

Ghanaians Urged To Reduce Population

The Ashanti Regional Minister, Mr Kofi Opoku Manu, has stressed the need for Ghanaians to do more to address the problems of increasing population and reduce the pressure on socio-economic infrastructure

The population growth rate of Ashanti, for example, stands at 2.8 percent, the highest in the country and this he said, was creating a problem of high dependency.

Mr Opoku Manu said this in a speech read on behalf at an advocacy seminar on Population and Development for core committees on medium-term-Development Plans for metropolitan, municipal and district assemblies (MMDAs) in Kumasi on Friday.

Ghana, he said had no choice but to take population issues seriously in the planning process.

The regional minister said since development is for the benefit of the people, population indicators are very important in the planning process and it becomes incomplete without proper integration of population variables in the process”

He reaffirmed the Government’s commitment to the implementation of the provisions of the Disability Act.

He said the Government would ensure that various interventions meant to cushion people with disability, including their two percent share of the District Assemblies Common Fund”, were religiously implemented.

The Ashanti Regional Population Council Officer, Mrs. Florence Hagan, urged the district assemblies to implement human-centered development plans to raise the living conditions of the people.

“Economic growth is affected by population growth rate,” she said, that everything must, therefore, be done to ensure that the rate of economic growth kept pace with the population for development to be realized.

Mrs. Hagan blamed problems of unemployment, high dependency, social vices and urbanization, among others, on the lack of long-term planning.

She stressed the need to encourage family planning and girl-child education to bring down the population growth rate.

The participants appealed to the Population Council, Ghana Statistical Services, Demographic Department and the Ghana Health Services to streamline their system in order to have common statistical information to inform development planning.

Source: Daily Graphic, Monday October 26, 2009, Page 15.