



# TEERE

It's the people that count

# NewsLetter

No. 02

August, 2019

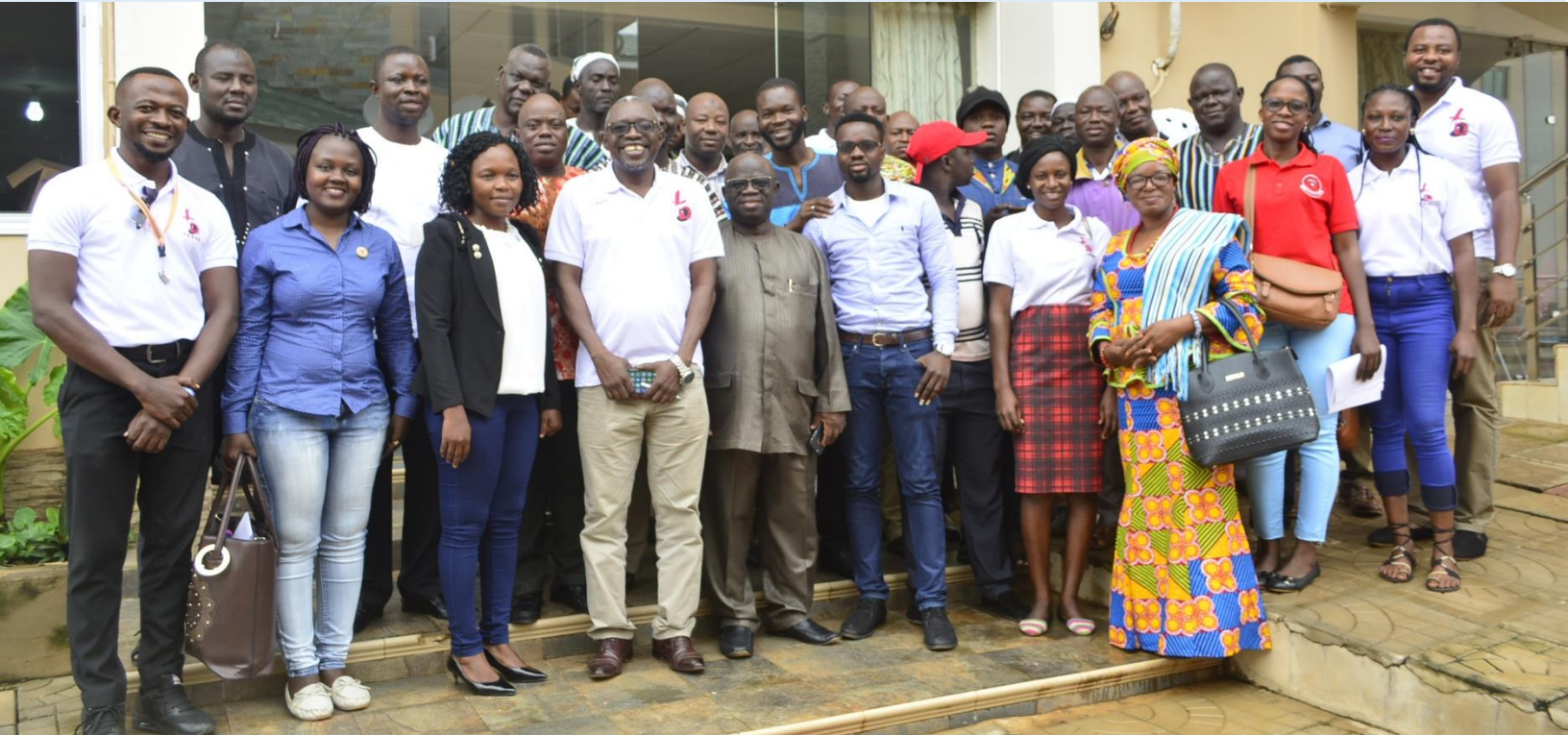


## Mr. Dennis Uhring visited TEERE and its project intervention

Mr. Dennis Uhrig of the German Embassy in Ghana made a monitoring visit to TEERE and its project intervention communities in the Bongo District of the Upper East region of Ghana. The project which was titled "Dry season pump irrigation for small holder rural women farmers in Bongo" was funded by the German Embassy in Ghana.

