

A SPEECH DELIVERED BY ATAYAABA JUSTUS TRIUMPH, HOFACDEP-GHANA DIRECTOR AT THE 1ST LOCAL CHAPTER INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ELIMINATION OF EXTREME POVERTY 2018, HELD IN THE SALPIIGA COMMUNITY ON THE 19TH DECEMBER 2018.

Mr. Chairman, Our revered Traditional Rulers present, Hon Assembly men and women present, Elders of the communities, Circuit Supervisors present, Women's group representatives, Youth group leaders present, School children Present Men and Women, Children and Youth groups present, Invited Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen: It is gratifying to be offered this opportunity to host and deliver a speech on such an important occasion in the milestone of the Salpiiga Community and Bawku West District in particular.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen our gathering today forms a foundation to provoke interest for future planning and development in Salpiiga and her environs in the Bawku West District.

This year's **Theme: "Coming together with those furthest behind to build an inclusive world of universal respect for human rights and dignity"** marks the 70th Anniversary of the declaration of human rights.

Ladies and Gentlemen, fighting poverty in Ghana and the Salpiiga community to be specific calls for a gathering of this nature to make analysis of the real situation on the ground to allow partners to offer technical advice and expertise with the local people themselves taking the lead to showing the way. We shall be sharing our thoughts and experiences of extreme poverty.

From generations down to our time, the issue of poverty is a bane and written deep in our minds, hearts, but we can revisit them to refresh our thinking and mapping out an inclusive dialogue to reduce abject poverty in the rural area.

- **Lack of education.**

Education offers you the opportunity to get a job, set up a business, manufacture, plan and make appropriate budgets for meaningful spending and development, design things that you can market (although some uneducated people creatively make crafts for sale etc.), and enable you to diversify the use of your talents.

- **Poor environment.**

Nothing motivates or challenges you to make progress in such a place. Several nice, good, and innovative things don't even fit into the degraded surroundings.

- **Greed**

People in our society who have been privileged and blessed by God to inherit or acquire wealth, could callously and unkindly close their hearts, eyes, and minds to the needs of those around them. They refuse or neglect to support and help their less fortunate family members, friends,

and neighbors. Other individuals who get the opportunity to obtain wealth, develop a spirit of greed and lust to amass riches without restraint, disregarding all morals and ethics, and employ unorthodox means to achieve their selfish and lustful ends.

- **Poor parental guidance and supervision**

People tend to go astray, and are not inspired, mentored, guided, and trained, right from childhood to discover and optimize the use of their gifts and talents in order to succeed.

- **Broken families.**

Both young and old are all thrown into a mess of misdirection, loss of important values, lack of provision, unnecessary hardships, pain, tendencies to stray into evil and all kinds of vices, and a mind that cannot focus on true financial prosperity and progress.

- **Fractured morals.**

Bad character that breeds poverty is especially rooted in laziness, misuse of money and resources, squandering instead of saving and investing, misuse and loss of opportunities, greed by a proud and dominating few, selfishness, and a spirit of sabotage that undermines anyone trying to develop and make wealth. Evil tendencies, habitual practice of bad habits, bribery, gambling rather than diligently working, robbery and other forms of crime, will always hinder progress and promote poverty.

- **Ignorance**

Woefully ignorant of the presence or the extent of wealth that you are sitting on, or the wealth around you; and lacking the basic knowledge or any insight to recognize, appreciate, or tap into the rich resources. This is one major factor that leads to exploitation by someone else who comes along and is able to spot or discover your wealth, and plunders it without your knowledge. The one could further blind you by using a minute fraction of your own wealth to “bless” you, and fool you to turn completely away from trying to discover and optimize your own potential riches.

- **Poverty that is politically, culturally, and religiously driven.**

Politics that suppress one faction and keep them poor in order to rule and constantly dictate to them; a culture with outmoded practices and mindset that refuses to consider and accept anything modern that is contrary to old or ancestral traditions; and religious beliefs and practices that misinterpret God's goodness and provision to mean no effort, creativity, and diligence on the part of the Believer etc. --- all these and their ramifications will produce or enhance poverty.

With a strong fight against many forces still ahead of this nation, Africa must weed out the corruption and poor government, and promote strong education and efficient healthcare for all, in order to take a big leap forward in its development as a continent.

