

PRESS RELEASE

Ghana Federation of Disability Organisations condemns Franklin Jantuah for discrediting the Flagbearer of CPP on the basis of Disability

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

The Ghana Federation of Disability Organisations (GFD), formerly Ghana Federation of the Disabled (GFD), strongly condemns the derogatory statements made about the newly elected flagbearer of the Convention People's Party (CPP) by Franklin Jantuah who was speaking in an exclusive media interview marking the 50th anniversary of the overthrow of Osagyefo Dr Kwame Nkrumah's government with GhToday hosts Kafui Dey and Baisiwa Dowuona Hammond in Kumasi – Reported February 24, 2016. GFD equally calls on the good people of Ghana and citizens of the global village to ignore unreservedly the conservative politician and his retrogressive tendencies which have no place anymore in modern and inclusive democracies in the world.

"Franklin Jantuah, the only surviving member of the CPP since Nkrumah's time" who should have been a seasoned politician and a reservoir of political experience, is reported to have disappointed all modern thinking and progressive democrats by his expression of disabilism, "I don't think a cripple can lead a political party". Jantuah went further to add that "if you have a CPP with a leader who is a crippled...I wonder how he is going to rule". GFD uses this platform to correct Jantuah's negative perception about persons with disabilities (PWDs). It should be placed on record that the world has experienced great and successful leadership of PWDs including Franklin D. Roosevelt, former President of United States of America (USA), who was the only American President to have been re-elected four consecutive times. Such unacceptable disparaging and demeaning views run contrary to the 1992 Constitution of Ghana which states in article 15(1) that the dignity of all persons shall be inviolable. Section 37 of Persons with Disability Act, 2006 (Act 715) frowns on derogatory statements about persons with disability. GFD views Jantuah's statement as a counterproductive to the respect of the laws in Ghana.

Jantuah can debate the flag bearer on ideas and other areas of competency. However, the law frowns on anybody attacking a person because of that person's disability. **Franklin Jantuah must render an unqualified apology to the disability fraternity, without delay.**

Signed



**Yaw Ofori Debra
National President of GFD
0243-242913 / 0201-814667**