

# Govt to resource ISD —N/R Minister

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**T**HE government will take steps to provide vans and other logistics to enhance the work of the Information Service Department (ISD), the Northern Regional Minister, Alhaji Shani Alhassan Sayibu, has assured.

He said the government was mindful of the critical role the department played in the effective dissemination of its policies and other important information across the country, especially in the rural areas.

Alhaji Sayibu said this when the newly appointed Acting Director of the Information Services, Dr Winifred Nafisa Mahama paid a courtesy call on him in Tamale yesterday.

She was in Tamale to participate in a training programme for ISD District Officers being organised in collaboration with the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection and the ISD.

He urged the Acting Director to work closely with the newly ap-

pointed Minister of Information, Ms Fatimatu Abubakari, to restore the ISD to its former glory.

He said the ISD was the only government accredited department to send information down to the people to enable them to appreciate the government's work and take feedback to inform policy formulation and implementation.

"When we were growing up as kids in the Northern Region, information van was the only

sources for us, as such that time as rural students in our communities," he stated.

Alhaji Sayibu appealed to the Public Relations Officers (PROs) assigned to the ministries, departments and agencies to work closely with their ministers, superiors to get the right information for public speaking engagements.

He said the PR units of RCC, ministries and the ISD staffs served as the voice of the government to circulate information to

the people from every corner of the country and beyond.

In the same manner, Alhaji Sayibu appealed to the ministers and heads of departments to open up and work with their PROs for the people to appreciate the good works of the government.

He commended the ISD for organising workshop trainings for their staff and called for more trainings to build their capacity to disseminate more government policies and projects.

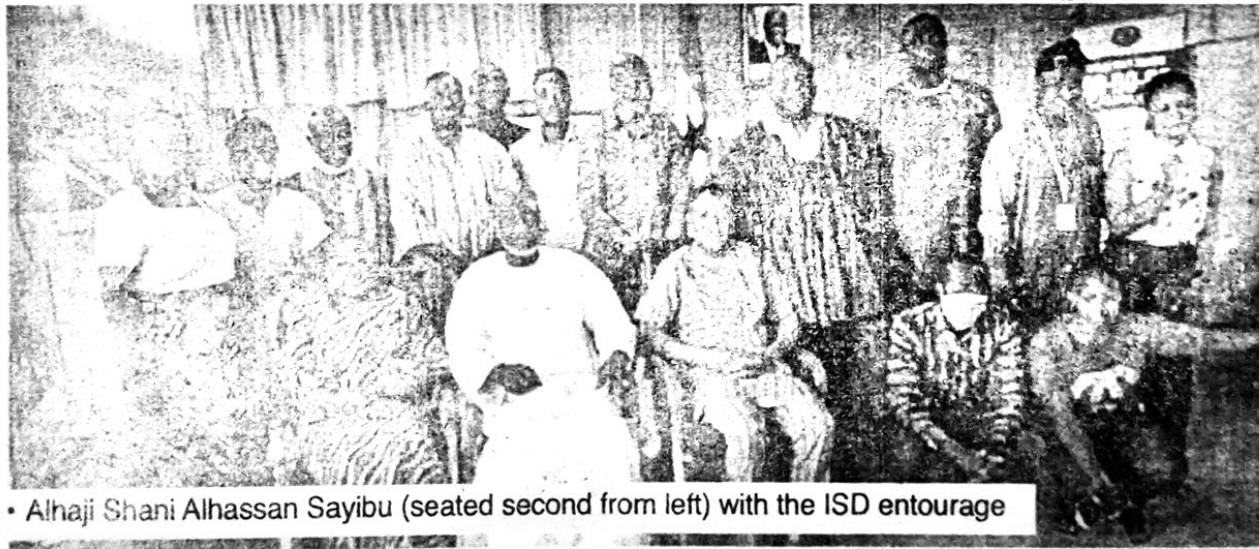
For her part, Dr Mahama who was accompanied by other ISD officials, expressed gratitude to the regional minister for the warm welcome and lauded the minister for understanding and support for the work of ISD.

She said the programme was aimed to prepare the District Information Officers for public education campaign in the northern part of the country on a key government project.

She said the project dubbed 'Single Window Citizen's Engagement Services (SWECS)' was under the auspices of the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection.

She said ISD was currently working on a transformational agenda to equip PROs with the knowledge on the use of technology to project government business.

This, she said would be done in collaboration with Regional Information Officers and they were expected to come out with strategies and plans about their regions to implement it.



• Alhaji Shani Alhassan Sayibu (seated second from left) with the ISD entourage