



## Press Statement of the Greater Accra Regional Coordinating Council on the 66<sup>th</sup> Independence Anniversary Regional Day Celebration by the Greater Accra Regional Minister – Hon. Henry Quartey (MP)

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I welcome you all to this press briefing which is aimed at communicating the plans and programs towards the celebration of the 66<sup>th</sup> Independence Anniversary Regional Day Celebration to the media and all dwellers of the Greater Accra Region.

As you are well aware, the President, His Excellency Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, commenced a commendable concept of migrating the national 6<sup>th</sup> March Anniversary Celebration to other regions of the country. Subsequently for some years now, some other regions have had that golden opportunity since independence to host the National Anniversary Day Celebration, which is a departure from the long-standing annual celebration at the Black Star Square in Accra. The Volta Region takes its turn this year.

Consequently, Metropolitan, Municipal, and District Assemblies (MMDAs) have been marking the Independence Anniversary Day Celebration individually in their various MMDAs across the region, with its attendant general cost multiplicity when viewed on the regional scale.

In line with the President's directive to cut down on government budget expenditure as part of concerted efforts for economic recovery, the Regional Coordinating Council (RCC), headed by my good self, have engaged diverse stakeholders and the Regional Security Council (REGSEC) to consider effective cost cutting mechanisms for the region's celebration of this year's 6<sup>th</sup> March Independence Anniversary.

After in-depth consultations with key stakeholders, the RCC in collaboration with Zoomlion Ghana Ltd., Ministry of Local Government, Decentralization and Rural Development, Ministry of Sanitation and Water Resources, Regional Health Directorate, Regional Education Directorate, TOBINCO Pharmacy, Advertisers Association of Ghana; and with express approval from the Office of the President, has resolved on a **centralized Independence Anniversary Regional Day**

**Celebration** to be held at the **Tema Sports Stadium**. This celebration will encapsulate the participation of all 29 MMDAs in Greater Accra. Some of Members of the Council of State, all Members of Parliament, MMDCEs, and contingents across all MMDAs in the region will be participating in this centralized regional celebration.

Some activities culminating into this year's regional celebration will be:

1. an extensive Operation Clean Your Frontage (OCYF) sanitation enforcement and clean-up exercise,
2. Free Health Screening and NHIS Registration,
3. Inter-MMDA Quiz (JHS Level),
4. Anniversary Indoor Games,
5. Net Pulling with fisher folks at the seashore,
6. Anniversary Boxing bout, and
7. An Anniversary Football Match @Tema New Town AstroTurf

There have been extensive stakeholder engagements with the Tema Traditional Authority, and the Formal and Informal sector for effective participation in the 3-Day extensive Operation Clean Your Frontage clean-up exercise from Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> to Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> March. Operation Clean Your Frontage is coming to Tema, and all households and businesses will be mandated to clean their frontages and their immediate environment as stipulated in the OCYF bye law which is in operation.

This OCYF enforcement and Anniversary clean-up drive will be supported by 500 men and women drawn from the City Response Team (CRT); 600 men and women drawn from the security and intelligence agencies; about 600 men and women drawn from the taskforce teams across all MMDAs; and Metropolitan, Municipal and District Environmental Health Officers and Assistants across the Region. Tema will be clustered into zones for this clean up assignment and there will be solid waste compaction trucks drawn from across the MMDAs in the region to support in the waste collection after the OCYF sanitation enforcement and clean up exercise. There will also be parking enforcement on vehicles that obstruct the exercise and public right of way.

We therefore entreat all Identifiable Groups, Public Entities, and all companies within the Tema enclave to demonstrate patriotism and fully participate in this exercise leading to the 66th Independence Anniversary Regional Day Celebration. I

will be charging the Assemblies within the Tema enclave to sustain the cleaning and good sanitation practices culture forthwith.

The Free Health Screening and NHIS Registration will be held on Saturday 4th March after the OCYF Enforcement and clean-up exercise, in collaboration with the Ghana Health Service and Regional Health Directorate and supported by TOBINCO Pharmacy.

The JHS Level Inter-MMDA Quiz, and the other scheduled activities will witness the participation of MMDAs across the region.

Let me end with a clarion call to all stakeholders and dwellers across the Greater Accra Region to awaken their patriotism and join in this 66th Independence Anniversary Regional Day Celebration for the pride of our motherland.

Let's Make Greater Accra Work!

I need you, you need me.

I thank you all, and may the Good Lord be with you.

– Signed –

**HON. HENRY QUARTEY (MP)**

REGIONAL MINISTER

GREATER ACCRA

PARTNERS



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