

## MADAM AGYEIBEA BUYS OVERLOCK MACHINE WITH COMMON FUND

Madam Agyeibea Stella is a 38 year old. She is a woman with physical disability who lives in a small village called Pampawie in the Kadjebi district of the Volta region. She is married with three children.

Madam Agyeibea is one of the numerous persons with disability in the kajebi district who have benefited from the district assembly common fund allocated to persons with disabilities.

Stella is a trained seamstress who did not have enough capital to set up her own shop where she could practice her trade and make the needed income to sustain herself. She applied for the fund to help her improve her dressmaking business and was given an amount of GHc700.00 to enable her set up her business. After receiving the money, she purchased an overlock machine to help her promote her business and serve her numerous clients in the area. The machine has also changed people perception about her disability; “I now have many friends and clients who always want to be with me to learn and do business”. Stella said.

According to her, the newly acquired machine has been a major boost to her sewing business. Through the introduction of the overlock machine to her business, her work finishing has always been excellent and this has increased and sustained her customers and clients’ satisfaction with her work. She is also able to charge her clients better prices than previously.

In recounting her previous experience, Stella said *“in the previous times, before I got access to the fund to buy the machine, I was losing customers to other seamstresses in Kadjebi township. But since the coming in of the Knitting machine, I now serve a large customer base not only in the Pampawie community where I live, but also a nearby village called Dapaa. Customers bring their materials from this community to knit for them at a fee”*.

Madam Agyeibea’s business has expanded and now she is able to provide apprenticeship training for 8 people (of which 4 have graduated). She now operates from her own shop which has been renovated with the profits she derived from the business.

In conclusion, Stella summed up her story this way; *“my business has been good and I hope the common fund should continue to help more persons with disabilities.”*

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