



REPORT ON MIG BUSINESS FORUM VOL.1

ORGANIZED BY



IN COLLABORATION WITH



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I. INTRODUCTION

A. Overview of the Forum

The MIG business forum is the first distinctive and unprecedented Forum held in collaboration with the Zongo and Inner-Cities Development Secretariat under the Office of the President of the Republic of Ghana to engage key players in Finance, Educational and Government sectors, both Private and Public, and the youth to discuss and explore strategies for navigating economic downturns, with a particular focus on the resilience of the Zongo and & Inner Cities of Ghana, and their immense growth potential.

The Forum was a one-day event held under the theme “**Avenues to Manoeuvre during an Economic Downturn**”. Its objective was to analyse and deliberate on pragmatic solutions that can be implemented as an action plan immediately within the Zongo and Inner-City communities through the impact projects unveiled, which are the Soya Beans & Agro-Commodities Project, the Useful Affordable Education Drive in partnership with KNUST, the Community Insurance Project in collaboration with Cosmopolitan Health Insurance, activating the Ghanaian Bamboo Industry and the Maxwell Homes Project. It ultimately focused on how the Zongo & Inner City inhabitants can harness the strengths, resources, and creativity, considering the skills and talent within these communities to build resilience and foster growth in the face of adversity.

The Paramount Chief of Sagnarigu, Ambassador Sagnari Naa Yamuna Abdulai, chaired the event. It included a distinguished line-up of speakers and panellists who shared their insights, experiences, and perspectives on a range of topics related to the theme and brought together youth and leaders from all 16 regions of Ghana from Zongo & Inner-City Communities, Ghana and the UK.

This event received comprehensive media coverage, with over 30 renowned media houses partnering with the organisers to spread the news of the potential impact of such extensive, action-oriented dialogue.

The venue was the World Trade Centre, Accra.

B. Background and Context of the Forum

The MIG Business Forum, organized by Maxwell Investments Group, in collaboration with the Zongo and Inner-Cities Development Secretariat under the Office of the President of the Republic of Ghana, aims to discuss pragmatic solutions that can be implemented as an action plan right now to minimize the effects of economic and social issues. The event received comprehensive media coverage, with renowned media houses partnering with the organizers.

The vision of the MIG Business Forum is to create a nationwide accepted forum or platform where citizens' concerns concerning socio-economic issues are addressed by key solutionists, together with community leaders.

MIG's core philosophy of the maiden edition was driven by its firm belief that ideas are open source, a vital resource that should be freely shared and accessible to all. By bringing together thought leaders, experts, and stakeholders from various sectors, a platform has been created to enable the exchange of knowledge, opportunity and ideas that inspire, challenge, and ultimately contribute to the betterment of the Zongo and Inner-City communities.

This Forum, organised by Maxwell Investments Group and engineered by its CEO, Dr Maxwell Ampong, is a testament to MIG's commitment to fostering a spirit of collaboration and innovation across the board to inspire a more resilient and prosperous future for our Zongo and Inner Cities and by extension, our homeland Ghana.





C. Objectives of the Forum

Here are some key objectives of the forum:

1. Knowledge sharing: To facilitate the exchange of ideas, experiences, and best practices among participants, including experts, policymakers, community leaders, and stakeholders.
2. Networking and collaboration: To create opportunities for networking and building partnerships among various stakeholders, such as government agencies, NGOs, private sector organizations, and community groups, to foster joint initiatives and projects.
3. Capacity building: To provide participants with the skills, knowledge, and tools to address specific challenges and opportunities in their respective sectors or communities.
4. Raising awareness: To increase public awareness and understanding of the issues and challenges the target communities face and to promote engagement and support from the broader society.
5. Advocacy and policy influence: To inform and influence public policies and decision-making processes by presenting evidence-based findings, recommendations, and solutions from the forum discussions.
6. Identifying opportunities: To explore potential opportunities for investment, entrepreneurship, and innovation within the target sectors or communities and to connect interested parties with relevant resources and support.
7. Monitoring and evaluation: To establish a framework for tracking the progress and impact of the forum outcomes and recommendations and facilitating ongoing feedback and learning among participants.
8. Building a sustainable platform: To create a sustainable and ongoing platform for dialogue, collaboration, and action on the issues and challenges discussed at the forum, ensuring long-term engagement and impact.
9. Fundraising: To generate interest and support from potential funders and sponsors for the following forums and related projects or initiatives.
10. Encouraging innovation: To inspire and motivate participants to develop and implement creative, out-of-the-box solutions to address complex issues and challenges faced by the target sectors or communities, fostering a culture of innovation and adaptability.

D. Participants

Overall, the Forum was attended by over 300 participants, including the National Council of Muslims, the Federation of Muslim Women Association of Ghana, National Executives of Ghana Muslim Students Association (GMSA), Stakeholders of the Agro-Commodities-Trading Caucus of Ghana, KNUST-AISWAM, Cosmopolitan Health Insurance and Representatives of the various Corporate Organisations in Ghana.

Overall attendance was over 600, with a little under 300 online participants.

E. Speakers

Gracing the panel and the speakers of the Forum were personalities such as:

- the Former Director/CEO of Stanbic Bank Ghana, Naa Dr. Naa Alhassan Andani;
- the Paramount Chief of Sagnarigu, Ambassador Sagnari Naa Yamuna Abdulai;
- the Presidential Coordinator of the Zongo and Inner-Cities Development Secretariat under the Office of the President of the Republic of Ghana, Hon. Ben Abdallah Banda;
- the CEO of Maxwell Investments Group, Dr. Maxwell Ampong;
- the CEO of Cosmopolitan Health Insurance, Dr. Mrs. Beatrice Amponsah;
- Speaking on behalf of the Ag. Head of Business at KNUST-AISWAM, Madam Vanessa Asare;
- the CEO of Myneral Labs UK, Mr. Max Boender;
- Chief of Zongo Tamale, Sheik Abdul Mumin Dalhu;
- the Deputy Communications Director of the ruling Government, Hajia Rabi Salifu;
- Operations Head at Maxwell Investments Group, Maa Lucy Koranchie; and
- the Head of Trade in Services, Manufactures, and Petrochemicals Department at Ghana Export Promotion Authority (GEPA), Banda Abdallah Z. Khalifa, amongst others.

The Master of Ceremonies at The MIG Business Forum, Vol. 1 was the renowned Managing Director of Domotale Africa, **Mr. Jerry Adjorlolo**.





F. Organisers

Maxwell Investments Group

MIG is a trading firm with a disciplined approach towards executing ESG-centric Sustainability Development Models, Agricultural Sector Optimisation, and Local & International Trade of Soft Commodities. MIG has collaborations and partnerships locally and internationally and has positioned itself to build a solid brand to compete among the giants within the agricultural commodity industry in Africa and worldwide.

The mission at MIG is to engineer or re-engineer services and products, ours and those of our clientele across the African countries where we are operational, and to deploy our supply chain with market capture strategies fused with sustainability development models, towards the triple bottom line, where you can garner goodwill along the way.

Zongo & Inner-Cities Development Secretariat under the Office of The President

The erstwhile Ministry created in 2017 was mandated to formulate and oversee the implementation of policies, programs and projects to alleviate poverty within Zongo and Inner-City communities and ensure that these communities become inclusively developed. A Coordinator at the Office of the President heads it.

Through an Act of Parliament, the Government established the Zongo Development Fund to provide financial resources to develop and transform the social and economic conditions of the Zongo communities. Under the current set-up, the Secretariat maintains a focus and purpose to effectively coordinate, supervise and monitor of activities of the Zongo Development Fund. In addition, the Secretariat again provides policy directions to the Fund and serves as the interface between the Presidency and the Zongo Development Fund.

