

Governance Africa (GGA) is proposing for land demarcation and zoning to curb scarcity of land use in the future.

Unlike the Western World where buildings are well structured, Ghana cannot boast same as buildings, schools; factories seem to have been built haphazardly, with some collapsing due to the land they are built on.

Some structures have been demolished in recent times by city authorities because they were built on waterways or were posing as death traps.

The Good Governance Africa (GGA) is suggesting to the Akufo-Addo's government to demarcate the country's lands at a time most companies are springing up.

Speaking to Ultimate News on the sidelines of a sensitisation workshop organised by GGA here in Kumasi themed 'land planning: zoning and demarcation of lands for strategic use in Ghana', the Communications Director for GGA Kojo Addo said the country wouldn't have enough space to do farming or build schools if buildings are not properly structured.

He said the many divisions under the lands commission should be demystified to stop people from overriding on other people's roles.

Mr Addo suggested to government to strengthen land laws where bureaucracy in land acquisition will be a thing of the past.

He advised owners of buildings which will be earmarked for demolition to support government's cause by accepting compensation packages.

'...We are looking at the adequate use of these lands in the country, we have seen that if we don't take care, lands will be scarce, ...we wouldn't have places to plant our foods to eat as time goes on, we wouldn't have place to build schools etc. GGA is going round the country so that we will build consensus,' he said.

On his part, an Associate Professor with the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST)-College of Art and Built Environment Daniel Kweku Baah Inkoom admitted that the citizenry should be educated on the new law which was passed in 2016.

Prof Inkoom advised that terms and conditions in acquiring lands should be documented properly.

'The new law which is land use spatial act, tries to take into consideration of all the difficulties that we had in implementing the law that were straight from Britain...I think much more need to be done in educating the people about the law,' he stated.

Some of the participants who spoke to Ultimate News called on the lands commission to periodically engage the public in their activities.

They called on the government to call the surveyors and town planners to order to curb the seeming conflict of interest between them.

The participants of whom some include land administrators, traditional leaders, lecturers, were drawn from the Ashanti Region, Brong Ahafo and partly Northern regions.

The GGA team will hit other parts of the country in the coming days to build consensus on zoning of lands.

Good Governance Africa-West Africa is a research and advocacy non-governmental organisation with focus on land administration, property rights and basic education.