

'Adwumawura' programme takes off with first 10,000 beneficiaries

AGNES OPOKU SARPONG

MORE than 10,000 young Ghanaians have been selected as part of the first batch of beneficiaries of the government's Adwumawura programme.

The initiative, a major government job creation programme is aimed at equipping the youth with skills and resources to create jobs and drive economic growth.

At the onboarding and orientation ceremony in Accra yesterday, the Vice-President, Professor Naana Jane Opoku-Agyemang, said the programme was part of the government's vision to build an inclusive and resilient economy by harnessing the creativity and determination of the youth.

She explained that the programme, launched in April this year, received over 120,000 applications across the country, a response she described as overwhelming and proof of the ambition of Ghana's young people.

The 10,000 selected, she said, had gone through a transparent and thorough process involving government, academia, the private sector, and development partners.

Prof. Opoku-Agyemang noted that the Adwumawura

Programme goes beyond providing funding.

Beneficiaries, she said, would receive training in business planning, financial management, digital skills, customer service, and sustainability, in addition to mentorship, start-up kits, and access to markets and networks.

She urged the beneficiaries to approach the opportunity with discipline, honesty, and commitment.

"No business, no matter how successful, is free from challenges. What will set you apart is how you rise above them and continue to innovate," she said.

The Vice-President also acknowledged the role of hubs, trainers, and development partners in the programme, describing them as not just facilitators but mentors and role models who would shape the future of the young entrepre-

neurs. She expressed the government's gratitude to stakeholders including the National Youth Authority, Ghana Enterprises Agency, MASLOC, AGRA, the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Youth Development and Empowerment, British Council, University of Ghana Business School, and other local and international partners for their support.

Prof. Opoku-Agyemang said the programme was a major step in Ghana's national agenda to build resilience and self-reliance.

She described the beneficiaries as pioneers whose performance would set the standard for future cohorts.

"This programme exists because of your potential, and it will succeed because of your commitment," she stressed.

She urged them to build businesses that not only provide for themselves and their families but also create jobs, solve problems in their communities, and contribute to national growth.

She reminded the beneficiaries that as the first cohort, their performance would set the tone for the future of the initiative.

"You are pioneers of a programme that is set to change the face of entrepreneurship in Ghana. Your example and outcomes will affect those coming after you," she said.

The Adwumawura Programme is expected to empower thousands of young entrepreneurs with the tools to build sustainable businesses that will create jobs, solve community problems, and contribute to national growth.



• Vice President Prof Opoku-Agyemang (inset) addressing the beneficiaries