50 selected women from 5 communities (Vea, Gowrie Nyariga, Lungu, Adaboya) benefited from the project. Among the items given to the women were water pumps, water intakes, water outlets, vegetable seeds, fertilizer, pesticides, knap sack sprayers. They were also connected to extension services. The women really made good use of the support given to them to better their lives. They are excited that whenever the raining season is over they will continue the dry season farming with much ease.





## TEERE's maiden Round Table Discussion was held in Bolgatanga

TEERE's maiden round table discussion was held in Bolgatanga, on the topic: "The relevance of Deputy Regional Ministers in Local Governance"

The guest speaker for the occasion, Dr. Abdulai Darimani's, the Head of Institution of Local Government Studies observed that, the President of Ghana holds the discretion as to the number of deputy regional ministers he wants to work with due to his executive powers.

"One thing that was clear was the fact that there are no clear cut job descriptions for deputy ministers, hence the difficulty to even conduct performance appraisals". He revealed

Dr. Darimani indicated that the inability of the deputy minister to act does not make the position any less relevance to local governance instead the deputy ministers can assist the ministers

"In accepting the privilege and responsibility to serve as a deputy regional minister, the person becomes part of the Local Government System in as much as they have become part of the managers of the human, financial and natural resources of the system".

The Chief Executive Officer of TEERE, Prof Avea Nsoh mentioned that TEERE instituted an independent planning

committee with representatives from Regional Coordinating Council (RCC), District Assemblies, Ghana Federation of Disability organizations (GFD), Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), Women groups, Regional House of Chiefs, the media and the organization itself in able to implement TEERE local governance Forum (TLGF) effectively.

There were diverse views on the relevance of deputy regional ministers in local governance. The stakeholders were of the view that there should be a broader stakeholder consultations on the position of the deputy minister at national level. They also added that there should be a strong advocacy plan that will involve stakeholders especially experts to dialogue on issues like this.

The stakeholders comprised of public servants, practitioners, traditional leaders and experts in local government, civil society and the media.

This round table discussion was made possible with funding from Robert Bosch stiftung.

The stakeholders at the event comprised of representative of the Regional coordinating Council, public servants, traditional leaders, civil society organizations, experts in local government, past DCEs, presiding members and the media.

## PwDs educated on guidelines for the disbursement of DACF

TEERE in partnership with the Ghana Federation of Disability (GFD) have organized a day's sensitization workshop to educate stakeholders on the guidelines for the disbursement of the District Assembly Common Fund (DACF) in Bolgatanga.

It was attended by members of the District Fund Management Committees (DFMC), Finance Officers, District Chief Executives (DCEs), the Regional Coordinating Director and members of the Ghana Federation of Disability (GFD).

The President of the Upper East Regional chapter of GFD, Mr. David Aniah presenting a report on the guidelines of the disability fund and reporting channels on issues relating to the utilization, disbursement and management of the fund, mentioned that the DACF was aimed at minimizing poverty among all PwDs particularly those outside the formal sector of employment.

He added that it was further to enhance their social image through dignified labour.

Mr. Aniah urged District Fund Management Committees (DFMC'S) to monitor and supervise the utilization of the common fund disbursed to People with Disabilities (PwDs).

The GFD president noted that some beneficiaries misused the fund and stressed that the fund was to support the income generating activities of individual PwDs to enable them cater for their needs and those of their families.

He further explained that the objectives of the fund was to support the income generating activities of individual PwDs, to provide educational support for children with disability, students and trainees with disabilities and to build the capacity of PwDs in the districts.



Mr. Aniah indicated that a legal provision was made for children with disability to enjoy free education in Ghana and said since the bill was passed, there have not been any legislation instrument to back the law for children with disability to access free education as provided. He added that the law could be ratified if the various interest groups and organizations worked together to push for its ratification.

He urged the assemblies to keep updating their forms regularly and appealed to stakeholders to help strengthen the organisation for the benefit of all members.

He further stated that it was a requirement for every Metropolitan Municipal and District Assembly (MMDA) to form special committees to vet and approve applications received from PWD's, monitor and supervise the utilization of the funds and to present quarterly reports on the management of the Fund to the District Assembly and the District National Council on Persons With Disability (NCPD) representative.

