

# Baraka Policy Institute (BPI)



## ANNUAL REPORT 2017

JUSTICE, INDEPENDENCE, PROGRESS AND COMPASSION

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# THE BPI TEAM

## THE BOARD



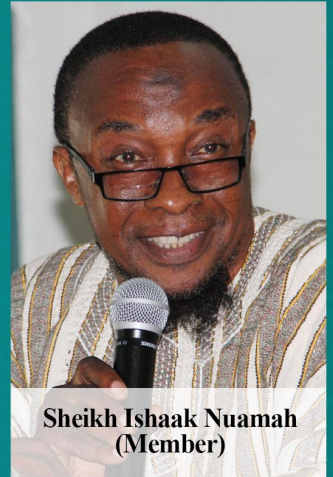
**Mr. Alhassan Andani**  
(Chairman)



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

# 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 3 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 2016/2017 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 2016/2017 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

## “THE LESS-ENDOWED CONCEPT IN GHANA’S EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM: AN INQUIRY INTO THE STRATIFICATION OF SENIOR HIGH SCHOOLS IN GHANA”

**B**PI undertook a research to investigate the less-endowed concept in Ghana’s educational system. The title of the research is “**The Less-Endowed Concept in Ghana’s Educational System: An enquiry into the stratification of Senior High Schools in Ghana.**” The key objectives of the research was to among other things, examine the criteria used to classify schools as less endowed and what efforts are employed by government to upgrade such schools to become well-endowed schools. The research further seeks to evaluate the extent to which performance in these schools could be attributed to the

availability or non-availability of certain key educational facilities.

The research was a follow-up on earlier research on less-endowed admissions in the country’s public universities which sought to ascertain the extent to which students from less-endowed schools gained admission to public universities and to pursue competitive programmes.

The final report of the research will be completed soon and made available to the public.



A less endowed SHS in Ghana



# STRATEGIC ENGAGEMENTS FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

## BPI PARTICIPATES IN THE 2ND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON EDUCATION RESEARCH FOR DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA (ICERDA 2016)

**B**araka Policy Institute (BPI) participated and presented at the 2nd International Conference on Education Research for Development in Africa (ICERDA 2016) which brought together over 184 Participants from all over sub Saharan Africa and the UK. The conference was under the theme: “Towards a Vision of Education for Sustainable Development in Africa”. The 3-day conference which took place at the Alisa Hotel in Accra, Ghana, from the 3rd – 5th October, 2016 sought to reflect on the stories of

education for development in Africa since 2000 and provided an African arena to review the past, appraise the present and plan the future of educational investment. BPI, presented a paper on the “State of Gender Parity, Underprivileged and Minority Enrolments in Public Universities in Ghana”. The paper was a summary of a BPI research report which was conducted between October 2015 and August 2016 in five public universities in Ghana.



Certificate of Attendance

# STRATEGIC ENGAGEMENTS FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

## BPI FACILITATES A NATIONAL MUSLIM STAKEHOLDER CONFERENCE ON GOVERNMENT SUGGESTION TO RETURN MISSION SCHOOLS TO RELIGIOUS BODIES

The Baraka Policy Institute facilitated a consultative meeting of Muslim stakeholders from across the country to discuss the suggestion by government to return mission schools to their original owners and its implication for the Muslim community. It was held on 10th June, 2017 at the Conference Hall of the Police Mosque in Accra. The conference brought together various key stakeholders across the country including the Islamic Education Unit, Office of National Chief Imam, Office of Ahlul Sunna Wal Jamma, Federation of Islamic Senior High Schools, Muslim Chiefs & Opinion Leaders among many others.

The conference which was under the theme, “The Government Suggestion to Return Schools to Religious Bodies-Implication for Muslim Education in Ghana”, was

chaired by Dr Gamel Nasser Adam, a BPI board member and Senior Lecturer, University of Ghana, Legon. Two Keynote addresses were delivered by education experts; Alhaji Rahim Gbadamosi, former Director-General of Ghana Education Service and Sheikh Armiyawo Shaibu, former Greater Accra Regional Manager of Islamic Education Unit. Participants deliberated intensively on the subject matter and rejected the idea and persuaded government to reconsider its intention.

