

Education

Promoting Ghanaian languages in basic schools...

Draft policy to be presented to Cabinet

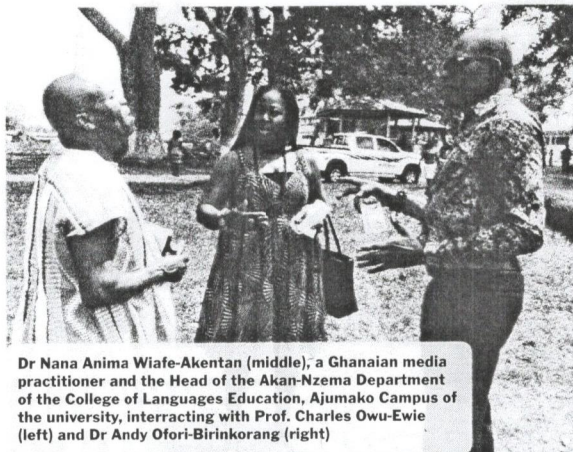
By Timothy Gobah, AJUMAKO

A DRAFT policy to make Ghanaian language a medium of instruction in basic schools, will soon be presented to Cabinet for consideration.

The policy, which is being crafted by a team of educational experts from some public universities in the country, will give a transition period during which a teacher can use the language to ensure effective teaching and learning.

The Dean, Faculty of Ghanaian Language Education, Ajumako Campus of the University of Education, Winneba, Prof. Charles Owu-Ewie, made this known when he addressed a durbar to mark the International Mother

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Dr Nana Anima Wiafe-Akentan (middle), a Ghanaian media practitioner and the Head of the Akan-Nzema Department of the College of Languages Education, Ajumako Campus of the university, interacting with Prof. Charles Owu-Ewie (left) and Dr Andy Ofori-Birinkorang (right)

Language Day at Ajumako recently.

It was on the theme: "Indigenous Languages Matter for Development, Peace Building and Reconciliation".

The International Mother Language Day (IMLD) is a worldwide annual observance held on February 21 to

promote awareness of linguistic and cultural diversity and promote multilingualism.

Policy

Prof. Owu-Ewie said since the time of Gordon Guggisberg, no permanent

policy had been designed to shape the direction of the use of the Ghanaian language in schools.

"We are spearheading a language policy. We hope this time round, this policy will be accepted by the government and its sustainability assured", he said.

He attributed the menace of vigilantism, kidnapping and the ills being currently witnessed in the society to lack of cohesion and how society had abandoned "being each other's keeper."

"Interestingly, when people are campaigning to win power, they resort to the use of the indigenous language but when they win power, they abandon the language", Prof. Owu-Ewie said.

Positive effect

The Dean, Centre for International Programme and Member of the Governing Council of the University, Prof. Yaw Sekyi-Baidoo, underscored the need to extend the crusade on the importance of the Ghanaian language and the positive effect of the language to the people in the communities.

He expressed concern over the absence of interesting books in Ghanaian language in the schools, questioning: "What has been the voice of an academic in respect of our language? What can we do to make it relevant?"

The Dean, Faculty of Foreign Languages Education and Communication, University of Education, Winneba, Dr Andy Ofori-Birinkorang, who chaired the occasion, stressed the importance of the mother tongue in the country's development efforts saying, "no country can develop without the use of the mother tongue."