

STAY WITHIN THE 2016 BUDGET – GGA-WEST AFRICA CAUTIONS GOVERNMENT

GGA-West Africa has called on the Government of Ghana to be more diligent and fiscally disciplined in the management of public finances to stay within the 2016 budget in order to mitigate the excess budget deficits, which tend to occur during election years in Ghana.

Speaking at a symposium jointly organised by Private Enterprise Foundation (PEF), Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration (GIMPA) and GGA-West Africa on the **theme ‘2016 Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government of Ghana’**, Mrs Tina Asante-Apeatu, CEO of GGA-West Africa presented a comparative analysis of election year budgets with respect to the projected deficits and their corresponding actuals. It was obvious that governments over the years have found it difficult to stay in the approved budgets during elections years as a result of the pressure put on them by the electorates.

To secure the support and the buy-in of the citizenry, she therefore emphasized the need for broader pre-budget drafting consultation among all sectors of the economy especially the private sector for transparency and accountability.

On his part, Nana Osei-Bonsu, Executive Director of Private Enterprise Foundation (PEF) and the Board Chairman of GGA-West Africa reiterated the need for government to streamline all economic policies to reflect the daily activities of Ghanaians. He was quick to add that, successive governments have done little to alleviate the plight of Ghanaians through their respective budgets, though these are meant to bring relief and build public confidence.

Other speakers at the symposium were Mr. Samuel Arkhurst, Director, Debt Management Division, Ministry of Finance; and Dr. Samuel Nii-Noi Ashong, Principal Lecturer, GIMPA.

The symposium was ably chaired by the Vice Chancellor of the University of Ghana, Prof. Ernest Aryeetey.