



Women also need to be empowered to strengthen their skills in the areas of institution building, of organisation capacity building, in the use of new technologies, banking and management, which will subsequently enable them to transform their activities from small-scale operations to bigger ones.

**SERVING AS EACH OTHER'S KEEPERS**

The current position of only 9 percent of women involved in decision-making needs large-scale changes. Statistics indicate that, out of the 250 parliamentarians in Ghana only 25 are women.

The president and the cabinet should constantly ensure that the constitutional obligations towards achieving reasonable gender balance in recruitment and appointments to public office are adhered to.

Similarly, the parliament should raise the issue of appointments of women to public office, and ensure that the executive adheres to the obligation to ensure gender balance in appointments to public office.

Furthermore, there should be an excessive media advocacy to portray women in much more positive ways. This will go a long way to influence society for the better. We should encourage each other, serve as each other's keepers, and push the agenda for accelerated national development forward.

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**PROGRESS**

*"We spend our lives trying to bring together in the same instant a ray of sunshine and a free bench"*  
—Samuel Beckett, Texts for Nothing

Life has taught me to create and manufacture,  
To mold a moment into opportunity and result.

Time has taught me to prospect,  
To tap each moment for possibility and promise.

Livelihood has taught me to refine,  
To transform crude possibility into productivity and progress.

But when I am with you,  
I do none of these things—not even consume—

I'm simply the blessed fool  
Who has stumbled upon those opposing poles,

Miraculously coexisting in the same moment:  
a ray of sunshine and a free bench.

— J. Mueller 2005



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