## **GHANAIAN Times**

## WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31, 2018

## MOBA launches GH¢4m Endowment Fund

BY JONATHAN DONKOR

HE Mfantsipim Old Boys Association (MOBA), is to launch a GHe4million endowment fund for its Cape Coast-based alma mater, in March this year.

The "MOBA Endowment Fund" would be the major financial resource for the country's first secondary school, when government hands its management back to the Methodist Church which established it in 1876.

At the association's annual National Conference and Business Fair in Accra on Saturday, its President (Ebusuapanyin) Captain Paul Forjoe said more than Ghe Imillion had already been secured for the fund.

The event is a national platform for all "Old boys" to deliberate on issues concerning the school's development with this year's edition introducing a business fair to boost trade.

The call for government to hand

over mission schools back to their respective churches has been mging for some years with President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo assuring of government's willingness to do so in line with a 2016 campaign promise. No timeline has yet been set.

According to Captain Forjoe the various mission churches were in talks with government over the terms for the return of the schools.

He said although the Methodist Church-Ghana desired to have its schools returned, it did not have the financial strength hence the decision by MOBA to establish among others, the endowment fund.

"What we have told them [the church] is that we as old boys will put in place the mechanism to give you the confidence that there is money and that you don't need government to run the school. If we can do that the Methodist church is willing to work with us to take over the school," he said.

Captain Forjoe said Fidelity Bank had been nominated as fund manager with fund deeds and other documentation completed and endorsed by the MOBA National Council.

He said the Methodist Church had adopted a step by step approach to get back its school and was currently discussing with government to give the church the power to appoint the headmaster for the school.

He charged all old boys to support the fund and the development of the school that shaped their formative years so other generations would benefit from the school.

Headmaster of the school, Mr. Manfred Barton Odro, in his report said out of 1,056 candidates who sat for the 2017 West African Senior School Certificate Examination (WASSCE), 21 had 8A1s; 19 had 7A1s and 33 had 6A1s.

He said almost all candidates qualified for admission into tertiary institutes. He appealed for renovation of the school's Masters' Flat and bung thous which were deteriorating.

Dr Andrew Ananie Arkutu, a medical doctor (MOBA 1955), delivering a keynote address, expressed worry over indiscipline in the country and stressed the need to change the medical major through quality education.



· Mfantsipim Old boys in a group photograph