

# Zongo Development Fund: impacting lives, transforming communities

By Musah Yahaya Jafaru

## Politics is about advancing human dignity and prosperity- Karl Rove.

It was precisely to advance human dignity and bring prosperity to the Ghanaian people that President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, as candidate of the New Patriotic Party (NPP) in 2016, promised

to put in place programmes that would ensure equal opportunity for all Ghanaians irrespective of their creed, place of birth or social circumstance. A key part of the promise to establish a society of opportunity for all was to establish a Zongo Development Fund, to be superintended by a Zongo and Inner-City Development Minister. In presenting his Coordinated Programme of Economic and Social Development Policies, 2017-2024, the President did indeed make good his promise to establish a Zongo Development Fund for the purposes of addressing the development deficit that had been the bane of Zongo communities since independence.

businesses and centres of culture, as well as improve security in Zongo communities. The ZoDF is expected to leverage its seed fund to attract additional funding from international partners, private sector institutions, civil society organisations and other non-governmental organisations.



**Dr. Mustapha Abdul-Hamid, Minister of Inner-City and Zongo Development.**

million. If indeed, the country is to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, key among which is the creation of sustainable communities, then the Zongo development agenda becomes even more imperative. Ever since the establishment of the ministry and the fund, therefore, they have been pursuing an aggressive agenda

There are over 3,000 Zongo communities scattered across the country, with an estimated population of about five

**Mr Arafat Sulemana Abdulai, the acting CEO of Zongo Development Fund(ZoDF)**



Page 116 of the President's Coordinated Programme of Economic and Social Development Policies, 2017-2024, states:

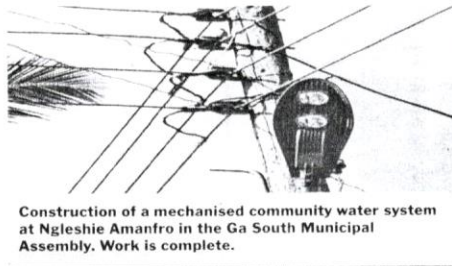
"As part of the efforts to develop Zongo communities, government will set up a Zongo Development Fund (ZoDF) with seed funding of GH¢219.5 million. The fund will support the provision of critical infrastructure in education and training, health and sanitation, local



**Construction of six-unit classroom block for Mariam Bintu Islamic School at Agogo Zongo in the Asante Akim North Constituency of the Ashanti Region. The project is over 95 per cent complete.**



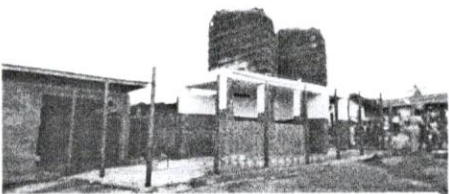
**Construction and furnishing of a six-unit classroom block at Manso Zongo in the Amenfi Central District of the Western Region. Project is about 65% complete.**



**Construction of a mechanised community water system at Ngleshie Amanfro in the Ga South Municipal Assembly. Work is complete.**



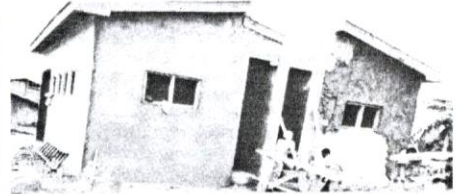
**Rehabilitation of a community health post at Kpando in the Kpando District of the Volta Region. Project is over 95 per cent complete.**



**Construction of a mechanised community water system at Bibiani Zongo in the Bibiani/Anhwaso/Bekwai District of the Western North Region. Work is complete.**



**Construction of drains and a retaining wall at Asem in the Kumasi Metropolis of the Ashanti Region. Work is about 45 per cent complete.**

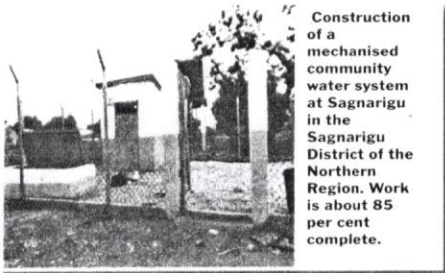


**Construction of a 10-seater institutional toilet facility at Anwiaso Zongo in the Denkyembour District of the Eastern Region. Project is about 60 per cent complete.**

