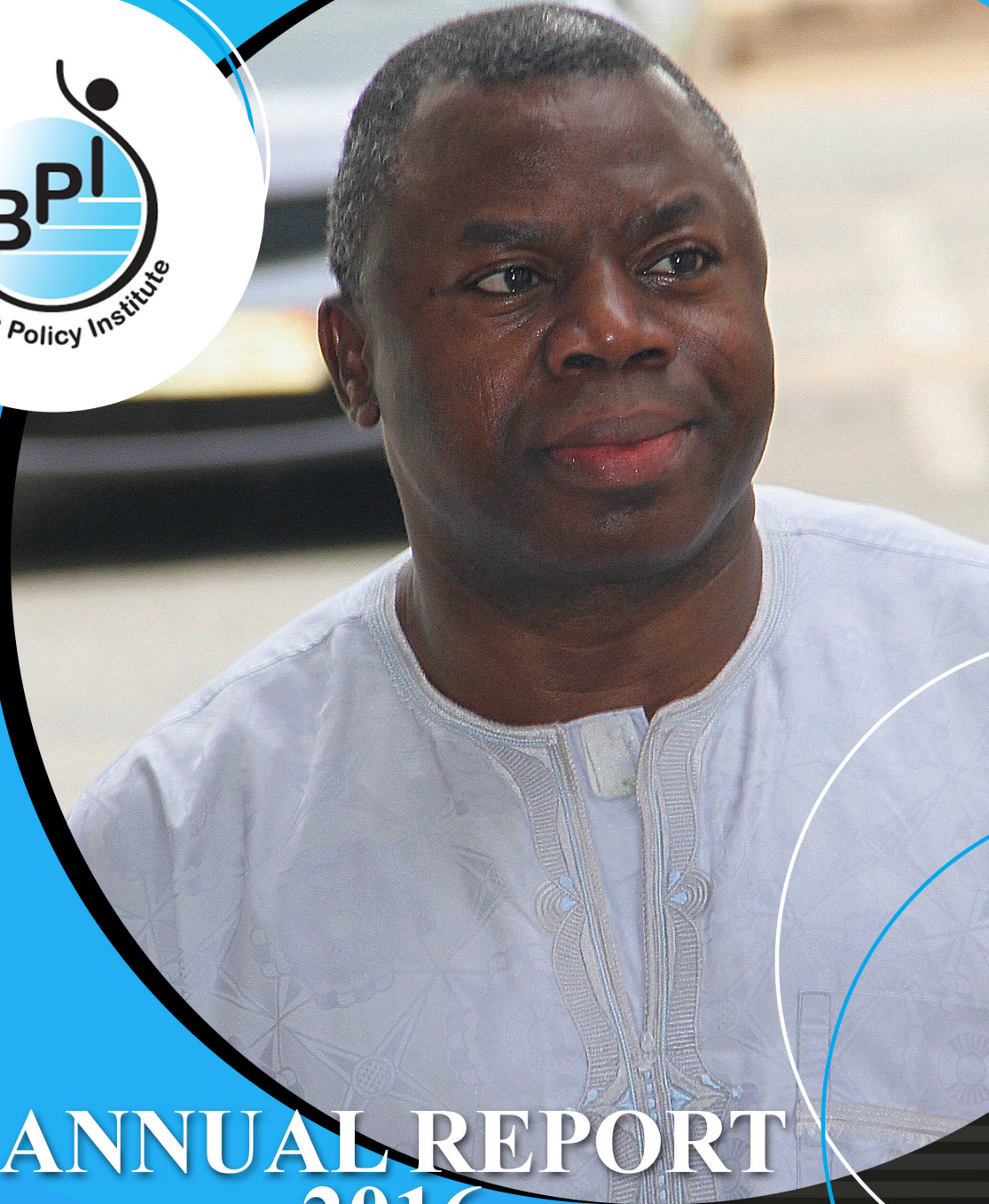


# Baraka Policy Institute (BPI)



## ANNUAL REPORT 2016

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)



