

Report: Ato Keelson, Takoradi,
W/R

The Convention People's Party (CPP) last week Sunday held a mammoth rally at the Takoradi Jubilee Park in the Western Region.

Led by police escort, the CPP flag bearer, Dr. Paa Kwesi Nduom, who stood in his open top car, with his convoy of party stalwarts, responded to cheers from sympathizers and supporters of the party. People also lined up the streets to catch a glimpse of the prospective youth president, whilst others did the 'yeresasamu' dance to the admiration of the CPP flag bearer.

There was spontaneous joy when Dr. Nduom arrived at the rally ground, as his car was completely besieged by a large crowd of enthusiastic party faithful, making it difficult for his driver to park to enable him alight. The event



Dr. Paa Kwesi Nduom, CPP
Presidential Candidate.

brought together thousands of CPP members who had come from far and near within the region, to show their

support for their flag bearer. And one highlight of the rally was that, many of the supporters were youth. Dressed in party T-shirts, they shouted and chanted the CPP 'yeresasamu' slogan.

Being the first to address the crowd, the Operations Director of the CPP, Mr. Ekow Duncan, could not fathom why in spite of its rich natural resources, western region is lagging behind in development. "We have the riches but we are poor", he said. He asked them to exercise their franchise wisely by voting for the CPP on December 7.

He intimated that, Dr. Nduom's leadership when given the mandate, will continue the good policies of the late Dr. Kwame Nkrumah. He cautioned them against deceptive tactics of the other political parties, maintaining that, a vote for any of them would make the country poor.

PPAG advocates improved reproductive health care

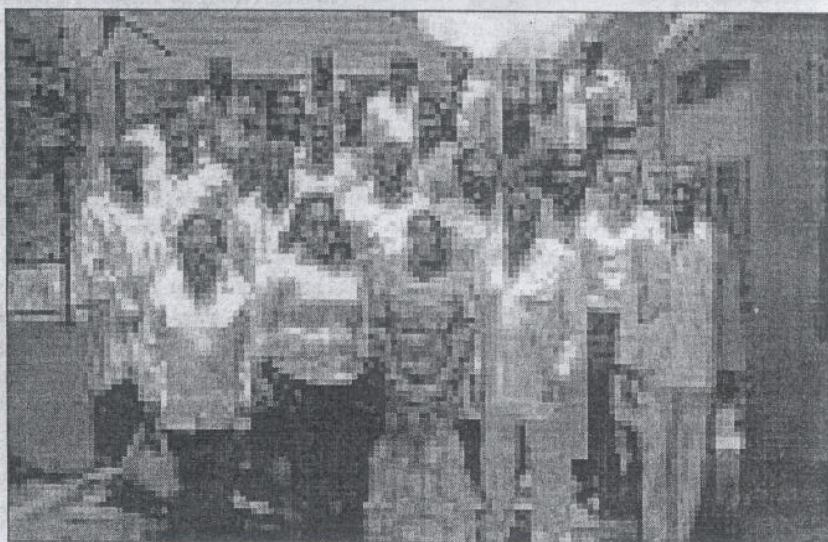
Report: Bernard Ato Arthur

Nana Amma Oforiwaa Sam, Planned Parenthood Association of Ghana's (PPAG) National Advocacy Officer, has lamented that, the attention of the whole world is now focused mainly on HIV/AIDS, and malaria to the neglect of family planning issues.

She was speaking at the association's first two-day retreat held in Accra. The programme, which was aimed at strengthening National Level Advocacy on Reproductive Health in Ghana, was undertaken by three partners, Population Action International (PAI), German Development Foundation (DSW), and London based International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) with over 120 members association and 44 in Africa.

Basically, their goal is to increase financial and political commitment to sustainable RH supplies through international co-ordination and support of National Advocacy Strategy Development in developing countries.

According to her, Sexual Reproductive Health is no longer a health issue, but a developmental one, and therefore called on civil society organizations that are into reproductive health and stakeholders, to approach the issue holistically and advocate a



Nana Amma Oforiwaa Sam, Planned Parenthood Association of Ghana's National Advocacy Officer, IN KENTE CLOTH together with some participants.

sustainable funding and treatment supply.

She was however not enthused with the drastic change in the flow of aid, which is now being channeled through central governments and ownership of development priorities to the detriment of those who are into reproductive health. Amma Sam noted that, they are now using Multi Donor Budgetary Support, where various donors put in money out of which the ministry of health allocates to the various ministries, and said, that can only be

termed as a drop in an ocean, because there is no clear cut budgetary allocation for contraceptives.

She entreated all stakeholders to come together to set up a sustainable fund that will help move their campaign forward. This, she said, is because the consequences of failing to achieve our reproductive health commodity security aims would be very painful to contemplate. Facilitators include Pierre Moon-IPPF/AKO, Regional Co-ordinator for project RMA, Arthur Jason-UMATI, PPAG- Tanzania.

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