, Chief Director, Dir. PPBME and Dir. F/A displaying their awards

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION MOBILIZES SUPPORT FOR THE MEDIA



Minister for Information, Kojo Nkrumah speaking at the Conference

The Ministry of Information together with its development partners and private sector players have commenced efforts at providing support for the media in Ghana.

According to the Minister for Information, Honourable Kojo Opong Nkrumah, just like other estates of the realm that genuinely deserved investments to improve its quality of output, so too does the media require relevant, timely, sustained investment to improve the quality of its output.

He made these remarks at the Development Partner's Conference on Media Support Programmes today at the Alisa Hotel.

"Ghana has built for itself a robust culture of independent, free and fierce media practice since before independence. Despite the occasional sporadic incidents of media attacks and the complains about media misreportage by various segments of the society, Ghana's media landscape continues to generally be the toast and envy of many globally. But media practice has significant challenges", the Minister remarked.

He mentioned that though Ghana was now nearing the completion of research work to collate empirically the most recent challenges of the media, a cursory analysis already highlighted a number of challenges that must be urgently attended to.

Wikipedia's narrative about media in Ghana among other things indicated that in spite of its relative freedom, the media in Ghana did face some challenges. Journalists in Ghana were often poorly paid, under resourced, and often lacked training. As a result, journalists in Ghana found themselves susceptible to many undesirable practices affecting the quality and altruistic nature of the work they are believed to be doing.

The Minister indicated that the establishment of the Media Capacity and Enhancement Programme (MCEP) as well as the Coordinated Mechanism for the Safety of Journalists (CMSJ) are some measures to address the myriad of challenges faced by the media in Ghana.

While the MCEP is designed to create a framework within which academia and practitioners developed and executed training programmes for practicing producers, journalists, and editors to enhance their capacity to deliver on their mandate, the CMSJ under the National Media Commission (NMC) is designed to continuously promote and ensure the maintenance of free robust environment for journalism practice.

This was in addition to the logistics and monetary support government had made available to the media as a support mechanism to help them in their day-to-day administration.

The conference was organised by the Ministry of Information and was attended by the United States

Ambassador to Ghana, Stephanie Sanders Sullivan, Chairperson of the Parliamentary Select Committee on Communications, Hon. Cynthia Morrison, Chairman of the National Media Commission (NMC), Mr. Yaw Boadu Ayebofo, President of the Ghana Journalists Association (GJA), Roland Affail Monney, Executive Director of the Media Foundation for West Africa (MFWA) Sulemana Braimah, Rector of the Ghana Institute of Journalism (GIJ), Prof. Kwamena Kwansah-Aidoo and Representatives from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Private Newspaper Publishers Association of Ghana (PRINPAG), Ghana Independent Broadcasters Association (GIBA) and private sector players.

The Chairperson of the NMC, Mr. Ayebofo underscored the relevance of coordination as sector players to provide the necessary platforms and personnel training in order for the media to thrive. He said that the country's media needed support in order to become relevant actors in society.



Mr. Boadu Ayebofo, Chairman of NMC making his remarks



H.E. Abdourahamane Diallo, Representative of UNESCO to Ghana

MEDIA CAPACITY ENHANCEMENT PROGRAMME

The Media Capacity Enhancement Programme was established to address the capacity challenges of the media to position it to play its role effectively as the fourth estate in our governance system. The programme is in line with one of the key strategic objectives of the Ministry to improve the media's participation national development. When fully rolled out, the programme will see to the periodic training of journalists across the country in order to enhance their journalistic skills.

COORDINATED MECHANISM FOR THE SAFETY OF JOURNALISTS (CMSJ)

Through the CMSJ, the Ministry has collaborated with the NMC to inaugurate the Office of the Coordinated Mechanism on the Safety of Journalists in May 2021. Key to the operation of this office is the development of a framework for use by all stakeholders and an online application system to create a safe and conducive environment for the practice of journalism; prevent violence against journalists; protect journalists in danger; and prosecute perpetrators.



Mrs. Mamle Andrews, Chief Director of the Ministry of Information



Hon. Cynthia Morrison (Chairperson of the Parliamentary Select Committee on Communications)



Ambassador Stephanie Sullivan (USA Ambassador to Ghana) having a conversation with Hon. Kojo Oppong Nkrumah

INFO MINISTER SWEARS IN NEW GPCL BOARD...CHARGES THEM TO CONSOLIDATE GAINS



From left: Hon. Paul Twum-Barimah, Mad. Lawuratu Musah-Saaka, Dr. Daniel Owusu-Ansah, Hon. Kojo Oppong Nkrumah, Mr. David Boateng, Mrs. Beatrice Barwuah and Dr. Kingsley Nyarko.