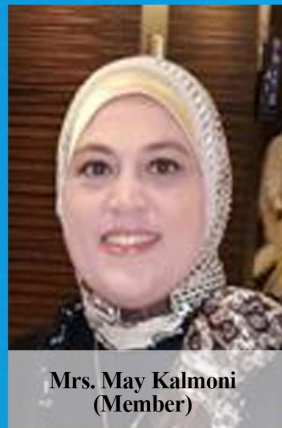
**Sheikh Ishaak Nuamah**  
(Member)



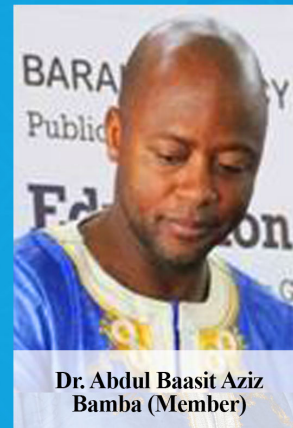
**Mr. Salah Kalmoni**  
(Member)



**Dr. Gamel Nasser Adam**  
(Member)



**Mrs. May Kalmoni**  
(Member)



**Dr. Abdul Baasit Aziz Bamba**  
(Member)



# THE SECRETARIAT



**Dr. Haruna Zagoon-Sayeed**  
(Executive Director)



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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 two 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 2015/2016 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 2015/2016 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.



# RESEARCH

## BPI UNDERTAKES RESEARCH ON THE STATE OF GENDER PARITY, UNDERPRIVILEGED AND MINORITY ENROLMENTS IN PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES IN GHANA

This was the main research work undertaken by BPI during the year under review. It spanned a period of 10 months beginning from October, 2015 to July, 2016. The study sought to explore and examine the trend of university admissions for students coming from underprivileged and minority backgrounds and whether there were some policy considerations for admitting students of such background. The study also performed an evaluation of the national quest for gender parity in university admissions.

Five public universities participated in the research, namely, the University of Ghana, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, University of Cape Coast, University of Education, Winneba and the University for Development Studies. The study found out that, there is no such unified national policy on university admissions for underprivileged students/less-endowed schools in Ghana.

The universities however, have their individual internal policies for applicants from schools classified as less-endowed, as provided by the GES, done at the convenience of respective admission boards.



University of Cape Coast



KNUST



University of Ghana, Legon



University for Development Studies

Also, the issue of gender equity in university admissions is applied by almost all universities with different individual university policies and approach which makes it difficult to assess the overall impact being made regarding gender equity effort in public university admissions in the country. The research report was published in August, 2016.

In view of the findings of the study, the Baraka Policy Institute recommended that, authorities responsible for university education in Ghana should as matter of urgency initiates a process of putting in place a binding coherent national policy that ensures equitable admission process for the vulnerable and underprivileged in society as well as addressing the disparity of policies on gender that exist in the names of individual universities and also enable easy monitoring and evaluation of the policy.

# RESEARCH

## BPI EMBARKS ON AN INTERVENTION PROJECT FOR DISTRESSED AND UNDERPRIVILEGED SCHOOLS IN GHANA (THE DUSI PROJECT)

**T**he DUSI project aimed at assessing and improving academic performance in distressed and deprived senior high schools in Ghana with the view of addressing social inequalities. It sought to achieve this through the auditing of educational infrastructure of some selected schools and also assess the effectiveness of the leadership of such schools.

Three Senior high schools participated in the study namely, Islamic Senior High School, Kumasi, Suhum Girls Senior High School and Islamic Senior High School, Wa. All the schools selected were deprived

schools classified by the GES as less-endowed. The study revealed among other things that, certain key facilities are not available in all the schools which hampers good academic work. Also, in some of the schools lack of effective supervision in teaching and learning contributed to the poor performance.

There is the urgent need for these deprived schools and all others to receive government attention. BPI requests relevant authorities, particularly, the Ghana Education Service to consider selecting and posting very good Headmasters with track records of achieving results to such schools.



