

# Ho Cured Lepers plead for financial support, empowerment

From Winston Tamakloe, Ho

**T**HE executive director of the Ho branch of Cured Lepers Foundation, Mrs. Joycelyn Akorfa Dotse-Ochlich, has appealed to corporate bodies and financial institutions to economically empower cured lepers to stop relying on social donations to survive.

“We need sponsorship to provide a skills training centre for economic empowerment for cured lepers and their children so that they can afford to feed and support themselves,” she said.

Mrs. Dotse-Ochlich made the appeal at the inauguration of a clinic for cured lepers at Ho.

Known as the Bonita Cured Lepers Clinic, estimated at GH¢65,000, it was constructed by Madamfo Ghana Foundation, a German-based non-governmental organisation.

The 300 cured lepers have no source of livelihood and are fed once a day. They are fed twice when societies and philanthropists donate to them.

Due to their plight, their children are unable to attend school and their daughters are at the mercy of men who at times impregnate them and abscond.

Mrs. Dotse-Ochlich noted that “relying on social donations to survive is not helpful and a risk to their survival since they will be impoverished

when they are not forthcoming.”

She pointed out that the children of cured lepers needed assistance to pursue education and apprenticeship, but due to lack of such support and assistance, they were unable to either educate themselves or pursue a career.

Mrs. Dotse-Ochlich commended both Madamfo Ghana Foundation and Holland-based Cured Lepers Foundation for their assistance and was hopeful that other benevolent societies and philanthropists would come to the aid of the cured lepers and their families.

Madam Bettina Landgrafe, president of Madamfo Ghana Foundation, said the foundation was touched by the plight of the cured lepers, hence the construction of the clinic. She tasked the Cured Lepers Foundation to acquire land to enable Madamfo Ghana Foundation to construct houses to ease the congestion at their present settlement.

Mr. Tan Meerke, Director of Cured Lepers Foundation, Holland, pledged to provide solar panels for the houses since the cured lepers were unable to pay for electricity bills.



*Rev. Fr. Andrew Campbell, Chairman of Lepers Aid Committee*