The Minister for Information, Honourable Kojo Oppong Nkrumah has sworn in seven new Board Members of the Ghana Publishing Company Limited (GPCL).

At a brief ceremony at the Ministry of Information, the Minister tasked the new Board Members to consolidate the gains the company had made in the last four years to strategically position it as the spearhead of the publishing industry in Ghana.

"As you start this new tenure, one of the first things I will like you to do is to work hard to consolidate the gains that have been achieved so far in the first term. We must build on the kind of transformation that was started. Particularly, we must improve on the volumes of business that the organization is doing and the financial returns that it is bringing. We need to focus on the efficiency programmes that have been introduced so that we can build higher height on it," he stressed.

The GPCL in the last few years had undergone structural transformation. The company that was previously challenged and could not fully execute its printing and publishing mandate had been revamped and retooled as the principal state printing and publishing institution solely responsible for printing and publishing government works.

The Minister was optimistic at the prospects of the publishing company and challenged the newly reconstituted Board Members to continue this path of progress and as well ensure strong corporate governance to guide and promote sound governance and institutional performance.

According to him, the only way GPCL could function properly was for the company to take to digitization as

a way of keeping in tune with consumer demands. He encouraged the new Board Members to infuse best practices in the publishing industry into the management of the publishing company to make it one of the profitable State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs) in the country.

The re-appointed Board Chairman, Dr. Daniel Owusu-Ansah in his response registered their appreciation to the President for appointing them. He indicated that during their first term, they managed to print, publish and distribute but are ready to transcend the bar they have set.

"We fully commit ourselves to what the Minister has said, especially, regarding digitalization of the place (GPC), modernization, introduction of modern publishing practices and we are very hopeful that this time round, we will not just be counted, but of course, we will like to be very great in the sub-region, that we will become a reference point for printing and publishing in our part of the world."

The Board is chaired by Dr. Daniel Owusu-Ansah with Mr. David Boateng Asante, Hon. Paul Twum-Barimah, Dr. Kingsley Nyarko, Madam Lawuratu Musah-Saaka, Mrs. Beatrice Barwuah and Isaac Kofi Appiah as members.

SIGA PROS SENSITIZED AND ONBOARDED ONTO BONSU PR REPORTING PLATFORM



A cross section of the participants

Government has initiated a move to onboard all Public Relations Officers (PROs) of the various State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs) unto the “Bonsu” reporting platform by October 15th 2021.

The platform is a real-time information and reporting interface which allows all PROs to share their planned activities to enhance effective planning and management of Government communications by the Ministry of Information.

This initiative is part of effort to improve the coordination role of the Public Relations Coordinating Division of the Information Services Department in a bid to harmonise Government communications' effort.

The Director-General of SIGA, Mr. Stephen Asamoah-Boateng in his opening remarks reaffirmed the importance of communication in any business and the need to enhance the role of PROs.

“Communication is a powerful tool. It is the first human development we encountered when nature brought us together. Communication is a way to develop economically. One of the first responsibilities of state institutions is to engage its citizens. If you do not share your success stories, nobody will know what you are doing,” he said.

Mr. Asamoah Boateng however, bemoaned the fact that some Chief

Executive Officers do not involve their communication directors in their meetings when discussing strategic plans for their institutions thereby reducing the PR officers role to become reactive. He assured that he will use his office to ensure the inclusion of PR officers in strategic meetings.

The Minister for Information, Honourable Kojo Opong Nkrumah expressed concern about one of the afro barometer report by the Centre for Democratic Development (CDD) indicating that the Government of Ghana did not work for the people of Ghana. He described the assertion as dangerous for Ghana's democracy.

“Some challenges such as distrust in public institutions, media pluralism, misinformation and disinformation and the constant interference of opposition and Civil Service Organisations existential interest that undermines government's work

accounts for the assertion from the report,” he noted.

According to the Minister, to change this bad perception, there was the need for state institutions to collaborate with each other, using social media to amplify their success because agenda setting is critical in changing the narrative.

He added that the initiative was not to render the Public Relations Officers of SOEs inactive but strengthen their PR efforts by highlighting their success stories to reach a wider audience with MOI and ISD machinery.

