

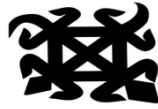
# RISE-GHANA

## *Human Rights and Sustainable Development for All*

P. O. Box 281, Bolgatanga UE/R

Email: [riseghana06@gmail.com](mailto:riseghana06@gmail.com)

(+233266195156/+233248498703)



Ghana, West Africa.

Email: [www.riseghana.org](http://www.riseghana.org)

15<sup>th</sup> December 2020.

The Editor

Dear Sir,

### **OPEN LETTER TO HON. TANGOBA ABAYAGE AND DR. VIDA YAKONG- STOP THE NEEDLESS MEDIA BANTER: MANY YOUNG WOMEN LOOK UP TO YOU.**

As an Alumna of the Global 1,000 Emerging Women Leaders, a former Central SRC Treasurer of the then three University Development Studies (UDS) campuses and presently a Head of Programmes at RISE-Ghana, a local NGO working to promote human rights and sustainable development in the Upper East Region and six other regions, where I lead programmes to promote women participation in governance, I have followed keenly with concern the media banter between two women I hold a lot of respect for on Dreams FM and Daily Mail Gh.

I wish to commend both of you, Hon. Tangoba Abayage and Dr. Vida Yakong for the bold decision you took to weather the storms and contest for your respective parliamentary primaries.

As highly accomplished women, you rekindled a ray of hope and I daresay changed the narrative in our local politics, inspiring young women from Atosali in Kasena Nankana East to Zanlerigu in the Nabdum District and beyond to aspire to greater heights.

Your collective move had the potential of changing the narrative of a region where 39% of girls get married before age 18 years, one of the highest in the country and 79.2% and 55.3% of women and men respectively consider beating ones wife/partner justified. A region where women's participation in local governance is very low due to a combination of factors including lack of support by traditional leaders, men and boys.

In one of the recently held District Level Election (DLE), only 15 women from Builsa North and 10 from Kasena Nankana East filed for the 144 and 76 Unit Committees available as opposed to 129 and 66 men. For the District Assembly, only 4 women from each district filed nomination for 69 and 91 slots available as compared to 65 men from Builsa North and 87 from Kasena Nankana East Municipal. In some districts no woman applied as Assembly member.

Going by the old saying that change must start from the top, we need more Tangobas and Vida Yakongs in our local politics to inspire, groom and mentor young women to take up the leadership mantle so that in the words of Hon. Tangoba they don't "lose to the men". This can only be achieved when women support and encourage one another.

As a fellow woman, a feminist and gender justice advocate, I wish to make a passionate plea to my two mothers and role models to as a matter of urgency stop the needless media banter and strategize to secure their dream seats in 2024 election which starts from today.

Our elders say, when rain is beating you, you don't beat yourselves. As women, we need to work extra to achieve our dreams whiles performing our reproductive and other unpaid care work.

We need to be mindful so that our actions as women do not go to reinforce existing negative stereotypes and myths such as the common saying that "women are their own enemies" "women are difficult leaders" etc.

I wish you both the very best and hope that you will continue to set a good example and thereby inspire young women to greater heights. I hope and pray that you will consider all that happened as water under the bridge.

Your Mentee

Signed  
Jawharatu Amadu  
Head Of Programmes  
RISE-Ghana

---

**Vision:** A world in which Human Rights and Sustainable Development informs all actions to empower people to live in DIGNITY. **Core Values:** Accountability, Equal Opportunities & Diversity, Mutual Respect, Inclusion, *Equity & Justice*. **Mission:** To facilitate and initiate processes/programs that empower poor people's movements to access and utilize the social, human and natural resources they need in a sustainable and timely manner to become self-reliant.