

'Involve women in peace-building efforts'

FROM RAFIA ABDUL RAZAK,
WA

TRADITIONAL and community leaders have been urged to actively engage women in peace-building efforts in order to establish lasting peace in the nation

Mr Salifu Issifu Kanton, the Executive Director of the Community Development Alliance (CDA), a Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) in the Upper West Region, emphasised that increased participation of women in peace-building and security initiatives would contribute to a more harmonious living environment

The Director made the appeal at a regional multi stakeholder's peace and security conference in Wa

It was on the theme, 'Building Sustainable Peace and Security a Shared Responsibility- Leveraging Local Partnerships'

The CDA organised the conference in collaboration with the

Regional Network of Women in Peace building (RENEW), a network of women peace and security advocates in the region, with funding from the USAID/OTI Littorals Regional Initiative

(LRI) programme

He urged stakeholder's especially traditional authorities to tap into the influence of women to resolve conflicts in the communities

"With the active involvement of women in decision making process, we can be rest assured that our security will be safeguarded, let's give women a chance, let's

involve them in the decision-making processes, let's involve them in the peace-building processes, let's involve them in the security processes so that collectively we can ensure that we keep our country safe, he said

Mr Kanton stressed the need for an effective collaboration between stakeholders and the involvement

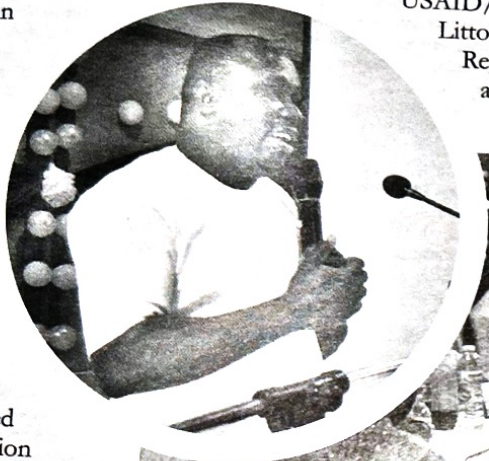
of women in peace campaign to help ensure that this year's election was incident free

A member of the RENEW in the Lawra Municipality, Hajia Rabiatu Musah, said through the RENEW, women in Lawra had become peace ambassadors within their families and the communities

She said it was time for authorities to recognise the significant role women play in ensuring peace in the society and called on members of the RENEW to use their knowledge to continue to influence the youth to ensure peace in the societies

"Peace is the most priceless thing that we cherish most, without it we cannot go to farm, it is not only the job of the police to ensure that we are safe but a collective responsibility and with women all things are possible, she said

Over one hundred peace and security stakeholders, including members of RENEW across the region, including the Fulbe community, representatives of the Ghana Police and Immigration Services, Regional Coordinating Council, Regional House of Chiefs, National Commission for Civic Education, Peace and Security Think Thanks and other peace and security centred Civil Society Organisations among others attended the conference



• Mr Kanton (inset) speaking at the event