

PRESIDENT'S FIRST ADDRESS/MESSAGE TO MOGA

Dear Fellow MOGAns,

I, on behalf of the new national executives wish you both at home and in the Diaspora a Happy New Year! Congratulations to everyone for a successful Golden Jubilee and Homecoming Celebrations! We thank you all for your support and contributions towards a successful 50th anniversary celebration last year. Of course, we could not have achieved anything without the strength and grace from God.

It is by dint of hard work of the past executives that MOGA has come thus far and I must say, they really pulled through a lot of stormy winds to get us through to celebrate our Golden Jubilee. 'MBA MBO!' We are very appreciative. A lot of people have contributed in various ways to the establishment and success story of MOGA and to all you unsung heroines I say AYEKOO!

Thank you for nominating us as your National Executives to lead MOGA for the next two (2) years. Being the first legally and constitutionally elected executive is an honour and at the same time frightening, but with Christ in the vessel we will sail through. We know the task ahead of us is quite daunting though not impossible, and we believe that with your assured support, the next two (2) years would be exciting. Fifty years plus is a time for reflection, a time to take stock of achievements and under-achievements; and make the necessary adjustments to improve on existing structures that would move towards the desired transformation, precisely plan for the next homecoming.

To recap, the objectives of MOGA as enshrined in the constitution are to:

- a) Serve as a social and professional network forum for all old students of the school;
- b) Support our alma mater in pursuit of academic excellence through the provision of requisite facilities and resources;
- c) Provide policy guidelines and support to the school in areas of girl child education, development and empowerment and;
- d) Support any other cause which MOGA as a body shall deem worthy.

These herculean tasks implies that MOGA activities should be delivered in collaboration with a vibrant National, Regional and International Chapter executives working in tandem towards a common vision for all MOGAns and our School. Thus, I would like to take this opportunity to share our vision and thoughts for MOGA. It is our belief that, this vision would be worked on and followed through in the future to achieve our objectives.

VISION: *"To create an awareness and identity for Mfantsiman Senior Girls' High School and MOGA through Capacity Building, Development, Mentoring and Networking".*

1. Capacity Building

- Support and strengthen staff capacity to deliver quality courses to students through sponsoring best teacher programmes at the school or competitions organized by National or international programmes.
- Chapters/Year groups help needy but brilliant students at the school.
- Funding for participation in Science and Maths quiz; debating society, drama and cultural groups.
- Rewarding High Achieving students with an exchange trip abroad sponsored by MOGA to a Sister School. A MOGAN abroad could provide accommodation.
- Support educational trips: Akosombo, Kakum National Park, etc.
- Help old students to improve and enhance skills in professional careers and personal life by availing to them career opportunities.

2. Development Projects

- Building Projects
- Website maintenance and updating
- Resourcing Library and Internet Facilities

- Donation of Equipments: stoves, sewing machines, computers etc.
- Speech days: Year groups are encouraged to host, but other decade year groups are encouraged to support the sponsoring year group, e.g. 64 and 74 can support 84 etc. Year Groups hosting the Speech Day should make this information available to the National Executive Committee (NEC) including any projects and activities they intend to undertake for approval.
- Fund-Raising for Projects: Ms Vivian Etroo, the Endowment Fund Chairperson (EFC) shall preside over all meetings of the Executive Council (EC) of the Endowment Fund. She shall also establish a Finance Committee and a Project Development Committee under the EC for fund-raising and execution of MOGA projects. She is to coordinate all fund-raising activities with Chapters, Year and House Groups to avoid duplication of activities and sponsorship.
- Funds raised in the name of MOGA: I would like to remind you that all funds raised *"in the name of MOGA"* by Chapters or Year Groups both locally and internationally, in aid of projects are not the preserve of the group. Such funds should be channelled directly to the Endowment Fund account.

3. Mentoring and Role Modelling

- Mentoring students: Members, Chapters and Year Groups are encouraged to organize mentoring at the school to motivate both teachers and students. They are, however, to liaise with the National Executives for discussion and feedback on proposed activity. An annual timetable would be prepared for the mentoring and role modelling activities at the school.
- Community Outreach: Mentoring and role modelling activities for the community. The chiefs and surrounding communities should feel the impact of the presence of Mfantseman Girls' Senior High School (MGSHS). In line with the purpose for establishment of our great school we believe it's time to give something back to the community in appreciation for releasing their land.