G. Key Highlights

1. Engaging keynote speeches: Industry experts and thought leaders delivered insightful and inspiring speeches that shed light on our communities' latest challenges and opportunities. Opportunities laid out were the soya beans project, the bamboo project, the agri-commodities project, the Useful, Affordable Education Drive, the Maxwell Homes Project, the Insurance Community Project, and more. These represent a bold and ambitious step towards a brighter future for Zongo & Inner-Cities.
2. Informative panel discussion: The diverse panel of experts and stakeholders engaged in lively discussions and debates, addressing pressing issues, sharing their experiences and perspectives, and answering audience questions. Our distinguished Guest of Honour, Naa Dr Alhassan Andani, shared how Zongos came to be and reiterated the resilience and opportunities that abound in such communities. The Chairman of the occasion also spoke of the need to be frequent and consistent in the output of entrepreneurs within the Zongo & Inner-City communities, which span across the country.
3. Interactive presentations: Presentations at the Forum, like that from the Ghana Export Promotion Authority (GEPA), provided attendees with practical skills and knowledge, helping them to develop strategies and action plans for their businesses or organizations, particularly with entrepreneurship, trade and export.
4. Networking opportunities: Participants had ample opportunities to connect with like-minded individuals, forge new partnerships, and expand their professional networks.
5. Showcase of success stories: Inspiring speeches and presentations highlighted successful projects and initiatives open for active involvement while offering valuable lessons and insights for other attendees.
6. Launch of new initiatives: The Forum served as a platform for announcing and launching new projects, partnerships, and collaborations to promote the Forum's objectives.
7. Active audience participation: Attendees were encouraged to actively participate in discussions, ask questions, and share their opinions and experiences, which they did, fostering a dynamic and inclusive atmosphere.
8. Cultural exchange: The Forum provided a unique opportunity for attendees from diverse backgrounds to learn about and appreciate each other's cultures and traditions.
9. Post-event follow-up: The organizers shared a comprehensive report summarizing the Forum's key outcomes and takeaways and outlining plans for future action and collaboration.
10. Positive feedback and testimonials: Attendees and the media praised the event for its organization, content, and impact, expressing enthusiasm for future editions of the Forum.





H. Media Coverage and Brand Exposure

The event garnered significant attention, with prominent media organizations collaborating with the organizers to amplify its impact. In addition, renowned media stations provided coverage for the forum, ensuring that the message and purpose of the event reached a wider audience.

The forum was covered by media stations such as:

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|-----------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Metro TV, | 17. Homebase TV |
| 2. TV Africa, | 18. Baina TV |
| 3. Mx24 TV, | 19. Starr FM |
| 4. ITV, | 20. Kingdom FM |
| 5. CTV, , | 21. Asaase Radio |
| 6. GhanaWeb, | 22. HB TV |
| 7. Modern Ghana, | 23. Sunshine FM/TV |
| 8. Ghanaian Voice Online, , | 24. Marhaba FM |
| 9. Multimedia, | 25. Truth TV |
| 10. Rite FM, | 26. Green TV/FM |
| 11. GoldStreet Business, | 27. Arise FM |
| 12. Business and Financial Times, | 28. Ghana Prime News |
| 13. Ghana Talks Business, | 29. Liberty FM |
| 14. Daily Graphic, | 30. Success FM |
| 15. News Ghana, and | 31. The Educator |
| 16. GTV. | |

The Forum showcased MIG's initiatives and vision and highlighted the valuable contributions of its Partners who collaborated on the event. These Partners, including organizations from various sectors, played a crucial role in making the Forum successful. By participating in the Forum, MIG's partners gained increased visibility and recognition for their commitment to creating a positive impact within the country.

Additionally, they had the opportunity to network with other like-minded organizations and individuals, fostering collaboration and knowledge exchange, ultimately contributing to the growth and development of industry in Africa and worldwide.



II. FORUM ORGANIZATION AND STRUCTURE

The organization and structure of the MIG Business Forum are designed to create a conducive environment for promoting entrepreneurship, collaboration, and knowledge sharing among its participants. The MIG Business Forum plays a pivotal role in advancing the entrepreneurial ecosystem by offering a thoughtfully curated space that encourages meaningful connections and engagement.

Hosting the MIG Business Forum at the World Trade Centre in Accra offered several strategic advantages. MIG Business Forum, under Maxwell Investments Group, has a Memorandum of Understanding with World Trade Centre Accra to collaborate on similar events moving forward. Here are a few reasons why:

1. Prestige and credibility: The World Trade Centre is renowned for professionalism, international trade, and high-calibre events. Hosting the Forum at such a prestigious venue elevated the event's credibility and attracted the attention of key stakeholders, including business leaders, investors, and decision-makers.
2. Central location: The World Trade Centre is situated in a prime location within the city, making it easily accessible for both local and international attendees. Its central location facilitated participants' smooth arrival and departure and made it convenient for attendees to reach the venue.
3. State-of-the-art facilities: The World Trade Centre offers modern, well-equipped facilities that cater to the needs of various types of events, including conferences and forums. The availability of advanced audio-visual equipment, comfortable seating arrangements, and other essential amenities ensured a seamless experience for all participants.
4. Networking opportunities: The World Trade Centre is a hub for business and international trade, attracting diverse professionals from various sectors. Hosting the Forum at this location provided participants with ample opportunities to network and forge connections with other attendees, fostering collaboration and the exchange of ideas.
5. Positive vision and branding: By choosing the World Trade Centre as the venue for the MIG Business Forum, organisers created a positive vision and perception of the event. This location conveyed a sense of professionalism and commitment to excellence, which likely encouraged more stakeholders to attend and engage with the Forum.

A. Key Elements of the Forum's Organization and Structure

1. Diverse Agenda: The MIG Business Forum featured a diverse agenda that covered a broad range of topics relevant to entrepreneurship. The forum addressed the various aspects of entrepreneurship by offering sessions on innovation, education, skill development, wealth via health, and sustainability, ensuring a comprehensive and inclusive platform for all attendees.
2. Expert Speakers: The MIG Business Forum invited renowned speakers and industry experts to share their insights, experiences, and knowledge. This ensured that participants had access to valuable information and perspectives from accomplished professionals, enabling them to learn and grow as entrepreneurs.
3. Interactive Sessions: The MIG Business Forum incorporated interactive sessions, such as panel discussions and Q&A sessions, to foster collaboration and active participation. These interactive formats encouraged attendees to engage with the content, ask questions, and share their thoughts, creating a more enriching and dynamic experience.
4. Networking Opportunities: The MIG Business Forum offered ample opportunities for networking through a designated networking break and informal gatherings. These networking opportunities allowed attendees to connect with like-minded individuals, exchange ideas, and explore potential partnerships or collaborations.
5. Collaborative Economic Clusters: As part of the MIG Business Forum's initiatives, the establishment of collaborative economic clusters was proposed by world-renowned Economist Naa Dr Alhassan Andani. These clusters serve as incubators for innovation, providing entrepreneurs with the resources, guidance, and support needed to bring new ideas to life and fostering a culture of creativity within the community.
6. Post-Forum Support: To ensure lasting impact and continued collaboration, the MIG Business Forum offered post-forum support for attendees. This includes access to resources, follow-up events, and ongoing opportunities for networking and mentorship. This ongoing support helped maintain the momentum generated during the forum and encouraged continued growth and collaboration among participants.

The MIG Business Forum's organization and structure are designed to provide a comprehensive and engaging platform that supports and fosters entrepreneurship. By offering diverse content, expert speakers, interactive sessions, networking opportunities, and ongoing support, the MIG Business Forum is vital in promoting a thriving and collaborative entrepreneurial ecosystem.