He said the committees per the guidelines are to be made up of four permanent members, "but there is a space for the committee to bring in co-opted members to aid in their work and no MMDA was allowed to appoint any committee or create one", he added.

Some stakeholders contributing to the discussion noted that data for the PwDs, were mostly not too accurate and said it would be unfair to release such raw data out to organizations for support, and urged the GFD to lend the needed support to PwDs in the preparation of their documents.

The workshop was supported by STAR Ghana with funding from the UKAid, the DANIDA and the European Union.



## TEERE TRAINED FIELD OFFICERS ON 3% DACF

A day's training was organized in Bolgatanga for field officers on 3% of the District Assembly Common Fund (DACF) allocated to Persons with Disabilities (PwDs). The training was part of the STAR-Ghana sponsored project themed:

"Management and utilization of the 3% District Assembly Common Fund allocated to Persons with Disabilities".

Field officers are responsible for sensitizing members on the disability fund in the community.

This activity was made possible with funding from UKAid, DANIDA and the European Union.



## TWO OF TEERE STAFF TRAINED ON GOOD FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT.



Two of TEERE's staff Mr. Maxwell Babilo Banu, the Monitoring and Evaluation Manager, and Miss. Juliana Atagra, the Finance manager took part in a 3-day workshop on good financial management in Accra which was organised by STAR-Ghana with funding from Ukaid, DANIDA and EU. -

The training was facilitated by an expert from Humentum. Humentum is a global organization formed by the merger of Inside Non-Governmental Organization (NGO), LINGOs and Mango with focus on compliance, financial management, program development and people development. The training further strengthen TEERE's financial systems and structures.



# TEERE'S LEARNING EVENT ACHIEVED

Prof. Nsoh Avea, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of TEERE has encouraged stakeholders to work hand in hand to build a stronger partnership through networking for the regional development.

The CEO delivered this during a learning event meeting organized by TEERE to share its outcomes of the TEERE Local Government Forum (TLGF) which was implemented in 2016 through to 2018 with funding from a Germany based organization, the Robert Bosch Foundation.

TLGF is a project under TEERE's governance thematic area that brings together local government actors at the community, district, regional and national levels to discuss decentralisation policy and practice with the ultimate goal of improving livelihoods in poor communities in Ghana

He said "The ultimate goal of TLGF was to induce transformation of local government policy in Ghana through an integrated approach and to facilitate its implementation".

TEERE has since organized forums in poor communities particularly in its operational zones in the region including Bolgatanga Municipal, Bongo and Nabdam Districts which it brought together stakeholders including local governance actors, traditional and religious leaders, local structures of political parties, CSOs, social groupings like churches, farmer groups, youth groups, and disadvantaged groups including women, physically challenged and so forth.

Mr. Maxwell Babilo Banu, the Monitoring and Evaluation Manager of TEERE, highlighting on the findings resulting from the implementation of the TLGF, he revealed that inadequate health facilities, bad road networks, forced marriages and teenage pregnancies were prevalent at the community levels especially in the Bongo District.

Mr. Banu further explained that the objectives of the meeting was to provide an arena for an interaction between local government leadership and citizens to enhance responsiveness to citizens, to increase citizenship participation in governance at the local and national levels, to promote activism among CSOs and the public, to demand improved service delivery from public institutions etc.

Stakeholders present at the forum were representative from the various institutions including the Regional Coordinating Council (RCC), National Commission for Civic Education (NCCE), House of Chiefs, Civil Society Organization's (CSO's), assembly members, District Chief Executives (DCE's), Queen mothers, TEERE committee members, presiding members, and the media. A representative from the NCCE on his part said, its outfit was ready to partner with TEERE to empower the youth in terms of civic education. RCC urged the NCCE to partner with the organization to issue a petition to the District assemblies to embrace the TLGF.

## TEERE takes delivery of medical equipment and furniture for Bongo Hospital

TEERE a non-governmental organization in the Upper East Region has taken delivery of a medical supplies and equipment from the German NGO known as the Inter-NATIONAL CHILDREN Help e.v, for onward donation to the Bongo District Hospital. The Monitoring and Evaluation Manager of TEERE, Maxwell Babilo Banu, who made the disclosure to GBC's Radio Ghana revealed that the items include 66 beds, 66 tables, 50 cabinets, 118 chairs, 25 bedside locks, ultra sound diagnosis device and breast milk pump among others and about 20,000 pieces of baby lotions.