The final communiqué of the conference was submitted to the Minister of Education by a BPI team led by its president. The final communiqué was also presented to the office of the National Chief Imam of Ghana which owned it as a national document for Muslims and submitted it to the President of the Republic of Ghana.



Some of the participants at the conference



Some of the participants at the conference



Alhaji Rahim Gbadamosi, delivering his address during the conference



Sheikh Armiyawo Shaibu, delivering his address during the conference

# STRATEGIC ENGAGEMENTS FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

## BPI INAUGURATES COMMITTEE TO DRAFT A NATIONAL MUSLIM EDUCATION STRATEGY

The Baraka Policy Institute (BPI) has inaugurated a committee to draft an education strategy for Muslims in Ghana. The drafting of the National Education Strategy for Muslims in Ghana was one of the key recommendations of the National Strategic Conference on Muslim Education held on May 21, 2016 in Accra under the sponsorship of Baraka Policy Institute.

The committee was inaugurated by the President of BPI, Mr. Salem Kalmoni on Saturday, 11th March, 2017 at the Marina Park, Lakeside Estate, Ashaley Botwe in Accra.

Key among other items to be considered by the committee was to do broad national consultations with all stakeholders in the framework of generating a strategic document on moving Muslim education forward.

The committee as part of its reference is to identify and

consult key Muslim stakeholders in connection with the drafting of national education strategy for Muslims which would be a comprehensive Ghana Muslim Education Strategy in the context of national educational goals.

Also, the committee is to include in the strategy key fundamentals of educational needs of Muslims in Ghana from the basic to the tertiary levels.

Moreover the committee is to take into consideration the key relevant outcomes of the National Strategic Conference on Muslim Education in Ghana held in May, 2016.

Lastly the committee is to accomplish its task within a period of 6 months beginning March, 2017.



Some members of the National Muslim Education Strategy Committee

# STRATEGIC ENGAGEMENTS FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

## BPI ORGANISES NATIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING CONFERENCE FOR MUSLIM COMMUNITY YOUTH LEADERS IN GHANA

BPI organized a national conference for selected 95 Muslim community Youth leaders from all over Ghana to deliberate on common challenges confronting the development of their respective communities and also receive capacity building training in leadership and community development. The conference was under the theme “Enhancing the Capacity of the Muslim youth for Sustainable Community Development” and was held from 21-22 October, 2016 at the Institute of Local Government Studies in Accra. The conference was sponsored by the US Embassy in Accra. Key personalities including officials from the US Embassy participated in the conference as Resource persons. The conference sought to provide practical skills and knowledge for transformational

leadership to the selected influential youth leaders across the Muslim communities in Ghana. Three main topics were delivered by resource persons which included, The Muslim Youth, Peacebuilding and Development, delivered by Mr Haruna Zagoon-Sayeed, the Executive Director of Baraka Policy Institute (BPI); Strategies for Promoting Sustainable Development in Muslim Communities in Ghana, delivered by Sheikh Armiyawo Shaibu, Regional Manager of the Islamic Education Unit, Accra and Leadership Imperatives for Concrete Community Progress, delivered by Sheikh Ishaak Nuamah, an Educationist. Participants gained skills and knowledge on effective and purposeful youth mobilization for community development.



