

Gender

Rebecca Foundation hands over libraries to communities

Gender Desk Report

THE Rebecca Foundation has handed over two libraries to the people of the Daffiama Bussei Issah District in the Upper West Region and Wenchhi in the Bono Region.

The libraries are part of four libraries constructed by the

foundation in parts of the country to inculcate the habit of reading in schoolchildren to improve their learning skills.

In a statement read on her behalf, the Executive Director of the Rebecca Foundation and First Lady of the Republic of Ghana, Mrs Rebecca Naa Okaikor Akufo-Addo, acknowledged the contribution of the current New Patriotic Party (NPP) administration in prioritising education with

various policies such as Free Senior High School (SHS) and reinstating allowances for teacher trainees to improve the ability of young Ghanaians to effectively propel national development.

She, however, bemoaned the inability of many children to read and write as a result of factors such as limited access to reading materials, which she said adversely affected the children's ability to learn.

"Literacy is the means by which lifelong learning and a child's ability to learn to the highest level

are made possible," she added.

Appreciation

The First Lady thanked the development partners of the foundation, including the Ministry of Education, Ghana Library Authority, Book Aid International, the district and the municipal assemblies where the libraries were sited for their support in executing the four projects.

She also announced the completion of two more libraries in other parts of the country to be commissioned soon.

The Chief Executive of the Ghana Library Authority (GhLA), Mr Hayford Siaw,

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glance



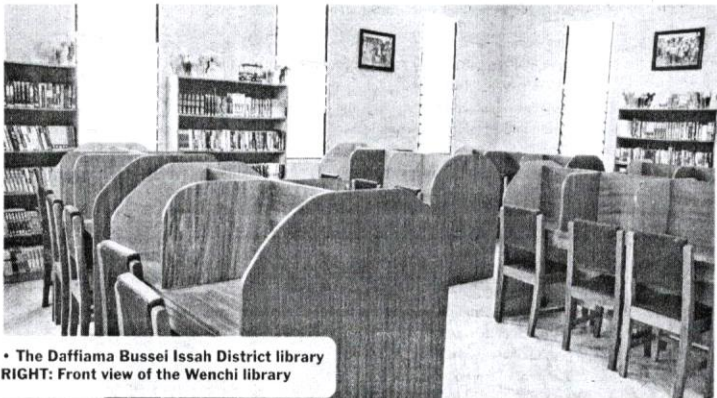
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expressed gratitude to the First Lady for helping the agency to meet one critical objective in its '2020 Year of Learning', which was to increase the network of libraries in the country.

He said since 2017, the government through GhLA had increased library network from 61 to 74 and now 78 with the new libraries by the foundation.

It will be recalled that in 2018, the Rebecca Foundation launched the "Learning to Read and Reading to Learn" initiative to help improve literacy levels among Ghanaian children.

The initiative involves a reading television show for children shown nationwide on GTV on Saturdays at 12 p.m. and repeated on Wednesdays at 5 p.m., the *Ghana Learning TV*, *Net2* and *GN Junior TV*, as well as the construction of libraries in school clusters that lack access to library facilities.



• The Daffiama Bussei Issah District library
RIGHT: Front view of the Wenchhi library

