

## **Adansi Asokwa District Assembly Promotes Inclusive Healthcare Through Stakeholder Engagement with Persons with Disabilities**

**Adansi Asokwa, Ashanti Region – May 27, 2026**

The Adansi Asokwa District Assembly, through its Department of Social Welfare and Community Development, has taken a significant step toward improving healthcare accessibility for Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) by organizing a Stakeholders' Engagement Program on Accessing Quality Health Care in District Health Facilities.

The engagement, held at the Business Resource Centre (BRC Conference Room in Asokwa, brought together 60 participants, including health workers, members of the Disability Fund Management Committee (DFMC), representatives of persons with disabilities, caregivers, and disability leaders. The forum provided a unique platform for direct dialogue between service providers and persons with disabilities to discuss challenges affecting access to healthcare and identify practical solutions.



The program was organized in line with the provisions of the Persons with Disability Act, 2006 (Act 715), and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, both of which emphasize equal access to healthcare and protection from discrimination. The initiative reflects the Assembly's commitment to ensuring that all residents, regardless of disability status, can access quality healthcare services with dignity and respect. Addressing participants, the District Chief Executive, Hon. Albert Dakura, underscored the Assembly's commitment to the welfare of persons with disabilities and stressed that access to quality healthcare is a fundamental right. He encouraged health workers to provide services in a manner that promotes dignity, patience, and respect for all clients, particularly persons with disabilities who often face unique challenges when accessing healthcare.

A major highlight of the engagement was an open dialogue session led by Madam Christiana Oparebea, who represented persons with disabilities in the district. Participants candidly shared experiences and concerns regarding the healthcare services they receive at various health facilities.

Among the key concerns raised were the failure of some facilities to issue receipts for payments made by clients, high charges imposed by some medical officers for completing forms required to access social welfare support, poor reception by some nursing staff, lack of empathy toward persons with disabilities, inadequate accessibility infrastructure, and the absence of sign language interpretation services for persons with hearing impairments.



Participants emphasized that these challenges often discourage persons with disabilities from seeking timely healthcare and appealed to health workers to adopt a more inclusive and compassionate approach to service delivery.

Responding to the concerns raised, health workers led by Mr. James Biezu acknowledged the issues and expressed appreciation to participants for their honesty and constructive feedback.

The health workers committed to ensuring that receipts are issued for all payments made at health facilities and pledged to engage facility management on reviewing charges associated with the completion of forms required for social welfare support. They also apologized for instances of poor reception by staff and promised to strengthen customer care and disability etiquette training across health facilities within the district.

Furthermore, health workers agreed to intensify disability inclusion sensitization programs for healthcare staff, advocate for improved accessibility infrastructure, and explore partnerships with disability groups to identify and train community members who can provide sign language interpretation services at health facilities. These commitments were welcomed by participants as important steps toward creating a more inclusive healthcare environment.

The District Social Welfare and Community Development Officer, Mr. Jeffery Amo-Asare, used the occasion to educate participants on the various support services available to persons with disabilities through the Department.

He explained that the Disability Fund provides assistance for income-generating activities, education and skills training, and medical support. He encouraged eligible persons with disabilities to apply through the appropriate channels to benefit from these interventions. In

addition, he outlined other services offered by the Department, including referrals for medical assessments, assistance with documentation, and linkages to other social protection programs. Mr. Amo-Asare also appealed to persons with disabilities and their caregivers to take advantage of the free National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) renewal services available to them. He noted that maintaining active health insurance coverage is essential for reducing healthcare costs and improving access to medical services.



The engagement concluded with an interactive question-and-answer session, during which participants sought clarification on Disability Fund eligibility requirements, NHIS renewal procedures, and the implementation of commitments made by health workers. Participants expressed satisfaction with the responses provided and commended the organizers for creating an open and inclusive platform for dialogue.

In his closing remarks, the Convenor of the Social Services Sub-Committee, Hon. Issaka Appiah, thanked all stakeholders for their active participation and assured them that the issues raised and commitments made would be monitored to ensure implementation. He reaffirmed the Assembly's determination to promote inclusion and improve the quality of life for persons with disabilities across the district.

The Stakeholders' Engagement Program demonstrated the importance of collaboration in addressing barriers to healthcare access for persons with disabilities. By bringing together healthcare providers, disability advocates, community leaders, and government officials, the Adansi Asokwa District Assembly has laid the foundation for stronger partnerships and practical actions aimed at ensuring that no person is denied quality healthcare because of disability.

The Assembly remains committed to working with all stakeholders to build a healthcare system that is accessible, responsive, and inclusive for every resident of the district.