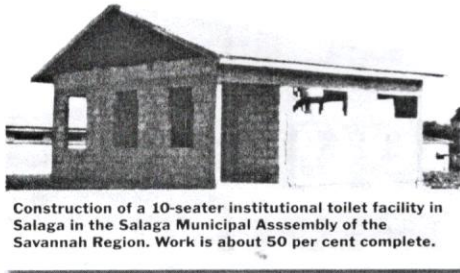




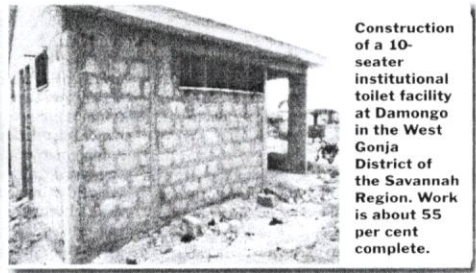
MDs OVER THE YEARS



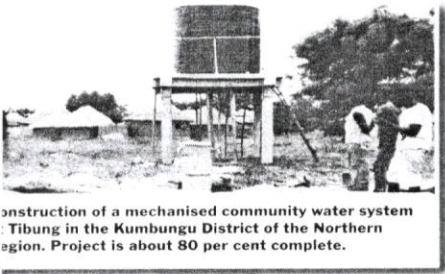
Construction of a mechanised community water system at Sagnarigu in the Sagnarigu District of the Northern Region. Work is about 85 per cent complete.



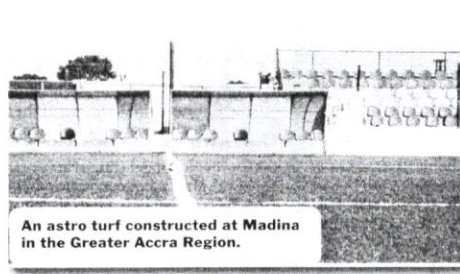
Construction of a 10-seater institutional toilet facility in Salaga in the Salaga Municipal Assembly of the Savannah Region. Work is about 50 per cent complete.



Construction of a 10-seater institutional toilet facility at Damongo in the West Gonja District of the Savannah Region. Work is about 55 per cent complete.



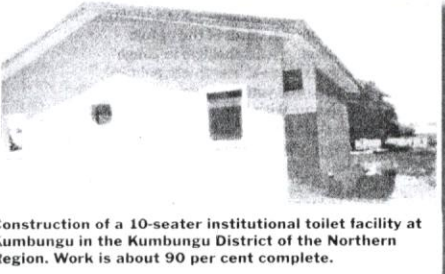
Construction of a mechanised community water system at Tibung in the Kumbungu District of the Northern Region. Project is about 80 per cent complete.



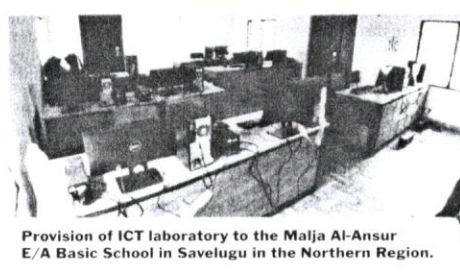
An astro turf constructed at Madina in the Greater Accra Region.



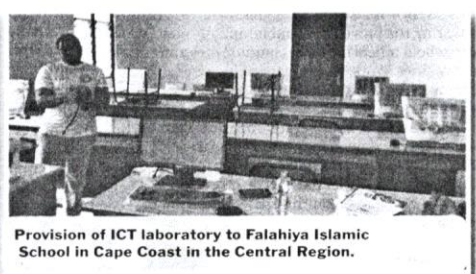
Construction of a 10-seater institutional toilet facility at Goyiri in the Sawla-Tuna-Kalba District of the Savannah Region. Project is about 65 per cent complete.



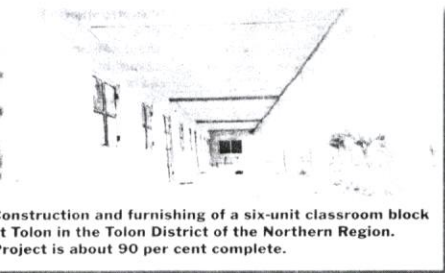
Construction of a 10-seater institutional toilet facility at Kumbungu in the Kumbungu District of the Northern Region. Work is about 90 per cent complete.



Provision of ICT laboratory to the Malja Al-Ansur E/A Basic School in Savelugu in the Northern Region.



