



GBI-BLA

TRADITIONAL AUTHORITY
CHIEFDOM OF BUAMI



COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN (2025-2045)

APPELLATION: ANYIKUKU, ATE L'AGBE



GBI-BLA

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CHIEFDOM OF BUAMI**



COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN

(2025-2045)

21ST APRIL, 2025

A P P E L L A T I O N : A N Y I K U K U , A T E L ' A G B E

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TOGBE BUAMI IX | CHIEF OF GBI-BLA

SUB-DIVISIONAL CHIEFS



Togbe Awalie III
ADANGGBEE of Gbi-Bla
(Sub-divisional Chief of Blanyigbe)



Togbe Vule V
AFETDIA / DMANKRADO of Gbi-Bla
(Sub-divisional Chief of Bladzigbe)



Togbe Ayim Kodzo IV
(Sub-divisional Chief of Bladzigbe)

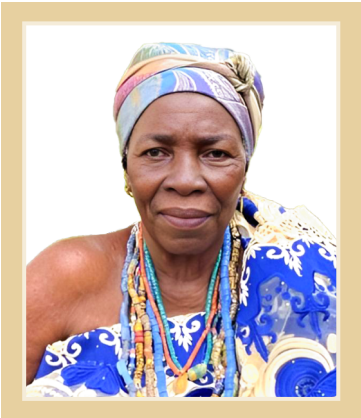


MAMA AMA SERWAA III | QUEEN MOTHER OF GBI-BLA

SUB-DIVISIONAL QUEEN MOTHERS



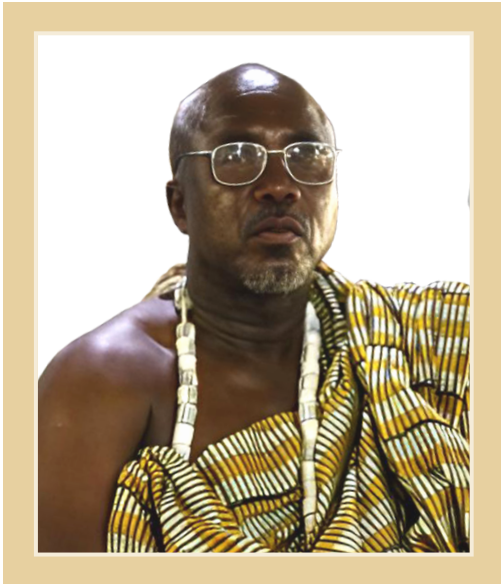
Mama Awaliesi III
(Sub-divisional Queen Mother of Blanyigbe)



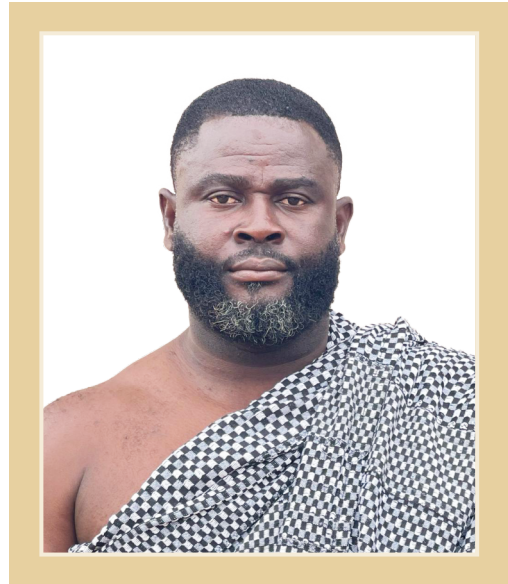
Mama Vulesi II
(Sub-divisional Queen Mother of Bladzigbe)



Mama Ayim Abrah II
(Sub-divisional Queen Mother of Bladzigbe)



Tsami Asiamah Kotobri
Simon Boryi Asiamah



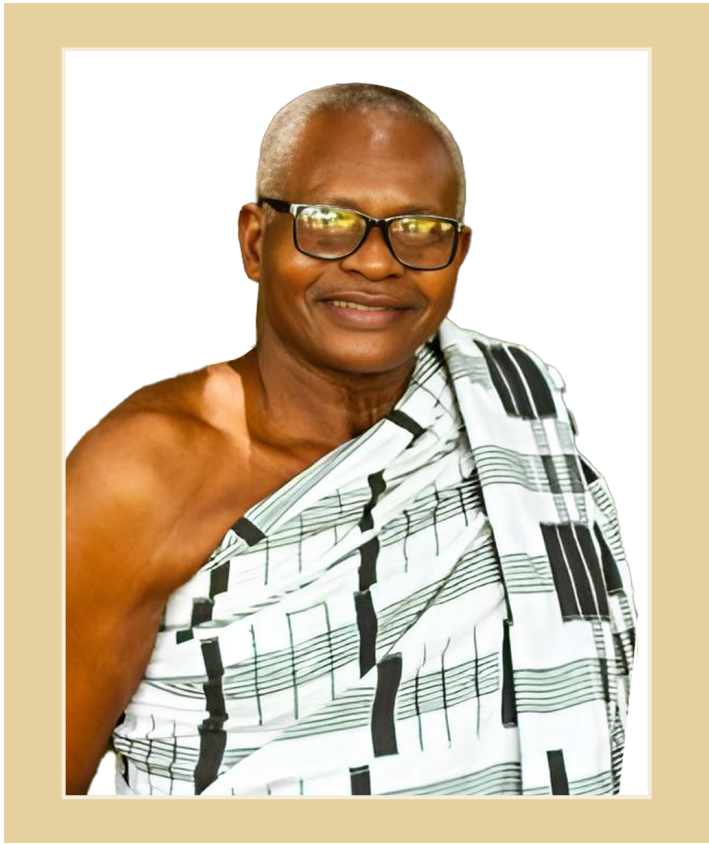
Tsami Krakani
Melchizedek Nuku Tsriku



Nyornutsami Asiamah Kotobri
Millicent Ama Asiamah



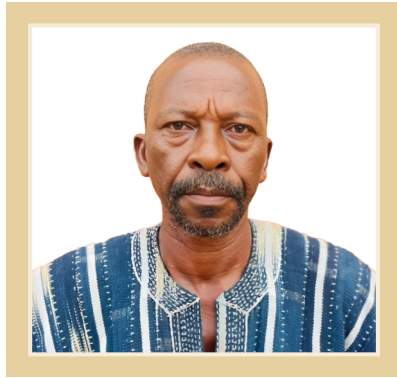
Nyornutsami Krakani
.....



BLAMETSITSIE | TSRIVIMETSITSIE
(LAWYER JOHN-HANSON SENOO)



BLANYIGBEMETSITSIE
(ARNOLD TSIGBE)



BLADZIGBEMETSITSIE
(ANTHONY GANDEDZI)



ASAFOATSE OF GBI-BLA
(LAWRENCE KOSI ADIGBO)

1 | FORWARD BY TOGBE BUAMI IX

Traditional governance is a divine and constitutional mandate for transformation

Ghana has a dual system of governance. One is the modern state system with the Executive at the top and the District/Municipal / Metropolitan Assemblies at the bottom. The other is the traditional (Chieftaincy) system otherwise known as the 'natural rulers' that date back to pre-colonial times, which operates on traditional administrative structures whose basis is rooted in moral authority and consultation. Both systems are ably supported by the Legislature and the Judiciary of Ghana.

The Gbi-Bla Traditional Authority – Chiefdom of Buami is part of the Gbi Traditional Council whose existence is underpinned by the 1992 Constitution of Ghana under Chapter 22 as one of the instruments for the promotion of peace and good governance. Article 272(b) of the Constitution has clothed the National House of Chiefs, of which the Gbi-Bla Traditional Authority -Chiefdom of Buami is an offshoot, with the responsibility of undertaking:

... the progressive study, interpretation and codification of customary law with a view to evolving, in appropriate cases, a unified system of rules of customary law, and compiling the customary laws and lines of succession applicable to each stool...

At the root of this responsibility lies the Divisional Chiefs, of which Togbe Buami of Gbi-Bla is one. Thus the need to effectively harness the traditional governance system of Gbi-Bla to promote the principles of accountability, transparency, fairness and responsibility is both a divine and a constitutional assignment.

Gbi-Bla is undoubtedly one of the prominent cultural capitals of the Volta Region. The natural disposition of the people exhumes the customs, traditions and usages of the Gbi Traditional State. It is therefore logical for Gbi-Bla to lead the charge of drawing on our customs and traditions to improve the living conditions of our people and take good care of the natural environment.

This community development strategic plan is a blueprint towards making Gbi-Bla a beacon of hope for Ghanaian traditional governance systems and it is equally a good example of the collaborative essence of traditional leaders and state functionaries in development initiatives.

We are grateful to all who spent man-hours and other resources in the production of this roadmap. We invite everybody to join the aspiration targeted at individual and community development, even as we set the implementation process in motion.

2 | THE VOICE OF MAMA AMA SERWAA III QUEEN MOTHER OF GBI-BLA

THE VOICE OF THE QUEEN

We wailed, we yelled, we groaned for twelve years and a new dawn was birthed on November 10, 2022; Gbi enstooled Togbe Buami IX, Chief of Gbi-Bla, Leader of “Gbi Dzigbe be Dzigbe” ADONTIN and the Second in Command of Gbi Traditional State. Indeed, the dawn has turned into a bright morning of hope and aspirations.

This Community Strategic Plan (CSP) is the clarion call that will catapult the bright morning into that day where accountability is once again the cornerstone of customary governance; where the preservation of our cultural heritage and natural environment is once again a considerable consideration in every communal and personal decision-making; where individual and communal development is once again our collective preoccupation.

