



Kofi Baah Agyepong

YEA's BEAP To Cut Unemployment

BY Vincent Kubi

THE YOUTH Employment Agency (YEA) says its Business and Employment Assistance Programme (BEAP) is targeted at helping to reduce unemployment among the youth in Ghana.

The initiative also aims to address the financial strains faced by Micro and Small Scale Enterprises (MSMEs) during the challenging period of the COVID-19 pandemic.

CEO of the YEA, Kofi Baah Agyepong, said BEAP has been designed to offer

support to struggling businesses, as a recent survey by the Ghana Statistical Service revealed the hardships faced by enterprises, including wage reductions and closures.

The programme, therefore, aims to provide a lifeline to MSMEs, offering salary support of GH¢500 per recruited employee, with employers supplementing the remainder.

The BEAP will target various establishments such as chop bars, pharmacies, and schools, with the goal of alleviating the financial burden on these enterprises while creating employment opportunities for Ghana's workforce.

Mr. Agyepong stated that the programme plans to support 10,000 companies, facilitating the employment of approximately 20,000 individuals.

The CEO expressed gratitude to the government for endorsing and supporting the programme, which

he said would be instrumental in Ghana's fight against unemployment.

He also reassured the public that the YEA has sustainable funding from the Communication Service Tax, and emphasised the agency's commitment to directing these funds solely towards job creation.

Mr. Agyepong highlighted the success of the YEA's previous initiatives, including partnerships with state agencies, skills training, and fostering employment opportunities.

Despite the global economic challenges, he emphasised the agency's dedication to reducing the rate of unemployment among young people and improving their quality of life.

In addition to the BEAP, he said YEA has successfully recruited and trained thousands of individuals for various roles, including Community Protection Assistants, Community Health Workers, Prison Office Assistants, and workers on the Cocoa Rehabilitation Programme.

The agency has also provided support and training to entrepreneurs, insurance agents, and individuals in trade areas like carpentry, masonry, and hairdressing.

The statistics presented by Mr. Agyepong showcased the extensive impact of the YEA's initiatives, with over 16,000 jobs created in the Ashanti Region alone.

YEA is currently recruiting an additional 20,000 young people to be trained and set up in various trade areas.

Arrangements have been made for training to begin next week, further illustrating the agency's commitment to empowering young individuals and reducing unemployment in Ghana.

Terminal which was inaugurated in December 2022 by President Akufo-Addo, which has now drastically reduced loading time from 14 days to 4 days at the Port.

He further explained that there are terminals under construction which includes, Atlantic Terminal Services, a container termi-