The organisers included Hausa translation during the MIG Business Forum as a crucial step to ensure effective communication and engagement with most stakeholders, who primarily speak Hausa within the Zongo & Inner-City communities. By providing translation services, the Forum organisers demonstrated their commitment to inclusivity, ensuring that important discussions and ideas were accessible to everyone, regardless of their linguistic background.

Inviting three Hausa Media Houses to the event further enhanced the reach and impact of the Forum. These media outlets served as a bridge between the platform we created and the wider Hausa-speaking community, ensuring that the valuable insights and opportunities shared at the event were effectively communicated to the intended audience. Also, this approach facilitated the dissemination of crucial information and fostered a sense of belonging among the stakeholders, who felt that their unique needs and perspectives were acknowledged and respected.

Allowing for Hausa translation during the MIG Business Forum and inviting Hausa Media Houses to cover the event contributed significantly to the Forum's success. It enabled a diverse group of stakeholders to participate in meaningful discussions actively, fostered a sense of inclusivity and community, and ensured that the key messages and opportunities from the forum reached the intended audience effectively.



B. Welcome Address by Dr. Maxwell Ampong, CEO of Maxwell Investments Group

The CEO of Maxwell Investments Group and the Convener, Dr Maxwell Ampong, opened the Forum with his welcome address to all dignitaries and participants present at the maiden edition of the MIG Business Forum, 2023. He briefly stated that the august occasion was to discuss and explore strategies for navigating economic downturns, focusing on the resilience of Ghana's Zongo and Inner Cities and their immense growth potential.

He reiterated that the theme of the Forum, “Avenues to Manoeuvre During an Economic Downturn”, was both timely and crucial as the world is constantly changing, and the economic landscape is changing alongside. He made mention that recent years have witnessed several economic challenges, both globally and locally, and the Forum is just one of the platforms created to provide solutions to them.

He noted that the Forum is to dwell on the problems or solely to discuss the challenges we face as Ghanaians. Instead, the Forum seeks solutions and seizes hidden opportunities amidst these challenges. Talking about the focus of the Forum, he explained that the spotlight is on how the community can harness our strengths, resources, and creativity to build resilience and foster growth in the face of adversity.

He encouraged the audience to prepare for the distinguished speakers who would share their thoughts on the given subject matter. He stated that a healthy portion of the Forum is set aside for Audience Engagement.

Speaking on the core philosophy of the Forum that drove the approach to organize the MIG Business Forum, he noted that the Maxwell Investments Group firmly believes that ideas are open source, a vital resource that should be freely shared and accessible to all. By bringing together thought leaders, experts, and stakeholders from various sectors, Maxwell Investments Group is inspired to create a platform for exchanging knowledge, opportunity and ideas that can inspire, challenge, and ultimately contribute to the betterment of our communities.

Expressing his thoughts on the collaboration between Maxwell Investments Group and the Zongo & Inner Cities Development Secretariat under the Office of the President of the Republic of Ghana, he noted that the partnership is a testament to MIG's commitment to fostering a spirit of collaboration and innovation across the board. He encouraged all present to seize the opportunities to be laid forth and chart a path towards a brighter, more resilient, and prosperous future for our Zongo and Inner Cities and, by extension, our homeland Ghana.

He urged all participants to take advantage of the platform and distinguished speakers present to explore the avenues to manoeuvre during an economic downturn and discover new strategies to ensure the resilience of Ghana's Zongo and Inner-Cities and their immense growth potential.



C. Chairperson's Remarks by the Paramount Chief of Sagnarigu, Ambassador Sagnari Naa Yamuna Abdulai

The Chairperson of the MIG Business Forum, Paramount Chief of Sagnarigu, Ambassador Sagnari Naa Yamuna Abdulai, briefly remarked on his acceptance as Chairperson of the Event. He expressed his excitement on the honour of the Chairperson bestowed on him as he accepted the great honour to chair the august assembly, considering the plethora of competent personalities present.

He commended the office of the Honourable Coordinator of the Zongo & Inner-Cities Development Secretariat and the executives of Maxwell Investments Group for collaborating to organize this function and deeming him a worthy Chairperson.

Speaking on the forum theme, “Avenues to Manoeuvre During an Economic Downturn”, he reiterated that discussions would span potential opportunities in the current global economic downturn, especially in the agricultural sector, focusing on pragmatic solutions that can be adapted to face related challenges. He commended the organizer on their choice of subject matter, considering the current economic downturn, the economic turbulence and the need for innovative ideas and measures to redeem our country.

Expressing his thoughts on the subject matter, he noted that Agriculture, with the proper measures in place, would be the low-hanging fruit from which we can get rapid results in terms of productivity and value addition within the short term that will enable our country not only to feed itself but also earn substantially more from export to cushion currency as well as to reduce our dependency on foreign goods and accompanying vulnerabilities to external shocks that threaten the very sovereignty of our country.

He explained that Zongo Communities are an essential cog in the wheel of national development, and their role in this respect cannot be overestimated. In conclusion, he expressed his pleasure with the projects revolving around the Forum, stating that the four projects, including Useful Affordable Education and Economic Resilience, Health and Insurance in the Zongo Communities, the role of technology in nation building and Ghana’s Digital Transformation, are vibrant programs.



D. Keynote Address by the Presidential Coordinator of the Zongo & Inner-Cities Development Secretariat Under the Office of the President of the Republic of Ghana, Hon. Ben Abdallah Banda, Esq.

The Presidential Coordinator of the Zongo & Inner-Cities Development Secretariat under the Office of the President, Hon. Ben Abdallah Banda, Esq., speaking as an honoured guest at the MIG Business Forum, expressed his gratitude for the collaboration between the Zongo Development Fund and Maxwell Investments Group (MIG) to drive progress and community development in the Zongo and Inner-cities communities in Ghana.

The partnership will provide opportunities for training, workshops, and town hall meetings for local entrepreneurs, businesspeople, and MSME owners to develop and fund solutions to social issues. The Coordinator highlighted the importance of public-private-sector partnerships and global strategic alliances to effect meaningful change in the communities. He thanked and commended Dr. Maxwell Ampong, who doubles as the Executive Ambassador to the Zongo & Inner-Cities Development Secretariat, for communicating opportunities for the communities and contributing to the forum theme, "Avenues to Manoeuvre During an Economic Downturn".

The speaker discussed the activation of the bamboo industry within local communities. He mentioned that bamboo had been a significant economic catalyst for many communities in Asia and South America due to its versatility, fast growth, and renewability. He added that bamboo had gained global interest as a sustainable alternative to alleviate deforestation and contribute to climate change mitigation. He also stated that Maxwell Investments Group had started talks with a European company to invest in bamboo processing equipment and set up a small plant in Ghana, which could create opportunities in the Zongo and Inner-Cities, particularly for biofuel.

Additionally, he discussed the potential for expanding efforts to other agricultural commodities readily available within the Zongo and Inner Cities, such as Shea Nuts, Cashew Nuts, Sesame Seeds, Maize, and Groundnuts, to strengthen local farming and business communities. Discussions on the best way to go about these initiatives are at the final stage, with involvement from community leaders and gatekeepers for a better understanding of local terrains.

In his speech, Hon. Banda discussed the projects that Maxwell Investments Group (MIG) is set to undertake in collaboration with the Zongo and Inner-Cities Development Secretariat (ZICDS). In addition to the projects already mentioned, he announced more initiatives: The Useful, Affordable Education Drive, the Insurance Community Project, and the Maxwell Homes Project.

