

BOSOMTWE DISTRICT ASSEMBLY - PROFILE

Introduction

The Bosomtwe District Assembly was established on (1st) November 2007, by LI 1922. It was carved out of the then Bosomtwe Atwima Kwanwoma District (now Bosomtwe and Atwima Kwanwoma). It is one of the (43) districts in the Ashanti Region, with Kuntanase as the District capital.

Vision Statement

The vision of the Assembly is to become the leading eco-tourism destination and the most progressive district Assembly in the Ashanti Region, providing sustainable programmes and projects with the full participation of its citizenry to improve the lot of the people

Mission Statement

The Bosomtwe District Assembly exists to promote and undertake sustainable development programmes and projects to stimulate socio-economic development to enhance the quality of life of its people with full participation of the people

Functions of the Assembly

To accomplish its mission and achieve its goals and objectives the BDA performs a number of coordinated statutorily defined functions derived from Section 245 of the 1992 Constitution of the Republic of Ghana as well as Section 10(3) of the Local Government Act, 2016 (Act 936). Broadly, these functions which are deliberative, legislative and executive in nature, include the under listed.

- Responsible for the overall development of the district
- Preparation of development plans and budget
- Formulate and execute plans, programmes and strategies for the effective mobilization of resources necessary for the overall development of the district;
- Promote and support productive activity and social development in the district ;
- Initiate programmes for the development of basic infrastructure
- Provide municipal works and service in the district;
- Be responsible for the development, improvement and management of human settlements and the environment in the district;
- In co-operation with appropriate national and local security agencies, be responsible for the maintenance of security and public safety in the district;

- Ensure ready access to the courts and public tribunals in the district for the promotion of justice

Our Core Values

The Bosomtwe District Assembly values:

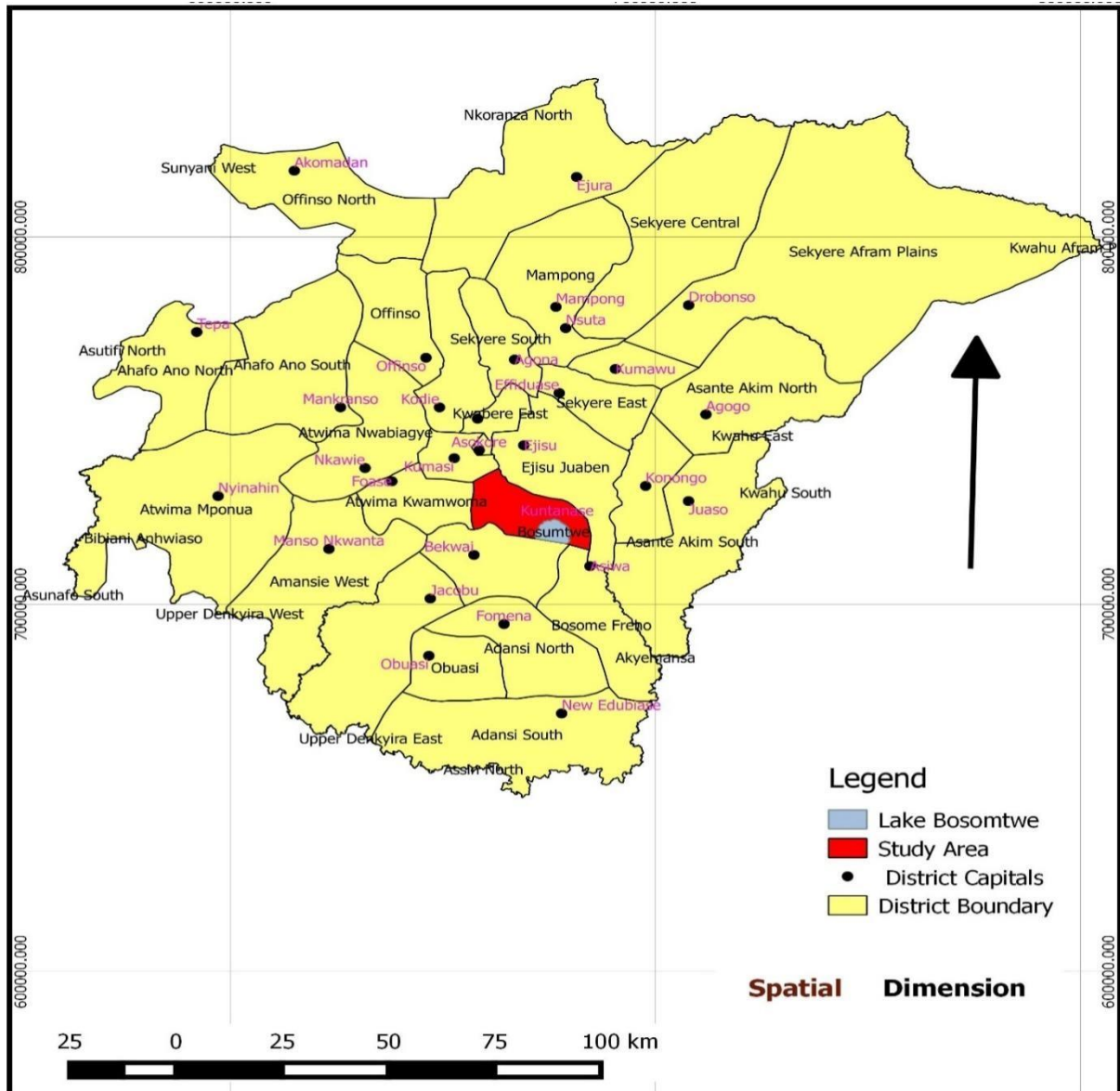
- Professionalism
- Transparency
- Accountability
- Responsiveness
- Team work
- Timeliness
- Results oriented