– **Kailey Brennan**

If we want to change and create a better future and hope for the next generation, then we have to consider the following poverty eradication strategies;

- Make education compulsory in the rural communities and allow the community members to monitor it.
- Join hands in the fight against corruption from the grassroots
- Empower the rural people through skills development
- Respect for human rights
- Have a revival of interest by changing our mentalities about life
- Promote unity and solidarity among community members to support a peaceful environment
- Promote agricultural development to create jobs and livelihoods for farmers and the landless.

“Overcoming poverty is not a task of charity, it is an act of justice. Like slavery and apartheid, poverty is not natural. It is man made and it can be overcome and eradicated by the actions of human beings. Sometimes it falls on a generation to be great. You can be that generation. Let your greatness bloom”

Nelson Mandela

Human Rights and the Salpiiga in context

Human Rights are entitlements inherent in all human beings, whatever their nationality, place of residence, sex, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, language, or any other status. All persons in Ghana, Salpiiga are equally entitled to their human rights without discrimination.

Characteristics of Human Rights are:

- Inherent, Universal, Indivisible, Interdependent, Inalienable
 - They are not bought, earned or inherited
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- Rights are fundamental freedoms of an individual that society has agreed cannot be removed without the consent of society.
 - Natural law produced a morality model of rights, which suggests that rights are a manifestation of the precepts created by a moral agent separate and independent from the consensus of society.
 - [Social Justice](#) discuss the human thought that individuals should be accorded equal access to opportunities and privileges within a society. The Salpiiga Community and her environs should see this as an opportunity to grow and develop

The Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ) Ghana.

- By the CHRAJ Act 456, it has the responsibility to promote and protect fundamental human rights and freedoms in Ghana especially those rights and freedoms provided for under the 1992 Constitution as well as the international human rights instrument which Ghana has ratified. These rights include;
- Civil and political rights; the right to life, equality, personal liberty, fair hearing, freedom from slavery, freedom of association, thought, expression, movement, etc.
- Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; right to work, join trade unions, education, religion, profess and practice culture, language, etc.
- Environmental Rights including right to a clean and sustainable environment, determination of destiny.
- The Commission performs these functions through promotion and prevention activities such as public education to deepen the culture of respect for human rights and freedoms in the country.
- Through research and monitoring in order to prevent the occurrence of violations of human rights and freedoms at detention centres such as police cells, prisons, orphanages and hospitals to ensure that best practices are maintained.

HOFACDEP AND THE FOURTH WORLD ATD IN FUTURE COLLABORATION INITIATIVES TO ENGAGE LOCAL PEOPLE IN THE REDUCTION OF POVERTY.

- We hope to collaborate in working with the local people in the near future in Ghana to commence strategies that will inform local people how to fight their own poverty. The organization will project a future where the children will access education to grow and fight poverty at their time. Education and knowledge is one pillar of hope to lean on. The Salpiiga school which was built in 1999 as a shepherd school will be 20 years in 2019 and calls for the community to participate in the renovation of the school and if feasible to add more infrastructure for the youth and children to excel education.
- The roadmap starts with the local people who by yourselves will show the way and monitor the process to include an all together project built on transparency and accountability.
- We encourage you to prioritize your own initiatives to combat poverty while we explore elsewhere for opportunities to fund self help projects in the Salpiiga community and her environs.
- As a people we encourage you to hold your duty bearers accountable for the use of resources meant for development. Ask to be informed on the disbursement of the MPs

Common Fund, District Assembly Common Fund and add your voices to work with the units of the assembly to develop the community.

- Organise meetings with your Assemblyman to take your issues and present them to the Assembly. Do not forget to add timelines. Make follow ups and continue to lobby.
- Report human rights abuses to CHRAJ, Domestic violence unit and other appropriate quarters' for action.
- Never sleep and allow poverty to weaken your future children and the next generation, wake up and cry for help but know what you need.

In conclusion, we want to thank you all for making time to celebrate this important occasion in the history of human rights and the fight against poverty. May this gathering provoke a foot for thought in livelihoods approaches beneficial to the local people of Salpiiga and her environs. We are one people with a common destiny. Work together and create a human rights based development for the local people and keep asking potential donors when they are coming in to contribute in the development of the community and wait for them to answer.

Thank you.