After briefly stating the projects, Hon. Banda provided more details about the Useful, Affordable Education Drive. He explained that this initiative was designed to align with the government's commitment to promoting literacy and fostering inclusive development. To achieve this, MIG established partnerships with the KNUST-AISWAM to provide affordable, accredited courses to the youth and members of the Zongo and Inner-Cities communities.

The Useful, Affordable Education Drive program aims to empower the members of the Zongo & Inner Cities, wherever they may be, regardless of economic status, with the necessary skills to succeed in today's competitive world. He noted that participants in the program would receive KNUST-accredited certificates, which would give them a competitive edge in the job market and open doors to new opportunities.

He emphasised that the Insurance Community Project seeks basic healthcare coverage for Zongo and Inner-City inhabitants, including specialised services, mental health care, dental care, women's health issues, geriatrics, and vision care. Furthermore, to ensure quality healthcare services, the program will partner with healthcare providers within the communities to create a strong support network that promotes health and well-being for all community members.

The Presidential Coordinator revealed that MIG is working with local health insurance providers, such as Cosmopolitan Health Insurance, to develop a sustainable model that ensures affordability and accessibility for all community members.

Speaking on the Maxwell Homes Project, he stated it is an initiative that seeks to address the critical issue of accommodation in the Zongo and Inner-Cities communities. Maxwell Homes seek to allow individuals to pay rent monthly from the onset, while the project takes on the 1-2 years' down payment on behalf of prospective tenants after they have passed due diligence, he explained. In addition, this project aims to provide affordable housing options for the youth in Ghana as they mature and require help to secure accommodation.

Overall, these initiatives, he explained, are designed to address critical needs within the Zongo and Inner-Cities communities and pave the way for a more prosperous tomorrow. MIG and the ZICDS call for support to help bring a brighter future for these communities, one step at a time.

The initiatives, namely the soya beans project, the bamboo project, the agri-commodities project, the Useful, Affordable Education Drive, the Maxwell Homes Project, and the Insurance Community Project, he announced is a bold and ambitious step towards a brighter future for the Zongos & Inner Cities.

Hon. Banda expressed his gratitude to Dr. Maxwell Ampong and his team at Maxwell Investments Group for their commitment to the communities. He also said he was confident that the collaboration would lead to a brighter and more prosperous future for the people of the Zongo and Inner Cities





E.Fireside Chat with the Distinguished Guest of Honour, Former Director/CEO of Stanbic Bank Ghana, Naa Dr. Alhassan Andani, and Mr. Max Boender, CEO of Myneral Labs UK

A fireside chat is an attractive choice for the Forum because it creates an informal atmosphere, promotes storytelling, and encourages interactive discussions, making it more engaging and approachable for both speakers and participants.

The session featured Special Guest Speaker and resource person, the CEO of Myneral Labs UK, Mr. Max Boender, and the Distinguished Guest of Honour, Former Director/CEO of Stanbic Bank Ghana, Naa Dr. Alhassan Andani.

During a fireside chat, Naa Dr. Alhassan Andani, an experienced Economist, expressed gratitude to the organizers and Honourable Banda for giving him the opportunity to speak. He then emphasized the importance of understanding the identity of the Zongo people and the significance of the term "inner city".

He explained that “Zongo” people were individuals who migrated from different parts of Ghana to participate in the economic and political growth of the country. Due to their lack of resources, they were relocated to faraway places where they settled and formed poor neighbourhoods without access to basic amenities. However, they eventually migrated closer to economic centres and became known as the Zongo and Inner-City people.

Naa Dr. Alhassan Andani also stressed the importance of aggregating individual skills to break out economically as a community rather than trying to do so as individuals.

He added the importance of economic aggregation among the people of Zongo and Inner-Cities. He acknowledged that individuals in these areas possess many skills, such as electricians, plumbers, and food makers, but cannot make significant progress on their own. He explained that most jobs offer a maximum of 25-30 years of employment before retirement and pension, which may not be enough to sustain individuals financially.

Therefore, Naa Dr. Alhassan Andani suggested forming economic clusters to come together and produce on a larger scale, making production more efficient and rewarding individuals more. He urged companies like the Maxwell Investments Group to encourage people in the Zongo and Inner-Cities to form economic clusters and work together rather than participating in these programs as individual employees.

In the course of the fireside chat discussion, the resource person, Mr. Max Boender asked Naa Dr. Alhassan Andani for suggestions on how traditional authorities and local government within the Zongo and Inner Cities can help create a sense of togetherness and support the formation of economic clusters, given Naa Dr. Alhassan Andani's position as a Chief.

Naa Dr. Alhassan Andani suggested that traditional authorities and local governments in the Zongo and Inner Cities should provide proper leadership to create a sense of togetherness and help form economic clusters. He advised that they should encourage building vertically to put people in affordable housing and release land for developers to build offices, restaurants and homes. Naa Dr. Alhassan Andani emphasized that agriculture is also crucial and suggested that traditional leaders should aggregate resources to produce more soyabean and bamboo, which can be exported for profit. He further stressed that aggregation is the key to economic success. The benefits are not in the individual but the aggregate, as more profit can be made when people come together to produce on a larger scale.

Continuing the conversation, Mr. Max Boender asked what advice Naa Dr. Alhassan Andani would give Chiefs who are hesitant to engage in public-private partnerships with unfamiliar business entities and how these partnerships can have a more significant macroeconomic effect.

In his response, Naa Dr. Alhassan Andani emphasized the importance of Chiefs seeking expert advice when approached by private sector partners during a discussion on how traditional authorities and local government can help create a sense of togetherness within Zongo and Inner Cities.

He encouraged Chiefs to think beyond the immediate benefits that may accrue to their pockets and instead consider the long-term interests of the people they represent, including future generations. He also advised Chiefs to consult with their people properly before entering into partnerships and to ensure that any benefits accrued are meaningful for both the public and private sector partners. "What we often do," he said, "is just take what is offered without proper consultation or consideration of the bigger picture."

Additionally, Mr. Max Boender asked how the strategy of listening to the needs and desires of the community for projects in the Inner-Cities has a bigger-picture effect.

Responding to the question asked, Naa Dr. Alhassan Andani emphasized that during economic downturns, employees are usually the ones who suffer the most. However, he was encouraged by the efforts of Dr. Maxwell Ampong and his team, who are starting to work on projects that will address this issue. He believes that the key to improving the economic situation in the Inner-Cities lies in empowering the people through skills development and training.

According to him, the Zongo and Inner-City communities are affluent in skilled workers, but there is a need to create a company that can bring all of them together to maximize their potential. He also stressed the importance of listening to the voices of the people, aggregating their skills, and providing them with the necessary resources and guidance to be economically beneficial to the country and themselves in the long run. In his view, this approach will not only benefit the individuals involved but also have a positive impact on the overall economy.

The last question asked during the fireside chat centred on technology. Mr. Max Boender enquired about the potential impact of access to education and technology on empowering marginalized communities, precisely the effect of the MIG USSD technology in helping these groups identify one another and become active in the market.

The response of Naa Dr. Alhassan Andani was quite clear and concise. He emphasized the importance of technology as an initiative that can help people in the Zongo and Inner-City communities overcome poverty. He noted that despite their minimal education, these communities could easily navigate electronic portals. With the proper guidance and organization, their creativity can be harnessed and directed towards ICT. He suggested that organized technology halls should be provided to guide their skills and creativity towards programming and other ICT-related activities.

He concluded by encouraging Maxwell Investments Group and other stakeholders with resources to help organize these technology halls and harness the potential of technology to uplift the people in these communities.