Some Boarding House students sleeping outside the dormitory due to lack of space in the room



Some students of a senior high school fetching water from the bush





# RESEARCH

## **BPI UNDERTAKES RESEARCH ON THE READINESS OF ISLAMIC SENIOR HIGH SCHOOLS IN GHANA TO OFFER ARABIC AS AN EXAMINABLE SUBJECT AT WASSCE SCHOOL EXAMINATIONS, 2016**

**T**his research sought to establish the importance of making Arabic language an examinable subject at the WASSCE and also established the readiness of Islamic Senior High Schools in the country to offer the subject at WASSCE, 2017. This was necessitated by the request made by both the GES and WAEC on the issue of considering Arabic to be examined at WASSCE. The research was therefore anchored on the following objectives; to assess the capacity of Islamic Senior High Schools in Ghana to offer Arabic at WASSCE 2017 and beyond, and also to record the candidature of identifiable and GES-approved Islamic Senior High Schools who are prepared to sit for WASSCE 2017 and 2018. The research was conducted between April-May, 2016.

The research found out that, there were thirty-two (32)

GES-approved Islamic Senior High Schools in Ghana most of whom were already teaching the subject and were always ready to prepare their students to sit for the WASSCE at any time. Again, there were over 7000 candidates in the Islamic Senior High Schools who are being prepared to write 2017 and 2018 May/ June WASSCE. Also, the Ghana Education Service had already inspected some Islamic Senior High Schools and had issued approval letters to offer the subject as an elective subject in the General Arts programme.

In view of the key findings of the study, the Baraka Policy Institute gave recommendation to the Ghana Education Service, Islamic Senior High Schools and other relevant stakeholders that Arabic holds a great potential for economic and social development of the country, hence, the process of its re-introduction into both BECE and WASSCE was very important.



**Students of Basar Senior High School**



**Students of Anisa Senior High School**



# OPEN ADVOCACY & VISIBILITY

## BPI ORGANISES ITS 2ND ANNIVERSARY DURBAR

The Baraka Policy Institute on 27th February, 2016 organized its 2nd Anniversary Durbar at the British Council Hall in Accra. This formed part of BPIs' public awareness and contribution to national discourse on topical issues in the areas of education and public health. The programme was in the form of a durbar comprising lectures and other activities. It was under the general theme ***“Education and Wellbeing - a Twin Necessity for National Development.”***

The Durbar was attended by a total of 204 Participants from various stakeholder organizations and institutions including the Director of Tertiary Education who represented the Minister of Education.



**Board Chairman of BPI, Mr Alhasan Andani delivering a Keynote address**

Two main lectures were delivered at the durbar; the first was on “Inclusive Educational Planning- a pre requisite for Sustainable Development” which was delivered by Professor Mohammed Salifu, the Executive Director of the National Council for Tertiary Education. The second lecture was on **“Dealing with Substance Abuse -the Need for Control and Policies”**, which was delivered by Dr Frank Baning, the Director of Pantang Mental

Hospital who represented Dr Akwasi Osei, the CEO of Mental Health Authority.



**Some of the participants at BPI 2nd Anniversary Lecture**

The BPI Annual development magazine, The BARAKA, was also launched at the Durbar by the representative of the Minister of Education.



**Mr Alhasan Andani, BPI Board Chairman and Mrs. Wilhelmina Asamoah, Director of Tertiary Education, Ministry of Education representing the Hon Minister of Education.**

## BPI EMBARKS ON ALCOHOL CONTROL PROGRAMME WITH THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH - NATIONAL ALCOHOL POLICY (NAP)

**B**PI joined key stakeholders in the campaign against the increase in the harmful use of alcohol in the country. In recent times, there has been a growing concern on the high incidence of alcohol consumption among the citizenry, particularly, the youth in the country in recent times with an alarming rate of blithered advertisement on alcohol products on the media that aim at luring people into alcohol consumption with very little or no recourse to its harmful or negative effects.

In response, the Ministry of Health with technical support from the World Health Organization (WHO) initiated the drafting of a National Alcohol Policy for Ghana in 2011. Following the establishment of Baraka Policy Institute (BPI), it begun to explore innovative and effective ways of contributing to the reduction and regulation of alcohol consumption in the country as part of its advocacy work on reducing substance abuse and

promoting public health.

In line with this, BPI initiated a working relationship with the Ministry of Health and the technical committee responsible for the draft of NAP with the view of supporting the efforts in providing a national regulation on the production and consumption of alcoholic beverages in Ghana. The first activity by the BPI was to collaborate with the ministry to organize and sponsor a National Stakeholder conference to discuss the 8th draft National Alcohol Policy which had remained in its draft stage since 2011. BPI actually sponsored the final drafting of the NAP as well as the launching of the policy.