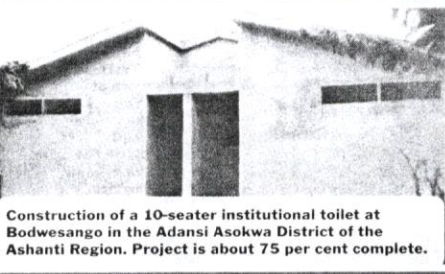
Provision of ICT laboratory to Falahiya Islamic School in Cape Coast in the Central Region.



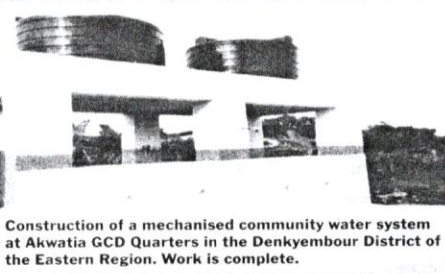
Construction and furnishing of a six-unit classroom block at Tolon in the Tolon District of the Northern Region. Project is about 90 per cent complete.



Dr Mustapha Abdul-Hamid, the Minister of Inner-city and Zongo Development, launching a programme for the distribution of liquid soap, hand sanitisers and nose masks to Zongo communities across the country. He is flanked by Rear Admiral Mohammed Amunir Tahiru (ret'd) (left), the Board Chairman, ZoDF, and Mr Arafat Sulemana Abdulai (right), the acting CEO, ZoDF.



Construction of a 10-seater institutional toilet at Bodwesango in the Adansi Asokwa District of the Ashanti Region. Project is about 75 per cent complete.



Construction of a mechanised community water system at Akwatia GCD Quarters in the Denkyemba District of the Eastern Region. Work is complete.

their requests for projects to either the ministry or to the fund. A technical team is then sent to the areas where these requests have come from, to validate the projects. The governing board of the fund then reviews and approves, modifies or disapproves, if the project being asked for does not fall within the fund's mandated areas of development.

Thus far, projects that are being executed by the ZODF include the construction and furnishing of classroom blocks, provision of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) laboratories, construction of astro turfs, provision of water and health facilities, construction of public and household toilets. Besides, the sector engages in social and economic empowerment programmes. Many of the projects have started, others are near completion while many more have been completed.

It is the expectation that the Zongo Development Ministry would be allowed to stay into the foreseeable future in order to guarantee the long-term development of the communities that come under the ambit of the ministry. Indeed, development is a journey and as the Chinese have stated, "A journey of a thousand miles begins with a step." It is

expected that within a generation, this initiative can dramatically transform the lives of the five million people who live in these communities.

### Educational projects

Education is key to the development of Zongo communities and so the MICZD and the ZoDF are keen in ensuring the provision of the necessary infrastructure to facilitate teaching and learning.

In the area of school blocks and furnishing, work is ongoing at 31 locations across the country. Each of the projects is a six-unit classroom block, and some of the school blocks will be furnished. Some of the projects are about 90 per cent complete. The projects are sited at various places, including the Manso Zongo in the Amenfi Central District of the Western Region (about 80 per cent complete), Agogo Zongo in the Asante Akim South District of the Ashanti Region (about 95 per cent complete), Nsuaem in the Bosome Freho District in the Ashanti Region (about 35 per cent complete) and Tolon in the Tolon District of the Northern Region (about 40 per cent complete).

Besides, the construction of a community library is ongoing at Adoagyiri in the Nsawam Municipal Assembly of the Eastern Region. The fund has also supplied 300 dual desk furniture to two schools at Ahamasu in the Kadjebi District of the Oti Region.

### ICT labs

Another major initiative of the MICZD is the provision of ICT laboratories in some schools across the country. It involves the provision of computers and furniture. Some of the beneficiary schools are Huriya E/A

of social and economic development in Zongo communities, with a view to bringing up development in these communities to the standard that is comparable to other communities across the country.

As its mandate outlined on page 116 of the Economic and Social Development Policy document states, projects that have been carried out by the Zongo Development Fund under the direction of the ministry seek to address the educational, health, security, recreation and economic needs of the people in the Zongo communities.

Even though the mandate of the fund has been outlined for it by the Economic and Social Development Policy document, the fund still engages in wide consultative processes to arrive at a decision on which project to situate in which community. Chiefs, political, religious and youth leaders often make