F. Remarks from Speakers

Remarks from the Acting Head Of Business - KNUST-AISWAM

Speaking on behalf of the Acting Head of Business at KNUST-AISWAM, Madam Vanessa Asare highlighted the collaboration between KNUST-AISWAM and Maxwell Investments Group. She stated that KNUST-AISWAM is ready to spearhead the partnership with Maxwell Investments Group to roll out an educational initiative called the Useful Affordable Education Drive.

She explained that the Partnership with Maxwell Investments Group intends to roll out several courses under Kwame Nkrumah University of Science & Technology (KNUST). There will be over 160 courses offered under this partnership, not limited to Environmental and Sanitation but courses in public health, Catering and Hospitality, Agribusiness, Customer Service, Entrepreneurship, Accounting and many more.

Madam Vanessa added that training, mentorship, and internship opportunities would be available to participants when they roll into the courses. All this is geared towards providing training to empower the youth and ensure they come out as entrepreneurs or as more employable for positive livelihood.

She assured the audience that once students enrol, after intensive training and exposure to internship programs, they'll leave with KNUST accredited certificates, signed by the Vice Chancellor, Professor Rita Akosua Dickson. She iterated that Prof. Dickson supports youth engagement and initiatives that empower the youth.

Distinctive in her speech was gender equality. She stated that the institution would ensure women folk also get a good representation during these training.

A key focus of the courses will be around STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics) and all the science areas that will empower Zongo & Inner-City inhabitants in the future, like ICT-based training, Cyber Security, Graphic Designing, and other skills that will ensure that when they complete a course, they can start their small businesses and be productive citizens in our community. In addition, vocational and technical training will also be offered under this initiative.

Finally, she emphasized the importance of partnerships with NGOs, Government agencies and other institutions.



Remarks by CEO of Cosmopolitan Health Insurance

Dr. Mrs. Beatrice Amponsah, CEO of Cosmopolitan Health Insurance, spoke at the event on the theme "Avenues to Manoeuvre During an Economic Downturn." She commended the Zongo & Inner-Cities Development Secretariat for its commitment to supporting programs for the development of people in the Zongo Inner-Cities. As an indigenous health insurance service provider, Cosmopolitan Health Insurance aligns with the vision to transform these communities' social and economic conditions.

Dr. Mrs. Beatrice Amponsah shared that Cosmopolitan Health Insurance is a Ghanaian-owned company that started operations in 2014. Their services cover the entire country in partnership with over 800 health service providers across the 216 districts of Ghana. Their business is built on the vision of transforming the healthcare experience through a culture of excellence, care, quality service, and innovation.

She also mentioned that the Insurance Community project comes when the company is launching an affordable mass digital product, "the Cosmo mobile service," to reach markets that may not have access to quality healthcare. This digital product will run alongside their traditional solutions to extend health insurance coverage nationwide. To support the project, Cosmopolitan Health Insurance has partnered with Maxwell Investments Group to leverage their USSD technology to manage the enrolment of communities and make the process seamless.

Dr. Mrs. Beatrice Amponsah also highlighted that the company would roll out health educational campaigns through various means such as health talks, community film shows, health posters, and banners across the community. The objective is to educate people on the importance of preventive healthcare, healthy lifestyles, mental health, and dental health as a cushion against the current economic downturn to ensure effective delivery per their mandate in the project.

Cosmopolitan Health Insurance plans to implement a project management plan with clear objectives that will be matched against deliverables throughout the year. The company will also assess the impact of their services through client surveys, quarterly service reviews, and other meaningful and scientific data backed with figures.



Remarks by Head of Trade in Services, Manufactures and Petrochemicals, GEPA

In his address, the Head of Trade in Services, Manufactures, and Petrochemicals Department at Ghana Export Promotion Authority (GEPA), Mr. Banda Abdallah Z. Khalifa stated that GEPA is the National Trade Support Institution mandated to develop and promote Ghana's Non-Traditional Export (NTE) through;

1. Product development and supply-base expansion of export products.
2. Market development and promotion of made in Ghana products and services on the export market
3. Current market information to the exporter community
4. Capacity building of Ghanaian exporters
5. Consensus building and development National Export awareness

His presentation covered the following areas;

1. Many export oriented investment areas to explore
2. The African Continental Free Trade Area also gives an added incentive to be able to invest for export.
3. Many state agencies provide unique services. Take advantage of them
4. Team up to create the necessary synergies because resources are scarce



Address by Myneral Labs, UK - CEO

Mr. Max Boender, the CEO of Myneral Labs, started by thanking the guests for their presence and expressed gratitude for the opportunity to talk about the role of technology in transforming Ghana and promoting nation-building. He acknowledged the significant efforts made by the Ghanaian tech community, especially the Government, in digitalization, which has positioned Ghana as a leader in the African continent.

He also mentioned that digitalization had facilitated the emergence of start-up ecosystems in Ghana, which is crucial for economic growth and innovation. As a technology-based company, Myneral Labs believes that leveraging technology to improve the Government's digital infrastructure will drive growth and development in Ghana and beyond.

The CEO also spoke about Myneral Labs' partnership with Maxwell Investments Group (MIG) and their focus on using technology to address social issues such as poverty alleviation, education, and basic healthcare coverage. He commended MIG's commitment to these causes, which align with the Government's objectives.

Furthermore, the speaker discussed Myneral Labs' traceability solution, which helps identify the origin of products and their transit process, enabling exporters to achieve higher value for their goods. The solution also helps consumers identify authentic and high-quality products and provides accurate information about commodities. The speaker expressed excitement about delivering this solution on all agro-commodities Maxwell Investments Group is working with and expanding to other regional export partners.



G. Plenary Session

This session made available an open platform where questions were received from participants from all angles and topics of interest with respect to the projects and the objectives of the Forum.

This session featured;

1. Presidential Coordinator, ZICDS, Alhaji Ben Abdallah Banda, Esq.
2. CEO of Myneral Labs, Mr. Max Boender
3. The Head of Trade in Services, Manufactures, and Petrochemicals Department at Ghana Export Promotion Authority (GEPA), Mr. Banda Abdallah Z. Khalifa
4. Head of Operations, Cosmopolitan Health Insurance, Emmanuel Badu
5. Vanessa Asare on behalf of Acting Head of KNUST- AISWAM, Mr. Richard Yaw Ekor
6. CEO of Maxwell Investments Group, Dr. Maxwell Ampong

In-Depth Insights from the Plenary Session, Uncovering Key Insights and Perspectives: Questions & Answers

Question: I want to know, do you have plans to work with Local Organizations in the Zongo community?

To: Presidential Coordinator, ZICDS, Hon. Alhaji Ben Abdallah Banda, Esq.

Response: Hon. Alhaji Ben Abdallah Banda stated that, unlike other governmental institutions, their mandate is not restricted to specific areas and is at large, meaning ZICDS can execute initiatives that include but are not limited to education sectors, health, or even roads and more. The Zongo Development Fund is based at Abelempeke and is headed by the CEO, Dr. Arafat, while the Secretariat is based at the Osu Christiansburg Castle. Both have an open policy, welcoming any ideas for collaboration that will benefit the people living in the Zongo and Inner Cities. He encouraged anyone with ideas not to hesitate to come to them.



Question: I want to know what MIG will do in technology.

To: CEO of Myneral Labs UK, Mr. Max Boender & the Head of Trade in Services, Manufactures, and Petrochemicals Department at Ghana Export Promotion Authority (GEPA), Mr. Banda Abdallah Z. Khalifa.

Response (Mr. Max Boender): Mr. Max Boender explained that MIG and Myneral Labs UK are working on a joint venture, the details of which they plan to share soon. The venture focuses on digitalizing trust and creating a system for digitally and safely verifying people's identities. He mentioned that they are also working on hiring people and finding communities to collaborate with in building innovations.

