



Baraka Policy Institute (BPI)



ANNUAL REPORT 2018

JUSTICE, INDEPENDENCE, PROGRESS AND COMPASSION

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THE BPI TEAM

THE BOARD



Mr. Alhassan Andani
(Chairman)



Mr. Salem Kalmoni
(President)



Dr. Haruna Zagoon-Sayeed
(Executive Director)



Sheikh Ishaak Nuamah
(Member)



Mr. Salah Kalmoni
(Member)



Dr. Gamel Nasser Adam
(Member)



Mrs. May Kalmoni
(Member)



Dr. Abdul Baasit Aziz Bamba
(Member)

THE BPI TEAM

THE SECRETARIAT



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EXECUTIVE NOTE

In January 2014, the Baraka Policy Institute (BPI) was established with the focus on promoting social justice and national development through the conduct of research and advocacy. BPI places emphasis on issues regarding education with a particular tilt towards the underprivileged and the vulnerable who are the margins of our society. BPI also commits itself to working to promote the overall wellbeing of Ghanaians.

Over the past 4 years, BPI has undertaken some important research projects and advocacy programmes with the view to contributing to the efforts being made by government, state agencies and institutions, non-governmental organizations, international supports and the general civil society organizations towards the socio-economic development of our people. We would like to re-emphasize that we at BPI see those in charge of national policy as partners. And we are fully aware of the difficulties and complexities of policy drafting and implementation. Our intervention in these matters is to draw attention to those important details that might have escaped the attention of the government, policy makers and authorities. We do this by offering suggestions and alternative ideas through empirical research and intellectual support.

In the past year, we have engaged in many projects in line with our core objectives. We have engaged in various research projects, capacity building workshops, strategic meetings and presentation of research papers and concepts notes among others. Key activities engaged in the BPI 2017/2018 Work Schedules are summarized in this report. BPI would like to thank all our stakeholders and partners for their unflinching co-operation and support towards the implementation of the 2017/2018 programmes being reported in this annual report.

Dr. Haruna Zagoon-Sayeed

Executive Director

ABOUT THE BARAKA POLICY INSTITUTE (BPI)

BRIEF HISTORY OF BPI

The Baraka Policy Institute is a Think Tank established in January, 2014 with a special focus on promoting social justice and National development through advocacy and research.

Our core areas of advocacy are on education improvement with emphasis on Access, Quality and Relevance as well as the promotion of the overall well being of the citizenry especially the vulnerable and the marginalized segments of the Ghanaian society.

OUR VISION

To be the voice of social conscience for equitable national development.

OUR MISSION

We strive for the general wellbeing of people especially the vulnerable in society through advocacy, promoting of social justice, policy analysis and the conduct of research in selected and relevant areas of national development.

OUR CORE ACTIVITIES

- Conducting research on education with particular focus on access, relevance, quality and performance.
- Engaging in Advocacy on Education issues and substance abuse.
- Engaging in Advocacy on the general development issues in the Ghanaian society especially those affecting the vulnerable and the underprivileged.
- Offering policy direction on educational matters
- Providing capacity building for educational projects.

1 STRATEGIC ENGAGEMENTS FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

BPI ORGANIZES A 3-DAY MUSLIM EDUCATION CONFERENCE IN ACCRA

The Baraka Policy Institute (BPI) organized a 3-day National Muslim Education Conference on 20-22 October 2017 at the Institute of Local Government Studies in Accra. The conference was co-sponsored by the US Embassy in Accra and BPI. The conference was held under the theme: “Towards increased positive educational outcomes for poverty alleviation in deprived communities in Ghana”. The Role of Stakeholders in the Muslim Community” brought together key Muslim stakeholders in the delivery of education in the Muslim communities. The core objective of the 3-day conference was to strategize towards achieving higher positive educational outcomes

positive educational outcomes for Muslim communities in Ghana

2. **Prof. Imoro Braimah, Provost**, College of Humanities and Social Sciences, KNUST
Topic: The Question of Quality and the proliferation of Islamic Senior High Schools in Ghana

3. **Dr Gamel Nasser Adam**, a Senior Lecturer of University of Ghana, Legon.
Topic: Steps towards ensuring access to tertiary education for deprived students in Muslim communities in Ghana



Professor Imoro Braimah



Dr Gamel Nasser Adam

and progression rate for the youth in poor Muslim communities in Ghana. Key stakeholders drawn from the wider Muslim communities nation-wide engaged in strategic brainstorming sessions after receiving keynote addresses on relevant topic areas. The stakeholders who participated in the conference included influential Muslim community leaders across the country; Muslim educational Managers; Educational Experts; Muslim NGOs in education; and Policy Makers and Experts.