According to Mr. Banu, the initiative and proposal that secured the donation from the German NGO Inter-NATIONAL CHILDREN Help, was as a result of TEERE local Governance Forum, TLGF, which started in the Bongo District in 2016 and which later, spread to Pelungu in the Nabdram District and a regional event in Bolgatanga, capital of the Upper East region. He revealed that, officials from the German NGO certify that, their package to the Bongo District Hospital through TEERE, was the biggest ever single donation of medical wares and supplies it had done in years.



## TEERE DONATES BABY LOTIONS TO HOSPITALS

Four hospitals in the Upper East Region have each received over 100 boxes of German-made baby lotions for onward distribution to patients under their care including babies, their mothers and pregnant women. The hospitals include the Bongo District Hospital, the AfriKids Medical Centre, the Bolgatanga Regional Hospital and the Navrongo War Memorial Hospital.

TEERE, a Bolgatanga-based Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) with a national outreach, made the donation at separate brief ceremonies to these hospitals on Boxing Day. TEERE is primarily, a local-governance-centered NGO which has since successfully implemented its flagship programme christened "the TEERE Local Governance Forum" (TLGF), across three districts in the Upper East Region.

Source: [Peter Atogewe Wedam](#)



# TEERE ORGANIZED LEARNING EVENT IN BOLGATANGA

TEERE a Non – Governmental Organization in partnership with the Upper East chapter of Ghana Federation of Disability Organizations (GFD) held its project learning event in Bolgatanga in Upper East Region to share with stakeholders and the media what the two organizations have achieved on the District Assembly Common Fund allocated to Persons with Disabilities in the region.

The theme: “Sustaining Transparency and Accountability in the Management of the Disability Fund” provided a platform for all stakeholders across the region to interact and share ideas on the way forward on the management of the disability fund.

This forms part of TEERE’s activities under the project dubbed “Promoting Transparency and Accountability in the Management, Disbursement Procedures and Utilization of 2% (now 3%) District Assembly Common Fund Allocated To Persons with Disabilities” (DACF).

The President of the Upper East Regional branch of GFD, Mr. David Aniah said, it was the responsibility of the District Fund Management Committees (DFMCs) to monitor and supervise the utilization of the common fund disbursed to People with Disabilities (PWDs).

The GFD president noted that some beneficiaries misused the fund and stressed that the fund was to support the income generating activities of individual PWDs to enable them cater for their needs and those of their families.

The Projects Officer of TEERE, Avea Prosper Avea, stressed that the project sought to build an effective and efficient management of the 3% of the District Assemblies Common Fund (DACF) for Persons With Disabilities (PWDs) to promote the inclusion of PWD societies for sustainable development, with the ultimate goal of providing PWDs justice through advocating for an accountable and inclusive local government authorities.

Presenting on the success of the project, Avea Prosper Avea said TEERE and GFD undertook sensitization across Districts to empower PwDs on the purpose of the Disability Fund of the District Assemblies Common Fund (DACF).

According to him, the PwD were taken through the guidelines for the disbursement and management of the district assembly common fund for PwD. This has empowered PWDs to demand accountability and transparency from Disability Fund Management Committees (DFMCs) and the District Assemblies as a whole. This has encouraged PwDs who were not members of GFD to join the organisation.

He indicated that a template application form was provided across all districts to make it easier for PwDs including those in the rural areas to access the Fund and eliminate abled people from unduly benefitting from the fund. The form is available at the District Social Welfare Department and GFD Offices, and it is free.



TEERE In Partnership With Ghana Federation of Disability Organisations  
Funding From French Embassy in Ghana presents:

## Project Learning Event

Theme:

"Sustaining the gains of Transparency and Accountability in the Management of the DACF Fund"

📅 Date: 7th November, 2018.

🕒 Time:

📍 Venue: La-Paix Lodge, Bolgatanga

☎ 0382-021-907/ 024-487-6415 | in

[www.teeregh.org](http://www.teeregh.org)



@teeregh



The objective of the project was to enhance the knowledge of the beneficiary PwD community on the provisions of the guidelines for disbursement and management of the DACF for PwD and strengthen transparency and accountability through effective monitoring systems.