Response (Mr. Banda Abdallah Z. Khalifa): Mr. Banda Abdallah Z. Khalifa stated that their department, which focuses on trade in services, looks beyond tangible goods and includes intangibles such as IT and IT-enabled services. They have exportable value propositions in education, consultancy services, and medical tourism. Specifically, they have partnered with the Netherland Trust Fund V and the International Trade Centre in the IT sector to support and build capacity for IT and IT-enabled services SMEs. They organized the first Infotech Fair in the past, which had both virtual and in-person attendance from Nigeria and other countries. This year, they plan to provide International Competitive Bidding (ICB) Capacity Building Training to assist IT firms in bidding for contracts in other countries. The training will occur in June or July, and interested IT firms can contact them for assistance.



Question: After going through all formalities with the FDA, as a yam farmer, do I need to travel with my yield to the market abroad, or is it your role to facilitate my product to a potential buyer?

To: The Head of Trade in Services, Manufactures, and Petrochemicals Department at Ghana Export Promotion Authority (GEPA), Mr. Banda Abdallah Z. Khalifa.

Response: Mr. Banda Abdallah Z. Khalifa said that Ghana is the largest exporter of yams, despite Nigeria being the largest producer. Ghana exports to various countries, including the USA, Canada, and the Caribbean. He mentioned that they had taken people through the process of exporting, and some of their Zongo friends are already exporting yam. However, he emphasized the need for confirmed buyers at the other end and went through the necessary registration and certification process. He also highlighted the cost of exporting yams from purchasing to shipment to the USA and the potential for good margins in the sector. Finally, he invited interested individuals to approach them for guidance on the exporting process.

Question: What measures are in place to ensure community members have access to timely and quality healthcare services, even in remote areas?

To: Head of Operations, Cosmopolitan Health Insurance, Mr. Emmanuel Badu

Response: Mr. Emmanuel Badu stated that the core business of their scheme is to provide accessible and affordable healthcare to their clients, with affordability being taken care of in collaboration with MIG Group and its Partners. The system ensures physical accessibility through over 800 healthcare providers nationwide, with efforts to identify key people within communities to collaborate with and establish closer healthcare facilities. The government's effort to provide quality healthcare is also utilized through the presence of National Community Health Planning and Services (CHPS) facilities and clinics dotted around. He assured the Zongo and Inner-City communities will always receive timely and quality healthcare.



Question: What are some strategies targeting people with special needs? As we have a sizable number in the various Zongo communities?

To: Madam Vanessa Asare, speaking on behalf of the Acting Head of KNUST-AISWAM, Richard Yaw Ekor, and the CEO of Maxwell Investments Group, Dr. Maxwell Ampong

Response (Madam Vanessa Asare): Madam Vanessa Asare explained that they had had discussions with Dr. Maxwell Ampong and the MIG Team regarding finding courses suitable to empower disabled individuals. They are considering courses in ICT, such as Graphic Design and Call Centre Operations, as well as phone and electronic repairs. However, they understand the need for stakeholder engagement to identify specific needs and custom design courses for the disabled community.

Response (Dr. Maxwell Ampong): Dr. Maxwell Ampong, a representative of MIG, stated that they are in discussions with KNUST-AISWAM to create impact products and services that are affordable, accessible, and effective. He explained that MIG places a strong emphasis on affordability and accessibility, as well as ensuring that the product or service is efficacious. He assured us that MIG and KNUST-AISWAM are working to meet these criteria and actively addressing any concerns to ensure a successful outcome. He added that their goal is not to implement the project simply but to do so in a way that maximizes impact.

Question: Every community survives on its cultural identity. Especially in your project, the Useful, Affordable Drive, what are the plans to ensure that students who are likely to go through the training would develop a strong cultural identity and take pride in who they are as people of Zongo extraction?

To: Presidential Coordinator, ZICDS, Hon. Alhaji Ben Abdallah Banda, Esq. and Madam Vanessa Asare, speaking on behalf of Acting Head of KNUST-AISWAM, Richard Yaw Ekor

Response (Hon. Alhaji Ben Abdallah Banda): He explained that the program is interlaced with explanations in Hausa, as the target groups are the locals, and the common language spoken is Hausa. He believes that it is the responsibility of individuals to ensure they do not lose their cultural identity, as it affects their understanding of their destination. He spoke about how he says his father's tongue, Hausa, and English and has not lost his identity. He believes that if parents can train their children in their language and culture, it will go a long way in preserving their identity.

Response (Madam Vanessa Asare): She stated that although the courses offered do not specifically train individuals in being Ghanaian or teach cultural identity, it is essential to respect and be tolerant of the diverse ideas and cultures in the Zongo communities they will be working with. For example, they allow Muslim trainees to pray on Fridays during training. She emphasized the need to be culturally sensitive and respectful, especially when bringing in foreign lecturers or facilitators who may not be familiar with the cultural rules of the communities they will be visiting.



Question: We are talking about huge capital. For someone who is on the ground will ask, "where is the money"? Where can we get help in farming finance?

To: The Head of Trade in Services, Manufactures, and Petrochemicals Department at Ghana Export Promotion Authority (GEPA), Mr. Banda Abdallah Z. Khalifa.

Response: Mr. Banda Abdallah Z. Khalifa emphasized the importance of maintaining one's cultural identity, stating that one loses their identity when one loses track of where one comes from and fails to speak their indigenous language. He believes that speaking one's language starts at home, and parents must speak their indigenous language with their children to ensure they grow up speaking it as well. He discussed the cost of cultivating a hectare of cassava and mentioned that commercial cultivation would require collaboration and significant investment. He explained that there is a current program in partnership with GEPA and TIAST, where Stanbic Bank provides 70-80% of the processing machinery cost for those interested in cassava starch production. The machine, which costs between 2.5 and 6 million dollars, is provided by TIAST. He emphasized the need for land, cultivation, and out-growers to make the project successful. TIAST will also act as the off-taker of the cassava starch. He mentioned that Exim Bank supports the exporter community and that interested parties can come forward with their project proposals for assistance.

Question: What are some of the advantages of using the USSD code?

To: CEO of Myneral Lab, Mr. Max Boender

Response: Mr. Max Boender emphasized that the key to USSD technology is accessibility and simplicity, as everyone can access modern technologies on their phones without needing a data bundle or a smartphone. He added that their focus is to make it easy and lower barriers to accessing their services, so they've partnered with MIG to deliver features that can be accessed on Nokia phones without needing any apps. He also mentioned that they are continuously developing their system to incorporate new features without any extra complexity, emphasizing the importance of making these features accessible to everyone without additional education.

Question: What mechanism will be implemented to ensure ongoing communications and feedback between the project team, Zongo and Inner-City community leaders?

To: Presidential Coordinator, ZICDS, Hon. Alhaji Ben Abdallah Banda, Esq.

Response: Hon. Alhaji Ben Abdallah Banda reiterated that the Zongo Development Fund has ruled out a communication strategy. Instead, it will rely on its spokespersons and speakers nationwide to disseminate information about the Fund and its collaboration with MIG. The aim is to ensure that data reaches every corner of the country and that people understand and appreciate the work being done by the Fund.



III. KEY PROJECTS AND DISCUSSIONS

A. MIG USSD Technology: The great equaliser

The MIG USSD Technology is in collaboration with Myneral Labs UK. The primary aim is to provide commodity traceability and impact services via a USSD shortcode. This includes the ability to track commodities from farm to market, ensuring transparency and accountability at every stage of the supply chain. It also includes access to impact services, such as potential financial and technical assistance, to help smallholder farmers and other low-income stakeholders improve their livelihoods.