We fondly appreciate all who contributed diversely towards the preparation of this important document. We count on every community member, every citizen of Gbi, every state institution in Ghana, every Ghanaian and every international stakeholder in the pursuit of these goals geared towards the ultimate attainment of the universally adopted interwoven Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

ANYIKUKU, ATEL' AGBE!

GBIEWO, GBIEWO KPAA!

God bless our homeland Ghana and the World at large!

3 | A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN PREPARATION COMMITTEE



This work was inspired by the desire to transform Gbi-Bla into a modern progressive community in Ghana. It was an exercise that tapped into the varied expertise of several people, some of whom are not natives of Gbi-Bla, but came together for this assignment through the spirit of volunteerism.

It was a daunting task but emotionally fulfilling at the end of the day. Team members were responsive and always keen to assist in achieving the objectives of the task. This made it possible for members to connect effectively with each other. The task afforded all of us the opportunity to make new friends, expand our network, and boost our social skills.

I wish to say to my colleagues that their various contributions have motivated us all in pushing towards the production of this far-reaching blueprint for the building of a model African customary community with a governance system that is financially self-sufficient and administratively responsive to the socio-political, cultural and economic needs of the community while promoting the principles of accountability, transparency, fairness and individual / communal responsibility.

We are all aware that the implementation of the community strategic plan equally requires people who are committed to a shared activity and those who want to strengthen their ties with the Gbi-Bla community in particular and the larger Ghanaian community. It is, therefore, my belief that this is just the beginning of a journey of honour. I call on every development minded person to come along with all the human and material resources they can muster in the implementation process.

Thank you all, and may our resolve during the implementation process demonstrate an equally committed spirit towards community development.

God bless Gbi-Bla.

HER WORSHIP FELICIA GANDEDZI

4 | PREAMBLE

We, the people of Gbi-Bla, in our bid to make our customary governance system responsive to our socio-political, cultural and economic needs, and promote the principles of accountability, transparency, fairness and individual / communal responsibility, do adopt this 20-year Community Strategic Plan for the Gbi-Bla division of the Gbi Traditional Area in the Volta Region of Ghana. We call upon all citizens of Gbi, every Ghanaian, every state institution in Ghana and development-minded persons anywhere in the world and all international stakeholders to lend their support in our pursuit of these interwoven individual / communal development goals.

5 | THE PLANNING PROCESS

In developing this Community Strategic Plan (CSP) we combined research and analysis of the past and current contexts in Gbi-Bla, Hohoe and its surrounding communities; and the Volta and Oti regions at large. A comprehensive consultation and engagement process was undertaken with community members, community opinion leaders, business leaders, Hohoe Municipal Assembly, Town and Country Planning, the managements of the two (2) colleges of education in the community and other key stakeholders. These efforts provided a foundation for and informed the strategic objectives and plan of actions to implement them.

The work was done between November 2022 and November 2023, starting with consultative meetings involving different sessions of the Gbi-Bla community, upon which an ad-hoc committee, charged with well-defined terms of reference, was formed. The ad-hoc committee conducted thorough analyses of the socio-political, cultural and economic situation which resulted in the identification of five (5) thematic areas namely:

1. Governance
2. Physical Development
3. Economic and Financial Development
4. Education and Health
5. Cultural Heritage and Recreation

With a clear understanding of the past and current situations, the committee developed a CSP that aims at consolidating the cultural heritage of the community and at the same time guiding it towards attaining almost all the 17 interwoven UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

6 | OUR STRATEGIC COMPASS

6.1 OUR COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

The leadership of GBI-BLA, one of the nine (9) towns (divisions) of the Gbi Traditional Area is administratively known as GBI-BLA TRADITIONAL AUTHORITY - CHIEFDOM OF BUAMI.

6.2 OUR COMMUNITY ICONIC EMBLEM LOGO



6.3 MEANING OF THE SYMBOLS AND COLOURS IN THE EMBLEM

Gbi-Bla has been endowed with a number of emblems that are associated with a clan, a sub-division or the entire Gbi-Bla division. However, there has always been one unique iconic emblem logo that represents the traditional leadership under Togbe Buami. This has changed over the years. The image of the current unique iconic emblem logo of the Gbi-Bla traditional leadership under Togbe Buami which embodies / personifies the identity and spirit of the community is provided below. It is a branding symbol and must be treated as such at all times.

The symbols in the emblem logo are:

1. A right hand clenched firmly to a key with the index finger pointing to the sky, with the wrist sitting safely on two (2) crossed Ghanaian royal swords.
2. The above symbols are in a circle which rests on a black ribbon with the inscription ANYI KUKU, ATÈ L'AGBE executed in capital letters.

The colours of the emblem logo are three (3) in number, which are Gold, Black and White. Every symbol/ colour in the emblem logo has customary meanings which are provided below:

Symbols

1. A right hand clenched firmly to a key with the index finger pointing to the sky with the wrist sitting safely on two (2) crossed Ghanaian royal swords.
 - I. The index finger pointing to the sky is the recognition of God Almighty as the orchestrator of the past, present and future of Gbi-Bla and beyond.
 - II. The key represents the customs, traditions and usages of Gbi, and this includes the leadership; the Gabusu Stool is the head of the traditional leadership of Gbi and the Buami Stool is foremost ordained by fate and custom for safeguarding, preserving and protecting the culture.
 - III. The right hand clenched firmly to a key is Gbi-Bla defiantly safeguarding, preserving and protecting the customs, traditions and usages of Gbi-Bla in particular and Gbi in general. This depicts Gbi-Bla as a community that pursues its goals with conviction, guts and invisibility.
2. The two (2) crossed Ghanaian royal swords: These depict the ethos or guiding ideals that characterize the Gbi-Bla community; which are culture, royalty, bravery, truth, justice and unity.
3. The Circle: The circle resting on the inscription ANYI KUKU, ATÈ L'AGBE shows the combined natural force and spirit of oneness, wholeness and invincibility that binds Gbi-Bla together as a community. The literal meaning of the Ewe word BLA is TIGHTENED or UNITED. An extended form of the word is also used in some other parlance which is BLA-AKPA meaning EVER PREPARED.
4. The inscription ANYI KUKU, ATÈ L'AGBE is the royal appellation of Togbe Buami. In the Ewe Language, the bee is called ANYI; KUKU or KU means death; the bee sting is called ATÈ; LE AGBE means 'Is alive'. ANYI KUKU, ATÈ L'AGBE literally means 'Even if a bee is dead, its sting is still alive'.

The honey bee possesses a sting which serves as a shield in protecting the colony against

attackers. The honey bee could use its stings only once after which it will die. This is the reason why the sting serves mostly as a shield but in the face of aggression the honey bee uses the sting as a weapon of attack in defence of the colony thus sacrificing its life for the continuity of the colony. After death, the venom in the sting of the honey bee remains effective and can continue to cause harm to the body of a person or an animal for a considerable period.

Proverbially, ANYI KUKU, ATÈ L'AGBE depicts the invincible nature of the people of Gbi-Bla; people who are liken to the honey bee; who are ever-ready to fight in protection of culture, truth and justice. A true son or daughter of Gbi-Bla is ever-ready to defend Gbi-Bla in particular and Gbi in general, even at the expense of his or her life; even in death, a true son or daughter of Gbi-Bla would continue to fight in safeguarding the interest of Gbi-Bla in particular and Gbi in general.

5. Honey is the only known natural edible product that consist of all the substances necessary to sustain life.

The Gbi-Bla community, just as honey, is a microcosm of a city-state. It is a community that has all it takes to produce and sustain a 'total human being'. Gbi-Bla is endowed with several resources, among them is the most important natural resource, which is a river. It also has a wide range of government administrative offices and educational facilities. All these make the community a force of attraction that pulls its members together. The community is the 'honey' that attracts and the community members are the 'honeybees' that are ever ready to defend the community and its culture, even at the peril of their lives. Hence the appellation ANYI KUKU, ATÈ L'AGBE.

Colours

Gold	1. GOLD: The colour GOLD shows Gbi-Bla as a community of wealth, royalty and nobility. Gbi-Bla is a community whose wealth is primarily in her people.
Black	2. BLACK: The colour BLACK depicts Gbi-Bla as a community of a very high spiritual energy and maturity.
White	3. WHITE: The logo has a WHITE background symbolizing spiritual purity, honesty and authority.

6.4 OUR COMMUNITY FLAG

MEANING OF THE COLOURS AND ARTWOK IN THE FLAG

Description of the Flag

A rectangular horizontal tricolor of gold at the top, white in the middle and solid black at bottom in equal proportion. In the centre of the flag is a monochrome honeybee image with a protruding

sting on a white circular background dividing the gold colour at the top and the black colour at the bottom exactly in the middle.



Meaning of the Colours of the Flag

The colours of the flag are three (3) in number, namely Gold, Black and White. ***(The meaning of the colors of the flag are the same as captured in the logo on pages 19 and 20.)***

Elements of the Flag

The elements in the flag are three (3) in number, namely:

1. Three (3) horizontal stripes – These depict the rays of light emitted from the sun. Gbi-Bla stands for TRUTH, which is Light.
2. A white circular background – This shows the combined natural force and spirit of oneness, wholeness and invincibility that binds Gbi-Bla together as a community.
3. A monochrome honeybee image with a protruding sting – This represents the royal appellation of Togbe Buami which is ANYI KUKU, ATÈ L'AGBE. ***(The meaning of the bee is the same as captured in the logo on pages 19 and 20.)***

6.5 OUR ADOPTED TRADITIONAL SYMBOLS



GOMEKADI



KPOTIMAKPA



KOKLOKO



AGAGA LOLO



KPO



PAPA



KOGANKU



SAFUI



ASI



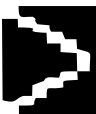
XLETIVI



DONDO KEKEVI



XEXI



ATRAKPI



ATI ALJ ETŌ



HEDZEDZE
KPLE TODODO



SABALA



MOSEFE

6.6 OUR COMMUNITY VISION

A culturally oriented community that exists to better the lot of humanity in general, live in harmony with its neighbours, whilst protecting the environment.