Location and Size

The Bosomtwe District, is located at the central part of the Ashanti Region and lies within latitudes 6° 24 South and 6° 43' North and longitudes 1° 15' East and 1° 46' West. It is bounded on the north by Asokwa Municipal, on the east by Ejisu Municipal, on the south by Bekwai Municipal and Bosome - Freho District, and on the west by Atwima - Kwanwoma District. The District has a land size of about 422.5 km². It is the eleventh largest district in the Ashanti Region.

There are a total of **67 settlements** in the District and **three (3) Area Councils (Kuntanase, Boneso and Jachie)**. The District capital, Kuntanase, is about 30km from Kumasi, the Regional Capital of Ashanti. Figure 1 & 2 show the District in Regional Context and the settlement location map of the District.

Fig 1: Bosomtwe District in Regional Context



Population Size and Distribution

Bosomtwe District has a projected population of **131,939 as at 2020** with male population representing 47.7 percent and that of the female population representing 52.3 percent. This gives a sex ratio (i.e. number of males for every 100 females) of 91.2 showing that there are more females than males in the District.

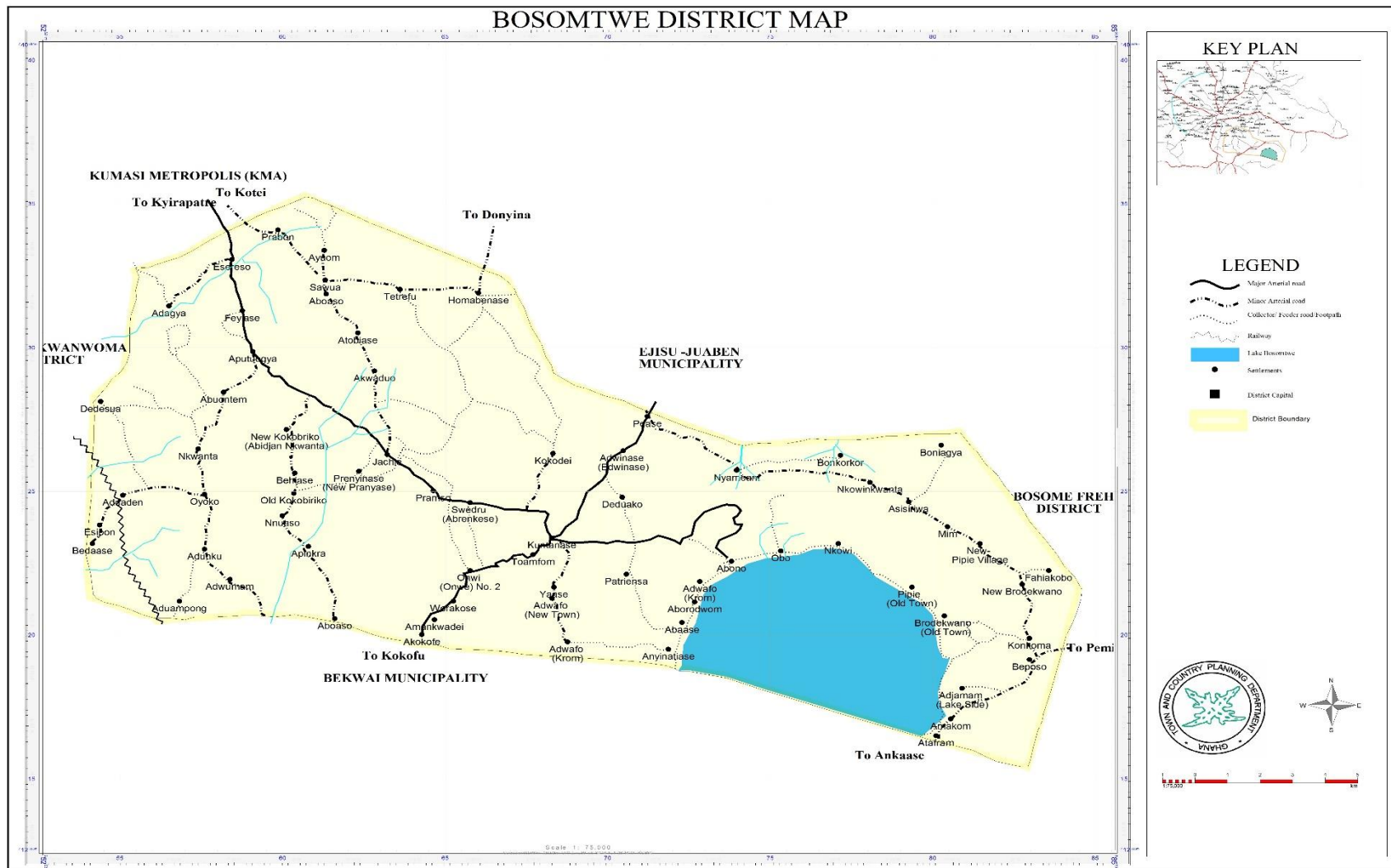


Fig. 2: Settlement Location Map

Political Administration

Governance

The Bosomtwe District Assembly is a statutory body established by the Local Government Act 462 of 1993 and it is the highest policy-making body of the District representing the entire political and administrative machinery of the Central Government at the District level.

The Assembly is made up of the District Chief Executive as the Political Head, the Presiding Member, who is the Chairman of the General Assembly, one person from each of the 35 electoral areas within the District, elected by the Universal Adult Suffrage, 15 Appointees of the Government, Heads of the Decentralized Departments who are ex-officio members without voting rights.

It is supported administratively and technically by 13 decentralized departments and other quasi agencies of government. These include Electricity Company of Ghana (ECG), Electoral Commission of Ghana (EC), District Magistrate Court, National Health Insurance Authority (NHIA), National Youth Authority (NYA), Stool Lands, and National Centre for Civic Education (NCCE) among others as shown in the figures below:

