



Let remove barriers impeding devt of girls, women in Science —Naa Sowah

BY VICTOR A. BUXTON

THE Member of Parliament for La Dade-Kotopon Constituency, Rita Naa Odoley Sowah, has advocated for the setting up of a strong law that ensures the removal of barriers impeding the development of women and girls in science.

“As representatives of the people and custodians of legislative authority, it is incumbent upon us to dismantle any form of barriers and create an enabling environment that empowers women and girls to thrive in science leadership roles,” Ms Sowah stressed.

Making a case on the floor of Parliament last Tuesday to mark International Day of Women and Girls in science on the theme ‘Women and Girls in Science Leadership - a New Era for Sustainability’, the MP reiterated the need for them as lawmakers to formulate policies which promote gender equality and inclusion in scientific decision-making processes.

The MP was worried that despite the remarkable achievements and contributions from women such as Prof. Elsie Effah Kaufmann, the current host of the National Science and Math Quiz, an Associate Professor and founding Head of the Department of Biomedical Engineering, University of

Ghana; and Prof. Nana Ama Browne Klutse, an AIMS-Canada Research Chair in Climate Change Science and also an Associate Professor at the Department of Physics, University of Ghana, several others encounter systemic barriers and disparities in accessing education, gender stereotypes and hindrance to several opportunities in science leadership roles.

“Despite the invaluable contributions of some notable women in our society, such as Prof. Elsie Effah Kaufmann and Prof. Nana Ama Browne Klutse, others continue to encounter systemic barriers and disparities in accessing education, gender stereotypes, cultural biases and others which often impede their full participation in decision-making,” the La Dade-Kotopon representative said.

Giving pragmatic solutions to the challenges, Ms Sowah said government must invest in initiatives that promote Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education, provide mentorship, celebrate and amplify the achievements of women and girls in science leadership roles.

She added that until the nation acknowledged the pivotal roles that women and girls play in shaping the scientific landscape and driving progress across diverse fields in healthcare, agriculture, environmental conservation and technology, such challenges would continue to retire the progress of women and girls in achieving their goals in science.