The following are the keynote speakers and their topics delivered at the conference:

1. **Sheikh Armiyawo Shaibu**, Former Greater Accra Regional Manager of the Islamic Education Unit.
Topic: Strengthening the Islamic Education Unit for



Sheikh Armiyawo Shaibu

At the end of the conference, participants developed a workable strategic Plan to be implemented to enhance higher educational achievement and mobility in deprived Muslim communities in Ghana. This action plan included action points for the restructuring of the Islamic Education Unit (IEU).

STRATEGIC ENGAGEMENTS FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

BPI INAUGURATES A NEW BROAD-BASED NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR THE ISLAMIC EDUCATION UNIT (IEU)

A new broad-based national council for the Islamic Education Unit (IEU) has been inaugurated in Accra on May 7, 2018. The formation of the new council forms part of an IEU restructuring project being undertaken by the Baraka Policy Institute (BPI) in collaboration with Islamic Education Unit. The inauguration follows months of restructuring activities undertaken together by BPI and the National Executive Committee (NEC) of the IEU Council including series of consultative meetings and the drafting of a new constitution for the IEU. The new National Council which is captured in the new IEU Constitution comprises of the founding fathers of the IEU, the General Manager of IEU, Chairmen of Regional IEU Councils and representatives of nationally represented Muslim groups in the country. These include the Office of the National Chief Imam (ONCI), Ahlus-Sunnah Wal Jamaah (ASWAJ), Tijaniyya Movement of Ghana, Ghana Muslim Mission (GMM), Federation of Muslim Councils (FMC), Federation of Muslim Women Associations

Kalmoni said the new provisional IEU Constitution has been carefully drafted to empower the Council and Management at the National, Regional and District Levels. This is to ensure quality and good performance in Islamic schools. He added that the new IEU constitution addresses **ownership, funding and quality**; and that one of the important provisions in the new constitution is that it has broadened the



Mr. Salem Kalmoni, BPI President speaking at the Inauguration



Some Members of BPI Board and some executives of the IEU National Council at the high table during the Inauguration

in Ghana (FOMWAG), Ghana Muslim Student Association (GMSA), Coalition of Muslim Organizations, Ghana (COMOG), Federation of Islamic Senior High Schools in Ghana (FISHSIG), National Council of Zongo Chiefs and Zakat, and the Zakat and Sadaqa Trust Fund of Ghana.

In his address, the President of BPI, Mr. Salem

National Council of the IEU, to reflect the representation of all dynamic Muslim leadership organisations in the country as well as the inclusion of Muslim experts in education and other relevant fields. According to Mr. Kalmoni, this is very important because it symbolizes unity of purpose and makes it easy for raising funds to support the Unit. He added that the new arrangement opens doors for diverse experiences which are expected to enrich the management of the Unit and to enhance the quality of our schools. Mr. Kalmoni urged the new Council to start work in earnest in order to put the Islamic Education Unit on the right footing to engender quality education and good moral training for the children and the youth. He thanked the leadership of the IEU Council for accepting and trusting BPI with the restructuring project.

The Chairman of the National Council, Sheikh Ibrahim Basha in his speech expressed profound gratitude to BPI and showered praises on the Board and Management of BPI for the efforts they are making in improving Islamic education in Ghana.

STRATEGIC ENGAGEMENTS FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

He described BPI as Allah's intervention to the Ghanaian Muslim community as far as education pursuits are concerned. He also implored new IEU council members to be dedicated to the cause of Islamic education in Ghana and hold the IEU Council as a trust on behalf of the Muslim Ummah in Ghana.

Inaugurating the new Council, BPI Board Chair Mr. Alhassan Andani expressed his deepest satisfaction for the milestone that has been reached, seeing for the first time all recognized stakeholders in the Muslim community meeting to deliberate on improving Islamic education in Ghana. He described the event as one of the happiest moments in the history of the Muslim community in Ghana.



The Chair of BPI Board, Mr Alhassan Andani speaking at the Inauguration.

one of the happiest moments in the history of the Muslim community in Ghana.

Earlier, the Executive Director of BPI, Dr. Haruna Zagoon-Sayeed and Mr. Abdulai Issaka of ValleyView University made a power-point presentation on the newly adopted IEU constitution. They explained to the council members key provisions in the new IEU constitution. After the formal inauguration, key representative members of the new National Council endorsed the new provisional constitution by signing it.



Dr. Haruna Zagoon-Sayeed explaining the provisions in the new IEU Constitution.

VARIOUS MUSLIM REPRESENTATIVES ON THE IEU NATIONAL COUNCIL ENDORSING THE NEW IEU CONSTITUTION



The Chairman of the National IEU Council, Sheikh Ibrahim Basha signing the new IEU Constitution.



Shiekh Yacoub Shuib Abban (General Secretary, ASWAJ) signing the new IEU Constitution.

