



**P. O. BOX ST 521 ACCRA, GHANA**

January 29, 2015

Honourable James Tiigah,  
Regional Minister,  
Upper East Regional Coordinating Council,  
Bolgatanga

Dear Sir,

**KEY ISSUES ARISING FROM THE 2014 BONABOTO NATIONAL CONGRESS FOR THE  
ATTENTION OF THE HONOURABLE REGIONAL MINISTER**

I wish to convey to you, on behalf of the entire BONABOTO membership, our sincere gratitude to you and your Honourable Deputy for gracing the opening ceremony of our 9<sup>th</sup> National Congress, which was held in Bolgatanga from Monday 29 – Wednesday 31, 2014. We are really grateful for the honour done us by your presence. At that Congress, a number of issues were discussed and I am happy to bring to you the conclusions of some of these issues. Some of the conclusions may require the attention of Accra and others.

1. BONABOTO commends the efforts of the government in general and the Upper East Regional Coordinating Council in particular in addressing the problem of the poor road network in the regional capital and the adjoining districts in the BONABOTO area. However, BONABOTO wishes to draw the attention of the authorities to the fact that it is necessary to save this investment by ensuring that the interventions are of good quality, particularly giving the roads being worked on a second coating without any further delay as some are already beginning to develop potholes.
2. BONABOTO also commends the government for efforts towards reactivating the work on the Bolgatanga Airport. However, the authorities should proceed to protect the land meant for the airport while it looks for funding to carry out the project. As Bolgatanga is the furthest of the ten regional capitals from Accra, the airport would not only benefit the people from the region but also government officials, business

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people and other nationals who have to travel there and back at short notice for official assignments or business. Emergency medical situations, especially arising from road accidents, can also be promptly evacuated to Accra for special care.

3. The President has pledged to give the Upper East Region an ultra-modern regional hospital. With the support of the Regional Coordinating Council, two pieces of land have been acquired at Sirigu and Winkogo, one of which can be used for the project. BONABOTO commends the government for this and pleads for a start, even if a modest start, of the project as the region has no referral hospital. It will serve as a basis for future work on the project.
4. BONABOTO, aware that the government plans to open one College of Education (formerly Teacher Training College) in the Upper East Region, calls on government to locate one in the Central Zone of the region, particularly the BONABOTO Area. The UER is divided into three political zones, the East, Central and West zones. The East, which comprises Bawku and its environs, has Pusiga Training College while the West, which comprises Navrongo and Sandema and their environs, has St. John Bosco's Training College situated in Navrongo to cater for that zone. However, the Central zone, which, which comprises four Municipal and District Assemblies, (the BONABOTO area), has no single College of Education. The BONABOTO area currently has nine (9) public Senior/Technical Schools, Four (4) Community Senior Secondary Schools and two (2) private Senior Secondary Schools. Secondly, the area has a shortfall of trained teachers and a College of Education will help to fill the gap in the coming years. Moreover, a College of Education will absorb some of the students graduating from those Secondary Schools. Students from other traditional areas would also benefit from the College as admissions will not be limited only to students from the area.
5. BONABOTO is aggrieved that the Ministry of Education and the Ghana Education Service have failed/refused to approve the Gurene language as an examinable subject in the Basic Education Certificate Examination (BECE) and the West Africa Senior Secondary Certificate Examination (WASSCE) in spite of several pleas and discussions with the relevant authorities. We wish to bring to the notice of the authorities that Gurene is a course in the University of Education, Winneba and has churned out several Gurene teachers who have no chance to teach the subject. Moreover, the Gurene language is taught in five Colleges of Education, produce several teachers and specialists in the language. These teachers need to be given the opportunity to teach the course. Finally, children from the Frafra traditional area and the adjoining districts, where the Gurene language is spoken, are compelled to write

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a second “foreign” language at the Basic School level, putting them at a disadvantage. This is why the BONABOTO members concluded their Congress with a peaceful march which ended with a petition to the President through you to restate and emphasize our concerns and call for the inclusion of the language as an examinable language in the BECE and WASSCE.

6. Chieftaincy disputes – In your address to Congress, you lamented the possibility of chieftaincy disputes in the area. BONABOTO will be happy to collaborate in seeking amicable resolutions to these conflicts.

Sir, it is our sincere hope that you would treat these issues with the urgency they deserve as a resolution of the issues will contribute greatly to the development of the area and the region and your success as a Regional Minister for the Upper East Region.

On behalf of BONABOTO, I wish to assure you that we shall remain your reliable partner in your efforts toward developing the entire region.

Yours sincerely,

Vitus Adaboo Azeem  
BONABOTO National President

cc. The Minister of Education,  
Ministry of Education, Accra

The Director-General,  
Ghana Education Service, Accra

The President  
The National House of Chiefs, Accra

The President,  
Upper East Regional of Chiefs,  
Bolgatanga, UER

The Minister of Health,  
Ministry of Health, Accra

The Director-General,  
Ghana Health Service, Accra

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The Executive Director,  
Department of Urban Roads, Accra

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Bolgatanga, UER.

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