

# NGO empowers adolescent girls to reduce school dropout in Tamale metropolis

BY TIMES REPORTER

A training programme to equip about 60 adolescent girls and parent peer counselors to reduce the school drop-out rate among adolescent girls in Kochem, Ngogu and Bogunaayili communities in the Tamale metropolis has taken off.

It focuses on community response and accountability strategies and forms part of a series of trainings and support seminars aimed at empowering the girls, parents and community leaders.

Organised by OmanBaako, a non-governmental organisation (NGO), the programme dubbed, 'Investing in Adolescent Girls Strengthens our Community', it would also equip at least 30 local religious and traditional leaders, school administration, and business leaders with similar strategies.

Speaking at the project launch on Friday, Danielle Taylor, Founder and Executive Director, OmanBaako, said the programme which was

being carried out in collaboration with two local development organisations, was at the request of the communities to tackle the menace.

She described the impact of the abandonment of their education and homes as "immediate and profound", adding that "it reduces their critical thinking skills, their future earning potential and their capacity to contribute to their community's well-being."

She further explained that members of these communities felt "existing social norms contribute to gross gender inequity that poorly equips the girls to seek and take advantage of opportunities that would increase their physical, social, and economic security and welfare".

The approach by OmanBaako, Ms Taylor said was to work collaboratively with community members and leaders, to build a more equitable community that celebrates and elevates the contributions and inherent human rights of its young girls.

This, she was confident would stop the worrying trend in many rural villages of northern Ghana

where girls desert their communities to hawk along the streets of

Accra and rather positions them to tackle a variety of interconnected

sustainable development goals.



• Ms Taylor with some of the participants