USSD is widely used in Africa and other developing regions, making it accessible to many stakeholders. It also requires minimal infrastructure and can be used on even the most basic mobile phones, ensuring everyone can participate. By combining the expertise of Myneral Labs UK in blockchain traceability with MIG's deep knowledge of the local context and our commitment to social impact, we can create a solution that is both innovative and effective.

Ultimately, we welcome working with microfinance and microinsurance services, amongst others, through the USSD shortcode. These services can help smallholder farmers and other low-income stakeholders access the capital and the risk protection they need to grow their businesses and improve their livelihoods. By leveraging the power of blockchain and Web3 technology, we can offer these services in a way that is secure, transparent, and accessible to everyone.

We recognize that low-income stakeholders often lack access to the tools and services necessary to participate fully in the global economy. The MIG USSD will bring cutting-edge modern technology to low-income stakeholders in Ghana and beyond.



B. Useful, Affordable Education Drive

The Useful Affordable Education Drive is under 'The League of Entrepreneurs' initiative, commenced and duly registered by Maxwell Investments Group in 2017. 'The League of Entrepreneurs' is designed to align with the Government's commitment to promoting literacy and fostering a comprehensive and inclusive development strategy for our nation. In collaboration with KNUST-AISWAM at the Centre for Capacity Building and Innovation under Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), this initiative aims to provide affordable, accessible, accredited courses that will empower and equip the youth and members of the Zongo & Inner Cities with the skills needed to thrive in today's competitive world.

Upon completing the program, participants will receive KNUST-accredited certificates, signed by the Vice Chancellor, ensuring their newly acquired skills are recognized and valued in the job market. This accreditation will provide a competitive edge, increasing participants' employability and access to new opportunities. Additionally, select courses will offer Internship & Practicum opportunities with MIG and our partners, further enhancing practical experience.

To support participants throughout the program, OrderAndEat Limited, an FDA-approved delivery-only restaurant service under the MIG Group, will provide complimentary snack breaks and lunch during lessons. Furthermore, housing partnerships have been established with nearby hostels for those wishing to stay during the 2-3 day courses. KNUST is also committed to offering special arrangements, sending tutors to provide the necessary skill set to those who require it, wherever they may be.

This impactful and sustainable initiative demonstrates a purpose-driven approach to education, promoting accessibility and empowering individuals with the tools needed for success in today's dynamic job market.

The Useful Affordable Education Drive project is about providing valuable education opportunities and fostering a supportive and engaging learning environment for participants. By removing barriers such as food and accommodation, the program ensures that students can focus on their studies and fully benefit from the courses provided. This comprehensive approach to education will ultimately lead to a more skilled and competitive workforce, which is essential for driving economic growth and social progress in our nation.

Moreover, this initiative will contribute to the overall growth and sustainability of the Zongo & Inner Cities communities by empowering individuals to pursue careers in various sectors and industries. By offering courses that cater to the specific needs and interests of the community, the project aims to create a long-lasting impact that extends beyond the participants, inspiring future generations to pursue educational opportunities and achieve their full potential.

The collaboration between Maxwell Investments Group and KNUST-AISWAM is an excellent example of how public and private entities can work together to address the pressing challenges faced by our society. By leveraging their unique resources, expertise, and networks, these organizations are helping to create a brighter future for the youth and members of the Zongo & Inner Cities, enabling them to contribute positively to the development and prosperity of our nation.

The Useful Affordable Education Drive project is a testament to the power of education as a transformative tool that can unlock the potential of individuals and communities. With its focus on affordability, accessibility, impact, and sustainability, this initiative is poised to make a lasting difference in the lives of its participants and contribute to our nation's overall growth and development.





C. The Bamboo Project

The Bamboo Project is an innovative initiative designed to harness the incredible potential of bamboo as a sustainable and versatile resource, ultimately contributing to the socio-economic development of Zongo & Inner-City communities and fostering a more environmentally-friendly future for our nation. Bamboo can be an alternative to biofuel, and a ready market exists for this.

Spearheaded by Maxwell Investments Group, this project seeks to empower individuals in rural areas by providing them with the necessary skills, resources, and support to cultivate, process and market bamboo products effectively. MIG also presents a ready market via European partners ready to purchase in large quantities.

By focusing on sustainable bamboo farming and creating value-added products, the Bamboo Project aims to generate new income opportunities for individuals and communities in Zongo and Inner-Cities, promoting economic growth and social progress. Moreover, the cultivation of bamboo helps combat deforestation and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, making it an ideal solution for addressing the pressing environmental challenges our planet faces.

Participants in the Bamboo Project will receive training in bamboo cultivation techniques and processing and marketing strategies, ensuring that they have the skills and knowledge required to succeed in this burgeoning industry.

Furthermore, Maxwell Investments Group will work closely with public and private sector partners, including international partners, to establish market linkages and secure investment opportunities, guaranteeing that the products produced by the project participants will find a ready market and generate sustainable income.

The Bamboo Project also aims to create a ripple effect in the communities it serves, inspiring others to embrace bamboo as a sustainable resource and explore the various economic opportunities it offers. The project will contribute to our nation's long-term environmental and social well-being by encouraging a shift towards more sustainable and eco-friendly practices.

The Bamboo Project is a groundbreaking initiative showcasing bamboo's incredible potential as a resource for sustainable development, economic growth, and environmental protection. By empowering individuals and communities with the skills and support needed to succeed in the bamboo industry, Maxwell Investments Group aims to assist in helping the creation of a brighter, greener future for Zongo & Inner Cities and our nation at large.



D. The Health Insurance Community Project

The Health Insurance Community Initiative, led by Maxwell Investments Group, seeks to supplement access to healthcare for Zongo & Inner City communities across Ghana by providing basic health insurance coverage, ensuring that basic healthcare needs, such as hospitalization, are no longer a burden for the average citizen. This project aims to create a supportive and inclusive healthcare system that empowers individuals and families to prioritize their well-being without fearing financial strain.

Imagine a community where people no longer need to worry about the cost of hospitalization or other basic and essential healthcare services. The Health Insurance Community Initiative envisions a world where every community member can access quality primary healthcare without hesitation. This sense of security allows individuals to focus on their personal and professional lives, leading to more vibrant and thriving communities in Zongo & Inner Cities, which are present in every constituency of Ghana.

By removing the financial barriers to healthcare access, the Health Insurance Community Initiative encourages community members to seek timely medical attention, preventing minor health issues from escalating into more severe and potentially life-threatening conditions. This proactive approach to healthcare improves overall community health and reduces the long-term costs associated with treating chronic illnesses and advanced medical conditions.

Additionally, this project promotes a more equitable healthcare system by ensuring that all community members, including women, children, and marginalized groups, have equal access to vital health services. Maxwell Investments Group collaborates with local health insurance firms, like Cosmopolitan Health Insurance. We aim to create a more inclusive society where everyone can lead healthy, fulfilling lives by levelling the playing field.

The Health Insurance Community Initiative also has the potential to stimulate local economies by reducing the financial burden of healthcare costs on households, allowing families to invest in other essential needs such as education, housing, and nutrition. Furthermore, by creating a sustainable and accessible healthcare system, the project can attract new businesses and investments to the area, fostering economic growth and development.

The Health Insurance Community Initiative seeks to transform communities across Ghana by ensuring that basic healthcare needs, like hospitalization, are no longer a cause for concern. By creating inclusive, accessible, and sustainable supplementary healthcare support, this project can potentially improve the overall well-being of individuals and families while also driving regional social and economic growth in Zongo & Inner-Cities and nationwide.



