REPORT ON TRAINING FOR ASSEMBLY MEMBERS OF ASSIN SOUTH DISTRICT ASSEMBLY HELD ON 4TH TO 5TH AUGUST, 2026 AT THE ASSEMBLY CONFERENCE HALL, NSUAEM- KYEKEYWERE

1.0 INTRODUCTION

A training programme was organised for Assembly Members of the Assin South District Assembly on 4th to 5th August, 2026 as part of the Next Generation Leadership Training (NGLT) programme for Members of Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies (MMDAs).

The training was organised under the broader NGLT programme being implemented by the Institute of Local Government Studies (ILGS) in collaboration with the Ministry of Local Government, Chieftaincy and Religious Affairs (MLGCRA) and the National Association of Local Authorities of Ghana (NALAG).

The training formed part of a customised certificate course intended to deepen the knowledge of Assembly Members on their duties and obligations and equip them with the skills and attitudes required to perform their mandates effectively. The programme also provided an opportunity for participants to reflect on strategies for improving their performance and contributing to local development.

2.0 OBJECTIVES OF THE TRAINING

The training sought to:

Improve participants' knowledge and understanding of decentralisation and the local governance framework.

Build the capacity of Assembly Members to effectively perform their deliberative, legislative, representative, executive and oversight responsibilities.

The training aimed to enhance participants' skills in community mobilisation, stakeholder engagement and communication, while strengthening their leadership competencies and strategic thinking.

Enable Assembly Members to identify challenges within their electoral areas, develop innovative approaches to addressing them, while providing an opportunity for participants to share experiences, build networks for personal and professional development.

3.0 AREAS COVERED DURING THE TRAINING

The training covered several important areas relating to the work of Assembly Members and local governance. These included:

3.1 DECENTRALISATION AND LOCAL GOVERNANCE LAWS

Participants were taken through the concept of decentralisation, its constitutional and legal foundations and the various forms of decentralisation. The session also examined the structure and functions of Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies and the roles, powers and responsibilities of Assembly Members.

The training emphasised the importance of understanding the legal framework governing local government and applying it to improve governance, planning and service delivery.

Particular attention was given to the 1992 Constitution and the Local Governance Act, 2016 (Act 936). Participants were reminded that Assembly Members have important representative, deliberative, legislative, executive and oversight responsibilities.

3.2 CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AND OVERSIGHT RESPONSIBILITIES

The training also introduced participants to the principles of corporate governance and their application within District Assemblies.

The key principles discussed included accountability, transparency, fairness, integrity and risk management. Participants were encouraged to strengthen oversight of Assembly activities, including budget implementation, financial management, audit matters and service delivery.

The session further highlighted the importance of effective oversight mechanisms such as the General Assembly, Public Relations and Complaints Committee, Audit Committees, Internal Audit and external audit processes.

3.3 REPRESENTATIVE FUNCTIONS OF ASSEMBLY MEMBERS

Participants were reminded that an Assembly Member serves as a bridge between the District Assembly and the people within the electoral area.

The training emphasised the need for Assembly Members to maintain close contact with their constituents, consult them on issues to be discussed at Assembly meetings, collate their views and present their concerns and proposals to the Assembly. Assembly Members were also encouraged to report decisions of the Assembly back to their constituents.

The importance of regular community engagement, inclusive consultation and effective communication was also discussed.

3.4 DELIBERATIVE FUNCTIONS AND MEETING PROCEDURES

The training addressed the deliberative functions of District Assemblies and the importance of effective participation in Assembly and committee meetings.

Participants were introduced to the importance of the Standing Orders and proper meeting procedures. Emphasis was placed on preparation for meetings, constructive contributions, respect for other members, evidence-based discussions and ensuring that deliberations serve the interests of the district.

3.5 LEADERSHIP AND COMMUNITY MOBILISATION

The training emphasised that an Assembly Member is a leader who should work with the people to identify challenges, develop a vision for the electoral area and promote community development.

Participants were introduced to different leadership approaches and the competencies expected of a next-generation leader, including strategic thinking, communication, problem-solving, critical thinking, integrity, adaptability, teamwork and inclusiveness.

Community mobilisation was also discussed as a continuous process involving residents, traditional leaders, civil society organisations and local government institutions. The training identified awareness, participation, ownership and sustainability as important pillars of community mobilisation.

3.6 ASSEMBLY MEMBERS' CHANGE-MAKING PROJECTS

As part of the practical component of the training, Assembly Members were required to identify developmental challenges within their respective electoral areas.

Participants were guided to identify three developmental challenges, examine their causes, select one priority challenge and propose solutions. They were further expected to consider activities, timeframes, responsible actors and resources required to address the selected challenge.

4.0 METHODOLOGY

The training adopted participatory and experiential learning approaches. These included presentations, discussions, questions and answers, case studies, practical exercises and contributions from participants.

The programme was designed to encourage participants to share their experiences and relate the lessons to practical local governance situations.

5.0 KEY LESSONS

The training provided the following key lessons:

Assembly Members have a critical role in promoting effective local governance and development.

Effective representation requires continuous engagement with constituents.

Assembly Members must understand and apply relevant local governance laws in the performance of their duties.

Oversight should be exercised to promote accountability, transparency and responsible use of public resources.

Effective community mobilisation requires the active involvement of relevant stakeholders.

Assembly Members should adopt strategic, innovative and inclusive leadership approaches.

Development challenges within electoral areas should be identified and addressed through practical and well-planned interventions.

Effective communication and stakeholder engagement are essential for building trust between the Assembly and communities.

6.0 OUTCOMES OF THE TRAINING

The training enhanced participants' appreciation of the local governance system and the duties and responsibilities of Assembly Members. It also strengthened their understanding of the legal, leadership, representative and oversight dimensions of their roles.

The programme was expected to contribute to the development of competent and proactive Assembly Members who could make meaningful inputs into local governance and development and demonstrate leadership, communication and community mobilisation competencies.

7.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the lessons from the training, it is recommended that:

Assembly Members should regularly engage their constituents and obtain their views on development issues.

Members should make effective use of Unit Committees and other community structures to strengthen local participation.

Continuous capacity-building programmes should be organised for Assembly Members on local governance laws, leadership and oversight.

Assembly Members should document community concerns and follow up on issues raised at Assembly meetings.

Members should develop and implement practical change-making projects that address priority challenges within their electoral areas.

The Assembly should encourage stronger collaboration between Assembly Members, traditional authorities, civil society organisations and other stakeholders in promoting local development.

8.0 CONCLUSION

The training programme provided a valuable opportunity for Assembly Members of the Assin South District Assembly to deepen their understanding of local governance, leadership and their statutory responsibilities.

The knowledge and skills acquired are expected to enhance the effectiveness of Assembly Members in representing their constituents, participating in Assembly deliberations, exercising oversight, mobilising communities and contributing to the development of the Assin South District. The training therefore contributed to the broader objective of developing next-generation local governance leaders who are accountable, strategic, inclusive, responsive and committed to local development.