

***Address by H.E. Mr William Hanna,
Ambassador of the European Union
On the occasion of the EU Anti-corruption programme (ARAP)
14 June 2016***

Honourable Minister of Finance,

NACAP Chairman,

CHRAJ Deputy Commissioner,

Accountability and Law Enforcement agencies Heads,

Diplomatic colleagues, EU ambassadors,

Distinguished guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a pleasure for me to be here today at this launch and to talk about the European Union's support for Ghana's Anti-Corruption efforts.

The National Anti-Corruption Plan (NACAP) was approved by Parliament in 2014 and is a clear reference point. This plan that is part of the fight against poverty in Ghana, in line not only with Ghana's development strategy but also with international goals.

As far as the European Union is concerned, we have long been to address this issue in our development cooperation policy. The "EU consensus on development" (2006) reckons that corruption must not be addressed in isolation, but should be integrated into development and poverty reduction strategies and into support for the processes of democratic governance.

We all need to work together in this area.

That is why Ghana's Development Partners, including the EU and its Member States, have committed themselves to align their current and future assistance to Ghana with the priorities and objectives identified in the overall Country Strategy.

The European Union has agreed with Ghana that the 11th European Development Fund National Indicative Programme will focus on three priorities. The first of these is Governance, Public Sector Management and Accountability. (The other two areas are Productive Investment for Agriculture in Savannah Ecological Zones; and Employment and Social Protection).

Under the first sector ***Governance***, our objective is to support democracy and good governance in a country that remains a reference in Africa. The aim is to achieve a more accountable and efficient public sector that delivers quality services at national and local level. We also want to assist improving domestic revenue mobilisation and management, including natural resources, in a transparent way. And we want to support the enhancement of the rule of law and the fight against corruption.

I wish here to mention that in Ghana we work closely with the United Kingdom in the fight against corruption, with DFID having prepared a new programme that is complementary to ARAP. I understand that the **UK will provide up to £9.7m** over five years (2015 – 2020) to improve implementation of anti-corruption measures in Ghana, from scrutiny to punitive action, increasing the risks for those engaging in corrupt activities.

What is the EU Ghana Anti-Corruption, Rule of Law and Accountability programme about? (ARAP, 5 years, €20m).

First and foremost it aims at supporting the ***National Anti-Corruption Action Plan***. Our programme is aligned with NACAP objectives.

How will we do this?

First, we will build the capacity of civic education providers –**NCCE, CHRAJ, CSOs** and the media– to conduct campaigns, advocate and lobby for increased accountability and a reduction in corruption.

Second, we aim to strengthen **law enforcement agencies**. This means building prosecutors' capacity to prosecute corruption and related offences. It means building the capacity of the

Judiciary to hear and decide corruption cases and related offences, as the best means of enhancing accountability standards in country. And it also means supporting the police and Judiciary to combat corruption amongst their ranks.

This is an ambitious programme. It will only succeed if there is **full ownership** and commitment from the government and citizens.

Indeed, CHRAJ has a key role in anti-corruption efforts and other agencies play their role too, I wish to name the Economic and Organised Crime Office (EOCO), the Financial Intelligence Centre (FIC), the Parliamentary accountability committees present here today.

But we know that some of these agencies lack resources to deliver and have suffered from delayed appointment of their leadership.

Thus, we make an **appeal here** to the government to reaffirm its commitment by providing the needed resources and leadership to help these agencies deliver.

Last week we held our annual **Political Dialogue** with the Government. We discussed many priorities in our cooperation, including our anti-corruption efforts. I pointed out that when we talk to leaders from civil society, many of them – in particular young leaders - tell us they lack confidence in the institutions to effectively fight corruption.

And above all it is the impunity achieved by the perpetrators of corruption, - the lack of sanctions that is a source of disillusionment among the young.

Corruption is also a major contributor to poverty. It has a hugely negative impact on governments' ability to provide social services or invest in infrastructure and economic development in order to help their citizens lift themselves out of extreme poverty and move their countries towards greater prosperity. Corruption is also bad for business, deterring investors from creating new jobs. So, corruption is really the enemy of development.

I should like to quote the **communiqué from the recent London summit** adopted amongst other by President Mahama on behalf of the Ghanaian people, which says:

Corruption is at the heart of so many of the world's problems. It erodes public trust in government, undermines the rule of law, and may give rise to political and economic grievances that may, in conjunction with other factors, fuel violent extremism. Tackling corruption is vital for sustaining economic stability and growth, maintaining security of societies, protecting human rights, reducing poverty, protecting the environment for future generations and addressing serious and organised crime.

So there is no doubt **why** we have to work together to tackle corruption.

How we will do it is through support to strengthen the institutions in the front line.

And we will also continue our wider work in support of better **public financial management**, something I know is close to the Minister's heart. We have made some good progress in the area of payroll and ghost workers in the past year, and we need to continue this work to ensure that all public funds are properly spent and accounted for.

Ladies and Gentlemen, this is an important day. There is much work to be done. I should like to encourage all of you who work in the front line against corruption to re double your efforts. With our support I am sure we can all make inroads in this fight, in the interest of our joint cooperation and in the interests of the people of Ghana.