

**Keynote Address by the Deputy Minister, Hon. Kwasi Boateng  
Agyei, on Behalf of the Minister for Local Government and Rural  
Development at the Launch of the Movement for  
Community-led Development at the Kofi Annan Ict Center in  
Accra on 28th August, 2018**

**Madam Chairperson,**

**Omanhene of the Essikado Traditional Area,**

**The Executive Vice President of The Hunger Project,**

**The Country Director of The Hunger Project - Ghana,**

**Heads and Representatives of NGOs, Government Institutions and Dev't  
Partners,**

**Staff of The Hunger Project,**

**The Press,**

**Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I feel honoured to be invited to this launch event to deliver the Keynote Address. I am extremely happy to be part of the launch of the Movement of Community-Led Development in Ghana, which aims at advocating participatory and bottom-up development approaches to accelerate

progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Ghana.

**Madam Chair,** in 2000 the United Nations (UN) agreed a set of development goals to be achieved by 2015, known as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). These goals were intended to refocus international, national and local efforts on addressing key development challenges to transform the lives of poor people and to make the planet a better and safer place for our children and grandchildren.

**Madam Chair,** although significant progress was made in achieving the MDGs many countries could not achieve most of the targets. Ghana, for example, failed to meet all the health related Millennium Development Goals targets, in spite of the overall progress to improve health outcomes.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted in September 2015, therefore, represents a renewed commitment by global leaders to eradicate hunger and poverty and put the world on a sustainable development path with a pledge to “leaving no-one behind”. The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) goals and 169 targets capture the critical challenges facing humanity and the planet; and build on the successes and lessons from the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Ghana's development plans and strategies are aligned and consistent with the SDGs. The SDGs, as well as the Agenda 2063 targets and indicators have been integrated into the current Medium-Term National Development Policy Framework (2018 – 2021) and Results Framework respectively. Consequently, annual budget statement and economic policies of government are in line with the SDGs, and will be the primary vehicle for financing the SDGs and the Agenda 2063. Government has also put in place a number of structures to promote cross-sectoral and multi-stakeholder participation in implementing the SDGs and to track progress.

**Madam Chair, distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,** many countries failed to meet the MDG targets due to the absence of well functioning democratic and decentralized governance systems to facilitate participatory and inclusive processes at the local level. Community-led development approaches, which are being advocated by this august Movement, therefore hold the key to rapid progress towards the attainment of the SDGs. We cannot talk of achieving equitable and sustainable development without involving the communities in the planning and implementation processes.

**Madam Chair,** the timing of the launch of the Community-Led Development Movement in Ghana could not have been better as the

current government launched its flagships programmes such as **1 village 1 dam; 1 district 1 factory; 1 constituency \$1m; Free SHS**, etc. with the sole aim to accelerate community development and improve local livelihoods. These initiatives will not achieve the desired impact if local communities are not mobilized and empowered to participate effectively and we look forward to working with the Community-Led Development Movement to ensure that this happens.

**Madam Chair, Ladies and Gentlemen**, it is also heart-warming for me to note that the Paper presentations and the Panel discussions will provide insight into the role of government, civil society, traditional authorities and donors in localizing the SDGs in Ghana. I wish to assure you of the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development's support to ensure that the Movement for Community-Led Development achieves its goals laudable goals and objective.

I wish to congratulate The Hunger Project, the International NGO Forum and the CSO Platform on SDGs for launching the Movement for Community-Led Development in Ghana.

**Thank you.**