



REPORT ON THE NATIONAL PLATFORM FOR DISASTER
RISK REDUCTION AND CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION,
14TH MAY, 2013.

INTRODUCTION

The National Disaster Management Organisation (NADMO) held a meeting of the National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change on the 14th May, 2013 at the Ghana Trade Fair Auditorium.

The meeting brought together the various Chairpersons of the Technical Committees, Representatives from the various Ministries, Departments and Agencies and other Stakeholders.

The meeting was to discuss the progress of the Platform and to deliberate on the way forward.



Pic 1: Dignitaries at the high table

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATORS OPENING ADDRESS

The National Co-ordinator of the National Disaster Management Organisation in his opening address welcomed all dignitaries to the programme and acknowledged their hard work over the years.

He talked about the impending Global Platform meeting which would be held in Geneva, Switzerland to assess the progress of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in member countries since its inception in 2005. He said member countries had up to the year 2015 to achieve the targets set by the United Nations (UN). He said Ghana would be represented at the meeting by a six (6) member delegation, led by the Minister of the Interior. The delegation would seek funding from the Drylands Fund Project of the United Nations (UN).

He briefed members of the platform on the experts meeting held in Arusha, Tanzania for member countries in Africa to assess progress in these countries. He extended the goodwill and applause of the Monitoring Mechanism put in place by the United Nations (UN) to the organization.

Whilst there, he lectured on the "Economies of Nations investing in disaster risk reduction" and shared his experiences on the review of the NADMO Act 517, its concerns and institutionalization. This, he hopes to share at the Global Meeting of the Platform in Geneva.

The ongoing project involving the dredging of the Luwuhe river bed, a tributary of the Volta River by NADMO in the Dangbe East and West Districts was mentioned. He explained that as a result of climate change, the river had dried up thus hindering the livelihood of the community which was mainly fishing. The Tongu Central and East were to also benefit from this activity. The estimated cost of the project was GH¢ 200 million in addition to equipment support donated by the Japanese Government and fuel assistance of GH¢ 2 billion being provided by the Member of Parliament for Ada.

The National Co-ordinator also spoke on the construction of an Emergency Operations Center (EOC) with support from the United States Africa Command (250,000 USD), World Bank (500,000 USD), National Guard of North Dakota and other UN Agencies. He said the EOC would be operational by June/July, 2013 with emergency operating lines provided by the Telephone Companies.

The Organisation had signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the China Railway Construction Group for the construction of National, Regional and District Offices. Rescue

equipments, helicopter among others are expected to be provided by the Government to enhance the work of the organisation.

With regard to preparations of NADMO towards the onset of the rains, he said the organisation had taken census of people living in flood prone areas of the country and had allocated safehavens in these communities. Clean-up activities had also been undertaken across the country.

He further made mention of hotspots of conflicts with its attendant displacement of people at Alavanyo and Nkonya, Yeji and BunkpuruguYunyoo and the contributions of the organisation in these areas to ensure peace and stability.

Ninety rescue operatives were been trained in Confidence Building and Teamwork at Asutsuare to augment rescue efforts.

He concluded by asking all stakeholders to intensify their efforts in Disaster Risk Reduction advocacy.



Pic 2: Mr. Kofi Portuphy giving his opening address

STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF UNITED NATIONS COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVE

The Statement of the United Nations Country Representative was given by Mr. Sulley Mahama.

According to him, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) had assisted NADMO in the establishment of nine (9) Regional platforms and fourteen (14) District DRR platforms in the Eastern Region. Support has been provided through the African Adaptation Programme (AAP) to train district planning and budget officers to mainstream DRR and CCA in their budget preparations and development plans.

Disaster Risk Reduction efforts can be successful using the bottom-up approach to DRR he reiterated.

OVERVIEW OF PLATFORM PERFORMANCE BY REV. DR. NII AMOO-DARKU

The Chairman of the National Platform in the person of Rev. Dr. Nii Amoo-Darku, in his statement said that over the years, disasters had assumed increased intensity on the nation leading to the loss of lives and properties therefore a multi-sectoral approach was needed to manage disasters.

The concept of the platform was to facilitate the process of shifting from disaster response to disaster risk reduction and mainstreaming it into sustainable development.

Members of the platform had contributed immensely to the development of the building guides and code, mainstreaming DRR into school curricula among others.

