



STATEMENT
BY M. BAWA AMADU,
ASSISTANT REPRESENTATIVE, UNFPA GHANA
AT JUNIOR SHAPERS AFRICA (JSA) PHENOMENAL ABRANTIE
SHOW ON SATURDAY 27TH JULY, 2019
AT TV3 FORECOURT, ACCRA

It is a great honour to be present at this event to witness firsthand what JSA is doing in grooming the characters and talents, as well as harnessing the potential of young boys, to be responsible men in future, with the aim of making positive impacts in the lives of their families and the society at large. JSA's awareness of the importance of the youth in societal development is commendable and in resonance with UNFPA's mandate. We believe in and strive to deliver a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe and every young person's potential is fulfilled.

UNFPA, which by the way, stands for United Nations Population Fund, is a United Nation Agency, which focuses on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights.

Our work is tailored towards achieving three transformative goals; namely:

- A) End preventable maternal deaths
- B) End unmet need for family planning
- C) End gender-based violence and harmful practices



We are keen on youth inclusion in decision making, thereby leaving no-one behind. We truly are passionate about this and as an example of walking the talk, UNFPA-Ghana has established a fellowship program called the Youth Leaders Fellowship Program (YoLe). This program aims to identify young people, who are recent graduates of Ghanaian tertiary institutions. These innovative young people are invited to participate in a one-year fellowship program designated to immerse them in the UNFPA system, with a dedicated focus on exploring the youth's perspective and driving innovation. UNFPA's goal is to provide the YoLe fellows with essential tools, skill sets and the experience of participating in an international organization, empowering them to pursue their career goals. The fellows and the UNFPA enjoy a mutually beneficial relationship by working in programs based on the UNFPA's Country Program. The current cohort of fellows is sixteen: eleven females and five males. We are incredibly proud of them!

In addition to this, we are involved in ensuring that young people, especially adolescents in all settings and of all backgrounds- be it refugees, Persons with Disabilities or Kayayei- have access to Comprehensive Sexuality Education, Sexual and Reproductive Health information and services, information on sexual and gender-based violence and many more. We truly believe in the demographic dividend and the need to hear the voices of young people, including yours, in how the future should be...your future! We listen to you. We have heard you speak and we continue to listen. You



need information. You need education. You need to know your rights. You need access to services. You need safe spaces and platforms to express yourselves in creative and innovative ways. You need protection. ...among others. We will indeed continue to listen and help to carve a world where you truly will flourish. All of you!

I am elated to see this group of transformed boys, who are determined to speak up and to be heard; future men who would make a difference in society. I commend you all, especially JSA, for your dedication and mission to make a positive impact in the lives of these boys. My final words are that you have a partner in UNFPA and we encourage you all to continue the good work.

#FORTHEGOODOFGHANA.

THANK YOU