He highlighted on some few challenges of the project, which include Access to information during the implementation, access to vital information that could help in the success of the project were denied by some Assemblies. We therefore call for the immediate passage of the Right to Information Bill (RTI) into law by the Parliament of Ghana.

Submissions by stakeholders made during the event included the non-availability of some government officials during some of the training workshops to empower the PwDs to demand accountability and intensify monitoring, involving the media at the district level of the project implementation and getting more stakeholders and committee members to be sensitized. They urged TEERE and the GFD to do serious networking at the district level, and also asked if it is possible to make the templates compulsory by the end of the year?

The project was made possible with funding from the French Embassy in Ghana /Ambassade de France au Ghana.



# The history of Paga Crocodile Pond

Along Ghana's northern border, many villagers are inside of crocodiles. Luckily, they have not been eaten; the reptiles simply hold their souls.

In the town of Paga, nestled right up against Burkina Faso, is a sacred crocodile pond where locals believe that crocodiles hold the souls of the village's deceased. High profile deaths in the community have even coincided with the deaths of some of the sacred crocodiles.

Ancestors' souls or not, the crocodiles of the sacred pond in Paga are protected and allegedly as safe as any domesticated pet. The residents of Paga certainly treat them as such, regularly interacting with the 110 crocodiles in the main crocodile sanctuary, Chief's Pond.

What's even more stunning, no one has ever been harmed by one of the crocodiles. Young children swim in the pond and Ghanaians along with tourists are invited to touch and practically play with the reptiles. The people of the town wash clothes next to the bumpy ridges of the crocodiles' jaws without a hint of fear.

Even more remarkable than the docile nature of this crocodile population, is how these massive crocodiles made the pond their home. The pond is completely landlocked and apparently the oldest beasts in the water are over 80 years old. Yet here they are, ready and waiting for tourists to feed them live chickens, sit on them, or lift their spiny tails.

Crocodiles have been on earth for over 200 million years, even outliving the dinosaurs. And more importantly, their behavior in Paga is without comparison. For the legions of tourists seeking a wild Africa full of the world's most impressive and dangerous beasts, Paga's a good start to their journey.

A small fee to a local tour guide is required for interpretation and the purchase of the crocodile's live chicken dinner.



Paga Crocodile Pond



STAR - Ghana in partnership with TEERE a non – governmental organization has launched the Regional STAR GHANA Foundation in Bolgatanga, in the Upper East Region. The theme for the launch was: “Mobilizing resource for action, the role of CSO’s and Government in promoting Active Citizenship”

TEERE was privileged to be selected among numerous NGOs operating in the Upper East Region to organize the Star Ghana Foundation launch in Bolgatanga.

The launch provided the platform for participants from across the Region to learn about the Foundation and also garner their support.

Launching the Foundation, the Regional Minister, Hon. Madam Patience Paulina Abayage said, STAR Ghana sponsors organizations to engage citizens in areas and issues that nothing or little is known about, hence it focuses on social inclusion and making little voices heard.

A member of the Star Ghana steering committee, Professor Agnes Apusigah in her speech mentioned that, Star Ghana Foundation belongs to all and the foundation creates platforms for ordinary people, particularly the most marginalized in society, to become active citizens who demand positive change in their lives and communities.

According to her, their work and that of government aim to create a state that is responsive and accountable to its citizens by promoting constructive dialogue at district, regional and national level.

The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of TEERE Professor, Ephraim Avea Nsoh, applauded STAR – Ghana for coming this far and now transitioning from a donor funded programme to STAR Ghana Foundation.

He said this coincides with the president’s vision of Ghana beyond aid and TEERE’s vision of seeing communities take charge of their own affairs.

The launch was attended by government departments, CSO’s ,NGOs, Ghana Federation of the Disabled (GFD), Staff from STAR - Ghana, Municipal Metropolitan District Assemblies (MMDA’s) media and the general public.



# TEERE Annual Retreat Held

TEERE's annual get together brings together staff, partners, field officers and stakeholders to review on its activities, share ideas, to eat and drink, make suggestions and contributions to improve on the thematic areas to build the organization on December 22nd, 2018.