Some Dignitaries at the conference



Some Participants at the conference

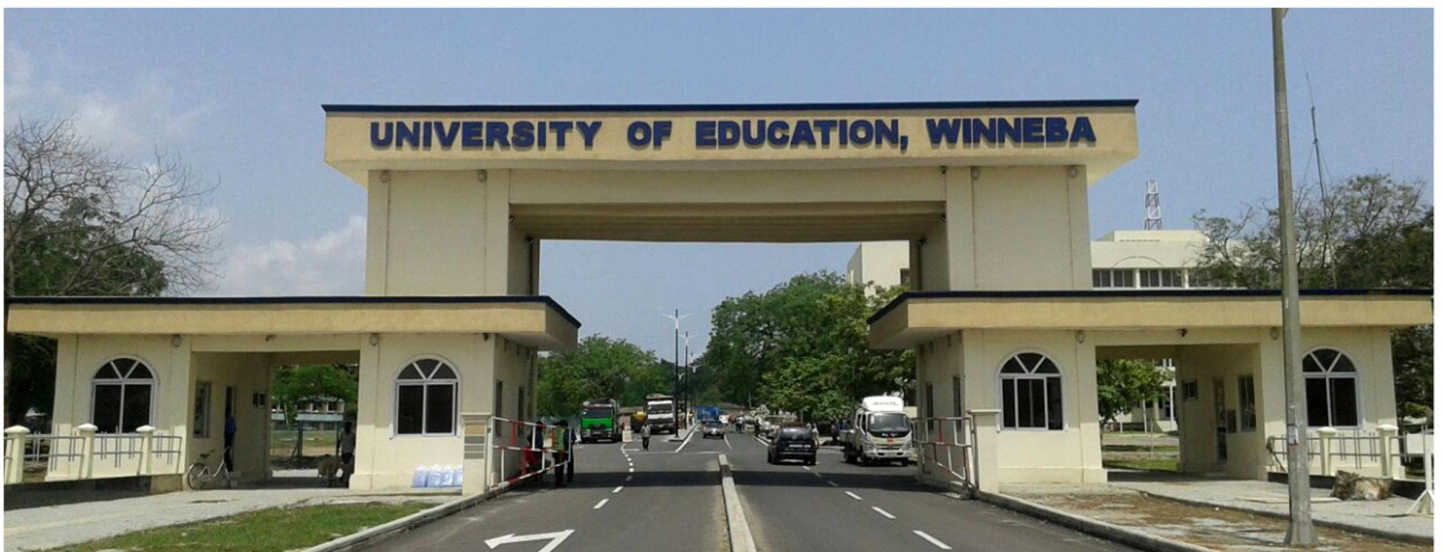


# STRATEGIC ENGAGEMENTS FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

## **BPI FACILITATES AN IMMERSION PROGRAMME FOR STUDENTS OF UNIVERSITY OF EDUCATION, WINNEBA (UEW) OFFERING ARABIC LANGUAGE EDUCATION.**

In its efforts to promote the effective learning of Arabic language in Ghana, BPI entered into several negotiations with some relevant stakeholders. One such collaboration was the immersion programme for final year students of the Faculty of Education, UEW, offering Arabic education. The agreement was signed between three institutions namely, the University of Education, Winneba, the Durra Institute of Languages (sponsor/immersion institution)

and the Madina Institute of Science & Tech (MIST) as the facility provider with BPI as the facilitator. The immersion programme successfully came off at MIST from June to August, 2017 and students from UEW, Kumasi campus pursuing Arabic Education benefited immensely from it. The programme hopes to continue in the subsequent years and BPI will continue provide its capacity building support and advisory role.



# STRATEGIC PARTNERING FOR NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

## BPI PARTICIPATES IN THE DRAFTING OF A LEGISLATIVE INSTRUMENT (LI) FOR NAP.

**B**PI continued its working relationship with the Ministry of Health, WHO and the Coalition of NGOs in Health towards the drafting and passage of an LI for the National Alcohol Policy (NAP) which was launched and adopted by Ghana in March 2017. BPI is a member of the technical committee responsible for the drafting of the LI chaired by the CEO of the Mental Health

Authority, Dr Akwasi Osei. Other stakeholder members of the technical committee includes, the Ministry of Health, Mental Health Authority, Food and Drugs Authority, World Health Organisation and VALD representing the Coalition of NGOs in Health. The process has begun earnestly and BPI is actively involved in providing both financial and technical support to the process.



MINISTRY OF HEALTH  
REPUBLIC OF GHANA



WHO

# STRATEGIC PARTNERING FOR NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

## **BPI SUPPORTS MENTAL HEALTH AUTHORITY TO RAISE FUNDS FOR THE REHABILITATION OF MENTAL HEALTH FACILITIES AT THE ACCRA PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL.**

BPI extended its health and general wellbeing campaign to the mental health authority by attending a national fundraising activity organized by the Accra Psychiatric Hospital outfit and making a donation in that regard. BPI also participated in the celebration of the 2017 annual mental health awareness. The activities were held in May

2017. Subsequently, BPI received an official working visit by the Director of the Accra Psychiatric Hospital at its office premises at East legon in Accra. The two bodies had a fruitful deliberations towards improving mental health in Ghana.