BPI also joined a team from the Ghana Health Service to undertake a national public education tour to various Driver Unions in the country to educate them on drink-driving.





## BPI SUPPORTS THE CALL FOR THE RE – INTRODUCTION OF ARABIC AS AN EXAMINABLE SUBJECT IN GHANA

**M**aking Arabic an examinable subject in Ghana, had been a long standing struggle. In recent time, the issue resurfaced with some Heads and Directors of Islamic education institutions taking the matter up with the utmost seriousness. As a Think Tank interested in social justice and equity in the field of education, especially for the underprivileged and marginalised segments of our society, BPI decided to add its voice to the issue by partnering the Federation of Islamic Senior High Schools in Ghana (FISHSIG) to draw government attention to the issue. Subsequently, BPI had a meeting with Islamic senior high schools in Ghana to discuss the matter. The meeting was attended by 31 Islamic Senior High Schools in Ghana with others including lecturers from the Arabic department of the University of Education, Winneba, Kumasi Campus as well as some Educationist. The meeting was held on 2nd May, 2016 at Al-Azhariyya Islamic Senior High School in Kumasi.

The meeting discussed modalities on how to intensify

the efforts being made by some individual institutions on the matter and to present a unified position to educational authorities on the matter. BPI's role as a Think Tank interested in social equity particularly in educational matters was to provide researched information that would be required.

BPI also entered into several discussions with some relevant stakeholders in this efforts in ensuring that Arabic language is taught and examined in Senior High Schools as an elective subject by schools and students who wished to do the subject. Among such institutions were the Ghana Education Service (GES), the West Africa Examinations Council (WAEC), the Federation of Islamic Senior High Schools in Ghana (FISHSIG), the Federation of Islamic Councils, Ghana (FMC), and the Office of the National Chief Imam (ONCI).

The BPI Arabic project was very successful as Arabic language is now examinable at WASSCE.



**Some stakeholders and Heads of Islamic  
Education Institutions**



**Sheikh Mohammed Kamil,  
President of FISHSIG**



# OPEN ADVOCACY & VISIBILITY

## BPI LAUNCHES ITS ANNUAL DEVELOPMENT MAGAZINE “THE BARAKA”

**T**he Baraka Policy Institute launched the first edition of its new magazine called ‘The Baraka’. The magazine was launched by the Director of Tertiary Education at Ministry of Education during the 2nd held on 27th February 2016 in Accra. The Baraka is a social development magazine and contains a highlight

of activities and projects undertaken by BPI in the working year. It also contains general relevant information in the core operation areas of BPI, education and public health.



**Mrs Wilhelmina Asamoah,  
Director of Tertiary Education.**

## BPI CONTRIBUTES TO DISCUSSIONS ON NATIONAL TOPICAL ISSUES THROUGH NEWSPAPER PUBLICATIONS

**B**PI published four newspaper Articles in various newspapers. The first Article was on the title: Making The Farmers' Awards Work for Ghana written by Haruna Zagoon-Sayeed, the Executive Director of Baraka Policy Institute. The article was published on Monday October 5, 2016 in the Daily Graphic page 34. The Article makes a critique of the Ghana National Farmers Awards scheme given to farmers annually. It calls on national authorities in charge of the award scheme to take a comprehensive look at the scheme to allow more deserving farmers particularly, peasant farmers, to benefit from it.



**Some Cocoa Farmers on their farm**

Baraka Policy Institute. The article was published on Monday October 5, 2016 in the Daily Graphic page 34. The Article makes a critique of the Ghana National Farmers Awards scheme given to farmers annually. It calls on national authorities in charge of the award scheme to take a comprehensive look at the scheme to allow more deserving farmers particularly, peasant farmers, to benefit from it.

The second Article was titled, "**Searching for Panacea**

**for Exam Malpractice In Ghana–The Need to look beyond WAEC**" also written by the Executive Director of the BPI, Mr Haruna Zagoon-Sayeed. It was published on Wednesday April 27, 2016 in the Daily Graphic page 07 and also in The Finder Newspaper, April 13, 2016.



