

THE WESTERN REGIONAL COORDINATING COUNCIL MONTHLY REPORT, MAY 2026

Workers are not Expendable Tools; They are Development Partners” – Hon. Joseph Nelson

The atmosphere was filled with pride, reflection, and renewed hope as workers from across the Western Region gathered to commemorate May Day 2026. More than a ceremonial observance, the occasion became a strong reminder of the value of labour and the people whose daily efforts keep the region moving.

Addressing the gathering on behalf of President John Dramani Mahama, the Western Regional Minister, Hon. Joseph Nelson, paid glowing tribute to workers across all sectors of the economy. “To every artisan, teacher, nurse, fisherfolk, farmer, miner, driver, entrepreneur, technician, and public servant — Ayekoo! Well done,” he stated.

Speaking on the theme, “*Pivoting to Growth, Jobs and Sustainable Livelihoods Beyond Macroeconomic Stability,*” the Minister stressed that economic recovery must be felt in the everyday lives of citizens through decent jobs, improved incomes, and better working conditions. He highlighted ongoing regional efforts aimed at creating opportunities, including expanded operations at the Port of Takoradi, investments in technical and vocational training, and support for SMEs and infrastructure development.



Hon. Nelson acknowledged the challenges confronting many workers, including low remuneration, rising living costs, and job insecurity, and called for practical solutions and stronger collaboration between government, employers, and labour unions.

“Workers are not expendable tools; workers are development partners,” he emphasized.

In a significant announcement, the Minister reaffirmed his commitment to championing the establishment of a modern Intensive Care Unit (ICU) at the Takoradi Hospital to improve emergency healthcare delivery in the region.

He further encouraged the youth to embrace innovation, skills development, and enterprise, noting that the future job market would reward creativity and technological readiness.

Meanwhile, the Western and Western North Chairman of the Trade Union Congress, Samuel Polley, called on government to move beyond minimum wages toward the implementation of living wages that truly reflect the cost of living and ensure dignity for workers.

The celebration ended with a shared call for unity, productivity, and industrial harmony as stakeholders renewed their commitment to building a Western Region where hard work is rewarded and opportunity is accessible to all.



Agenda Intensive Care Unit for the Western Region.

As the May Day celebration unfolded, Hon. Joseph Nelson shifted attention from labor and productivity to another critical pillar of development quality healthcare.

The Western Regional Minister used the occasion to rally support for the establishment of a modern Intensive Care Unit (ICU) at the Takoradi Hospital, an initiative he is spearheading.

“No productive workforce can thrive without quality healthcare,” he stated, as he appealed to organised labour, corporate institutions, traditional authorities, faith-based organisations, assemblies, and citizens to support the initiative.

According to the Minister, the Western Regional Health Directorate has identified emergency and quality healthcare improvement as central to the region’s development agenda. The proposed ICU is expected to improve emergency medical response and bring lifesaving specialised care closer to workers and their families.

Hon. Nelson further encouraged the youth to embrace skills development, innovation, and enterprise, stressing that the future belongs to those prepared for emerging opportunities.

He concluded with a call for stronger collaboration among government, labour, employers, and civil society to build a healthier, more productive, and prosperous region.



International Firefighters Day

On May 4, 2026, the Western Regional Minister joined the Western Regional Command of the Ghana National Fire Service for a durbar held to climax this year's International Firefighters Day celebration. The event served as a moment of recognition for the courage and sacrifice of firefighters who daily place themselves in harm's way to protect lives and property from fire outbreaks and other emergencies.



Addressing officers and invited guests, the Minister described firefighters as more than emergency responders, noting that their work represents a vital pillar of public safety and national protection. He expressed concern over the growing incidents of hostility and attacks against firefighters during emergency operations, describing such acts as deeply unfortunate and a threat to public safety itself. “Any attack on firefighters while discharging their duties is a sabotage of public safety,” he stressed.

The Minister therefore called on the public to embrace a new culture of respect, restraint, and empathy towards fire officers, especially during emergency response situations.