Organogram of Bosomtwe District Assembly

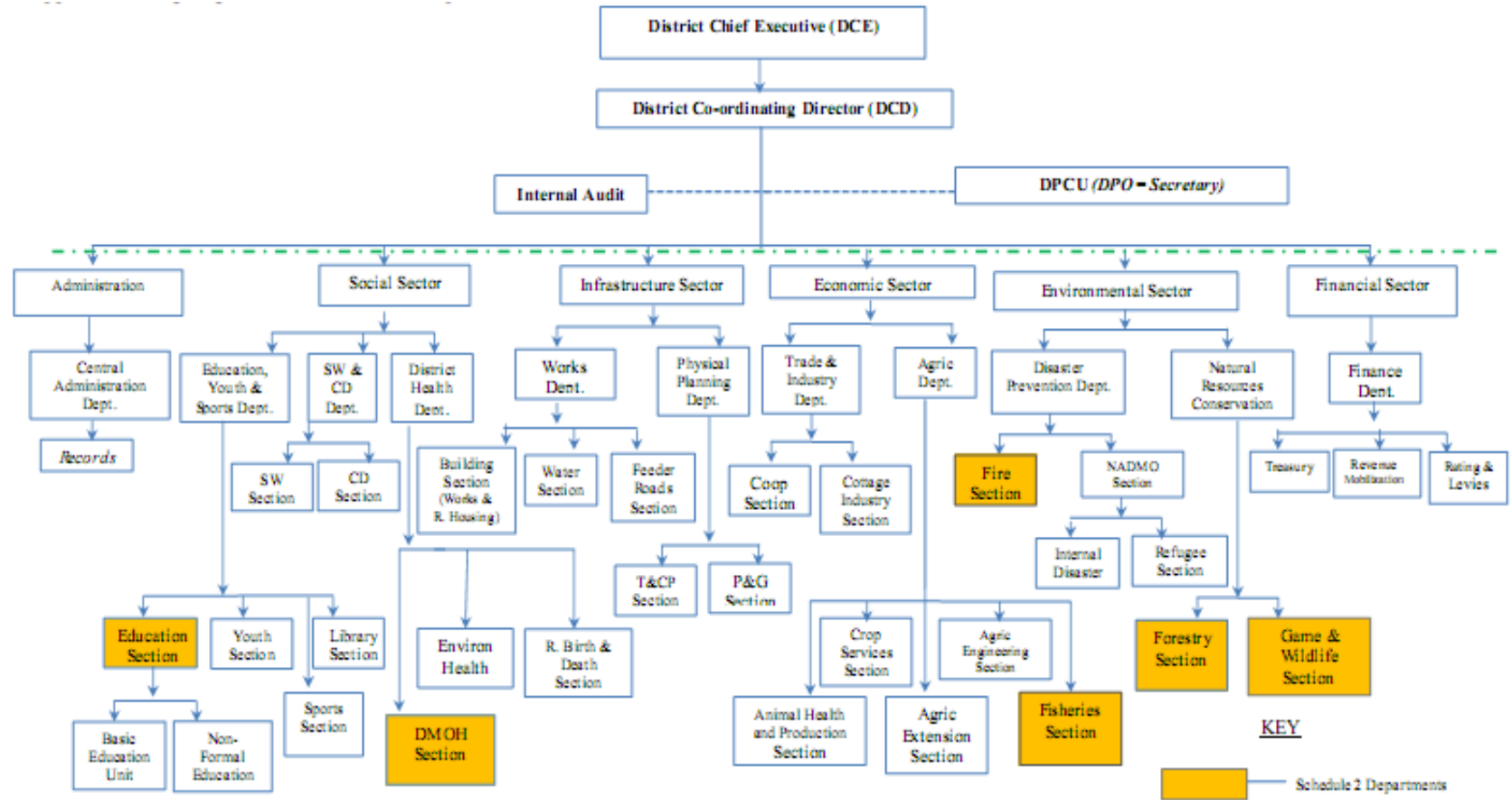