2 OPEN ADVOCACY AND VISIBILITY

BPI PUBLISHES A STATEMENT ON ALCOHOL ADVERTISING TO SUPPORT THE POSITION OF FOOD AND DRUGS AUTHORITY (FDA)

Baraka Policy Institutes (BPI) issued a press statement commending Ghana's Food and Drugs Authority (FDA) on their enforcement of the regulation on advertisement of alcoholic beverages on radio and television in the evening. The statement signed by the Executive Director of BPI Dr. Haruna Zagoon-Sayeed was published in the Saturday January 20, 2018 edition of one of the national newspaper: The Ghanaian Times.



In the statement, BPI argued that the move would protect children and other vulnerable groups from being lured

into alcoholism and its harmful consequences on themselves and the society. BPI commended the FDA saying such a move is long overdue considering the rate at which our television and radio stations have been flooded with advertisements of alcoholic drinks without any recourse to contents and viewer restrictions.

BPI further said the Institute understood the economic impact of the enforcement on the sale of alcohol, and the broadcasting industry but the consideration of healthy children and youth for a prosperous Ghana should supersede individual economic interest. He also gave passionate advice to the FDA to ensure that the directive is strictly obeyed by all media houses.

The statement appealed to all stakeholders particularly, the alcohol industry, Ghana independent broadcasting association, the media commission and civil society organization to work in a concerted manner to protect the vulnerable from the dangers of alcoholism in the country.



Madam Delese Mimi Darko, CEO of FDA

OPEN ADVOCACY AND VISIBILITY

BPI ORGANIZES ITS 4TH ANNIVERSARY LECTURES

The Baraka Policy Institute (BPI) on Tuesday 20th February 2018 organized its 4th Anniversary Lectures at the Ghana Academy of Arts and sciences. The lecture was organized under the theme: “Developing Hands-on Skills for Rapid National Economic Growth: The role of Technical and Vocational Education in Ghana”. The 2018 lectures sought to amplify the relevance of technical and vocational education to the efforts being made towards addressing high youth unemployment in the country. Two main lectures were delivered under the theme.

The topics were

1. “The role of practical Technical and vocational skills in Ghana’s Industrialization Drive” delivered Mr. Salah Kweku Kalmoni, The Director of Lakeside Estate
2. Manpowering Ghana’s Accelerated Development in the Technologically- Driven Information and Knowledge Age: The Case of Technology-Compliant Engineering, Technical and Vocational Education” delivered by Prof Clement , Dzionu , the president of Accra

The lecture which recorded about 500 participants from diverse groups including Heads of educational institutions, key industry players and students was chaired by Mr. Alhassan Andani, Board chairman of BPI and Managing Director of Stanbic Bank Ghana Ltd. And the Guest of Honour was Mr. Anis Haffer

the renowned Educationist and the Director of GATE Education who is a member of the Ghana Education Service Council.



Mr. Anis Haffer making a contribution at the event.