The celebration ended with renewed appreciation for the dedication of firefighters and a collective call for stronger public support for the Service and its lifesaving mandate



Western Region Records 45,116 BECE Candidates as Minister Visits Examination Centres to Encourage Students

There was a sense of determination and quiet optimism across examination centres in the Western Region as thousands of candidates commenced this year's Basic Education Certificate Examination (BECE). Amid the tension and anticipation that often accompany the examinations, the Western Regional Minister took time off his schedule to visit some examination centres to interact with candidates and encourage them ahead of their papers.

He congratulated all candidates for reaching an important milestone in their academic journey and wished them success in the examination.

The Minister expressed satisfaction with this year's participation figures, describing them as encouraging for the region's educational growth. A total of 45,116 candidates are sitting for the 2026 BECE in the Western Region, representing a 2.81% increase over the previous year.



According to official figures, 33,219 candidates are from public schools, while 11,897 are from private institutions. This year's statistics also revealed a notable rise in female participation, with 23,112 girls registered for the examination compared to 22,004 boys — a difference of 1,108 candidates in favour of females.

Across the region, the examinations are being conducted at 154 centres under tight security arrangements involving 188 police officers. Supervision is being handled by 157 supervisors and 1,560 invigilators to ensure a smooth and credible examination process.

The Minister encouraged the candidates to remain calm, focused, and confident, reminding them that discipline, hard work, and determination remain key to success.

Roads Minister Leads Inspection Tour, Orders Termination of Bogoso–Prestea Road Contract

The Minister for Roads and Highways, Kwame Gwinn Agbodza, on Tuesday, May 12, 2026, led a joint inspection of key Big Push and priority road projects in the Western Region, accompanied by the Western Regional Minister, Hon. Joseph Nelson.

The tour covered the Takoradi–Agona Nkwanta dualisation project by Justmoh Construction, the 71.25km Elubo–Enchi Road by TIEC Construction, the Amoaku bridge in Amenfi West, and the Bawdie–Asankragua Road being executed by Asabea Construction.

At the 19km Bogoso–Prestea Road, the Minister expressed concern over poor progress on the project, awarded in 2025 but largely stalled. He subsequently directed the Chief Executive Officer of the Ghana Highways Authority, Mallam Issah Ishak, to begin termination processes against contractor Black Oak for non-performance.



The inspection was also joined by the Deputy Minister for Highways, Alhassan Sayibu Suhuyini; Western North Regional Minister, Wilbert Petty Brentum; Members of Parliament for Amenfi West, Prestea–Huni Valley, and Aowin; and senior officials from the Ministry and Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies.

Government reaffirmed its commitment to delivering quality road infrastructure and ensuring accountability on all ongoing projects.

Jomoro Municipality Projects Impress Regional Leadership as DACF Utilisation Comes Under Review

In a continued effort to strengthen accountability and promote effective use of the District Assemblies Common Fund (DACF), a monitoring team visited the Jomoro Municipality on Wednesday, May 13, 2026, to inspect ongoing development projects. The

Western Regional leadership, accompanied by the Regional Coordinating Director and the Procurement Officer, undertook the visit to assess how Assemblies are deploying funds for priority development interventions.

Across the municipality, the team observed encouraging progress on a range of projects, including CHPS compounds, schools, boreholes, and the continuation of several legacy initiatives aimed at improving local infrastructure and service delivery.



Most of the projects visited were at various stages of completion, a development the team described as commendable and reflective of improved planning and execution at the local level.

While expressing satisfaction with progress made, the team urged the Assembly to remain disciplined in the use of the DACF, emphasizing the need to ensure that all initiated projects are completed and funds are strictly applied to their intended purposes.



The visit reaffirmed government's commitment to deepening accountability, strengthening local governance, and ensuring that development funds translate into tangible improvements in communities.

Empower Ghana Initiative Brings Joy to Widows and Elderly Women at Adakope on Mother's Day

On Sunday, May 10, 2026, the Empower Ghana Initiative Foundation and its partners marked Mother's Day with a heartfelt outreach at Adakope in the Sekondi-Takoradi Metropolis, bringing smiles and renewed hope to elderly women and widows in the community.

