



GHANA CHAMBER OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS

M-Powering People. SIMpacting Lives

OPENING REMARKS BY DR. ING. KENNETH ASHIGBEY, CEO OF GHANA CHAMBER OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS, AT THE OPEN CEREMONY OF MT4D 2020 CONFERENCE AT KEMPISKY HOTEL ACCRA ON TUESDAY MARCH 10, 2020.

H.E the Vice President Alhaji Dr. Mahamud Bawumia

Hon. Minister of Finance

Hon. Minister of Communication

The Governor of Bank of Ghana

The Director Generals of NCA, NPRA, NIC & SEC and the CEOs of Ghana Stock Exchange & GhIPSS

Chairman and Members of Governing Council of the Ghana Chamber of Telecommunications and our partners Financial Inclusion Forum Africa and C-GAP

CEOs of Banks and Fintech

Our Sponsors & Media Partners

Captains of Industries

My brothers & sisters of the Media

Distinguished Ladies & Gentlemen

All great movements start with an idea, MT4D started off as discussions at the Chamber, followed by a conversation between 2 Ghanaians in Barcelona at MWC2019. This was when Dr. Willian Durban & myself were in a taxi queue because public transport in Barcelona had been disrupted due to some agitations by workers. The thought about a partnership was to birth a conference that would drive ahead Africa's advancement of technology from Ghana. Today we are here to launch the maiden edition of MT4D



**GHANA CHAMBER OF
TELECOMMUNICATIONS**
M-Powering People. SIMpacting Lives

under the auspices of H.E the Vice President, the Digital Avatar of our country. Mt4d should grow to become global event. It should be the gathering at which ideas that would transform our world would be birth, a place from where global announcements would be made, an event that would put Accra on the calendar of all organizations who are planning to make global impact. Most importantly it should be an event that gives the Ghanaian child a competitive advantage. To do that depends on all of us gathered here today and those who are listening to us on Starr Fm to our social media stream.

We are grateful to the support of HE the Vice President and the Governor of the Bank of Ghana and all other partners including our sponsors, speakers and other stakeholders without whom MT4D would not have seen the light of day today.

The aim of the partners of MT4D is to make this conference an action oriented one. It would go beyond the talk shop but provide seeds and nuggets of ideas that would form recommendations to policy makers, legislators, regulations, operators in the private and state sectors, as well as the 3rd sector, academia and students. The intention is that beyond these two days and before we gather again on the 9th & 10th of March 2021 for MT4D 2021 we would have other focused events on subsectors within the digital financial inclusion value chain to further develop and seek to implement the ideas that would emanate from this MT4D 2020.

Another product that we seek out of MT4D is collaboration between all players. At this junction Your Excellency the Vice President ladies & gentlemen join me in commending the Governor of Bank of Ghana, his management & staff especially Dr. Settorg & the team at the Payments Services Department for the collaborative manner in which they have regulated the sector from guidelines, through policy till today that we have the



**GHANA CHAMBER OF
TELECOMMUNICATIONS**
M-Powering People. SIMpacting Lives

Payment Systems & Services Act 2019, Act 987. On behalf of our members and other stakeholders within the digital financial ecosystem we commit to working in a more closer collaborative manner to ensure that the implementation of the act and the actions there off would spur Ghana from our current position of being the faster growing mobile financial systems market into a global leader in that space. Governor as you mentioned at the launch of the Payment Systems Advisory Committee our concerns including Minimum Capital Requirement are receiving your attention. We trust that all the issues with the implementation of Act 987 would be dealt with in the interest of Ghanaians especially the younger generations and those unborn.

Your Excellency as an industry, the telecommunication sector is committed to leveraging mobile technology to improve the quality of life for humanity especially here in Ghana. It is on the back of this belief that Chamber reached out to the Hon. Minister of Communications to work under her auspices in collaboration with the NCA to engage the Ministry of Health and Ghana Health Service, to partner in the COVID 19 national preparedness plan. We concede that that health care is not our forte but we can support by deploying our telecommunication infrastructure and our people in awareness creation, social mobilization and offering the citizens the platforms to access the right information at the right time from the right people and dispelling false information as well as fake news. It is said that right and timely information during a crisis is more important than any other thing, including even medication, food and water. It could be the difference between life and death. We do not intend to do the work of the health professionals, but we commit to provide the right and timely connection between the citizenry and duty bearers who have the right answers, information and medications. We are drawing on collaborations with our members operations in other jurisdictions who have already



suffered the scourge and partners like GSMA to leverage on their experiences and learning.

Your excellency, ladies & gentlemen it is our prayer and hope that the sector would continue to enjoy the support offered by government, including the fiscal space, where mobile money would continue to be free of direct taxes , apart from the corporate taxes on profits that the EMIs pay, to enable and empower a lot more production so that we would rather tax the output of other vertical business that would ride on the rails of mobile technology for development. We believe that this is a call that would not only resonate with you, Your Excellency, but also with the Governor of the Bank of Ghana.

In the spirit of collaboration within the echo system being a prerequisite to win. The Chamber is expanding and embracing other players who support the MNOs to deliver services to customers. Thus, we have welcomed CSquared Ghana as a member of the Chamber and completing process of embracing Comsys and Huawei into our fold. There are discussion with our organization to also join the Chamber so we get better at SIMpacting Lives within the frame work of CoOpetition

In Conclusion Your Excellency, Ladies & Gentlemen, let me remind all of us of a point I made at the launch of the Interoperability Service on the 10th of May 2018. We are making progress but a reminder of what remains to be completed, so it captures the great minds gathered here to think about it and offer us a National Merchant Services Strategy I believe is apt.

- We to need craft a vision to fashion the interoperability that we have been operating for over a year into a full merchant services strategy for the country Your Excellency, yes as an industry we are still committed to engage to make this happen. The most pressing requirement is institutional capacity. Merchant services



GHANA CHAMBER OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS

M-Powering People. SIMpacting Lives

would require partnership with the best in the world and yes we have some of them gathered here today. We would have to ensure mission-critical levels of system availability. We would also have to define self-service integration processes to all platforms through that single interface we have built. We still have some distance to go on final institutional arrangements and partnerships. However, with the momentum and collaborative partnerships that we have started at the launch of Interoperability and which we continue to deepen at MT4D, we should build upon what we have started to ensure that we craft a world class Merchant Service for the benefit of our people.

We want to remind all of us that these two days offers us great opportunities to advance our financial inclusion agenda. It should help us find ways in to bring the 7 million unbanked adults reported in the 2017 Global Findex report of the World Bank into the financial system. Let's see how we can drive and grow merchant payments, Agric payments, G2P Payments, utility & school fees payments for all, pensions, and investment as we have done with remittances. We also need to grow new services and popularize them including credit, savings, insurances and trading on the GSE among others. It can be done, yes we would do it.

With this I welcome you all to MT4D 2020. Mia woe zoe

Thank you all. God Bless Our Homeland Ghana

Tswa Omanyee Abla Wo