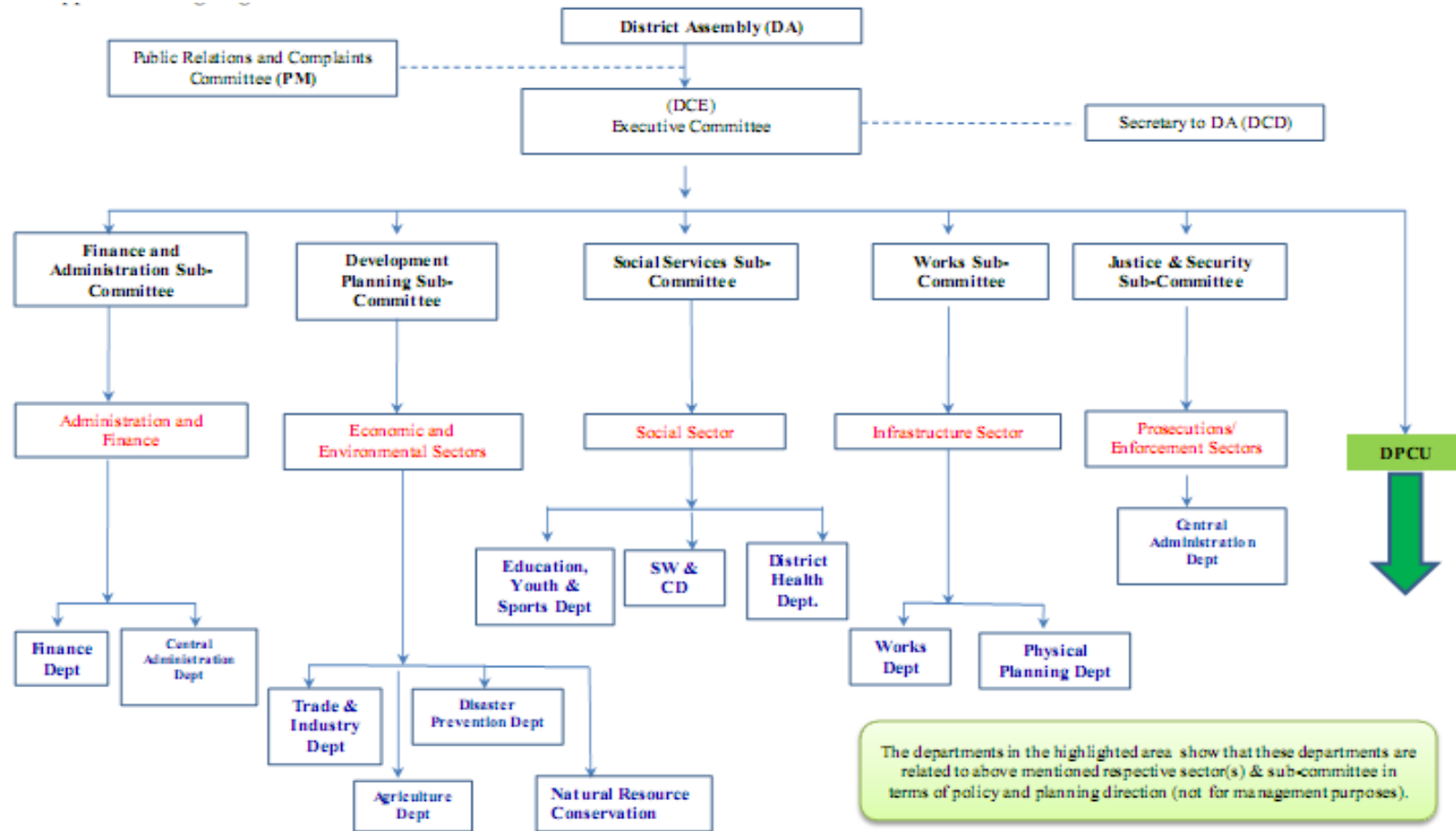


