

**ADDRESS DELIVERED BY HON. EMMANUEL KOFI AGYEMAN,
DISTRICT CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF DORMAA EAST DISTRICT, ON THE
OCCASION OF THE 65TH INDEPENDENCE ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION OF GHANA AT THE DURBAR GROUNDS, KYREMASU
ON SUNDAY, 6TH MARCH, 2022**

Nana Chairman;

Hon. Assembly Members;

Our Noble Traditional Leaders;

Heads of Security Services;

Heads of Department;

Hardworking Teachers;

Pupils;

The Press;

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen:

Sixty-five years ago, Ghana attained Independence after a long fought battle to free the nation from colonial servitude, and beamed with hope and the thought of lifting the country from her doldrums. These aspirations nurtured by the founding fathers and the generality of the people, were meant to bring holistic transformation that would guarantee total freedom. Freedom devoid of imperialistic tendencies, suppression, social and psychological torture, mal-administration and propagandist orientation or agenda. It was this vision that laid the foundation for the new Ghana and set the tone for our development as an independent nation. We can therefore confidently say that the cherished hopes and aspirations our forbearers for freedom and justice have been achieved though not without cost.

This accomplishment would not have been possible without the conviction, determination and drive of the patriots who dreamt about a free and just society that would not only transform Ghana, but also to project her as a beacon of hope on the continent of Africa. Our historical records bear testimony and lend credence to their selflessness, love and the passion with which they pursued their dream. They were not deterred by imprisonment, detentions, torture and even death; but remained resilient towards achieving their conviction by demonstrating unprecedented bravery.

Today, as we commemorate Ghana's 65th Independence Anniversary, the memory of these martyrs stand tall and distinguished for their contribution towards the making of a nation. With pride and honor, I join all Ghanaians to salute these gallant men. They will forever remain the architects of Ghana's nationhood with their vision spurring us on to greater heights of achievements.

Nananom, as you are no doubt aware, the Independence Day Anniversary is usually climaxed by an anniversary parade by students each year. However, this was not the case last year because of the corona virus pandemic. It was not observed to enable us adhere to the covid-19 protocols.

Thankfully, we are gathered here once again to celebrate our independence day and I am honored to be part of this ceremony this morning.

The Covid-19 pandemic has had negative impacts on the global economy and in effect the local economies. The slowdown in economic activities led to a huge drop in domestic revenues, combined with a sharp and unplanned Covid-related expenditures.

This has affected the inflow of funds from the central government to the Assembly to implement its programmes and activities.

There is therefore the need for us as citizens of our nation to come together and take a holistic approach to bring back our economy to the right path that we yearn for. We should therefore accept the introduction of E-levy so that we can generate the needed revenue for the smooth administration and management of the country. The theme for this year's celebration "**Working Together, Bouncing Back Better**" cannot be over emphasized. It is a clarion call on all Ghanaians to unite and work towards attaining a sustainable economic recovery as the nation marks 65th Independence Anniversary.

Nananom, I am glad to inform the good people of the District that the Ghana Journalist Association has conferred on me an honorary membership award.

I strongly believe that the co-operation and support from everyone is partly a contributing factor for such an honor because no single individual can single handedly do anything to deserve such an honor.

I wish to use this opportunity to inform the people of Dormaa East District that the National President of the Ghana Journalist Association has directed the Association to adopt the District and they have promised to do everything in their ability to support the District and have started taking the necessary steps to project the image of the District. Let us continue to work together towards the prosperity, peaceful and happy Dormaa East that we all desire.

Nananom, as we all know, Education is a key to the development of all facets of life. This underscores the need for government continuous investment in Education to produce the needed human resource to drive the course of our National Development.

It is in this vein that Government is committed to promoting Education in the District and the Country as a whole. As a result, the District Education Directorate has

received 366 laptops for distribution to JHS and SHS teachers in the District to enhance effective teaching and learning. The distribution of the laptops is currently on-going.

Nananom, as you may recall, the President of the Republic of Ghana H.E Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo -Addo paid a working visit to the District on Tuesday, 10th August, 2021. At a durbar of Chiefs and people of the District held in his honour, H. E the President promised to provide a bus and a girl's dormitory to the Mansen Senior High School. I am happy to inform you that the President has fulfilled his promise and the School has received the bus and was out-doored last Friday. The Assembly is making follow-ups to ensure that the dormitory is provided as well.

Nananom, following, the global outbreak of the coronavirus Pandemic and reported cases in Ghana, the District recorded 42 cases in the year 2020 and 42 cases as well for 2021. Thankfully, the District has not recorded any case this year.

On the Covid-19 vaccination, a total number of 39088 people have been vaccinated in the District. Out of this number, 36372 people have received full vaccination while 2716 took at least 1 dose. The vaccination is on-going and I appeal to all and sundry gathered here who have not yet been vaccinated to go for the vaccine. Let us also continue to observe the Covid -19 protocols to prevent the spread of the virus.

Nananom, the HIV/AIDS prevalence rate is on the increase especially among the youth in the District. I wish to appeal to everyone to check his/her life style to avoid being infected with the disease. I equally want to encourage all of us to go for the voluntary test to know our HIV/AIDS status.

It is also disheartening to bring to your attention that teenage pregnancy is also increasing in the District. One major factor contributing to the rise is “Jams” organized by JHS final year students after the BECE`. The matter was extensively discussed at the last General Assembly meeting held on 4th March,2022 and plans are in place to address this devastating phenomenon. However, as opinion leaders, parents and teachers, there is the need for us to play our roles effectively to ensure that teenage pregnancy is reduced in the District.

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, let me congratulate all Ghanaians on this special occasion and commend pupils from the schools in the District who have come out in their numbers to participate in this special ceremony here and other centers across the District. These young ones may not today, understand the full import of their actions.

Some are here on impulse, others as mere observers and the rest for the fun of it. But I can assure you that a day is coming that the mantle of leadership shall move into their domain. They will then be more discerning and responsible to assess the foundation we will have laid for them. We can therefore not afford to fail this young, innocent and vulnerable generation who are challenged in every sphere of their lives. It is our duty to bequeath a legacy to posterity that can stand the test of time.

To our children gathered here today, I stand on behalf of the Dormaa East District Assembly, the Chiefs and the good people of the community to assure you that we as parents, teachers, opinion leaders and traditional authorities will continue to work together to establish a good foundation for your future as we transit to posterity.

Let me therefore admonish you to avoid negative attitudes but rather take your lessons seriously. Work with the advice given to you by your parents and teachers

and make yourselves available to acquire the needed knowledge and skills so as to contribute your quota towards the development of this country.

On behalf of H. E. the President of the Republic of Ghana and on my own behalf, I congratulate the Anniversary Planning Committee, the security agencies, teachers and students/pupils for making this year's Independence Anniversary Celebration a memorable one.

Long Live Ghana! Long Live Dormaa East.

Thank You and May God Bless us All.