

**SPEECH DELIVERED BY**

**THE HON. MINISTER OF STATE**

**ON THE OCCASION OF THE SIGNING OF TWO  
AGREEMENTS**

**I. PHASE II OF GOOD GOVERNANCE AND HUMAN  
RIGHTS PROGRAMME (GGHRP II)**

**II. LOCAL SERVICE DELIVERY AND  
GOVERNANCE PROGRAMME (LSDGP)**

**BETWEEN**

**THE GOVERNMENT OF DENMARK**

**AND**

**THE GOVERNMENT OF GHANA**

1. Your Excellency, **Mr Stig Barlyng**, Danish Ambassador to Ghana,

Chief Directors of the implementing Ministries of Danish Development Assisted Programmes and Projects,

Officials from the Danish Embassy and implementing MDA's/institutions,

Friends from the Press,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

2. It is my pleasure to warmly welcome you all to this important occasion. It is interesting to note, Ladies and Gentlemen, that Danish development assistance to Ghana started as far back as 1957 when this dear nation of ours gained her independence from colonial rule.

3. Between 1957 and the end of the 80s however, this assistance comprised of:

- (i) social support channeled through NGOs; and

- (ii) the execution of projects through loans and grants to the Industries , Water , and Agricultural sub-sectors, among others.

This support has not only grown in size and quantum over the years, but also in scope.

4. Current Danish development assistance to Ghana comes in the form of outright grants and the focus is in five (5) main sectors of the economy namely,

- (i) Transport
- (ii) Water and Sanitation
- (iii) Business/Private
- (iv) Governance and
- (v) Health.

5. Ladies and gentlemen, the overall objective of Danish development assistance to Ghana is to contribute towards the country's Poverty Reduction Strategy (GPRS). Reports available indicate a high level of cooperation between officials of the implementing MDA's and their Danish counterparts. This has led to a remarkable success rate in the area of implementation.

6. Permit me, Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, to mention a few of these programmes and projects:

- (i) The rehabilitation of the Konongo-Kumasi road;
- (ii) The construction of the Commercial Court;

- (iii) Support to the Ghana Judicial Service;
- (iv) Support to the Registrar General's Department;
- (v) Support for our Decentralization Programme;
- (vi) Support to independent governance institutions including Parliament, CHRAJ and the Electoral Commission;
- (vii) Provision of water to a number of selected deprived communities in various parts of the country;
- (viii) Support to School Sanitation and Health Education programme aimed at improving hygienic behaviour among school children and the youth in selected targeted areas;
- (ix) Support to the Private Sector (in collaboration with other DPs through the pooled fund arrangement) by way of technical assistance, subsidized credit through equipment financing and outright grants.

7. Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, it is worth-mentioning that Denmark was one of the first nine (9) DPs to sign on to the MDDBS programme adopted by the Government of Ghana in 2003 and has since been contributing to it religiously.

8. We are assembled here today to sign Two (2) important Agreements. They are; 1. **Local Service Delivery and Governance Programme (LSDGP)** and; 2. **Good Governance and Human Rights Programme Phase II (GGHRP II)** of which the Government of Denmark is providing a grant of **600Million DKK. (about**

**US\$109.7Million) and; 170Million DKK. (about US\$ 31.1Million)** respectively for a period of five (5) years.

9. Ladies and Gentlemen, the overall development objective of the **LSDGP** is to contribute to poverty alleviation through enhanced service delivery and governance at the district level. The programme has three (3) intermediate objectives leading to the achievement of the development objective. These are:

- (i) Capacity of local government to deliver local services in accordance with national policies and strategies on decentralization;
- (ii) Improved and more responsive local service delivery by local governments through involved decision-making on increased local investments; and
- (iii) Enhanced financial and accounting capacity in local Government with strengthened accountability.

10. Also, the development objective of the **GGHRPII** is aligned to **GPRSII** as it seeks to institutionalize good governance, human rights, and access to justice in Ghana at national, regional, and district levels, thus providing opportunities for the poor to improve their livelihoods and their democratic participation.

This programme also has two immediate objectives:

- (i) The Commission for Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ) and the Judicial Service are better able to provide access to justice, promote good governance

and protect human rights at all levels of society,  
especially at regional and districts levels; and

- (ii) Civil society organizations backed by a professional and vigilant media engaged in the promotion of its own agenda on human rights and good governance.

11. I must confess, Ladies and Gentlemen, that this grant facility intended to support these two (2) critical key components of our national development agenda is worthy of praise. I assure you your excellences, that these resources will be judiciously used for the purpose for which they have been provided.

12. Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, I wish, on behalf of the Government and People of Ghana, to express our most profound gratitude to the Government and good people of Denmark for their invaluable support to our nation's development over the years. May the future bring our two countries greater prospects.

13. Thank you.