

**JOINT STATEMENT BY HON. BERNICE ADIKU HELOO AND HON. ROCKSON-NELSON DAFEAMEKPOR TO MARK THE CELEBRATION OF GBIDUKORZA, 2018**

Mr. Speaker, I rise to make this joint statement with Hon. Rockson-Nelson Dafeamekpor, the MP for South Dayi to mark the celebration of Gbidukorza, 2018. Mr. Speaker, I would like to begin by paying homage to the paramount chiefs of the Gbi State namely: Togbega Gabusu VI of Gbidzigbe and the Deiga Kwadzo Dei XII of Gbinyigbe, through whose able leadership we forge together for the continuous development of the Gbi State.

Mr. Speaker Twenty-three years ago, a year after the re-unification of the Gbis, it was decided that an annual festival to commemorate this re-unification be instituted, and this festival has been named Gbidukorza. The festival fulfils its basic objective of bringing the Gbis together closer for the purposes of development and unity.

Since its commencement in 1995, Gbidukorza continues to play a major role in fostering not only unity but also a sense of purpose for the two paramount areas.

Mr Speaker, this year's theme for the celebration is **“Consolidating Two Decades of Gbidukor Unity for Accelerated Development”**. It is a clarion call for the Gbi's to ensure that the unification is exploited further for positive impact on the Gbi State for accelerated development.



Mr. Speaker the main activities of this year's celebrations will last for four days. These are however preceded by the launch of the festival, inter-schools quiz competition, football gala, health-walk, talent night, marathon and cycling, midweek tour, clean-up exercise, welcome float, cooking and food bazaar.

The main events which will take place at Hohoe (Gbidzigbe) are as follows:

- Friday, 7<sup>th</sup> December 2018 – Miawoezor (Welcome Ceremony)
- Saturday, 8<sup>th</sup> December 2018- Grand Durbar of Chiefs and people; and a Beauty Pageant
- Sunday, 9<sup>th</sup> December 2018- Thanksgiving Church Service; Football Gala Finals between Hohoe and Peki; Gbidukor Ball & Unity Concert; After Party Jams and Boborfest
- Monday, 10<sup>th</sup> December 2018- Gbidukor Development Meetings, to be followed by departure formalities.

Mr. Speaker, may I use this opportunity to thank our sponsors such as Guinness Ghana Breweries Ltd, the Bank of Ghana and many other philanthropic organisations for their support. This year's celebration promises a display of our rich culture, hospitality and history as a people. On this note, I extend my warmest invitation to this august House and the people of Ghana, both young and old to join us celebrate this year's Gbidukorza.

Thank you Mr. Speaker for the opportunity.