



# Newsletter



## NORTHERN GHANA DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE

Theme

Accelerating the Sustainable Development of  
Northern Ghana in the Context of Peace, Security  
and Ghana Beyond Aid

30 - 31 May, 2019





**Theme:** Accelerating the Sustainable Development of Northern Ghana in the Context of Peace, Security and Ghana Beyond Aid

Andan Andani Hall, University of Development Studies  
30-31 May, 2019

Keynote Address delivered by:  
Dr. Mahamudu Bawumia | Vice President, Republic of Ghana

As people of Northern Ghana, we must strive to build peace regardless of our political, ethnic and religious persuasions or affiliations. We must be able to put the past behind us and seek only to pursue an agenda that will pool our resources together to build a just, fair and prosperous society where there is an equitable distribution of our regions' wealth to the benefit of our people.

The five (5) regions in the North are well positioned to take advantage of the various pro-poor policies and programmes of Akufo-Addo's administration such as the One District, One Factory (1D1F); One Village, One Dam (1V1D); Planting for Food and Jobs; the IPEP, among others. These projects and policies are to structurally transform and reverse the relative under-development and eliminate extreme poverty in the North.

This conference provides a good opportunity to come up with comprehensive ideas, plans and programmes, in our drive to chart a transformative change towards the long-term development of Northern Ghana.

As Ghana's international partners, we applaud Government of Ghana's commitment to tackling high inequality; setting a target by 2028 to reduce poverty rates in the region with the highest rate to no more than three times that in the region with the lowest rate. This is ambitious and radical. Poverty rates here in Northern Ghana are currently up to twelve times higher than down South in Accra.



Philip Smith  
Country Director, DFID Ghana



# 394 Participants

1 Vice President  
18 Ministers & Dep. Ministers of State  
60 MMDCs  
3 MPs  
12 Chiefs & Queen Mothers  
300 Academics, CSOs & Development Partners

"This platform (Northern Ghana Development Conference) rallies the five (5) Northern regions to come together to identify common developmental challenges and potentials in terms of investments, natural resources, human resources and then also to identify the gaps given the efforts of existing governments' policy direction."



Hon. Salifu Saeed  
Northern Regional Minister



Naba David Kansuk-Laar  
Chief, Nakpanduri Traditional Area

"Northern Ghana is always plagued with conflicts. Anytime we are in the news for the wrong reasons. Chiefs as the first point of call, we have to adjudicate justly and fairly because justice delayed is justice denied. Then also Northern Ghana is so many years behind development in terms of North and South. This forum addresses those challenges."

"To develop Northern Ghana, we must focus on three things: agriculture, processing of agriculture produce and tourism."

"It is important to promote continuity in investments across political regimes so that infrastructure is completed and maintained, to ensure no one is left behind."



Haruna Iddrisu  
MP & Minority Leader



Radhika Lal  
Economic Adviser, UNDP

# Event Outcomes

- 1 The Northern Ghana Development Conference will subsequently become Northern Ghana Development Summit (NGDS). A permanent (NGDS) liaison office should be established at the Northern Development Authority Offices to undertake follow-up on Summit decisions, coordinate activities between Summits and also undertake advocacy on key Northern Ghana development priorities.
- 2 Irrigated agriculture should become the focus of government agricultural policy in the North with annual targets for the development of irrigation schemes in Northern Ghana. For instance, representations should be made to government to consolidate the large number of mini dams (or dug-outs) into fewer but more substantial dams which can support meaningful dry season farming.
- 3 All districts should be encouraged to establish District Peace Committees. Also, all MMDCEs should undergo conflict sensitization training.
- 4 Scale up social protection and public works to address deep poverty and expand the scope to include a focus on resilience-enhancing activities to complement government's local development initiatives.
- 5 The Ghana Beyond Aid Agenda is a necessity in light of dwindling donor funds. Government must take into consideration vulnerable groups that are likely to be affected by the implementation of the Agenda.
- 6 We must not only target poverty alleviation in Northern Ghana. We must also target wealth creation. For instance, the tourism potential of the North is not fully tapped.

"If we were to aim for just 2% of the Global Hay market of 210 million tons and could sell each ton for a mean of \$150 dollars the North will accrue US\$630,000 per year"

- Northern Development Authority

## Conference Dignitaries & Facilitators

H.E. Alhaji Dr. Mahamudu Bawumia, Vice President, Republic of Ghana

Hon. Haruna Iddrisu, MP & Minority Leader

Hon. Salifu Sa-eed, Northern Regional Minister

Hon. Paulina Abayage, Upper East Regional Minister

Hon. Hafiz Bin Salih, Upper West Regional Minister

Hon. Solomon Namlit Boar, North East Regional Minister

Hon. Salifu Adam Braimah, Savannah Regional Minister

Hon. Alhaji Hameed Abubakar-Yusuf, MCE Yendi

Hon. Ayishetu Seidu, MCE Savelugu

Alhaji Dr. Abdel-Majeed Haroun, CEO of NDA

Prof. Gabriel Ayum Teye, Vice Chancellor, UDS

Alhassan M. Awal, Rep., STAR-Ghana Foundation

Hon. Wahab Suhuyini, Leader, NPP Caucus

Hajia Hajara Telly, Member, Northern Regional Peace Council

Dr. Abu Sakara

Dr Conrad Kuuder

Issaka Sagito, Retired REPO

Baba Osman, Retired REPO

Mr. Philip Smith, Country Director, DFID UK

Professor Agnes Atia Apusigah, UDS

Mr. Charles Abugre, TAMA Foundation

Nii Adjaye Laryea, REPO, Upper West Region

Prof. David Millar, Millar University

Radhika Lal, Economic Advisor, UNDP

Mutawakil Riyad, AGI, Northern Ghana Office

Theophilus Dokurugu, CSOs Rep

Alhassan Ibrahim, REPO, Upper East Region

Rev. Father Dr. Clement Aapengnuo, ED, Centre for Conflict Transformation & Peace Studies

Naba David Kansuk-Laar, Chief, Nakpanduri Traditional Area

Albert Yelyang, Coordinator, WANEP Ghana

Major Albert Don Chebe, IPD Dep't