



BPI QUARTERLY BRIEFS

A Newsletter from Baraka Policy Institute

JANUARY – MARCH, 2017
ISSUE NO. 001



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Justice, Independence, Progress and Compassion

OUR CORE VALUES

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 well 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 the Baraka Policy Institute (BPI) and the World Health Organisation (WHO) was launched at the Ministry of Health on Friday, March 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 the 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 remarks, the chairman of the occasion, Mr. Alhassan Andani said that, the policy would go a long way to help reduce the harmful effects of alcohol on individuals and families.



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



Hon. Kwaku Agyeman-Manu, Minister of Health, launching the National Alcohol Policy

Mr. Andani who is the Board Chair of BPI stated that BPI is committed in ensuring that the National Alcohol Policy is backed by a Legislative Instrument (LI) which will ensure that the policy achieves its purpose.

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 the youth and the vulnerable in society. He also reiterated that, Baraka Policy Institute (BPI) would continue to support the Ministry to ensure the development and the adoption of the legislative instrument (LI).

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

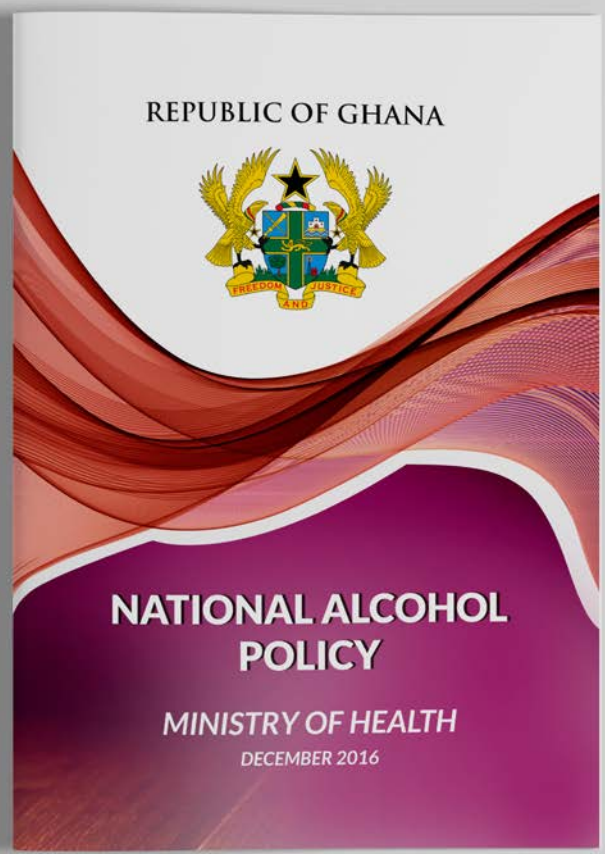
the citizenry. Also, he stated that Ghana was one of the few African countries which have not put in place legislation on alcohol use and, therefore, called on policy makers to expedite action on implementing the policy.

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 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.

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



Mr Alhassan Andani, the chairman for the occasion, delivering his address during the launching of the National Alcohol Policy. With him are Dr. Akwasi Osei, Head of the Technical team for the draft of the National Alcohol Policy and CEO, Mental Health Authority, (extreme right), Hon. Kwaku Agyeman-Manu, Minister of Health, Dr Owen Laws Kaluwa, WHO Country Representative and Madam Delese Mimi Darko, CEO, Food and Drugs Authority (FDA).



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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 Muslims 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 and submit the draft by 13th September, 2017.



Some members of the National Muslim Education Strategy Committee

The membership of the committee is as follows:

1	Dr. Gamel Nasser, Senior Lecturer, University of Ghana	Chairman
2	Alhaji Mohammed Haroon, Director of Education, N/R	Member
3	Naa Alhaji Ali Pelpuo, Registrar, MIST	Member
4	Sheikh Armiyawo Shaibu, former IUE Regional Manager/ Educationist	Member
5	Hajia Sherifatu Abukari, Headmistress, Islamic Girls School, Suhum	Member
6	Madam May Kalmoni, An Architectural Consultant	Member
7	Sheikh Ishaq Nuamah, An Educationist	Member
8	Sheikh Mohammed Kamil, President, Federation of Islamic Schools	Member
9	Dr. Abdul Baasit A. Bamba, Lecturer, University of Ghana	Member
10	Adam Yunus, Head of Research & Programs, BPI	Secretary
11	The Executive Director of BPI shall be an ex-officio member of the committee	

BPI Organises Third Anniversary Lectures, 2017



Some of the participants at the BPI 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 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 requires 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.

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

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 hold 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



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

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 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 should be allotted to it.

BPI Publishes the Second Edition of “THE BARAKA” (A BPI Annual Development Magazine)

The 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 include:

- ➔ 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





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