

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS DELIVERED BY HON. ENOCK TEYE MENSAH, MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL WELFARE AT THE 14TH REGIONAL SEMINAR FOR LABOUR BASED PRACTITIONERS AT THE ACCRA CONFERENCE CENTER, ACCRA-GHANA, 5th SEPTEMBER, 2011.

- Your Excellency, John Dramani Mahama, Vice President of the Republic of Ghana**
- Your Excellencies Members of the Diplomatic Corps**
- Deputy- Director General of the ILO**
- Honourable Ministers of State and Members of Parliament**

**from Ghana & the International
Community**

- Representatives of our
Development Partners**
- Distinguished Delegates**
- Ladies and Gentlemen.**

**I warmly welcome you all to this
14th ILO Regional Conference for
Labour-Based Practitioners.**

**Over the years, this forum has
become the platform for**

Governments, Engineers and Administrators involved in Labour-Based activities to share information, Knowledge and Experience across the region.

This 14th ILO Regional Conference, under the theme: *Public Works for Decent Jobs and Poverty Reduction; Policies and Practices* is a continuation of work in progress.

In the face of population expansion, our Countries across the region are preoccupied with the urgent need to overcome youth unemployment. The situation is even more challenging in the rural areas.

In these areas where development is at a slow pace, people are faced with limited opportunity in terms of education, skills development

and job opportunities resulting in higher levels of poverty.

Distinguished ladies & Gentlemen

Each year, our Governments continue to spend hundreds of millions of US Dollar providing public infrastructure to communities in these areas.

The evidence indicates that Governments in Africa will go on

to spend more national revenue to provide infrastructure as we continue to open up our towns and villages to improve living conditions of our peoples.

Meanwhile, evidence from our respective countries has shown beyond doubt that Labour-Based Technology can be employed to reduce rural poverty and enhance income levels in these areas.

We can indeed succeed in redistributing our national revenue by employing more human beings on our construction sites, produce the same quality of work and reduce poverty.

Labour based technology has been shown to transfer skills, provide income, reduce poverty, halt the rural-urban drift as it delivers the infrastructure

I strongly believe that if we able to put institutions and standards in place, public works through the Labour-Based Technology will work for our people.

It was against this background that, the Ministries of Roads and Highways, Employment and Social Welfare and Local Government and Rural Development agreed to host the 14th ILO Regional Seminar, when we attended the

13th in Kampala-Uganda in partnership with the ILO.

With the level of expertise that are assembled here , I am very sure that we will achieve our objective at the end of this conference and we shall all return to our respective offices having learnt something new about Labour-intensive Public works.