# MENTAL HEALTH AUTHORITY

Total Health



# STRATEGIC PARTNERING FOR NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

## **BPI PETITIONS GOVERNMENT ON THE SUGGESTION TO RETURN MISSION SCHOOLS TO RELIGIOUS BODIES**

BPI submitted a petition to the Minister of Education, Hon Matthew Opoku Prempeh on 22nd June, 2017 at the Ministry of Education in Accra. The team was led by BPI president, Mr Salem Kalmoni accompanied by the Executive Director and Head of Programmes. It had a very revealing and heartwarming deliberations with the Minister in his office at the Ministry of Education. BPI petitioned the government not to embark on any such policy to return the management and supervision of senior high schools belonging to the missions to their original owners. In the view of BPI, such a move would aggravates the plights of the underprivileged children as it could deny them

access to these schools which are among the well-resourced public schools in Ghana. Such a move could also be detrimental to the national efforts in ensuring national cohesion. BPI's view was clearly articulated to the Minister who held a lengthy discussions on the issue with the BPI team emphatically saying government had no intention for such a move.

BPI also sent the same petition to the office of the President of the Republic of Ghana. This was done under the auspices of the office of the National Chief Imam of Ghana.



**DR MATTHEW OPOKU-PREMPEH,  
Hon. Minister of Education**



# OPEN ADVOCACY & VISIBILITY

## BPI ORGANIZES THIRD ANNIVERSARY LECTURES IN ACCRA, HELD ON FEBRUARY 23, 2017 AT THE GHANA ACADEMY OF ART & SCIENCES.

**B**araka Policy Institute (BPI) on Thursday, February 23, 2017 organised its third successive anniversary lectures at the Ghana Academy of Arts and Sciences. The lecture was under the theme: ***“In Quest Of Life Opportunities For All-The key Issues”***.

Speaking on the topic: ***“Ensuring Inclusive and Equitable Quality Tertiary Education in Ghana: The key Issues”***, the former Vice Chancellor of the University of Professional Studies, Professor Joshua Alabi proposed to the government to merge the smaller public universities to boost their global visibility and reduce the cost of university education. He went on further to say that quality education require quality staff which is key to developing tertiary education and therefore, when smaller universities were merged, it would enable them to engage more qualified lecturers to produce quality students.



**Prof. Joshua Alabi speaking at the BPI 3rd Anniversary Lectures**

Expressing great concern for the education of the vulnerable, Prof. Alabi said access to tertiary education was the right of everyone, and appealed to universities to review their entry requirements in order to admit more students from less-endowed senior high schools. He said the learning process and the content of learning in tertiary education should change to produce quality students who could compete with students from the developed world.



**Dr. K. Ohene Sarfo, addressing the participants at the 3rd Anniversary Lectures**

Expressing great concern for the education of the vulnerable, Prof. Alabi said access to tertiary education was the right of everyone, and appealed to universities to review their entry requirements in order to admit more students from less-endowed senior high schools. He said the learning process and the content of learning in tertiary education should change to produce quality students who could compete with students from the developed world.

Giving his submission on the topic: ***“Developing Inner Cities In Ghana: the Vision and the Realities”***, Dr. K. Ohene Sarfo who represented the Minister of Inner City

# OPEN ADVOCACY & VISIBILITY

and Zongo communities in Ghana. He however stated that there would be various discussions and consultations with the leaders of these communities in order to provide them with their critical and immediate needs especially relating to education since education is a key factor for development.



**Mr. Alhassan Andani, BPI Board Chairman, addressing the participants at the BPI 3rd Anniversary Lectures**

Mr. Alhassan Andani, the Board Chairman of BPI stated that, BPI seeks to ensure equity within the context of Ghana's development through education. He mentioned that, education and wellbeing holds the key to socio-economic development of the nation. Adding that his outfit had outlined programmes that were focused on the education of the deprived especially the vulnerable and the general wellbeing of the citizenry.