6.7 OUR COMMUNITY MISSION

- 6.7.1 To promote Gbi-Bla a health oriented cultural heritage community through health promotion, heritage preservation and community infrastructural development;
- 6.7.2 To use existing traditional governance systems to ensure community law and order and the protection of the natural environment;
- 6.7.3 To create opportunities for educational and economic development by

promoting formal education, apprenticeship training and economic empowerment;

- 6.7.4 To make the traditional leadership financially independent by setting up a sustainable system for the creation and strengthening of community income-generating ventures.

6.8 OUR COMMUNITY PILLARS FOR DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES

Gbi-Bla community development initiatives hinge on the universally adopted interwoven development goals and comprise the following, among others:

6.8.1 Social Capital Mobilisation

Social capital is created when community members become involved with one another in routine, often organized ways. Exploring, identifying and mobilizing local social capital would be a key preoccupation of the Gbi-Bla traditional leadership in the bid to move the community forward. The traditional leadership believes that every community member is endowed with a certain amount of assets, skills and capacities required to build capital for the growth of the community and eradication of poverty among community members. These will be harnessed to ensure that all community members have access to productive resources, including credit, education and training.

6.8.2 Community Participation and Engagement

The leadership will be exemplary and endeavour to adopt processes that would enhance collaboration, respect for the rights of community members, consultation, involvement with, and empowerment of all community members. There would be deliberate efforts to place premium on fostering and enhancing traditional leadership / community trust. Community members would have the opportunity to question, discuss, and or provide feedback on messages coming from the leadership. At all times, the focus will be on issues that directly affect the well-being of community members. These include access to safe water, sanitation, hygiene, good health and fitness. The leadership will forge change by harnessing the power of innovation that ensures that no community member is left behind in a safer and happier future agenda.

6.8.3 Partnership and Collaboration

Gbi-Bla as a sub-set of the larger Ghanaian community does not have all the necessary resources and capital to address its needs and problems. Gbi-Bla will therefore depend largely on partnerships and collaborations which may involve governments, institutions, philanthropists and / or advocates in Ghana and beyond that can support with technical, financial and material

resources where necessary and appropriate.

6.8.4 Sustainable Development

As a dynamic and future looking community, Gbi-Bla will carefully promote practices that yield positive results for the present-day community while constantly creating opportunities that will enable future generations to meet their own needs. Gbi-Bla would work to counter any practices that have the potential to compromise the socio-cultural wellbeing of future generations by promoting and adopting sustainable environmental practices that promote prosperity and wellbeing whilst minimizing the impact of climate change.

7 | ABOUT OUR COMMUNITY

In accordance with the traditional governance structure of Gbi coupled with the Chieftaincy Act, 2008 (Act 759) of Ghana, Gbi-Bla, is one of, and the second largest of the nine (9) divisions in the Gbi Traditional Area. It is the furthest northern frontier of the Volta Region of Ghana, sharing boundaries with Oti Region. It is located on the Eastern Corridor Road – Ghana's Eastern Corridor which is a National Road N2 that stretches from Tema (the harbour city along the coast of the Atlantic Ocean) and ends in Kulungugu, the north-eastern border with Burkina Faso. The route is a major commercial north-south corridor, providing a shorter access to the port of Tema and improving integration between Greater Accra, Eastern, Volta, Oti, Northern and Upper East regions of Ghana as well as between Ghana and Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger. In its immediate geographical environment, Gbi-Bla shares boundaries with Gbi-Kpeme, Gbi-Abansi, Gbi-Hohoe, Santrokofi (Oti Region) and Lolobi (Oti Region).

The indigenes of Gbi-Bla were formally known as Awalime. History has it that they migrated from Southern Nigeria to Benin (Dahomey) and then to Notsie in Togo. The Awalime, with other divisions of the Gbi State moved northward toward Kloto, between Kpalime and Atakpame and first settled at Blave (the community in which the current Hohoe Electricity Company yard is located) before finally settling at their present location along the banks of River Dayi.

The second group of Gbi, which is now called Peki, migrated southward towards the then Gold Coast and finally settled along the Volta Lake.

Gbi-Bla is made up of three (3) sub-divisions namely Tsrivi (central), Blanyigbe (southern) and Bladzigbe (northern). The three (3) sub-divisions are each divided into three (3) clans. Tsrivi has Buami Clan, Nyavor Clan and Akunu Clan; Blanyigbe has Asiamah Kotobri Clan, Bansah Clan and Gledogbe Clan; Bladzigbe has Vule Clan, Kpone Clan and Ayim Clan. The nine (9) clans of Gbi-Bla are each made up of extended families.

Togbe Buami is the Overlord of Gbi-Bla. Chiefs in Gbi and for that matter Gbi-Bla have territorial / functional responsibilities. Gbi-Bla has four (4) chiefs and Togbe Buami, who is the Overlord is First among Equals. He has four (4) layers of territorial responsibilities within the Gbi Traditional

State (Gbi Dzigbe). He has territorial responsibility over Tsrivi as a sub-division. He further has a territorial responsibility over Gbi-Bla as a division (town). He also has a territorial responsibility over the 'Gbi Dzigbe be Dzigbe' ADONTIN or Right Wing ADONTIN of Gbi Traditional State (comprising Gbi-Abansi, Gbi-Bla and Gbi-Kpeme), making him the head of the 'Gbi Dzigbe be Dzigbe' ADONTIN or Right Wing ADONTIN of Gbi. He then has the territorial responsibility over Gbi as the Second in Command; second to only Togbega Gabusu, the Paramount Chief of Gbi Traditional State.

Togbe Buami has three (3) sub-divisional chiefs under him namely Togbe Awalie (Blanyigbe), Togbe Vule (Bladzigbe) and Togbe Ayim (Bladzigbe). In addition to their territorial responsibilities which pertain to their respective sub-divisions, Togbe Awalie and Togbe Vule also have functional responsibilities to the entire Gbi-Bla; a role they play for and on behalf of Togbe Buami. Togbe Awalie is the head of Gbi-Bla traditional armed force (**ADANGGBEE of Gbi-Bla**) while Togbe Vule presides over Gbi-Bla customary traditional rituals (**AFETDIA / DMANKRADO**) of Gbi-Bla, among others; meaning Togbe Awalie is responsible for external matters on behalf of Togbe Buami while Togbe Vule is in charge of internal matters, mainly rituals within Gbi-Bla on behalf of Togbe Buami.

All four (4) chiefs of Gbi-Bla have their counter-part queen-mothers. The divisional queen-mother of Gbi-Bla is Mama Ama Serwaa. The three (3) sub-divisional queen-mothers under her are Mama Awaliesi (Blanyigbe), Mama Vulesi (Bladzigbe) and Mama Ayim (Bladzigbe).

Each chief of Gbi-Bla is expected to have a set of close advisors (comprising **FIATD, KPUKPOTD, MEGBEME and KPOME-TSAMI. TOGBE BUAMI** has an additional functionary called **KALAKALADULA**). Their female counter-parts are equally expected to have a set of close advisers (comprising **NYONU - FIATD or NYONU-FIAND, MEGBEME and NYONU KPOME-TSAMI**).

The chiefs of Gbi-Bla and for that matter most traditional governance set-ups in Ghana, are not expected to address their audience in public directly. They convey their messages through their counsellors (**TSAMIWO**). No member of the audience of a chief is expected to address the chief directly. All messages for the chief in public must be routed through the counsellor(s). As the Overlord of the community, Togbe Buami has two (2) counsellors (**TSAMIWO**) positions namely **Tsami** Asiamah Kotobri from the Asiamah Kotobri Clan of Blanyigbe and **Tsami** Krakani from the Kpone Clan of Bladzigbe, in addition to his **Kpome-Tsami**. In the order of seniority, **Tsami** Asiamah Kotobri is the Senior while **Tsami** Krakani is the Junior. The two (2) counsellors are collectively the mouthpiece / spokesperson for Togbe Buami. Their additional duties, among others, include prayers (pouring of libation to the gods and ancestors) on behalf of Togbe Buami and running

high level messages / errands for Togbe Buami.

In addition to the above, there is the position of **ASAFOATSE**, also referred to as **SCHEFIA**. The Asafoatse is a member of the college of Chiefs, Queen Mothers and Elders of Gbi-Bla and he is the leader of the youth of Gbi-Bla. He is the natural link between the elders and the youth of Gbi-Bla. He represents the interest of the youth within the Gbi-Bla traditional leadership and also mobilizes the youth for community projects / assignments. All messages from the elders of Gbi-Bla to the youth are routed through him likewise all messages from the youth to the elders.

8 | ABOUT OUR MUNICIPALITY

The Hohoe Municipal, of which Gbi-Bla forms a part, is one of the administrative assemblies of the Volta Region of Ghana. Hohoe is the commercial hub and gateway to both Volta and Oti regions. Hohoe is an emerging University town in Ghana and Africa as a whole. Hohoe houses the Volta Regional Hospital and the second office complex for the Bank of Ghana, the latter located at the centre of the Central Business District - CBD of Hohoe.