The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of TEERE, Professor Avea Nsoh expressed with joy his satisfaction in the work done and hard work the staff invested in 2018. He said even though the organisation lacked staff, it was still able to achieve its yearly targets and goals and that spoke volumes of the staff commitment and enthusiasm in the year 2018. He encouraged everyone present to feel free to express their views on the years overall inputs and outputs and also make constructive contributions to the way forward in 2019.

The CEO spoke on the topic "Looking back on 2018: A peep into 2019/preparing for 2019". He spoke extensively about the challenges of 2018 and the sacrifices various staffs have had to make to see the organisation run smoothly.

Professor Avea Nsoh also touched on the following topic: Capacity Development of organization and staff: in the year under review. The CEO said the organization built its capacity through two main sources namely; due diligence conducted by external institutions and individual capacity building for staff. As a result grants from STAR-Ghana facilitated the training of a number of staff through short courses and programmes to build staff capacity.



Organization's systems/structures and their functions; an organization is as good as its systems and structures, the CEO said. Fortunately, TEERE maintained and sustained a functioning system in 2018. TEERE also faced some set-backs as far as its systems are concerned in the areas of Staff load.

Projects and projects implementation, staff remunerations, resource mobilization etc. were among the topics that the CEO touched on.

Mr. Yen Nyeya who was the guest speaker spoke on the topic "innovative ways of fundraising in these times of dwindling external funding".

Mr. Yen spoke on various topics about fund raising and its importance to the growth of an organization. Some of these topics included: Fundraising types in Ghana, challenges of fundraising, fundraising strategies, fundraising methods.

TEERE has made it part of its annual action plan to clean around their office block at the Ministries. The staff have therefore taken it upon themselves to engage in cleanup exercises at least once in every two weeks to make the surrounding neat and beautiful. The organization also joined the Regional Minister for a cleanup exercise on the 22nd December, 2018 to coincide with our annual retreat.

Also, the organization organised a football match which took place at Akayet Hotel before the dinner. The match involved TEERE staff and the Upper East Media 11. The staff got to the football field at 9am after the cleanup exercise with the Regional Minister. At exactly 10:00 the two teams were seen on the field playing seriously for a winner. It's ended at exactly 11:30. The media were defeated by TEERE staff. The two teams had some hot meet pie with our local drink called 'sobolo' as snacks, then took launch later.



## TOURISTS SITE IN THE UPPER EAST REGION YOU WOULD WANT TO VISIT

### THE HISTORY OF TENGZUG SHRINE BOLGATANGA, GHANA



The Talensis people of Northern Ghana require you to be topless to observe one of their sacred rituals. With the smell of animal blood and feces bombarding their senses, man and woman alike must bare themselves to the sub-Saharan heat to enter the Tengzug Shrine in the Tongo Hills.

The Tengzug Shrine, one of the most famous in the region, was once a hideout for slaves evading their captors. Now, it is used more traditionally for religious animal sacrifices for good luck and to please the ancestors of the Talensis. With a guide, visitors can scale the rocks up to the Tengzug Shrine, remove their tops and witness the sacrifice of birds and chickens.

In the shrine, among the remnants of the recently sacrificed, visitors get a panoramic view of the region and the surreal world of the Tongo Hills. Giant Baobab trees and boulders define the dry landscape that draws both tourists and religious pilgrims. The Tongo Hills comprise only twenty square kilometers, but are richly packed with history, religious significance, and fantastic hiking.

Along with the many shrines tucked away in the rock formations of the area, the local population has rebuilt a number of classic Talensis homes. Shaped like cylinders and grouped into neighborhoods, the homes have miniature doorways, followed by a short wall inside the home that allows for protection from intruders. Other than the doorway and a few holes for smoke to exit the structure, they are completely closed off to the outside world.

The Tongo Hills give visitors a window into the world of the Talensis, and visitors coming at the right times can experience one of the region's vibrant festivals. In March, the Talensi celebrate the Golob Festival focusing on the sowing of the fields. With a bit more show to it, the Bo'araam Festival in October and November includes drinking traditional beer and the sacrifice of donkeys, goats, and fowls.

## Contact us:



Ministry Block H

P.O. Box 373

Bolgatanga, Upper East Region.



+233 200-915-187/ +233 246-323-001



info@teeregh.org / [www.teeregh.org](http://www.teeregh.org)



@teeregh



# TEERE

**It's the people that count**