

New headmaster for Mfantshipim

• Rev. Aidoo receives overwhelming vote from National Executive Council

Education Matters

With Anis Haffar



SOME institutions are huge, with deep empathetic tap roots. Mfantshipim, for example, has solid physical and emotive infrastructures — all sealed in jealously guarded traditions.

Ever since the founding in 1876, particular customs have been hard to break. Such tempered nuances support the school's survival instincts.

But at an extraordinary meeting of the Mfantshipim Old Boys Association (MOBA) National Executive Council - NEC (held at the Asbury Dunwell Chapel, Methodist Headquarters, Accra, June 8, 2020) the council ushered in a new non-old boy headmaster by a resounding vote of 28 to four. This was quite new!

Former headmasters

From its humble beginnings in 1876 to 1942, the school was headed mostly by missionaries of the Methodist Church, notably among them were the

reverends James Picot, Dennis Kemp, A.A. Sneath, W.T. Balmer and R.A. Lockhart.

It wasn't till the year 1942 did the iconic Francis L. Bartels broke the mode when he was appointed an African headmaster of his alma mater.

Bartels first served up to 1945 and left for the U.K. to be re-groomed for that lofty position through further studies.

He returned to continue an outstanding tenure from 1949 to 1961, after which he left for an appointment with UNESCO and later to serve as Ghana's ambassador to Bonn, Germany.

From then on, all the substantive headmasters had been old boys: including Rev. W.G.M. Brandful, Joseph Aburuah, O.K. Monney, B.K. Dontwi, C.K. Eshun among others.

So the appointment of Rev. Ebenezer Kobina Aidoo presented a turning point in the annals of the school's history. But Rev. Aidoo was not ordained from a silver chariot for the honour of serving in that lustrous capacity.

Without any sense of entitlement whatsoever, he had to win his way among competing candidates who happened to be old boys of the school.

Today - based on the overwhelming vote of acceptance - his appointment as the new head has become

Mfantshipim's prized pride in allowing for merit and competence, and not succumbing to nepotism or cronyism.

Hence, going forward, a great lesson for qualified meritocracy has been exemplified to guide Ghana in the nation's substantive appointments to critical positions.

The interview panel

The interview proper was conducted on May 14, 2020 at the

Methodist Headquarters Conference Room, Accra, with an eight-member panel consisting, Most Rev. Paul Bofo, Presiding Bishop

(Chairman); Very Rev. Naana Danyame, General Manager of Schools; Very Rev. Anthony Godwyll, Head of Human Resource, (MOBA); Very Rev. Abraham Osei-Donkor, Superintending Minister; [all of the Methodist Church, Ghana]

and Prof. Ato Essuman, Dean of the Faculty of Education and Entrepreneurship, the Methodist University.

The MOBA team comprised Ebusuapanyin Capt (Rtd) Paul Forjoe; Anis Haffar and Prof. Philip Bondzi-Simpson, Rector of GIMPA.

The criteria for the selection - among other qualities - were weighted for the practical application of education issues; management competence; ability to analyse management challenges and offer solutions; leadership and technical competence; computer literacy.

At the final tally, after a strenuous interview, Rev. Aidoo had topped the competing group.

Rev. Ebenezer Aidoo

Born October 8, 1975, Rev. Aidoo hails from Twifu Wawase in the Lower Denkyira District in the Central Region.

He completed his Cambridge GCE O and A levels at the Winneba Secondary School from 1988 to 1995. At Winneba, he was both the academic prefect and president of the Maths and Science

Club.

He then enrolled at the University of Cape Coast where he earned a degree in Bachelor of Education and an M.Phil. in Science Education.

Prior to his new appointment at Mfantshipim, he was the headmaster of the Methodist High School, Saltpond and assistant headmaster (Administration) at Mfantshipim School.

At the Wesley Girls High School, Cape Coast, he served as the academic and administrative coordinator.

He was previously the head of the physics department and head of the science department there, and led the Maths and Science Quiz team.

A member of the Ghana Association of Science Teachers (GAST), he served as Central Regional branch secretary, and the physics panel convener. His other interests include listening to gospel tapes, football, reading and singing.

Key performance indicators

Heeding the requests of MOBA National, the following is to be formally agreed with the Methodist Church: That Rev. Ebenezer Aidoo shall serve for a term of four (4) years with all the support that MOBA traditionally gives the school.

MOBA

national shall set out Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for consideration and adoption by the governing board of Mfantshipim.

With the KPIs approved by the governing board, they shall be used to assess the performance of the new headmaster at the end of his initial term.

Henceforth, KPIs shall be used for the annual performance

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appraisal of all headmasters.

MOBA will use its considerable clout to ensure quarterly meetings of the school's governing board to guide and provide oversight to management.

Leadership development and succession planning should be priority areas for MOBA national in order to ensure performance excellence in Mfantshipim headmasters. The school is determined to reclaim and exceed its previous years of glory.

MOBA national shall put in place modalities for upgrading, grooming and building the capacity of a pool of excellent candidates to occupy the post of Mfantshipim headmaster in the future.

Qualified old boys shall certainly have a special pride of place and be called upon to compete for that important position after the first term of Rev. Aidoo.

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• Front left: The writer, Rev. Ebenezer Aidoo, Capt Paul Forjoe (ret'd). Back left: Prof. Philip Bondzi-Simpson, Parry Aboagye and Yaw Subri