The Municipality has a total land area of 1,172 km², which is 5.6 per cent of the land area of Volta Region. It shares borders with the Republic of Togo on the east, forming part of Ghana's international border; on the southeast by the Afadzato South District and southwest by Kpando Municipality; on the north with Jasikan District (Oti Region) and on the northwest with the Biakoye District (Oti Region).

The municipal capital, Hohoe, is about 78 km from Ho, the regional capital and 220 km from Accra, the national capital. According to the 2021 Census, Hohoe Municipal population is 114,472, 357.8 km² Area 320.0/km² Population Density, representing 7.9 percent of the total population of the Volta Region. It comprises 52.1 percent females and 47.9 percent males.

8.1 Major Communities of the Hohoe Municipality in addition to Gbi-Bla

Alavanyo, Gbi- Godenu, Gbi-Wegbe, Gbi-Kledzo, Gbi-Atabu, Gbi-Kpoeta, Gbi-Hohoe, Gbi-Kpeme, Gbi-Abansi, Fodome, and Wli.

8.2 Tertiary and Second Cycle Institutions in the Hohoe Municipality

S/N	NAME OF INSTITUTION	LOCATION
1	University of Health and Allied Sciences – Hohoe Campus	Gbi-Hohoe & Fodome Helu
2	St. Teresa's College of Education	Gbi-Bla
3	St. Francis' College of Education	Gbi-Bla & Gbi-Kpeme
4	Hohoe Midwifery Training College	Gbi-Hohoe
5	Hohoe E. P. Senior High School	Gbi-Hohoe & Gbi -Bla
6	E. P. Technical and Vocational Institute	Alavanyo - Kpeme
8	St. Agatha's Commercial College	Gbi-Hohoe
9	Santa Esther Senior High	Wli

8.3 Tourism Potentials in and around the Municipality

The Hohoe Municipality and its environs is a home of tourism potentials, capable of transforming the local economy. The area arguably has the highest number of tourist attractions in Ghana and can make a very high overall contribution to national income when fully harnessed. It is endowed with beautiful landscapes and numerous eco-tourism sites that make it one of the most important tourist areas in the country. The following are some of the marked tourism features:

- I. The highest peak in Ghana - Mountain Afadja (Afadjato) located between Liati Wote and Gbledi communities;
- II. The highest waterfall in West Africa Wli Waterfall located at Wli;
- III. Tsatsadu Waterfall located at Alavanyo;
- IV. Tagbo Waterfall at Liati Wote;
- V. Wadjakli Waterfall located at Likpe Todome;
- VI. The wonderful ancient old iron mines at Akpafu –Todzi;
- VII. The four ancestral caves located at Likpe-Todome.

9 | OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Upon careful study of the socio-political, cultural and economic situation of the Gbi-Bla community with a clear understanding of the external environment, we have pinpointed five (5) strategic priorities that can be said to be key determinants of success and necessary for achieving our goals and aspirations.

- 9.1 Strategic Priority 1: GOVERNANCE
- 9.2 Strategic Priority 2: PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT
- 9.3 Strategic Priority 3: ECONOMIC AND FINANCE
- 9.4 Strategic Priority 4: EDUCATION AND HEALTH
- 9.5 Strategic Priority 5: CULTURAL HERITAGE AND RECREATION

9.1 | Strategic Priority 1: GOVERNANCE



GOAL 1

To establish an effective system for the day-to-day administration of the traditional authority that guarantees good governance

OBJECTIVE 1

Action(s) to be taken to achieve the goal

To institutionalise customary governance and control structures that enhance professional, operational and ethical standards, driven by an active consequence management system.

I. What used to be the situation?

Socio-political governance has been with the people of Gbi-Bla and for that matter Gbi from time immemorial. It has been the basis for communal cohesion and orderliness. It was characterised by structures and systems that engendered participation, accountability, responsive dispute

IV. Success Criteria (What needs to be in place to consider the action(s) a success?)

Things that need to be in place in order to consider the action(s) a success are as follows:

1. The adoption of an administrative procedure for the GBI-BLA TRADITIONAL AUTHORITY - CHIEFDOM OF BUAMI for the secular administration of the affairs of the community;
2. The setting up of GBI-BLA DEVELOPMENT BOARD as a steering committee for the implementation of the CSP.
3. Setting up of committees for each of the priority areas, as offshoots of the Gbi-Bla Development Board.
4. Adoption of a Traditional Governance policy by the traditional leadership of Gbi-Bla.
5. A functioning secretariat that administers traditional leadership in Gbi-Bla on daily basis.
6. A well branded traditional leadership capable of effectively promoting the interest of the community on all relevant platforms within Ghana and beyond.
7. A well-structured customary college of Chiefs, Queen Mothers and Elders, credibly equipped for administering governance in Gbi-Bla and beyond.
8. The creation of at least four (4) traditional leadership positions akin to that of an ODIKRO position, towards deepening devolution of traditional leadership in the new communities increasingly springing up in Gbi-Bla and also a well-established leadership structure for the Zongo community;
9. The existence of a well-organized system of customary arbitration, that delivers a fair and timely written judgement.
10. The existence of an effectively functioning burial / funeral policy in Gbi-Bla.
11. The existence of a community cemetery management system that ensures the dignity of the dead, effective preservation of tombstone history and revenue generation.
12. The existence of a set of by-laws approved by the Hohoe Municipal Assembly.

V. Resources Required (What materials and / or human resources are required for the action?)

The material and human resources required for achieving the expected outcome(s) are as follows:

1. Committed competent community members as human resources.
2. Sufficient financial and material resources.

VI. How to mobilize resources required (What strategies would be adopted to mobilize the materials/human resources required for the action?)

The strategies that would be adopted to mobilize the material and human resources required for the action(s) are as follows:

1. Community members who drafted the strategic plan would be assigned the task of drafting the Traditional Governance policy and would equally be requested to assist in implementing

- the policy, after it has been adopted;
2. There would be fundraising activities starting from appealing to individuals and groups within the community to private and state institutions and NGOs within Ghana and beyond;
 3. Key individuals and stakeholders in (and outside) the community committed to the objectives of the Gbi-Bla community Strategic Plan will be recruited to assist in mobilizing funds for inward investment and development projects.

VII. Time Frame (By what time should the action be completed?)

The projected time frame for the action(s) is as follows:

1. The administrative procedure for the GBI-BLA TRADITIONAL AUTHORITY - - CHIEFDOM OF BUAMI for the secular administration of the affairs of the community should be adopted by the close of February 2026.
2. The GBI-BLA DEVELOPMENT BOARD as a steering committee for the implementation of the CSP, should be in place by the close of February 2026.
3. The committees for each of the priority areas, as offshoots of the Gbi-Bla Development Board, should be in place by the close of February 2026.
4. The Traditional Governance policy should be adopted by the close of February 2026.
5. The effectively functioning burial / funeral policy should be in place by November 2027.
6. The well branded traditional leadership capable of effectively promoting the interest of the community should be in place by November 2027.
7. The secretariat should be in place by November 2026.
8. The set of by-laws approved by the Hohoe Municipal Assembly should be in place by November 2028.
9. The well-structured college of Chiefs, Queen Mothers and Heads Elders should be in place by November 2029.
10. The expected traditional leadership positions akin to that of an ODIKRO position and a well-established leadership structure for the Zongo community should be in place by November 2029.
11. The well-organized customary arbitration system, that delivers a fair and timely written judgement should be in place by November 2030.
12. The community cemetery management system that ensures the dignity of the dead, effective preservation of tombstone history and revenue generation should be in place by the close of October 2030.

9.2 | Strategic Priority 2: PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT



GOAL 2

To promote development and management of communal and private infrastructure that enhance access to good governance, good health, education, income-generating opportunities and other social services.

Access to wholesome water, healthy environment, sustainable energy, properly designed inclusive human settlements, etc. promote productivity, innovation and environmentally friendly practices. This goal will see Gbi-Bla cooperate with state institutions in the enforcement of related state laws as well as pursue the building of a polyclinic, a market, a palace and a whole lot of other communal infrastructure that will help boost economic opportunities, advance education, promote good health and eradicate poverty.

OBJECTIVE 2

Action(s) to be taken to achieve the goal

To promote the development and management of communal and private infrastructure with key focus on good governance, inclusive human settlement, sustainable waste management and environmental protection.

I. What used to be the situation?

The Gbi-Bla community in the olden days had buildings that were well-spaced out. There were very limited concrete gutters and tarred roads but the community was well laid out with streets and drainage was never an issue. There were spaces in-between buildings and old houses in the community that the youth converted into their play grounds like 'Volley-park' where the youth played a local American Tennis and most elderly people stood by and watched. There was also a football field called 'Gbi-Bla Park' created by a football team called 'Bla Eleven'. The boundaries between the community and adjoining communities were marked with plants that were resistant to drought.

The main source of water was the Dayi River which was well kept away from pollution. There was also an area along the banks of the Dayi River which was used for recreation. The area which was called Picnic Ground was very lively on every Easter Mondays. Community members also patronised the ground during ordinary days to either swim or just sit and admire nature. Community projects in the past were facilitated by communal labour. The cleaning of streets, clearing of farm roads, weeding of cemetery, construction of public latrines, construction of the palace hall (Afaba), etc. were all done by communal labour and voluntary contribution of financial and material resources from community members. Active participation of community members in the construction of communal facilities ensured an effective maintenance culture.