The Public lecture brought together over 500 participants from various institutions including, the Ghana Education Service (GES), University Teachers Association of Ghana (UTAG), Vice-Chancellors and Presidents of Tertiary Institutions, Ghana National Association of Teachers (GNAT), Traditional/Community leaders, Heads of Departments of various Tertiary Institutions, Lecturers, Religious leaders, Head teachers, Civil Society groups, Media houses, Student bodies among several others.

At the end of the day, 92.8% of the views sampled from these participants indicated that the lecture was well organised, 98.4% were satisfied with the speakers,

especially Prof. Joshua Alabi. Also 98% of the participants agreed that the information was relevant to national development whereas 94% thought that the question and answer session was useful.

Some participants also suggested that BPI should frequently organise such a public seminar and more time allocated to it.



**Some of the participants at the BPI 3rd Anniversary Lectures**



**Some of the participants at the BPI 3rd Anniversary Lectures**

# OPEN ADVOCACY & VISIBILITY

## BPI PUBLISHES THE SECOND EDITION OF “THE BARAKA”(A BPI ANNUAL DEVELOPMENT MAGAZINE)

**T**he February, 2017 edition of “The Baraka” BPI’s annual development magazine has been published. This is the second edition of the magazine and contains various articles and reports on activities undertaken by BPI in 2016 and other related stories and events which occurred during the same period. Some major features in the magazine includes:

- Education and Wellbeing are life imperatives (Cover Story)
- Caliber Of Graduates From The Tertiary Institutions
- The State Of Gender Parity, Underprivileged And Minority Enrollments In Public Universities In Ghana – A BPI research report
- Searching for Panacea For Exam Malpractice in Ghana-The Need To Look Beyond WAEC
- Improving School Performance through Effective Educational Leadership
- Reduce The Academics, Focus On Skills To Develop Ghana’s Natural Resources
- BPI Organizes National Capacity Building Conference for Influential Muslim Youth Leaders
- BPI Participates in the 2nd International Conference on Education Research for Development in Africa (ICERDA 2016)
- BPI Collaborates with Stakeholders to Introduce Arabic at WASSCE
- BPI Still on Project NAP



## BPI SUPPORTS MINISTRY OF HEALTH (MOH) TO LAUNCH THE NATIONAL ALCOHOL POLICY (NAP)

The harmful use of alcohol is a cause for great concern globally and nationally. Though alcohol use is part of the Ghanaian culture and society, the current trend of consumption and inadequate regulation of alcohol adverts in both the print and the electronic media is a source of worry. Yet the seriousness of this issue does not seem to register with the general public hence not much has been done to regulate the sector. The informal sector, which produces alcoholic beverages with high percentage of ethyl alcohol, is also largely unregulated.

It was in the light of this, that the Baraka Policy Institute (BPI) supported the Ministry of Health (MOH) to launch the National Alcohol Policy to address these serious issues. The Policy which was developed by the Ministry of Health (MOH) with support from and the World Health Organisation (WHO) was launched at the Ministry of Health on Friday 17, 2017 in Accra. The policy seeks to regulate the production, distribution, marketing and consumption of alcohol in Ghana.

Giving an overview of the policy, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Mental Health Authority, Dr. Akwasi Osei, indicated that, there would be a National Alcohol Commission to oversee its implementation and also a special task force to do implementation.

Launching the policy, the Minister of Health, Hon. Kwaku Agyeman-Manu also expressed the hope that the implementation of the policy would culminate in the drafting of legislation on alcohol use.

In his address, Mr. Alhassan Andani, the Board chair of BPI and also the Chairman for the occasion said that, the policy

would go a long way to help reduce the impact of harmful effects of alcohol on individuals and families.

The President of BPI, Mr. Salem Kalmoni in his address stated that the realization of this policy would contribute to the protection of the future of our youth and the vulnerable in society. He also reiterated that, Baraka Policy Institute (BPI) would continually support the Ministry to ensure the development and the adoption of the legislative instrument (LI).



Mr. Salem Kalmoni, BPI President, delivering his address during the launch

The WHO Country Representative, Dr. Owen Laws Kaluwa, also commended Ghana for launching the policy. He indicated that the policy would improve good health and the general Well being of the citizenry. Also, he stated that Ghana was one of the few African countries which have not put in place legislation on alcohol use and, therefore, called on policy makers to expedite action on implementing the policy.