The visit turned into a touching moment of connection and gratitude, as the women warmly received the foundation's delegation and expressed deep appreciation for the gesture of love and solidarity. The atmosphere was filled with joy and emotional exchange, as beneficiaries described the initiative as a meaningful reminder that they are not forgotten.



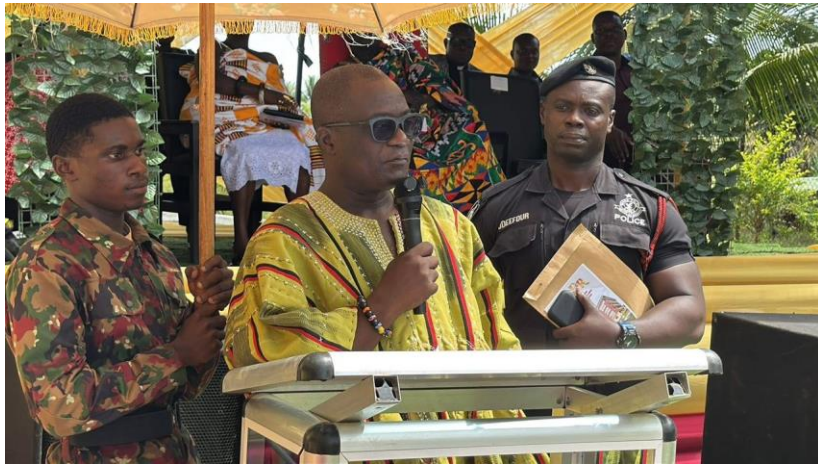
For the foundation, the engagement formed part of its broader commitment to supporting vulnerable groups and promoting compassion-driven community service.

The celebration ended with renewed smiles, shared stories, and a strong sense of togetherness between the women and the visiting team.

Gwiraman SHS to Be Upgraded as Regional Minister Reaffirms Government Commitment to Education and Infrastructure

Ten years after the commissioning of the Gwira E-Block, the Western Regional Minister reflected on the transformation of the Gwiraman Community Senior High School during a recent visit to the community. He recalled standing at the same grounds in 2015 as Regional Secretary of the NDC alongside then-President John Dramani Mahama to commission the facility, with the vision of bridging the educational gap between urban and rural communities.

Today, returning as Regional Minister, he expressed satisfaction with the school's growth and its role in nurturing young talents over the past decade, despite challenges such as declining enrolment. He announced that government is in the process of upgrading the school from a Community Day School to a higher status, as part of efforts to strengthen access and quality of secondary education.



The Minister also commended the Gwira Traditional Council for its strong commitment to improving the school, including the initiation of a 500-bed capacity dormitory project aimed at supporting its transition towards boarding status. He encouraged further support from individuals and stakeholders to complement the effort.

On infrastructure, particularly the poor road network leading to the community, he reaffirmed government's commitment, noting that the road project has already been awarded to a contractor.

He concluded by reiterating government's broader commitment to improving educational infrastructure and ensuring that schools in rural communities are not left behind in national development.



Amenfi Mourns Five Lives Lost in Tragic Road Accident

The Western Regional delegation, led by the Municipal Chief Executive for Amenfi East, Raymond Nana Ebba, the District Chief Executive for Amenfi Central, Peter Amponsah, and constituency executives, visited the palace of the Omanhene of the Amenfi Traditional Council, Tetrete Okuamoah Sekyim II, to commiserate with the traditional area following a tragic road accident.



The visit, marked by solemnity, came after the loss of five indigenes of the area who died on Saturday, May 16, 2025, while returning from a funeral in Takoradi. The victims were involved in a fatal accident on the Wassa Akropong road, a tragedy that left several families devastated.

At the palace, the atmosphere reflected deep grief as the Omanhene received the delegation in silence, embodying the pain shared across the traditional area.

The delegation expressed solidarity with the bereaved families and the entire Amenfi State, offering condolences and support during the difficult period.