There were also projects constructed through partnerships between government and community members. The community however never managed to construct a palace for the chiefs and queen mothers, a market nor a health post.

II. What is the situation now?

The current state of physical development in Gbi-Bla is as follows:

1. There is no clear collaborative system between the Gbi-Bla Traditional Authority - Chiefdom of Buami and state institutions in addressing issues relating to adherence to the Town and Country Planning Act of Ghana and all other relevant laws of Ghana.
2. Solid and liquid waste management is a challenge.
3. There are limited household toilets and out of the three (3) public toilets available only one

- (1) is in operation. All the three (3) public toilets need major renovation works.
4. The hitherto drought-resistant plants that served as boundary demarcation between the community and adjoining communities have all withered out, which is a recipe for inter-community boundary disputes.
 5. Critical roads / streets within the community are still yet to be constructed with concrete gutters and tarred.
 6. Uncompleted gutter/road construction projects.
 7. There is need for access roads in some suburbs of the community for health and safety reasons, for example in case of fire outbreaks, refuse collection, etc.
 8. The community requires a market, a health post and a chief's palace.
 9. There is a community centre project under construction that is yet to be completed.
 10. There is a palace hall (Afaba) that needs to be reconstructed to provide for face-lifting and more space inside the hall and at the forecourt.
 11. The community requires community durbar grounds in about four (4) suburbs which are Blanyigbe, Bladzigbe and along Lolobi and along Santrokofi roads.
 12. There is an old St. Augustine's Catholic Church cemetery that has to be properly secured and developed into a cultural heritage site.
 13. The main source of water in the community which is the Dayi River and other streams in the community are being polluted as a result of human activities along their banks.
 14. The part of the banks of the Dayi River which used to serve as a recreation ground for community members (Picnic Ground) is also being encroached upon.
 15. Sand-weaning activities ongoing near the Zongo-Santrokofi bridge and along the banks of Dayi River pose environmental threats.
 16. There is the need to earmark a portion of land in the community as a cemetery as the current cemetery is almost full.
 17. There is need to develop the Gbi-Bla park into a state-of- the-arts multi-purpose park for sports and other recreation activities.

III. Is the current situation satisfactory, acceptable or helpful in the development of Gbi-Bla?

Considering the memories and emotions that Gbi-Bla invokes in individuals and groups from far and near, the current infrastructure development of Gbi-Bla cannot be considered to be acceptable.

IV. Success Criteria (What needs to be in place to consider the action a success?)

Things that need to be in place to consider the action(s) a success are as follows:

1. Adoption of a Physical Development policy by the traditional leadership of Gbi-Bla.
2. A functioning Gbi-Bla Physical Development Committee.

3. A clear collaborative system between the Gbi-Bla Traditional Authority - Chiefdom of Buami and state institutions in addressing issues relating to adherence to the Town and Country Planning Act of Ghana and all other relevant laws of Ghana.
4. The existence of a system for the effective management of solid and liquid waste.
5. The completion of all ongoing communal infrastructural projects.
6. The construction of a market, a health post, a chief's palace, communal durbar grounds, etc.
7. The development of the old St. Augustine's Catholic Church cemetery (near Franco) into a cultural heritage site.
8. The creation of a new cemetery as the current cemetery is almost full.
9. The existence of a community cemetery management system that ensures the dignity of the dead, effective preservation of tombstone history and revenue generation.
10. The existence of a management system for the protection of the sources of water in the community.

V. Resources Required (What materials and / or human resources are required for the action?)

The material and human resources required for achieving the expected outcome(s) are as follows:

1. Committed competent community members as human resources.
2. Sufficient financial and material resources.

VI. How to mobilize resources required (What strategies would be adopted to mobilize the materials/human resources required for the action?)

The strategies that would to be adopted to mobilize the material and human resources required for the action(s) are as follows:

1. Community members who drafted the strategic plan would be assigned the task of drafting the Physical Development policy and would equally be requested to assist in implementing the policy, after it has been adopted.
2. There would be fundraising activities starting from appealing to individuals and groups within the community to private and state institutions and NGOs within Ghana and beyond.
3. Key individuals and stakeholders in (and outside) the community committed to the objectives of the Gbi-Bla community Strategic Plan will be recruited to assist in mobilizing funds for inward investment and development projects.

VII. Time Frame (By what time should the action be completed?)

The projected time frame for the action(s) is as follows:

1. A policy should be adopted by the close of February 2026.
2. The functioning Gbi-Bla Physical Development Committee should be in place by the close of October 2026.

3. The clear collaborative system between the Gbi-Bla Traditional Authority - Chiefdom of Buami and state institutions in addressing issues relating to adherence to the Town and Country Planning Act of Ghana and all other relevant laws of Ghana should be in place by the close of October 2026.
4. The existence of a system for the effective management of solid and liquid waste should be in place by the close of October 2027.
5. The existence of a management system for the protection of the sources of water in the community should be in place by the close of October 2027.
6. The creation of a new cemetery should be completed by the close of October 2030.
7. The community cemetery management system that ensures the dignity of the dead, effective preservation of tombstone history and revenue generation should be in place by the close of October 2030.
8. The gutters / roads and community centre under construction should be completed by the close of October 2032.
9. The construction of a market, a health post, a chief's palace, communal durbar grounds, etc. should be completed by the close of October 2042.
10. The development of the old St. Augustine's church cemetery (near Franco) into a cultural heritage site should be completed by the close of October 2042.

9.3 | Strategic Priority 3: ECONOMIC AND FINANCE



GOAL 3

To promote economic and financial growth

The goal is to revitalize existing / dormant community business ventures; improve access to financial resources for local businesses by working with local and international financial institutions to increase access to loans and other financial resources; develop infrastructure required for economic growth; working with local and national government agencies to improve roads, electricity, rail and water infrastructure in the community; support workforce development by partnering with local schools and training programmes to provide training and education opportunities for community members with a focus on developing skills that are in high demand in the local economy and beyond; attract new investment by working with local, national and international economic development agencies to attract new businesses and

investment to the community, with a focus on industries that are well-suited to the local economy; promote tourism by developing marketing campaigns and partnerships with local and international businesses to promote Gbi-Bla community as a tourist destination, with a focus on highlighting the community's cultural heritage, etc; establish an effective community business management system backed by up-to-date technology for accountability and develop healthcare systems and facilities, since health is wealth.

OBJECTIVE 3 –

Action(s) to be taken to achieve the goal

To institutionalise good business practices capable of revitalising existing businesses (both communal and individual) and attracting new investments, that impact positively on the living conditions of community members and the community as a whole.

I. What used to be the situation?

Gbi-Bla community has over the years mobilised and managed material and financial resources required for its sustenance. Economic activities were largely agricultural, just as all human communities in the olden days. Crops like cowpeas, oil palm, yam, maize, cassava, banana, vegetables, etc were produced. Animals like goats, sheep, fowl and ducks were also reared. With the advent of Western civilisation, professions like carpentry, masonry, driving, etc also came to the fore.

II. What is the situation now?

Gbi-Bla township is currently home to several key industries, including agriculture, tourism, and small-scale manufacturing. The community is known for its fertile soil and favourable climate, which make it an ideal location for farming and other agricultural activities.

Additionally, the community exists close to several natural attractions, including waterfalls and wildlife reserves, making it a popular destination for tourists. Finally, the community has a small but growing manufacturing sector which harbours businesses like plywood, textiles, handicrafts and food products.

The above notwithstanding, almost all existing communal businesses are running at a loss while others have stopped operations due to managerial challenges. Also, there is hardly any communal economic programme currently targeted at supporting local community members.

III. Is the current situation satisfactory, acceptable or helpful in the development of Gbi-Bla?

The existence of limited access to financial resources; lack of infrastructure, including good roads, electricity and water; shortage of skilled labour; inadequate revenue generation sources, among others could not make the current situation to be acceptable.

IV. Success Criteria (What needs to be in place to consider the action a success?)

Things that need to be in place to consider the action(s) a success are as follows:

1. Adoption of an Economic and Financial Promotion policy by the traditional leadership of Gbi-Bla.
2. A functioning Gbi-Bla Economic and Financial Promotion Committee.
3. An effective individual, Family / Clan Levy-System.
4. Community businesses yielding profits with at least three (3) new community businesses opened.
5. Effective revival of Gbi-Bla Picnic as means of revenue generation.
6. A financially independent customary leadership system.

V. Resources Required (What materials and / or human resources are required for the action?)

The material and human resources required for achieving the expected outcome(s) are as follows:

1. Committed competent community members as human resources.
2. Sufficient financial and material resources.

VI. How to mobilize resources required (What strategies would be adopted to mobilize the materials/human resources required for the action?)

The strategies that would be adopted to mobilize the material and human resources required for the action(s) are as follows:

1. Community members who drafted the strategic plan would be assigned the task of drafting the Economic and Financial policy and would equally be requested to assist in implementing the policy, after it has been adopted.
2. There would be fundraising activities starting from appealing to individuals and groups within the community to private and state institutions and NGOs within Ghana and beyond.

VII. Time Frame (By what time should the action be completed?)

The projected time frame for the action(s) is as follows:

1. A policy should be adopted by the close of February 2026.
2. The functioning Gbi-Bla Economic and Financial Promotion Committee should be in place by November 2026.
3. The effective Individual, Family / Clan Levy-System should be in place by November 2027.

4. The periodic training and education programmes focused on developing skills that are in high demand should be in place by November 2028.
5. The community businesses yielding profits with at least three (3) new community businesses opened should be in place by November 2028.
6. The effective revival of Gbi-Bla Picnic as a means of revenue generation should be in place by November 2028.
7. The financially independent customary leadership system should be in place by November 2029
8. At least all the success criteria listed above should still be in place and be doing well by November 2037.