Training programmes were organised for members of the Regional Platforms in 2011. He called for proactiveness and increased advocacy from the Platform members.

DISCUSSION OF THE GHANA ACTION PLAN ON DISASTER RISK REDUCTION (DRR) AND CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION (CCA) BY MR. P. Y. O. AMOAKO.

According to Mr. P. Y. O. Amoako, the Ghana Plan of Action for DRR and CCA (GPA – DRR/CCA) had been prepared based on the five (5) priority areas of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA), 2005 – 2015, and with the aim of making the country resilient to natural and man-made disasters.

He mentioned three (3) objectives of the Ghana Plan of Action for DRR and CCA as follows:

1. Create greater awareness among platform members about the Ghana Plan for Action on DRR and CCA (2011-2015) and the specific activities within their areas.
2. Platform members are to discuss/comment on the various activities, especially with respect to the status of each of them and the corresponding budget allocated.
3. Platform members are to recommend measures/strategies to adopt to facilitate effective implementation and monitoring of these activities.

He also enumerated some of the challenges of the Ghana Plan of Action for DRR and CCA as Funding and Political Commitment – legislation, (e.g. delay in NADMO Bill).

He also outlined some of the on-going and outstanding activities of the Ghana Plan of Action for DRR and CCA and called for the support of stakeholders.

ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE AFRICAN ADAPTATION PROJECT (AAP) BY MR. ELIKPLIM AGBITTOR

Mr. Elikplim Agbittor in his presentation gave a brief background of the AAP. He said the AAP was a strategic initiative aimed at creating an environment for more informed and capable adaptation decisions and practice in Africa.

He outlined some of the objectives of the AAP as:

1. AAP was a strategic initiative aimed at creating an environment for more informed and capable adaptation decisions and practice in Africa
2. Building effective leadership and institutional frameworks for enhanced coordination and cohesion of programmes
3. Climate-resilient policies and measures in priority sectors implemented.

Major achievements of the AAP included:

1. Supported development of Guide for Mainstreaming CCA and DRR into development planning and budgeting processes
2. Supported integration of CC into Functional Organisational Assessment Tool (FOAT)
3. Integration of CCA and DRR into the Ghana Building Code
4. High level interactive workshops for MPs, Council of State, Economic Mgt Team, NDPC, Chief Directors of key Ministries, Regional Ministers, DCEs, Regional Coordinating Directors and some Religious Leaders.



Pic 3: Mr. Elikplim Agbittor giving his presentation.

FORESTRY COMMISSION INITIATIVES ON CLIMATE CHANGE BY SULEMANA ADAMU

Climate Change Initiatives by the forestry commission includes:

1. Using forestry to mitigate climate change through the use of forest cover
2. Enacting laws on illegal logging
3. Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation. This is an initiative that looks at global climate change mitigation. The drivers of deforestation are agricultural expansion, mining activities, bush fires and illegal logging among others. Some measures put in place to reduce climate change impact includes carbon stock enhancement to maintain the ecological zones. There are seven (7) pilot areas in the Eastern , Brong Ahafo, Central, Ashanti and Western region under REDD which is a performance base criteria to reduce the drivers of deforestation.

ADVOCACY ON THE PROPOSED NADMO BILL-NATIONAL CO-ORDINATOR

The National Co-ordinator explained that the new NADMO Bill seeks to restructure the organization, establish a disaster fund, and develop an emergency accreditation for buildings as a form of an income generating activity.

He concluded by stating that the review of the Act is still in progress.

OPEN FORUM

In this session, members shared their experiences and made contributions towards enhancing the work of the Platform.

Mrs. Rebecca Akatue, advanced the idea of having a good marketing strategy by deducting a percentage of the funds generated by the Telecommunication Companies into a disaster management fund.

Mr. Elikplim Agbittor, of the AAP made recommendations for getting the insurance companies on board since they stand to gain from disasters.

Dr. Cecilia Bentsi, a member of the Technical Committee said some mobile phone companies had been helping the Organization in times of emergencies. She implored NADMO to publish its Action Plans and Annual Reports to garner support from private institutions.

CHAIRMAN'S CLOSING REMARKS

The chairman in his closing remarks admonished members to work effectively to enhance the work of the Platform. He reiterated that members should also intensify their advocacy. He prayed to bring the meeting to a close at 2:15pm.