Figure 1.6: Organogram of Sub-committee of Bosomtwe District Assembly



Geology, Minerals and Natural Resources

The District is underlain by Precambrian rocks of the Birimian and Tarkwaian formations associated with granites and metamorphosed sediments of phyllites and schists. The District is endowed with some natural resources such as gold deposits, rocks, sand and stone deposits, clay deposits, forest resources and Lake Bosomtwe.

- ❖ Gold deposits can be located at Beposo, Nyameani, and areas within the lake basin.
- ❖ Diamond deposits are also located in River Afoa, Atasou, Atetesua, Obo, and Kwabena
- ❖ Sand and stones deposit are extensively exploited by the building industry in Adagya, Sawuah, Ayuom, Homabenase, Tetrefu, Atobiase, Jachie, Abuontem, Oyoko and Nnuaso
- ❖ Rock deposits can be found at Jachie.
- ❖ Clay deposits are found at Oyoko, Nuaso, Old and New Kokobriko and Krom Adwafo. The deposits are of various are of diverse colouring and can be tapped for use in brick and tile industries as well as pottery and ceramics.

The only meteorite lake in West Africa, Lake Bosomtwe, is also located in the District.

However, it is shared with Bosome-Freho district.

Transportation and Post Telecommunication

The Road network in the Bosomtwe District is fairly good. The eastern portion of the District is connected by a major road linking Kumasi to Abono, a distance of about, 33 kilometers. The Kumasi-Kuntanase road also links Bekwai and Ejisu Municipalities. The other major road networks are second and third class roads as well as footpaths linking all parts of the District. The Takoradi railway line passes through the boundary between Bosomtwe District and Atwima Kwanwoma District at Aduaben and Dedesua at the Western part of Bosomtwe District.

All the 67 communities in the District can access one or all the following mobile networks:

- ❖ MTN
- ❖ Vodafone
- ❖ Airtel-Tigo
- ❖ Glo-Ghana

Electricity

All the 67 communities in the District are connected to the National Electricity Grid

Source of drinking water

All the 67 communities have access to potable water. In all there are about 500 boreholes in the District. 196 and 150 households are connected to the mechanized piped system in Kuntanase and Pramso respectively.

Public Safety and Security

The District is under the Command of an Assistant Superintendent of Police and has four [4] stations under it. They are Kuntanase, Jachie, Feyiase and Kessben College of Education Police Stations. The District has Forty – two [42] personnel. Thus One [1] SPO, Three [3] C/Inspectors, Two [2] Inspectors, Six [6] Sergeants, Fifteen [15] Corporals, Eight [8] L/Corporals and Nine [9] Constables.

The Police in the District usually organize out – reach programmes to educate and sensitize communities within its area of responsibility about crime and criminal activities and need for the commuters to partner the Police in combating crime.

Proactive measures such as Swoops, Day and Night patrols, Snap Checks are also organized to increase Police visibility and also to flush out miscreants and to deter potential criminals from committing crimes. Armed guards are also provided to vital installations including District Chief Executive’s bungalow and Banks within the catchment area. Deliberate efforts are made to reduce to the barest minimum election related violence and due to the aforementioned measures the District generally is able to reduce crime to an appreciable level.

Economic Activity Status

About 73.2 percent of the population aged 15 years and older are economically active while 24.5 per cent are economically not active. Of the economically active population, 92.5 percent are employed while 7.5 percent are unemployed. For those who are economically not active, more than half (53.6%) are students, 19.0% perform household duties and 12.0 percent are disabled or too sick to work. Sixty two percent of the unemployed are seeking work for the first time.

Occupation

Of the employed population, about 35.6 percent are engaged as skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers, 23.6 percent in service and sales, 17.5 percent in craft and related trade, and 5.0 percent are engaged as managers, professionals, and technicians.

Employment status and sector

Of the population 15 years and older 64.6 percent are self-employed without employees and 18.0 percent are employees. Overall, men constitute the highest proportion in each employment category except the self-employed with employees, contributing family workers and house help. The private informal sector is the largest employer in the District, employing 86.2 percent of the population followed by the private formal with 7.7 percent.

Education

There are a total of 299 public and private schools at all levels made up of 106 KGs, 106 Primary schools, 78 JHS, 8 SHS and 2 Universities in the District. The total number of Public schools are 175 and Private schools are 124 across all levels.

The educational characteristics of the District indicate that more males have higher educational levels in relation to their female counterparts.

Health Services

The District has Twenty-Six (26) health facilities all working to promote the health conditions of the people. The 26 health facilities in the District are made up of:

- 6 Hospitals
- 3 Health Centres
- 6 Clinics
- 2 Maternity Homes
- 8 CHPS Compounds
- 5 RCH Centres
- 1 Sick Bay

- 3 Training Institutions

The District has 53 outreach points where Reproductive and Child Health Services are rendered. One of the strongest strengths of the District is the community based surveillance programme. Sixty six (66) functional and active Community Based Surveillance Volunteers (CBSVs) have been trained to support community health activities. They record and report on monthly basis diseases, deliveries and deaths in their various communities.

Investment Opportunities

The District has huge investment opportunities in eco-tourism, commercial farming, agro-processing, small-scale mining, commerce and the hospitality industry.

