

ADDRESS DELIVERED BY THE SANKANA NAA, NAA PAGRAN-NEGE SAAKOE MORNAH III ON THE OCCASION OF THE MOLE XXXIV CONFERENCE HELD FROM 30 OCTOBER 2023 TO 2ND NOVEMBER, 2023 AT ROYAL COSY HILLS-HOTEL, JIRAPA.

Hon. Minister Of Sanitation And Water Resources, Dr. Freda Prempeh, Hon. Upper West Regional Minister, Dr. Hafiz Bin-Salih, MMDCE's Present, CONIWAS Executives, Heads Of Departments Present, Invited Guest, the Media, Ladies and Gentlemen

I am privileged and honored to deliver this address on my own behalf and on behalf of the Upper West Regional House of Chiefs; I bring you greetings from the President and all members of the Upper West Regional House of Chiefs. The Daffiama Naa and President of the House would have wish to be here today but is currently engaged in other equally important issues. Infarct, he is bereaved.

Ladies and gentlemen, let me use this singular opportunity to formally welcome the Hon. Minister of Sanitation and Water Resources, Dr. Freda Prempeh to Upper West Region and all participants to the Upper West Region and more specifically Royal Coxy Hills-Hotel, Jirapa (popularly known as Jirapa Dubai).

Hon. Ministers, I understand the Ghana Coalition of NGO's in the Water and Sanitation Sector (CONIWAS) is an umbrella Civil Society Organization (CSO) to contribute to water resource management and sustainable provision of water and Sanitation and hygiene promotion services in Ghana. It is dedicated to ensuring potable water supply and improved sanitation integrated with hygiene promotion be available in the right quantity and at the right time to Ghanaian citizens.

Hon. Ministers, I also understand CONIWAS was formed in the year 2003 to provide space for Water Sanitation and Hygiene Sector NGO's to engage themselves as well as government and other sector organizations on issues affecting the Water Sector.

Hon. Ministers, Ladies, and Gentlemen, I am aware that, the Mole XXXIV conference on Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene is an annual convening platform that brings together state and non-state actors, including institutions and individuals onto one forum to assess and discuss issues affecting the sector.

I therefore consider the theme for this year's conference 'Building Inclusive and Resilient Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Systems to Reach the Unserved' to be apt. This will reignite the passion, especially of the sector workers to unite to fight for a common course because Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene are key to human survival and should be given all the necessary importance it deserves

Hon. Ministers. Invited Guest, the government is playing its part in providing quality water, sanitation, and hygiene to all Ghanaians but as the situation may be, the government cannot do it alone. Institutions like CONIWAS and all Ghanaians need to support the effort of government in making Ghana the cleanest country in Africa if not the world.

CONIWAS Executives, Participants, as traditional authorities and leaders of our various communities we are always ready to collaborate with government and all sector workers in providing quality water sanitation and hygiene to our subjects. This will go a long way to propel the needed development the Country so desires because a healthy population will ensure a healthy development. To this end, I urge colleague Paramount Chiefs to work for a common course to maintain the needed peace in your various Traditional Areas so as to propel development.

Hon. Ministers, Invited Guest, the Media, this conference is very timely and beneficial as it seeks to create a common platform for stakeholders to review equity and inclusive approaches toward building resilient Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene services in the country. The focus of discussion I am aware will include systems, approaches, and models of resilient WASH Service delivery.

Hon. Ministers, Fellow Participants, on this note, as I accept to chair this all-important conference, I would like to use this opportunity to urge all participants to participate fully in achieving the goal of the conference as it seeks to come out with practical and actionable recommendations for accelerating access to sustainable Wash services.

I wish each and every participant a memorable stay in the Upper West Region, more specifically Royal Cozy Hills Hotel.

Thank you.

The Sankana Naa, Naa Pagan-nege Saakoe Mornah III. The paramount Chief and President of the Sankana Traditional Council.