4. Networking and Information Sharing

Inspire young MOGAn's through networking and sharing to aspire to reach their full potentials through role modeling and mentoring efforts of successful senior women.

Highlight activities of MOGAn's through profiling on the website, print and electronic media

Strengthen and establish Chapters: to establish effective regional and international chapters for effective human and financial resource mobilization.

We envision that standing on these four essential pillars the output/outcome would be:

- A significant increase in the number of men and women, particularly the chiefs of the Saltpond area would become aware of the importance of women's education and thus minimizing encroachment on MGSHS lands.
- A significant increase in the number of girls and young women inspired to pursue studies in MGSHS through role modelling and mentoring efforts of successful, past students and other senior women in society.
- Increase awareness of importance of products of MGSHS contributions to national as well as international development.
- Comprehensive Database of MOGAns established and distributed to the various chapters.
- New Chapters would be established aside Accra, Kumasi, Tema, UK and the USA.

In line with the vision, the NEC has decided that:

- ✓ All members are to be discouraged from dealing with the headmistress directly to avoid any confusion. All members are to send any requests through the National Body for approval and assistance.
- ✓ There shall be only one (1) President in MOGA and that will be the National President. Chapter heads shall no longer use the title "Chapter President". The new title shall be *"Chapter Chairperson"* (reference constitution article 3.4b)
- ✓ All Chapters and confirmed Year groups are to create their own letterheads guided by the National model. However, communications from Chapters should not be on the National letterhead. Penalties would be imposed. It is mandatory that information on all activities are sent to the National Secretary through the Chapters' Chairperson for clearance and posting on the web (reference constitution article 7b).

- ✓ Chapters and Year groups may open accounts and send their details to the NEC for records.
- ✓ Chapters are to contribute thirty per cent (30%) of their finances to the NEC annually to cover administrative costs etc. (reference constitution article 12c).
- ✓ All old students are encouraged to register as members of MOGA and pay their requisite annual dues through their Chapter Treasurer (reference constitution article 4.3)
- ✓ All monies raised for projects will be placed into the Endowment Fund.
- ✓ The current MOGA Account would be retained as the National Bank Account for continuation and ease of transaction. Accra Chapter is to open a new one.
- ✓ It is MOGA's priority to complete all outstanding projects especially the Visual Arts studio before embarking on any new capital intensive project - (outstanding work to be done include terrazzo floor, concrete sinks, ceiling and eaves). The project team will circulate the final balance required to complete the Arts Studio).
- ✓ The NEC would make a list of projects available to the various Chapters and Year groups. All developmental projects which involve heavy capital input should be handled nationally by all MOGAns to avoid scattered and incomplete projects.
- ✓ Ms. Doreen Addo will be maintained as Coordinator of the Souvenir Committee and MOGAns who would like to make souvenirs from MOGA's (approved list of souvenirs) will have to present a sample to the team for quality check and approval. All souvenirs will be sold to MOGA at an agreed price.

Accounts

New account signatories would be effected as stated in the constitution, i.e. the President, Financial Controller & Endowment Fund Chairperson. The Financial Controller and Endowment Fund Chairperson would inform members of the status of Funds upon clearance with former executives.

Homecoming

In line MOGA tradition a Homecoming Event shall be held every two (2) years. This is always a good time to take stock of our achievements, hold a general assembly and elections and above all meet friends and have some much deserved fun. We will soon roll out a comprehensive programme for Homecoming 2012 to be held in July/August 2012 (dates to be confirmed). We are going to make sure this will be an event, you will not forget for a long time to come so please mark your calendars provisionally.

MOGA Cloth

The error in the spelling of 'Girls' in print to be corrected and new prints ordered. The assignment is to be undertaken by the Souvenir Committee.

Correspondence

All correspondence to the NEC should be sent via the MOGA secretariat email address: moga@mfantsiman.org.

Finally, I would encourage that we all constantly read through the constitution (available on the website), so as to manage conflicts amicably considering our cultural and gender diversity. Conflicts in whatever form should be resolved expediently to move MOGA and our Alma Mater forward. Meanwhile, I on behalf of the National Executives congratulate all MOGAns who have excelled in their various fields of endeavour and urge we all aspire to the ultimate. After all, "Obra nye woara abo"

May God grant us all a blessed, fulfilling and exciting year.



Dr. Grace E-K. Bolfrey-Arku (*nee Bolfrey*) '78/'80
MOGA National President