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1st February, 2017

PRESS RELEASE ON THE APPOINTMENT OF METROPOLITAN, MUNICIPAL AND DISTRICT CHIEF EXECUTIVES IN THE NORTHERN REGION

Ghana's Democracy has been upheld and admired by the international community through the country's ability to institute acts and policies such as the 1992 constitutions and the local Government Act, 1993 (Act 462), which directs and guide the core of democracy (decentralization).

Chapter twenty of the 1992 constitution of Ghana place emphasis on "systems of local governance and administration which shall, as far as practicable, be decentralized". Section 243 of the constitution states that "There shall be a District Chief Executive for every district who shall be appointed by the President with the prior approval of not less than two-thirds majority of members of the Assembly present and voting at the meeting". The position of the Chief Executive of each Metropolitan/Municipal/District is to "be the chief representative of the Central Government in the district responsible for the day-to-day performance of the executive and administrative functions of the District"

Ghana Statistical Service has always provided the "male-female population dichotomy" in Ghana's population census since 1960 with females within the ages of 15-54 years always exceeding that of males of an average of 1.56% difference. In a country where democracy is strongly rooted and governing parties are based on a majority of +1 beyond 50%, then the majority in decision making spaces should have been women. Unfortunate, history is yet to be recorded where there has been at least 20% women representation in decision making spaces.

Interesting is the replication of this abysmal women representation in the local governance structure.

- ❖ In the history of local governance in Ghana, the numbers of Metropolitan/Municipal/District Chief Executive have never exceeded 10.2%. Although there are improvement in the number of women appointed to lead MMDAs in the governance of Ghana, the numbers increases and reduces in different governments perhaps due to the agenda of a sitting government.
- ❖ For instance in Northern region, during the period of 2001 to 2008, there were 3 female District Chief Executives. However, in 2009 to 2016, there was only 1 female District Chief Executive. **Whiles we commend the party in government for its previous records including the current efforts in the number of female Ministers, any number less than seven (7) female MMD Chief Executives in the Northern Region is unacceptable.**

The strong position of the leadership of the siting government that "I will be a President for all Ghanaians. Whatever your region, your tribe, **your gender**, your status, or your religion" gives

Civil Society the hope for increasing numbers of women in key decision making position especially in the on-going process of shortlisting applicants for the MMD Chief Executives.

NORSAAC is;

- ❖ **Aware of the on-going exercise for shortlisting applicants for the position of MMD Chief Executives.**
- ❖ **Delighted at the higher number of women who have applied for the position of MMD Chief Executive.**

We urge all citizens of Ghana to join hands in drawing the attention of His Excellency Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo as a president with strong respect for women development to ensure the full adherence to the 2016 Manifesto of the ruling NPP on appointment of women to occupy 30% of public office positions.

We demand that;

- 1. The president through Regional structures must appoint 30% of MMD Chief Executives as women as per the 2016 manifesto “appointment of women to at least 30% of available public office positions”**
- 2. Government should give clear directives against any submitted list of possible candidates for the MMDCE positions from any constituency to Regional if it does not include any female.**
- 3. Consideration be made to ensure friendly gender procedures and systems which will not further disadvantage women in the plan for the election of MMDCEs in the future as captured in the 2016 manifesto.**

Signed: 

Kawusada Abubakari

(Gender and Governance Manager)

Date: 1st February, 2017