Madam Oboshie Sai-Coffie, Government Communication Advisor, in her remarks advised PROs to take advantage of modern technology to tell stories about their institutions.



From left: Madam Oboshie Sai-Coffie Government Communication Advisor, Mr. Stephen Asamoah-Boateng Director-General of SIGA, Hon. Kojo Opong Nkrumah Minister for Information, Mrs. Mamle Andrews Chief Director Ministry of Information and Mr. David Owusu-Ansah Ag, Chief Information Officer, ISD

PICTURE GALLERY

BLOOD DONATION EXERCISE



Dr. Justina Anah, CEO National Blood Service making a statement Standing beside her is Hon. Oppong Nkrumah



Hon. Oppong Nkrumah (Minister for Information) donating blood



Cameras capturing volunteers donating blood



Chief Director, Mrs. Mamle Andrews (MOI) and George donating blood



Some staff of PR Unit displaying products from sponsors



Sponsors displaying products for the exercise

MOI CELEBRATES CIVIL SERVICE WEEK



Mrs. Patricia Dovi-Sampson, Dir. Finance and Admin asking a question



A section of staff at the program



Chief Director, (arrowed) other participants looking on in suspense



Head of PR, Munira Karim obviously troubled about Team PR



Mr. Kofi Benning (Dir. of RSIM) anxiously waiting for his team to win the day



Participants cheering contestants on



Both scrabble representatives fall on their cheeks for help



from left MOI staff and ISD staff playing cards



DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS' CONFERENCE



Section of participants



Minister for Information engaging the US Ambassador



Minister for Information makes a clarification after the presentation



A participant making comments at the open forum

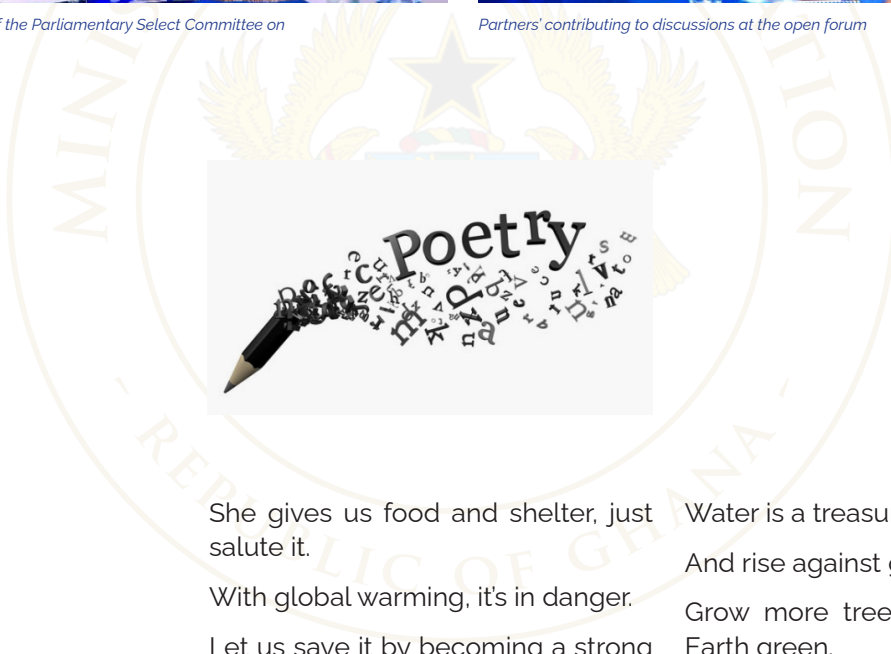


Donor partners making comments at the open forum



Hon. Cynthia Morrison (Chairperson of the Parliamentary Select Committee on Communications)

Partners' contributing to discussions at the open forum



NATURE

Nature is beautiful,
With lots of colours.
It fills the heart,
With incredible joy.

Nature fills the mind,
With undescribed peace.
It is independent,
Of any other thing.

Lives are crying because it's not clean,
Earth is dying because it's not green,
It is our dear mother, don't pollute it.

She gives us food and shelter, just salute it.
With global warming, it's in danger.
Let us save it by becoming a strong ranger.

With dying trees and animals, it's in sorrow.

Make green today and green tomorrow.

How can we save it? Just think.

Trees are precious, preserve them.

Water is a treasure, reserve it,
And rise against galamsey.
Grow more trees to make Mother Earth green.
Reduce pollution and make her a Queen.

HAJARA ISSAH (PR UNIT)