Why Invest in Bosomtwe District

The reasons to invest in the District include

- Bosomtwe District is part of Greater Kumasi and is about 20km away from the Central Business District of Kumasi, the capital of Ashanti Region.
- Large market: Availability of large market within the Greater Kumasi Area.
- Easy access to the District through Kumasi, Ejisu and Bekwai
- Streamlined land administration: Led by Otumfuo Osei Tutu II through Asantehene's Land Secretariat and the Lands Commission
- Large tract of land suitable for large scale agricultural production
- The presence of the only natural lake, Lake Bosomtwe, which is awaiting huge infrastructural development
- Proximity to higher educational institutions to provide human and research capital for businesses, including, KNUST, Forest Research Institute, Building and Road Research Institute, Kumasi Technical University. Kessben University College and Wisconsin University are also in the District.

Investable Areas

Tourism

The Lake Bosomtwe Biosphere reserve is the single most important tourist attraction in the Bosomtwe District. The lake is mostly patronized by holiday makers on festive occasions. However, infrastructural development has not been well coordinated and presently below standards. Some of the potential investments that can be undertaken within the Lake and surrounding landforms is outlined below:

- Development of Zip Line from Kokoado to the Lake Bosomtwe
- Provision of Cable Car from Kokoado to the Lake Bosomtwe
- Development of a Canopy Walkway
- Provision of Modern Canoe and Boat
- Completion of the 42 Bedroom Hotel at Kokoado under public-private partnership
- Provision of Hiking Route to link all communities surrounding the lake

Background Information

Location, Access

Lake Bosomtwe Biosphere Reserve, in the Bosomtwe District of the Ashanti Region, is located about 33 km south-east of Kumasi in the Northern tip of the Adansi mountains in the forest zone of Ghana. The lake exhibits a radial drainage system of 106 km², a maximum depth of 78m and a diameter of about 11km at its widest part. Lake Bosomtwe alone covers an area of about 5,200 ha or 52 km². The total area of the lake and its environs that are being established as a CREMA and later to be nominated as a UNESCO biosphere reserve cover 28,907 ha or 289.07 km² or 71,414 acres.

The eastern portion of the CREMA is served by a first class road from Ejisu to Abono, the lakeside. It is linked to Kumasi by a double layer bitumen road, which is generally in good condition. The Kumasi-Kuntanase road also links Bekwai and neighbouring towns.

THE LAKE BOSOMTWE



(About 33km from Kumasi and 3 km from Kuntanase)

Development Considerations for Lake Bosomtwe Biosphere Reserve

Guided forest walks

Background

The Bosomtwe Range Forest Reserve section of the CREMA could serve as an area for enjoying the cool of the forest with a guide. This implies that a network of trails will be constructed and sign-posted. This core area happens to be where most of the animals have been observed during the baseline survey. Although forest animals are difficult to see (because of the closed canopy) visitors may hear calls from many species, especially monkeys and birds which may sometimes be seen jumping from tree to tree.

Policies

1. Construct trails through forest areas where animals and other interesting features are likely to be observed.
2. Erect and maintain signs at all trail junctions and features of interest
3. Hotels and lodges could recruit and train guides otherwise CEC to provide them.
4. Provide information on forest at front desks in hotels and lodges or at entrance gate.

Guidelines for Guided Walks

1. Begin at the hotel reception desk or entrance gate with explanation of the different trails and options.
2. Explain that in the forest it is difficult to see wildlife, so the need for silence.
3. Explain forest stratification.
4. Point out trees and plants with medicinal and other properties.
5. Tell people not to stray – getting lost in the forest is very easy.

Action Plan

1. Recruit and train tour guides and ensure periodic re-training.
2. Provide binoculars and reference books. “Kingdom” (mammals) and Borrow & Demey (birds) so guides can learn identification.
3. Monitor performance of guides and visitor satisfaction and implement suggested improvements.
4. Check on medicinal properties of plants with Hawthorne’s book and ensure guides are giving correct information.
5. Erect signs at trail junctions and features of interest.
6. Produce leaflet on trees that can be sold at the entrance gate or hotels.
7. Label trees of interest.

Bird watching

Background

The Bosomtwe Range Forest Reserve could be used by organized bird watching tours because there are a good variety of forest birds which can easily be seen and access to the forest is relatively easy.

