

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



## **AABRYT FOUNDATION WELCOMES LAUNCH OF FREE SANITARY PAD PROGRAM BY NDC GOVERNMENT, CALLS FOR ROBUST IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES AND SUSTAINABLE IMPACT**

Accra, Ghana – April 25, 2025 – The AABRYT Foundation (LBG), a leading advocate for menstrual health, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), and gender equality in Ghana, commends the National Democratic Congress (NDC)-led Government on the official launch of the long-anticipated Free Sanitary Pads Program for young girls across the nation.

This bold step is a significant milestone in the fight against period poverty and a strong affirmation of the government's commitment to bridging the gender gap in education, health, and social development. For years, menstrual health has been a silent barrier to the empowerment of girls, with countless students forced to miss school, suffer health risks, or endure shame simply because they cannot afford sanitary pads.

AABRYT Foundation's Executive Director, Akosua Sarpong, responded to the launch with optimism but also urgency:

*“This policy is a beacon of hope. However, translating it from political promise to practical reality requires more than distribution. We must ask – how will this program be sustained, especially in remote and under-resourced communities? What data was it based on? Will the quality, quantity, and accessibility of these pads be monitored effectively? How do we ensure this does not become another well-intentioned initiative that fails due to bureaucratic bottlenecks?”*

### **Key Concerns and Challenges:**

While applauding this monumental step, AABRYT Foundation draws attention to the following critical challenges that could hinder the program's effectiveness:

- **Supply Chain and Distribution**  
How will pads reach girls in rural and hard-to-reach areas, where period poverty is often most severe? Is there a transparent and inclusive logistical framework in place?
- **Monitoring and Accountability**  
What accountability mechanisms will be implemented to prevent politicization, corruption, or mismanagement of funds and supplies?
- **Sustainability and Local Production**  
Is there a long-term plan to support local pad manufacturers and create jobs within the menstrual health sector, reducing reliance on imports and ensuring cost-effectiveness?



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***Do it for them!***

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- **Education and Stigma**

Will the free pad initiative be coupled with comprehensive menstrual health education to dismantle stigma and empower girls with the knowledge they need?

- **Inclusion of Vulnerable Groups**

How inclusive is the program for differently-abled girls, street children, and those outside formal school systems?

## Call to Action

AABRYT Foundation urges the Government of Ghana, in partnership with civil society, donors, private sector actors, and grassroots organizations, to approach this initiative with transparency, inclusivity, and innovation.

*“Pads alone will not fix the problem. We need water, sanitation, safe disposal systems, and education. We need menstrual dignity, not just menstruation supplies,” the Executive Director added.*

As a key stakeholder with boots on the ground and years of experience in menstrual and reproductive health interventions, AABRYT Foundation stands ready to support the implementation, monitoring, and continuous evaluation of this initiative, ensuring that no girl is left behind.

## Let us collectively ask:

Can we make menstrual health a right, not a privilege? Will we let political will become lasting change?

## About AABRYT Foundation (LBG)

The AABRYT Foundation is a Ghanaian-based non-profit committed to advancing menstrual health, WASH, and youth empowerment through advocacy, education, and community-based solutions. The Foundation champions the vision of a healthy and educated Ghana where every young person, especially girls, can thrive with dignity.

For more information about AABRYT Foundation’s work on menstrual health or to support our efforts, please visit IG: @aabrytfoundation | @akosuasarpng33 or contact +233 534491900

## SIGNED

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This press release is issued by AABRYT Foundation in support of the Government of Ghana’s initiative to provide free sanitary pads.



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