9.4 | Strategic Priority 4: EDUCATION AND HEALTH



GOAL 4

To develop and implement policies and programmes that guarantee a high level of formal education / apprenticeship for all children and youth of the community and the promotion of good health for community members

This goal is to have in place community targets regarding access to formal / informal education / apprenticeship, promote active learning culture, guarantee equality in the learning environment and ensure compliance with community targets and also have a system that caters for the health needs of community members especially children and the aged.

OBJECTIVE 4 –

Action(s) to be taken to achieve the goal

To promote policies and programmes that increase access to education and apprenticeship and prepare beneficiaries for gainful employment / entrepreneurship and also promote good health.

I. What used to be the situation?

Before the arrival of European education system in the 18th century, the people of Gbi-Bla and for that matter Gbi had systems of education mainly aimed at introducing young people into the society by teaching them how to till the land, hunt for games, fish in the Dayi River and other surrounding streams, acceptable language, acceptable behaviour, governance, etiquette, religious beliefs and religious practices. The responsibility of educating the young ones was considered sacred and was primarily carried out by grandparents, parents and kinsmen in general. Children were also trained depending on the future role they were expected to play in the society. Western education came with the Christian missionaries in the 18th Century to provide individuals with the opportunity of being enlisted on the accompanying exotic job ladder which guarantees everyday needs such as food, clothing, means of transport and shelter. Parents worked hard to educate their children since it became a means of climbing the social ladder.

Others had to engage in menial jobs to educate themselves (schooling or undertake an apprenticeship programme). Most of the earlier Western educated people became teacher-catechists, clerks, etc. This generation of Western educated people was followed by the post independent Ghana population which saw community members venturing into law, engineering, banking, etc. Despite the Western education, elders in the community still passed on knowledge of social values, spiritual beliefs, customs, traditions and social duties to the young ones. There was generally the zeal to get out of poverty through Western education and / or apprenticeship.

In the field of healthcare, the community depended on herbal medicine.

II. What is the situation now?

Gbi-Bla community is currently populated with very committed body of children and youth who are taking their education (schooling and or apprenticeship) very seriously to acquire the appropriate skills, values, attitudes, knowledge and competencies necessary for living a valuable life within the community and contribute towards the social, economic and political development of the community. There is however an equally appreciable number of children and youth who dropped out from the existing education programmes and indulge in destructive practices which shows that they may never realize their true potentials and are therefore burdens on the society. The percentage of the population of children and youth falling within the deviant bracket is actually on the increase and needs to be attended to as a matter of urgency.

There are also others who as a result of lack of career counselling choose academic programmes or career paths that they later find out are not their interest areas and this negatively affects their

performance. The lack of career counselling also deprives others of the current career choices available. Some brilliant but needy people also have their academic / professional dreams cut short as a result of lack of financial resources to support them.

Also the emergence of lifestyle disease and the dependent on orthodox medicine couple with high cost of living has made provision of healthcare quite a challenge.

III. Is the current situation satisfactory, acceptable or helpful in the development of Gbi-Bla?

Good health and education, from time immemorial have been the cornerstone of social, economic and political development. It is also an undeniable fact that the actual development of any community begins with the development of its human resources. It can therefore not be acceptable that Gbi-Bla should be losing an appreciable percentage of its human resources as a result of lack of career counselling, lack of adequate financial support for education, deviant behaviours and lack of access to affordable healthcare.

IV. Success Criteria (What needs to be in place to consider the action a success?)

Things that need to be in place in order to consider the action(s) a success are as follows:

1. Adoption of an Education and Health Promotion policy by the traditional leadership of Gbi-Bla.
2. A functioning Gbi-Bla Education and Health Promotion Committee
3. Instituted / established education development programmes like (1) Annual Career Counselling for JHS and SHS students; (2) Vacation / Remedial classes for JHS and SHS students; (3) Award packages for JHS, SHS and tertiary graduates; (4) Scholarship / support scheme(s) for JHS, SHS and tertiary students; (5) inter-schools / inter-sub-division quiz competitions, etc.
4. The presence of a system for ensuring that all children of school-going age are in school.
5. A system for regulating the movement / activities of school pupils during school hours, after school hours and during vacations.
6. A system for ensuring an effective engagement between the Gbi-Bla Traditional Authority - Chieftdom of Buami and all schools within the community.
7. Gbi-Bla Students Union with chapters on tertiary education campuses.
8. Existence of health promotion programmes, especially for children and the elderly.

V. Resources Required (What materials and / or human resources are required for the action?)

The material and human resources required for achieving the expected outcome(s) are as follows:

1. Committed competent community members as human resources.
2. Sufficient financial and material resources.

3. Key individuals and stakeholders in (and outside) the community committed to the objectives of the Gbi-Bla community Strategic Plan will be recruited to assist in mobilizing funds for inward investment and development projects.

VI. How to mobilize resources required (What strategies would be adopted to mobilize the materials/human resources required for the action?)

The strategies that would be adopted to mobilize the material and human resources required for the action(s) are as follows:

1. Community members who drafted the strategic plan would be assigned the task of drafting the Education and Health policy and would equally be requested to assist in implementing the policy, after it has been adopted.
2. There would be fundraising activities starting from appealing to individuals and groups within the community to private and state institutions and NGOs within Ghana and beyond.

VII. Time Frame (By what time should the action be completed?)

The projected time frame for the action(s) is as follows:

1. The policy should be adopted by the close of February 2026.
2. The functioning Education and Health Promotion Committee should be in place by the close of October 2026.
3. The system for ensuring that all children of school going age are in school should be in place by the close of October 2027.
4. The system for regulating the movement / activities of school pupils during school hours, after school hours and during vacations should be in place by the close of October 2027.
5. The system for ensuring an effective engagement between the Gbi-Bla Traditional Authority - Chiefdom of Buami and all schools within the community should be in place by the close of October 2027.
6. Gbi-Bla Students Union with chapters on tertiary education campuses should be in place by the close of October 2027.
7. At least two (2) of the four (4) education promotion programmes listed at IV (3) above should be in place by the close of October 2028.
8. All the four (4) education promotion programmes listed at IV (3) above and other equally necessary programmes should be in place by the close of October 2029.
9. The expected health promotion programmes, especially for children and the elderly should be in place by the close of October 2029.

9.5 | Strategic Priority 5: CULTURAL HERITAGE AND RECREATION



GOAL 5

Creation of a sense of cultural belonging / identity among all people of Gbi-Bla origin / background and the transformation of the community for business and tourism promotion

This goal aims at saving and interpreting objects, sites, old music and other significant natural features that represent and reflect the community's cultural, social, economic, religious, political, architectural and or aesthetic heritage and putting in place an education system that instils in the community an interest in local history and heritage preservation. This is expected to develop pride in community members and also offer economic benefits in the form of 'adaptive use', tourism, recreation, etc.

OBJECTIVE 5 –

Action(s) to be taken to achieve the goal

To protect and enhance the cultural heritage of the community through documentation, education and physical storage for community pride and economic development

I. What used to be the situation?

The art of reading and writing imported from Europe got to the Gbi-Bla community in the 18th Century but the indigenes did not readily embrace the professionalization of the study of history which entailed the transition from writing about the past out of personal interest to writing about the past as a profession with established methodologies. The same was with the preservation of historic materials like artefacts, etc.

Despite the lack of well-structured systems of preserving the history and cultural heritage of the community, Gbi-Bla and for that matter Gbi had special people who voluntarily kept orally transmitted official histories and preserved traditions of chronologies, culture and legal precedence to advise traditional leaders, etc. There were also skilful individuals who performed royal appellations and praise-songs as a form of promoting Gbi cultural values. These people played key roles in protecting and sustaining Gbi-Bla and for that matter Gbi's socio-political principles and cultural existence. Mention could be made of the Late Asafoatse William Akator of Gbi-Kpeme and the Late Atsu Dzatse of Gbi-Atabu, who were virtually 'walking encyclopedias' of Gbi history, customs and traditions. The late Victor Jango Digo of Gbi-Bla was also, one of the phenomenal drummers, who could play almost all cultural drums in Gbi.

II. What is the situation now?

Although there is a very limited availability of written primary sources of Gbi-Bla history, the community has a complex state structure that is worth projecting to the world by studying and preserving oral sources and ancient remains like old drums, artefacts and historic sites.

Some of the skilful individuals who voluntarily preserved the cultural existence of Gbi-Bla and for that matter Gbi still exist, especially in Gbi-Bla. The old communal music groups like Gbolo, Nigbanigba, Anikpi, etc are also still in existence and could be promoted for community pride and economic gains.

III. Is the current situation satisfactory, acceptable or helpful in the development of Gbi-Bla?

The obvious limitations associated with oral traditions and the lack of a concerted effort in preserving our history, customs and traditions do not make it satisfactory for this present age of technology. The current system is also not sustainable and cannot help in the global projection of Gbi-Bla as a brand.