On her part, the Chief Executive Officer of the Food and Drugs Authority (FDA), Madam Delese Mimi Darko, indicated that it is part of their responsibility to assist the Ministry in achieving the Sustainable Development Goal 3

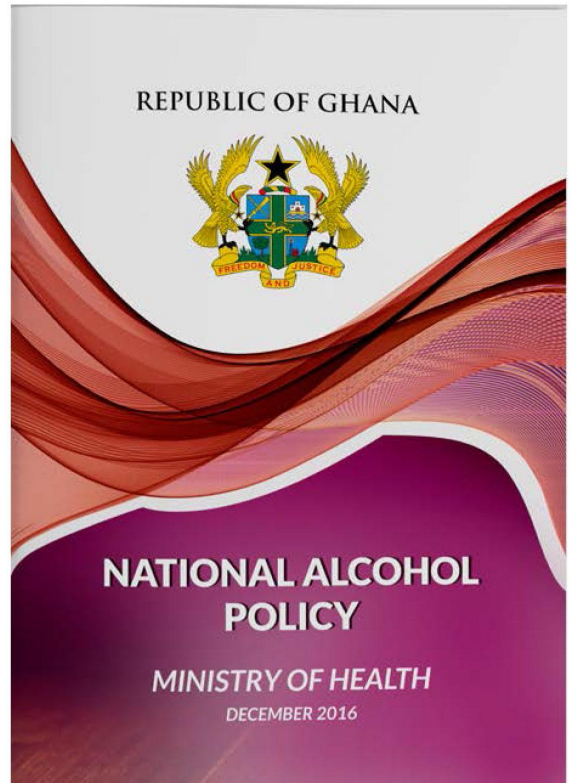
# OPEN ADVOCACY & VISIBILITY

which is, ensuring healthy life and promoting wellbeing for all and of all ages. She also pledged the FDA's readiness to help with the full implementation of the policy.



Some of the participants at the launch

Baraka Policy Institute made available 400 copies of the policy to the Ministry for public distribution.



A copy of the Policy



## BPI PAYS COURTESY CALL ON THE VICE PRESIDENT OF GHANA

**A** BPI delegation led by its president, Mr Salem Kalmoni paid a courtesy call on the Vice President, Dr Alhaji Mahamudu Bawumiah in his office at the flagstaff house in Accra on 26th May, 2017. This was an official visit for the BPI to have an interaction with him. BPI introduced itself and outlined some of its core activities. BPI also raised some key policy issues and concerns to the attention of the Vice president including the

suggestion by government to handover schools to their religious owners and also some general development concerns, especially, improving the human capital of the underprivileged in society. The Vice president assured the leadership of BPI of his support and also promised to work on issues raised. He particularly, refuted the claim of government intending to return mission schools to their original owners and said that could not be possible since these schools are now state-owned.



**The Vice President of the Republic of Ghana,  
H.E Alhaji Dr Mahamudu Bawumia**

## PUBLICATIONS

**B**PI made a newspaper Article publication in the Daily Graphic Monday June 12, 2017, page 91. The article was on the topic ***“Returning Mission Schools to Religious Bodies in Ghana, My Candid Opinion”*** written by Haruna Zagoon-Sayeed, the Executive Director of BPI. The article was an expression of opinion by the author (reflecting the views of BPI) in the wake of a

supposed announcement by the Minister of Education of government intention to handover over the ownership and management of mission schools to the religious bodies in the country. The Article cautioned government to be circumspect with implementing such a policy as it would be inimical to the social cohesion of the country and also deprive the less privileged and minorities of quality education.



**Dr. Haruna Zagoon-Sayeed**  
Executive Director, BPI

# OPEN ADVOCACY & VISIBILITY

## BPI PUBLISHES QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER BRIEFS

**B**PI published a quarterly newsletter brief for its stakeholders. The newsletter gave a summary account of activities undertaken by BPI during each quarter of the year. The newsletter was sent to the emails of all stakeholders with hard copies kept on file at the office. Two

quarterly newsletters were published, the first quarter (January-March, 2017) and the second quarter (April-June, 2017).







# Baraka Policy Institute

## ANNUAL REPORT 2017

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