

WELCOME ADDRESS BY ACTING DIRECTOR, INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT (ISD), DR. WINNIFRED NAFISA MAHAMA, AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE TRAINING WORKSHOP FOR ISD PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICERS (PROs) OF MDAs ON TUESDAY, 14TH MAY, 2024 AT THE COCONUT GROVE BEACH RESORT, ELMINA

Hon. Minister

Resource Persons

Public Relations Officers (PROs)

Members of the Media

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

Good Morning

It is with great pleasure and enthusiasm that I extend a warm welcome to each and every one of you to the opening ceremony of our training on curbing or should I say combating information disorders. Today marks the beginning of a crucial journey - a journey towards equipping ourselves with the knowledge, skills, and strategies necessary to confront one of the most pressing challenges of our time.

In this era of unprecedented connectivity and information abundance, we find ourselves grappling with a pervasive menace: information disorders. Misinformation, disinformation, and malformation threaten to undermine trust, sow division, and erode the very fabric of our societies. However, in the face of this formidable adversary, we stand united in our determination to confront it head-on.

Distinguished ladies and Gentlemen

This training program represents a beacon of hope amidst the darkness of misinformation. Over the coming days, we will embark on a transformative learning experience, guided by leading experts and practitioners in the field. Together, we will delve into the intricacies of information disorders, exploring their origins,

manifestations, and consequences. We will dissect the anatomy of misinformation, unravel the mechanisms of its propagation, and uncover strategies for its mitigation.

But beyond mere theoretical understanding, this training will empower us with actionable insights and practical tools. Through interactive sessions, case studies, and simulations, we will hone our critical thinking skills, enhance our media literacy, and sharpen our ability to discern truth from falsehood. Armed with these newfound capabilities, we will emerge as formidable guardians of truth and integrity in our respective Institutions and spheres of influence.

Moreover, this training serves as a testament to our collective resolve to combat information disorders. By coming together from diverse backgrounds, disciplines, and perspectives, we affirm our commitment to forging a united front against misinformation. Through collaboration, cooperation, and solidarity, we amplify our impact and multiply our effectiveness in the battle for truth and trust.

Fellow Public Relations Officers

As we embark on this journey, let us approach it with open minds, eager hearts, and a shared sense of purpose. Let us seize this opportunity to not only deepen our understanding of information disorders but also to catalyze positive change in our societies. And let us remember that ultimately, the power to combat misinformation lies within each and every one of us.

In closing, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to the Head of PRCD and her team and participants who have made this training possible. Your dedication, passion, and commitment inspire us all. Together, let us rise to the challenge before us and emerge stronger, wiser, and more resilient in the face of misinformation.

Thank you!