Professor Clement Dzionu, President of AIT



Mr. Salah Kwaku Kalmoni, Director of Lakeside Estates



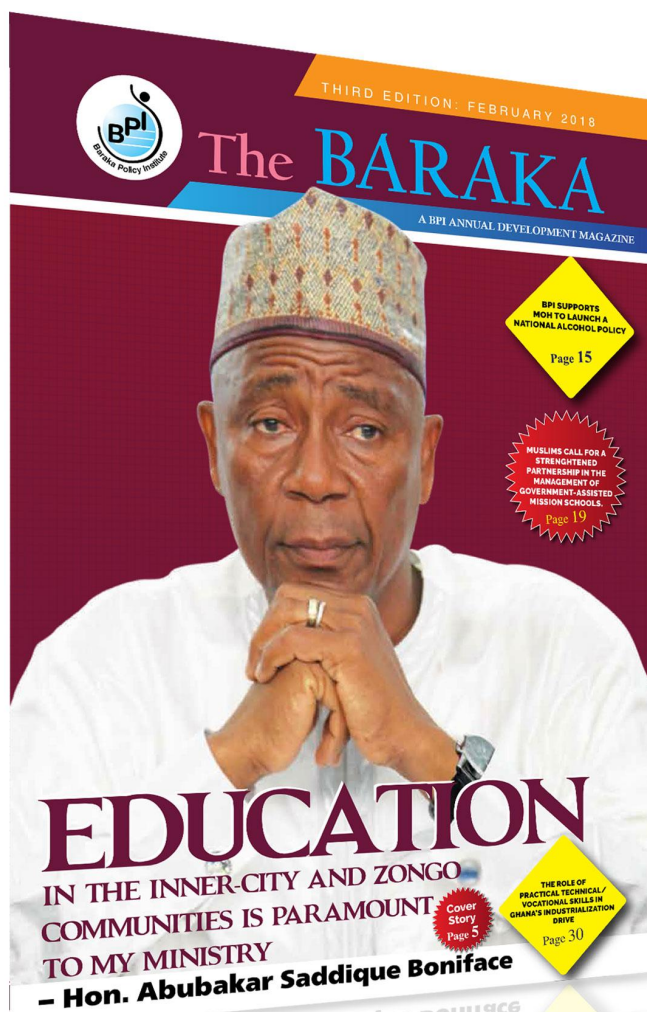
Participants at the event

OPEN ADVOCACY AND VISIBILITY

BPI PUBLISHES 3RD ANNUAL DEVELOPMENT MAGAZINE “The Baraka”

The Baraka Policy Institutes has published its Annual Development Magazine called “The Baraka” in February 2018. This edition of “The Baraka” which has the Cover Story “Education in the Inner-City and Zongo Communities is

Paramount to My Ministry” contains detailed reports on BPI programmes and projects; BPI Articles; BPI Special Reports, BPI Annual Lectures; and External Articles on development by scholars and practitioners.



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3 STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP FOR NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

BPI CONTINUES ITS COLLABORATION WITH MOH AND FDA TO COMPLETE THE DRAFTING OF A LEGISLATIVE INSTRUMENT (LI) FOR THE NAP

BPI continued its efforts in ensuring that the harmful use of alcohol is reduced and the general public is well informed about the negative effects of alcohol consumption. The harmful use of alcohol in society is well known and cannot be overemphasized but efforts to reduce this harmful usage of alcohol has been very negligible. In the year under review, BPI collaborated with other key stakeholders which includes, Ministry of Education, Food and Drugs Authority, World Health Organisation (WHO), Mental Health Organisation and the Coalition of NGOs in Health among others to complete the drafting of an LI for the National Alcohol Policy (NAP) which was launched by the Ministry of Health in March, 2017. After the launching of the policy, the next milestone is for BPI and the stakeholders to ensure that a Legislative Instrument (LI) for the NAP has been passed by Parliament to provide legal backing for the enforcement of the regulations contained in the NAP.

In this regard, a technical committee which comprises representatives of BPI, MOH, FDA,

MHO and Coalition of NGOs in Health has been conducting series of meetings to complete the drafting of the LI. The committee during this period worked hard to produce a document which meets global standard benchmarking it with best international examples. During this period, the technical committee engaged in strategic consultation to enhance the draft LI. This was done as part of lobbying process in ensuring the acceptability of the draft bill when it is finally placed before parliament. The final draft of the LI is almost completed currently awaiting few legal corrections and a national stakeholder conference. The finalized draft would then be submitted to the Minister of Health for onward submission to Cabinet before presenting it to Parliament for passage.

Apart from the technical role and physical capacity role, BPI, just like it did for the development and launching of the NAP, is equally providing financial support towards the drafting and passage of the LI. BPI received some little financial contributions from Stanbic Bank, CFAO, and the MD of Toyota Ghana which augmented the usual BPI funding.



BPI President Mr Salem Kalmoni, Speaking at the launch of the National Alcohol Policy in March 2017

4 RESEARCH

BPI UNDERTAKES A MARKETABILITY STUDY FOR MADINA INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (MIST)

During the year under review, BPI fulfilled one of its social mandate of providing educational services, capacity building and policy directions to the general public. It undertook a non-commercial research work for the Madina Institute of Science and Technology (MIST) regarding the provision of quality service, marketability of courses and programmes and management effectiveness of the Institute.

The objectives of the research were to examine the quality of services being provided at MIST since its accreditation by NAB; to explore the needed

MIST. The research was conducted within a period of 7 months (from February to September, 2018).

The BPI-MIST research project is a good case of BPI's gradual public acceptability and mark of confidence and at the same time a test of its capacity to perform in the niche it is trying to carve for itself.

The findings and outcomes of the research were indeed key to MIST's restructuring path and BPI is gratified to have been given the opportunity to be part of this process. BPI wishes to express its profound gratitude to the management and



MADINA
Institute of Science & Technology

programmes and courses which will attract students for MIST and ensure its marketability; and to assess management effectiveness of MIST since its inception. The research was commissioned by the management of MIST as it looked for ways to compete and improve its academic services.

The research has been completed and the final report has been submitted to the management of

leadership of the Madina Institute of Science and Technology (MIST) for entrusting BPI with such a significant research work. BPI is also grateful for the contribution and support, both financial and intellectual, received from Mr Salem Kalmoni who is MIST Governing Council Chairman and the past Council Chariman, Hajj Safwan Wolley.



**Baraka Policy Institute
(BPI)**



Baraka Policy Institute

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