IV. Success Criteria (What needs to be in place to consider the action a success?)

Things that need to be in place in order to consider the action(s) a success are as follows:

1. Adoption of a Cultural Heritage and Recreation Promotion policy by the traditional leadership of Gbi-Bla;

2. A functioning Cultural Heritage and Recreation Committee;
3. A well-equipped office (studios / gallery);
4. An effective team of workers;
5. Existence of write-ups / videos in print /electronic devices like dedicated website(s), etc. regarding Gbi customary rites (i. e. puberty rites, marriage rites, birth rites, funeral rites - *totudada*, *lorxodidi*, *kunuworwor*, Gbi folklore, chieftaincy installation rites, widowhood rites, Friday rites at River Dayi, *tavoedede* and old musical / drumming activities (i. e. Anikpi, Nigbanigba, Gabada, Zeglenyi, Wuga, Borborbor, etc.);
6. A training programme and trainers dedicated to teaching Gbi-Bla cultural heritage.

V. Resources Required (What material and /or human resources are required for the action?)

The material and human resources required for achieving the expected outcome(s) are as follows:

1. Committed competent community members as human resources;
2. Sufficient financial and material resources.

VI. How to mobilize resources required (What strategies would be adopted to mobilize the materials /human resources required for the action?)

The strategies that would be adopted to mobilize the material and human resources required for the action(s) are as follows:

1. Community members who drafted the strategic plan would be assigned the task of drafting the Cultural Heritage and Recreation policy and would equally be requested to assist in implementing the policy, after it has been adopted;
2. There would be fundraising activities starting from appealing to individuals and groups within the community to private and state institutions and NGOs within Ghana and beyond.

VII. Time Frame (By what time should the action be completed?)

The projected time frame for the action(s) is as follows:

1. The policy should be adopted by the close of February 2026;
2. The functioning Cultural Heritage and Recreation Committee should be in place by the close of October 2026;
3. The well-equipped office (studios / gallery) and the state-of-the-art electronic communication /documentation devices should be in place by the close of February 2028;
4. The write-ups / videos in print /electronic devices like dedicated website(s), etc regarding Gbi customary rites and old musical / drumming activities should be in place by the close of February 2028;
5. The training programme and trainers dedicated to teaching Gbi-Bla cultural heritage should be in place by the close of February 2028.

10 | HOHOE MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY'S SUSTAINABLE PRIORITISED ISSUES

DEVELOPMENT DIMENSIONS	FOCUS AREAS	ADOPTED SUSTAINABLE PRIORITISED ISSUES	OBJECTIVE
Economic Development	STRONG AND RESILIENT ECONOMY	Weak expenditure management and budgetary controls Limited availability and accessibility of economic data	Ensure improved fiscal performance and sustainability, etc.
	INDUSTRIAL TRANSFORMATION	Inadequate and unreliable electricity Limited local participation in economic development	Pursue flagship industrial development initiatives, etc.
	PRIVATE SECTOR DEVELOPMENT	Inadequate access to affordable credit Low domestic saving rate Limited access to credit by SMEs	Enhance Business Enabling Environment Support Entrepreneurship and SME Development
	AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT	Low application of technology especially among small holder farmers Low level of irrigated agriculture Poor storage and transportation system Inadequate development of and investment in processing and value addition Inadequate start-up capital for the youth Etc.	Improve production efficiency and yield Improve Post-Harvest Management Identify and train youth for careers and livelihoods in agri-business. Promote agriculture as a viable business among the youth Promote livestock and poultry development for food security and income generation Promote agri-food-processing business among young women for improved livelihoods Promote agri-business within an environmentally sustainable system
	TOURISM AND CREATIVE ARTS DEVELOPMENT	Poor tourism infrastructure and Services	Diversify and expand the tourism industry for economic development
Social Development	EDUCATION AND TRAINING	Poor quality of education at all levels Low participation of females in learning of science, technology, engineering and mathematics Inadequate and inequitable access to education for PWDs and people with special needs at all levels, etc.	Enhance inclusive and equitable access to, and participation in quality education at all levels Strengthen school management systems

HEALTH AND HEALTH SERVICES	Gaps in physical access to quality health care Lack of comprehensive knowledge of HIV and AIDS/STIs, especially among the vulnerable groups, etc.	Ensure affordable, equitable, easily accessible and Universal Health Coverage (UHC) Strengthen healthcare management system, etc. Partner with local health and educational institutions for health promotion activities in the community
FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY	Inadequate food safety training and services Prevalence of micro and macro-nutritional deficiencies	Ensure food and nutrition security through nutrition-sensitive agriculture Promotion of good nutrition and nutrition literacy in the community Identify and train youth (particularly women) in nutrition -specific food processing business and development for improved community nutrition
POPULATION MANAGEMENT	Inadequate financial support for family planning programmes Growing incidence of child marriage, teenage pregnancy and accompanying school drop-out rates Inadequate sexual education for young people High school drop-out rates among adolescent girls, etc.	Improve population management Harness demographic dividend Etc.
WATER AND SANITATION	Poor agricultural practices which affect water quality Unsustainable construction of boreholes and wells Poor quality of drinking water Poor collection, treatment and discharge of municipal and industrial wastewater. High prevalence of open defecation Poor sanitation and waste management Etc.	Promote sustainable water resource development and management Improve access to safe and reliable water supply services for all Promote efficient and sustainable wastewater management Improve access to improved and reliable environmental sanitation services Promote improved harvesting and utilization of rain water as part of sustainable environmental management

POVERTY AND INEQUALITY	Rising inequality among socio-economic groups and between geographical areas, etc.	Eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions Identifying and promoting self-employment among the youth to improve employability and livelihoods Promote education among the youth to increase employability and careers
CHILD AND FAMILY WELFARE	Lack of policies to cater for children in specific conditions such as child trafficking, “streetism”, and child online protection Limited coverage of social protection programmes targeting children, etc.	Ensure effective child protection and family welfare system Ensure the rights and entitlements of children
GENDER EQUALITY	Gender disparities in access to economic opportunities	Attain gender equality and equity in political, social and economic development systems and outcomes
SOCIAL PROTECTION	Weak social protection systems Inadequate and limited coverage of social protection programmes for vulnerable groups Ineffective coordination of social protection interventions Lack of sustainable funding	Strengthen social protection, especially for children, women, persons with disability and the elderly
DISABILITY AND DEVELOPMENT	Inadequate opportunities for persons with disabilities to contribute to society Lack of physical access to public and private structures for PWDs	Promote full participation of PWDs in social and economic development of the country Promote participation of PWDs in politics, electoral democracy and governance
EMPLOYMENT AND DECENT WORK	High levels of unemployment and under-employment amongst the youth	Improve human capital development and management Promote the creation of decent jobs
SPORTS AND RECREATION	Inadequate and poor sports infrastructure	Enhance sports and recreational infrastructure

Environment, Infrastructure and Human Settlement	ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION	Improper disposal of solid and liquid waste Inadequate engineered landfill sites and waste water treatment plants	Reduce environmental pollution
	DEFORESTATION, DESERTIFICATION AND SOIL EROSION	Inappropriate farming practices Indiscriminate use of weedicides Over exploitation and inefficient use of forest resources	Combat deforestation, desertification and Soil erosion
	CLIMATE VARIABILITY AND CHANGE	Inadequate inclusion of gender and vulnerability issues in climate change actions, etc.	Enhance climate change resilience Reduce greenhouse gases
	TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE: ROAD, RAIL, WATER AND AIR	Poor quality and inadequate road transport network Inadequate facilities for PWDs in the transport system High incidence of road accidents	Ensure safety and security for all categories of road users, etc.
	INFORMATION COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY (ICT)	Poor quality ICT services Limited use of ICT as a tool to enhance the management and efficiency of businesses and provision of public services	Enhance application of ICT in national development Expand the digital landscape
	DISASTER MANAGEMENT	Weak legal and policy frameworks for disaster prevention, preparedness and response	Promote proactive planning for disaster prevention and mitigation
	SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION	Limited collaboration between public research institutions and businesses on product, service and process innovation	Mainstream science, technology and innovation in all socio-economic activities
	ENERGY AND PETROLEUM	Low utilization of waste as an energy resource	Ensure availability of, clean, affordable and accessible energy
	DRAINAGE AND FLOOD CONTROL	Recurrent incidence of flooding Poor waste disposal practices and poor drainage system	Address recurrent devastating floods
	INFRASTRUCTURE MAINTENANCE	Poor and inadequate maintenance of infrastructure	Promote proper maintenance culture
	LAND ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT	Inadequate reliable and comprehensive data on land ownership	Develop efficient land administration and management system

	HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AND HOUSING	Weak enforcement of planning and building regulations Scattered and unplanned human settlements Limited investments in social programmes in Zongos and inner cities	Promote a sustainable, spatially integrated, balanced and orderly development of human settlements
	RURAL DEVELOPMENT	High rate of rural-urban migration Wide digital divide between urban and rural dwellers, etc.	Enhance quality of life in rural areas
	ZONGOS AND INNER CITIES DEVELOPMENT	Proliferation of slums Weak enforcement of legal frameworks to tackle slum development	Improve quality of life in slums, Zongos and inner cities
	LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND DECENTRALISATION	Ineffective sub-district structures Inadequate exploitation of local opportunities for economic growth and job creation, etc.	Deepen political and administrative decentralization Strengthen fiscal decentralization, etc.
	HUMAN SECURITY AND PUBLIC SAFETY	Weak relations between citizens and law enforcement agencies	Enhance security service delivery
Strengthening Ghana's role in international affairs	INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS	Limited participation by the diaspora in development	Integrate Ghanaian Diaspora into National Development

11 | APPENDIX I – SWOT ANALYSIS

11.1 Strengths

The internal economic positives of Gbi-Bla include but not limited to the following:

1. Availability of fertile soil and favourable climate for agriculture.
2. Peaceful environment
3. Human capacity.
4. Host to two tertiary institutions and more opportunities for higher education
5. Strong municipal economy
6. Part of a vibrant commercial enclave for Volta and Oti regions.
7. Availability of community income-generating ventures like public toilets, chairs for renting, former post office building for renting, etc
8. Availability of water supply system.
9. Existence of financial institutions.
10. Availability of a vibrant customary system for leadership and dispute resolution (arbitration)
11. Existence of an FM Station.
12. Close to a lot of sites of historical importance in the Volta region.
13. Availability of a beautiful & sight-seeing of long mountainous line.
14. Availability of a calm and meandering Dayi River.
15. Gbi-Bla Picnic ground for revenue generation, when well operated.
16. A community centre to generate revenue when completed.
17. Closeness to Togo (Market).
18. Closeness to Volta River for leisure and transportation.
19. Home to the regional offices of Ghana Cocoa Board.
20. Existence of a vibrant Zongo community.
21. Potential for Individual, Family and or Clan Levy System.