Policy

Encourage use of the CREMA by bird watchers

Action Plan – Bird watching

1. Produce the bird checklist as shown in the Baseline Survey.
2. Cooperate with bird watching tours and tour operators.
3. Ask birders to report any species not on the list
4. Provide binoculars and reference books e.g. “Borrow & Demey” (birds) so guides can learn identification.
5. Record special sightings on a blackboard in the visitor centre.

Swimming

Background

The most popular single activity by holiday makers to the lake is swimming. However, there have been reports of people indulging in various forms of immoral activities whilst in the water which are taboos to the customs of the people. There are also incidences of cases of drowning during these occasions.

Policy

Holiday makers should enjoy safe swimming experience devoid of immoral activities

Action Plan

1. ~~Recruit professional swimmers to act as supervisors and life savers.~~
2. Provide floaters for non-swimmers.
3. Provide outboard boat for those wanting to cruise the lake for hire.
4. Ensure that all swimmers are out of the water at the appointed time.
5. Sensitize swimmers about taboos on immoral behaviours in the lake.
6. Sanction people caught engaging in such behaviours in the lake.

Sport Fishing

Background

This activity is not common for now but there is potential for its development with the creation of core zones within the lake. The population of fish close to these areas will be relatively undisturbed by normal fishing activities and will allow the fish to multiply to reasonable numbers for use of hook and line.

Policy

Angular fishing should be encouraged.

Action Plan

1. Provide canoes for hire.
2. Provide equipment for angling.

Visitor Safety

Background

The two main dangers for tourists in the CREMA are getting lost in the forest and drowning in the lake.

Policy

Although the Executive is not legally liable, the safety of tourists must be ensured.

Action Plan

1. Explain to tourists that they must have a guide while walking in the forest and a professional swimmer for swimming.
2. Keep to the approved routes and swimming sites.
3. Vacate all visitors at appointed times.

Picnic Sites

Background

There are presently no constructed picnic sites around the lake even though visitor groups simply camp on any open space of convenience. New picnic sites must be built to be able to restrict the dumping of refuse. There should be no charge for the use of these sites.

Policy

Encourage the use of the picnic sites by all groups to the lake side.

Action Plan

1. Ensure that visitors are informed about the picnic sites at the reception or entry point.

Agriculture

Agriculture contributes immensely to the District's economy in various ways; namely, in the provision of food for the increasing population; supply of adequate raw materials to the industrial sector; a major source of employment; generation of household income; and, provision of a market for the products especially during market days in the major communities. Some of the potentials that can be harnessed for development at the agriculture sector include the following:

- **Large scale production of cassava, oil palm and plantain** for processing and export. Farmers can be supported to produce very large quantities not for home consumption but also to ensure value addition for example, production of cassava starch for industrial purposes, plantain chips and palm oil production.
- **Bee keeping farming** can be developed to provide raw materials for the growing pharmaceutical industries in the district.
- **Fish farming:** The construction of fish ponds on the Lake Bosomtwe and other surrounding communities to provide food, income and employment. The fishes can also serve as raw materials for some industries.

Local Economic Development

The District has some economic and social development expectations within the next five years.

In the direction of economic terms, the district's expectations are; **the promotion of tourism at Lake Bosomtwe, development of major market centres, increase in agricultural productivity and increase in revenue mobilization.**

In terms of business, the district needs increased support for Small and Micro Enterprises (SMEs) especially in the areas of financial assistance. The district needs local business to be supported with soft loans (loans without interest) in order for expansion of local businesses. There is also the need for skills based training for youth and employed to contribute towards job creation and poverty alleviation.

The establishment of business incubation center within the district will provide budding entrepreneurs the opportunity to learn from experts to nurture and grow their business which will also in turn contribute to job creation. The provision of basic machinery and startup kits to entrepreneurs will contribute towards reducing the employment rate in the district. In the direction of infrastructures, the district needs rehabilitation of its roads and setting up of training centres.

Conclusion

Bosomtwe District has investment potentials in tourism, agriculture, service and commerce which can be developed effectively to create employment for large number of the people in the district. In addition, it will increase revenue generation, value addition and tourist attraction.

These investable areas need huge infrastructural development. This can be done through injection of private capital or public private partnership.

The Bosomtwe District Assembly, therefore welcome the private sector both local and foreign to invest in the district. Investors will be given all the necessary assistance to obtain value for money.