**Mr. Haruna Zagoon-Sayeed,  
Executive Director (BPI)**

The Article highlighted the need to find a holistic and lasting solution to the menace of examination malpractice in Ghana which has assumed an alarming notoriety in Ghana.

The third article was written by Dr. Rabiatu Ammah Konney, an Associate Research Fellow of BPI. It was titled "Pre-Empting Extremism and Terrorism in Ghana, the Role of the Muslim". It was published in the Daily Graphic on February 3, 2016.



# OPEN ADVOCACY & VISIBILITY



**Dr. Rabiatu Ammah Konney,  
Associate Research Fellow of BPI**



**Dr. Abdul Baasit Aziz Bamba,  
Board Member of BPI**

This Article draws the attention of policy makers on education on the need to provide equal opportunities for all citizens despite growing differences in family resources and school quality.

The fourth Article was titled ***“Creating Equal Educational Opportunities for Late Starters”*** written by Dr. Abdul Baasit Aziz Bamba, a Board Member of BPI and also a lecturer at the University of Ghana. The article was published on Thursday January 21, 2016 in The Funder Newspaper.





## **BPI COLLABORATES WITH MOH TO ORGANISE NATIONAL STAKEHOLDERS' CONFERENCE ON THE NATIONAL ALCOHOL POLICY (NAP)**

**B**PI collaborated with the Ministry of Health (MOH) to organize a national stakeholder conference which aimed at finalizing discussion on the 8th draft of the National Alcohol Policy and to adopt a common strategy for its speedy adoption.

The Conference was attended by forty-Two (42) participants from 21 Stakeholder institutions and organizations. Notable public personalities who attended the conference include the Minister of Health, Hon. Alex Segbefia, the Chairman of the Parliamentary Select Committee on Health, Hon. Wisdom Gidisu, a Ranking Member of the Parliamentary Select

Committee on Health, Hon. Richard Anane, the President of BPI, Mr. Salem Kalmoni and other personalities from government agencies and civil society groups, including the alcohol industry.

After the conference, a final draft of the National Alcohol Policy (NAP) was endorsed and a strategy document towards its speedy adoption by Parliament was prepared with the inauguration of a strategy implementation committee. There was also a general agreement by all stakeholders on the need to start the development of a Legislative Instrument for the NAP. farmers, to benefit from it.



**BPI President Mr. Salem Kalmoni delivering his opening remarks at the conference.**

# STRATEGIC ENGAGEMENTS FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

## BPI ORGANISES A NATIONAL STRATEGIC CONFERENCE ON MUSLIM EDUCATION IN GHANA

**T**he National Strategic Conference on Muslim education in Ghana held on 21st May, 2016 in Accra was the first of its kind in recent times for the Muslim community in Ghana. The conference brought together key stakeholders and experts in the Muslim community in the area of education and development to collectively brainstorm and proffer realistic strategies to advance the cause of education for the Muslim community in Ghana.

The conference sought to review the state of Muslim education in Ghana in the context of national educational strategy and to draw up a national strategic plan for Muslim education. The conference resulted in the establishment of a BPI facilitated National Committee on Muslim Education in Ghana.



**Chairman for the conference Alhaji Abdul Rahim Badamasi, delivery his speech**

The conference was attended by 45 experts and stakeholders among them were, Alhaji Abdul Rahim Badamasi, a renowned educationist and a former Director General of the Ghana Education Service, University lecturers, Islamic education unit Managers, Directors of Islamic educational institutions and many other stakeholders.



**Some Participants in discussion during the conference**

The conference discussed two topics; Drafting of National Muslim Education Strategy for Muslims in Ghana and Drafting of Road Map for the re-Introduction of Arabic as Examinable Subject at both BECE & WASSCE



**Some of the participants at the conference on Muslim education in Ghana**

The conference major outcome was the need for collective action to be taken by all stakeholders to improve the quality of teaching and learning in Islamic Schools across the country. Also a BPI facilitated committee to draw a National Strategic Plan for Muslim Education in Ghana was established.





# Baraka Policy Institute

## ANNUAL REPORT 2016

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