11.2 Weaknesses

Some of the major internal economic negatives of Gbi-Bla are as follows:

1. Limited access to financial resources

2. Lack of infrastructure, mainly good roads.
3. Lack of a day-to-day functioning secretariate of the traditional leadership
4. Shortage of skilled labor.
5. Inadequate revenue generation sources.
6. Lack of local market.
7. No health post(s) / clinic.
8. Inadequate entrepreneurs.
9. Inadequate local industry.
10. Decline in skilled training and mentorship
11. No support fund for the needy.
12. Inadequate investment in infrastructure.
13. Lack of marketing and promotional activities.

11.3 Opportunities

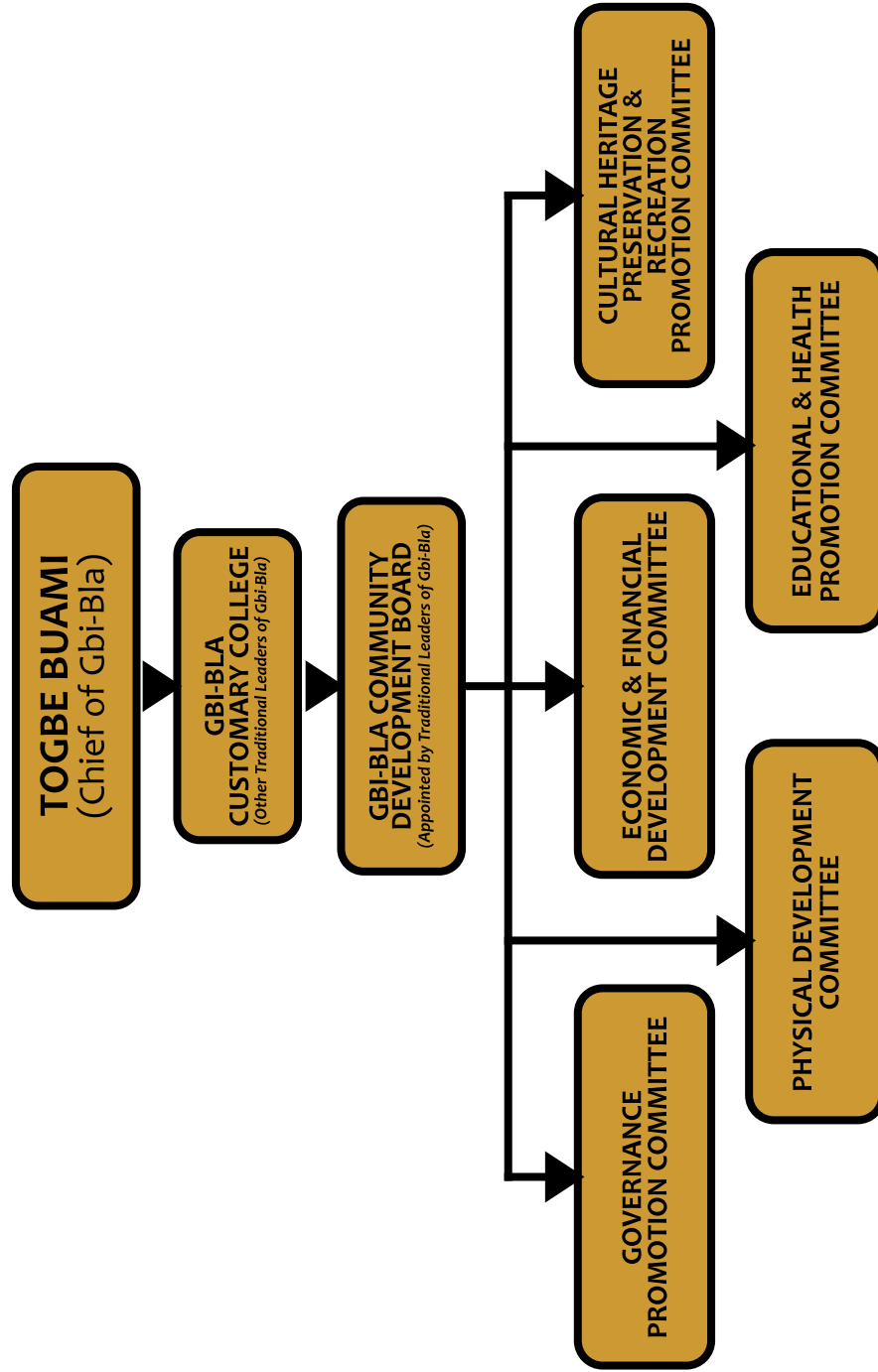
The external economic positives consist of the following:

1. Growing demand for locally produced goods and services.
2. Potential for tourism revenue.
3. Opportunity to attract new investment and business development.
4. Citizenry living abroad interested in investing at home.
5. Existence of a Municipal Assembly.
6. Existing and up-and-coming NGOs.
7. Potential for the development of an IT Accelerator & Incubator programmes to be dubbed “Gbi-Bla Valley”.
8. Proposed train station and allied facilities. (Long Term)
9. Proposed Airstrip for Volta North and Oti. (Long Term)
10. Proposed Regional Police Depot. (Long Term)
11. Potential for developing water and mountain area-related activities like cable cars, mountain hiking, zip lining and canopy walks. (Long Term)
12. Exploring the possibilities of holding major music and cultural events at the Gbi-Bla Picnic ground and Lukor mountains. (Long Term)
13. Potential for developing and promoting “foot walks” and bike trails around Lukor mountains and along the Dayi River. (Long Term)
14. Development of palm wine tourism, for palm wine tasting experience. (Long Term)

11.4 Threats

The external negatives of Gbi-Bla are as follows:

1. Competition from other communities and regions.
2. Economic instability and uncertainty.
3. Environmental challenges, such as climate change and natural disasters
4. Youth unemployment.
5. Lack of capital
6. Poverty
7. Poor law and order situation and the rise of serious crimes like drugs and burglary among the youth
8. Lack of effective cooperation among the divisions within the Gbi Traditional State
9. Poor implementation of national education systems
10. Inadequate agricultural infrastructure
11. Insufficient social infrastructure
12. High level of illiteracy
13. Poor public project supervision
14. Lack of political will
15. Corruption



13 | APPENDIX III – IMPLEMENTATION PLAN?

HOW WILL WE MEASURE ADVANCEMENT?

1. Receipt of annual composite reports from the Gbi-Bla Development Board.
2. Biennial review of Annual Composite Reports to ascertain progress of the implementation and make recommendations for the way forward (i. e. occurring every two years) jointly by the Gbi-Bla Development Board and the Customary College.
3. Receipt of a Closing Out Report (To be undertaken by the Gbi-Bla Development Board and submitted to the traditional leadership of Gbi-Bla.
4. In addition to the above, there shall be SHORT-TERM PLANS, MIDTERM REVIEWS and MEDIUM-TERM PLANS

SHORT TERM – WITHIN TWO YEARS

1. Develop policies for the attainment of each of the objectives
2. Set up a Gbi-Bla Development Board as a steering committee for the implementation of the CSP.
3. Set up committees for each of the priority areas, as offshoots of the Gbi-Bla Development Board.
4. Set detailed targets, timelines and key performance indicators (KPIs) for each of the priority areas
5. Biennial Work Plans / Business Plans including budgets (i. e. occurring every two years) from each of the committees
6. Develop detailed project proposals for each of the projects required for the attainment of the overall objectives of the CST

MIDTERM REVIEW AND ASSESSMENT - EIGHT TO NINE YEARS

KPI Review / Performance Evaluation / Community Strategy Review / Benchmarking, etc. to ascertain the progress of the implementation and make recommendations that will define new pathways / target resetting, taking into consideration changes in the environment that were not envisaged at the start of the plan. (To be undertaken by Gbi-Bla Development Board)

MEDIUM-TERM – TEN TO TWELVE YEARS

1. Adoption of recommendations of the midterm reviews
2. Implementation of the adopted recommendations of the midterm reviews

CLOSING OUT - EIGHTEEN TO TWENTY YEARS

In place of the annual composite reports, there will be a strategic plan closeout report that will be generated from a strategic plan closeout template. This report will pave the way for the preparation towards the next cycle. (To be undertaken by the Gbi-Bla Development Board with inputs from the various committees and submitted to the traditional leadership of Gbi-Bla and reviewed by the Customary College.)

14 | CONCLUSION

The foregone is the community's endeavour to draw a clear roadmap for a bountiful future. We are upbeat that our hopes and aspirations will enable all development-minded stakeholders to lend their support in building a model Ghanaian grassroots community. We invite all stakeholders in Ghana and beyond on board in the execution of this all-important assignment to humanity.



DESIGNED & PRODUCED:
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