

BPI ORGANISES ITS 3RD ANNIVERSARY LECTURES

Baraka Policy Institute (BPI) on Thursday, February 23, 2017 organised its third successive anniversary lectures at the Ghana Academy of Arts and Sciences. The lectures 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”*, a 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 and quality staff were 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. 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.



Prof. Joshua Alabi, former Vice-Chancellor of UPSA, speaking at the 3rd Anniversary Lectures

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 and Zongo Development explained that various programmes had been outlined to develop the inner cities 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.



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

In his welcome address, the Executive Director of BPI, Mr. Haruna Zagoon-Sayeed, said most students who were able to enter tertiary institutions were those who went to well-endowed schools, while students from the less-endowed schools were usually left behind. He underscored the need for people in Zongo communities, rural areas and deprived communities to be given equal opportunities as those in urban and well-developed communities.



Mr. Haruna Zagoon-Sayeed, BPI Executive Director, addressing the participants

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.



Mr. Alhassan Andani, BPI Board Chairman, addressing the participants

This Public lecture brought together over 500 participants from various sectors including Ghana Education Service (GES), University Teachers Association of Ghana (UTAG), Vice-Chancellors and Presidents of Tertiary Institutions, international missions in Ghana, Ghana National Association of Teachers (GNAT), West African Examination Council (WAEC), Traditional/Community leaders, Heads of Departments of various Tertiary Institutions, Lecturers, Religious leaders, Head teachers, Civil Society groups, Student bodies among 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.

Moreover, some participants suggested that BPI should frequently organise such programmes and more time should be allocated. Also they were of the view that BPI should organise a dedicated programme on Inner cities and Zongo development for Zongo chiefs and community leaders.