E. The Soya Beans, Shea Nut, and Other Agro-Commodities Project

The Soya Beans, Shea Nut, and Other Agro-Commodities Project is an ambitious initiative spearheaded by Maxwell Investments Group, designed to drive sustainable agricultural development, boost local economies, and improve farmers' livelihoods and agribusinesses in Zongo & Inner-City communities across Ghana. By focusing on cultivating, processing, and marketing high-value crops like soya beans and shea nuts, this project aims to unlock the full potential of Ghana's rich agricultural resources and create new opportunities for growth and prosperity.

At the heart of the Soya Beans, Shea Nut, and Other Agro-Commodities Project is a commitment to sustainable and environmentally-friendly agricultural practices. Maxwell Investments Group will work closely with farmers and local stakeholders to promote the adoption of climate-smart techniques, such as agroforestry and conservation agriculture, ensuring that the cultivation of these crops does not compromise the health of the land or the well-being of future generations.

To ensure the project's long-term success, Maxwell Investments Group will also invest in capacity-building and training programs for farmers, equipping them with the knowledge and skills they need to improve crop yields, reduce post-harvest losses, and access lucrative markets for their produce. This includes training on best practices in crop management, pest control, post-harvest handling, and support in accessing finance and credit facilities to help farmers expand their operations.

Furthermore, the project will establish strategic partnerships with local processing facilities, like WILMAR, ensuring that a significant portion of the value-added activities related to soya beans, shea nuts, and other agro-commodities are retained within Ghana. This will, in time, create new employment opportunities and drive economic growth in rural areas and urban centres.

In addition, the Soya Beans, Shea Nut, and Other Agro-Commodities Project will prioritize including women and marginalized groups, recognizing their vital role in Ghana's agricultural sector and their potential to drive positive change in their communities. By ensuring that these groups have equal access to the opportunities and resources provided by the project, Maxwell Investments Group will help to create a more inclusive and equitable agricultural system.

The Soya Beans, Shea Nut, and Other Agro-Commodities Project is a transformative initiative that seeks to harness the power of Ghana's agricultural resources to drive sustainable development, economic growth, and improved livelihoods within Zongo & Inner-City Communities. By empowering farmers with the tools and knowledge they need to succeed and by fostering strong partnerships across the value chain, we are working to build a brighter, more prosperous future for Ghana and its people.

F. The Maxwell Homes Project

The Maxwell Homes Project is dedicated to tackling the pressing issue of affordable accommodation in Ghana. MIG is actively engaging with domestic and international stakeholders to devise the most effective and sustainable model tailored to the community's unique needs. The primary objective is to develop an optimal project execution plan that provides rental options for organisations and individuals within the public and private sectors.

This approach enables renters to make monthly payments from the beginning. In addition, the Maxwell Homes Project assumes responsibility for the 1-2 years' down payment once applicants pass the required due diligence process. This innovative model aims to alleviate the financial burden associated with traditional rental agreements, empowering individuals and families to secure safe and comfortable housing without the stress of large upfront payments.

By offering a more flexible and accessible rental solution, we seek to create a lasting impact on the lives of countless individuals, fostering a more inclusive and supportive community. In addition, this initiative addresses the immediate housing needs and contributes to a more stable and prosperous society where everyone has equal opportunities to thrive.

The Maxwell Homes initiative by Maxwell Investments Group is a forward-thinking project committed to addressing the accommodation challenges individuals and organisations face, particularly in Zongo & Inner-Cities in Ghana. By developing a tailored and innovative rental model that offers financial flexibility and support, this project has the potential to create a profound, positive impact on many people's lives, fostering a more inclusive and prosperous community for all.





IV. INSIGHTS, RECOMMENDATIONS, AND NEXT STEPS

A. Insights from the MIG Business Forum

The Forum served as a valuable platform for participants to discover practical solutions and strategies they can rely on, along with actionable steps to successfully leverage their skills and talents to create wealth for themselves and their communities. The event also emphasized the importance of collaboration between businesses, policymakers, and the community in identifying and implementing solutions to economic and social challenges. It highlighted the need to invest in youth and create opportunities for them to gain essential skills within the current business world.

B. Recommendations

Based on the positive feedback received shortly after the Forum, this report recommends organising periodic forums to promote social impact and guide individuals in navigating economic downturns. Future forums would continue to empower youth to pursue entrepreneurial ventures and contribute to the country's economic growth.

C. Next Steps

After thorough assessment and consultation with stakeholders, below are the next steps we shall endeavour to undertake with immediate effect:

1. Follow-up and Evaluation: Conduct a post-event follow-up with participants to gather feedback and assess the Forum's effectiveness. This will help identify improvement areas and ensure that future events are even more impactful and successful.
2. Implementing Action Plans: Encourage participants to create and implement action plans based on the insights and recommendations from the Forum. We shall also provide resources and support to help them implement these plans and track their progress over time.
3. Networking and Collaboration: Facilitate networking opportunities among participants and partnerships with local businesses and organizations. This will help promote collaboration and the sharing of best practices while fostering a sense of community and support among attendees.

4. Mentorship and Capacity Building: Establish mentorship programs or capacity-building workshops to provide ongoing support and guidance to participants. This will help to develop their skills and knowledge further, increasing the likelihood of their success in the business world. We have already established a mentorship partnership with NewChip Accelerator, the world's largest online accelerator, to provide our stakeholders with access to exceptional, accessible support. By joining forces with NewChip Accelerator, we aim to enhance the opportunities and resources available to our stakeholders, ensuring they receive the best guidance and assistance possible in their endeavours.
5. Monitoring and Reporting: Monitor the progress of participants and the impact of the Forum's recommendations on their lives and businesses. Share these success stories and learnings with stakeholders and the broader community to showcase the event's positive impact and inspire others to take action.
6. Expanding Outreach: Develop strategies to reach a wider audience, including hosting forums in different locations or leveraging digital platforms for virtual events. This will help to ensure that the insights and recommendations from the Forum reach a larger number of people and have a broader impact on the community.
7. Securing Sustainable Funding: Explore options for sustainable funding to support the organization of future forums and related initiatives. This may include seeking sponsorships, grants, or partnerships with organizations that share similar goals and objectives.
8. Develop Targeted Initiatives: Based on the insights gained from the Forum, design and implement targeted initiatives that address specific challenges or opportunities identified by participants. This can help create a more focused impact and ensure that resources are directed towards areas of greatest need.
9. Foster Inclusivity and Diversity: Strive to create an even more inclusive and diverse environment in future forums, ensuring that all voices are heard and represented. This can be achieved by actively engaging with more underrepresented groups, offering scholarships or discounts on selected services for attendance, and promoting the event through various channels to reach a wider audience.
10. Establish an Online Resource Hub: Create a centralized online platform where participants can access resources, presentations, and other materials from the Forum, connect with fellow attendees and engage in ongoing discussions. This will help to maintain momentum and encourage continued learning and collaboration after the event.



V. CONCLUSION

A. Vote of Thanks

As the event neared its conclusion, the Deputy Communications Director of the ruling Government, Hajia Rabi Salifu, was invited to deliver the closing remarks, encapsulating the sense of purpose, gratitude, and impact that permeated the gathering.

Hajia Rabi Salifu began by expressing her sincere appreciation for the opportunity to participate in the event and acknowledged the mentors and role models who have guided and supported them along the way. She thanked the Almighty for a successful program and commended the Presidential Coordinator of ZICDS for his strong leadership through the Zongo Development Secretariat.

In her remarks, she thanked Mr. Arafat and Hon. Ben Abdallah for their unwavering support and expressed hope for continued collaboration. She praised the Presidential Coordinator's efforts in connecting with Maxwell Investments Group (MIG) and thanked Dr. Maxwell Ampong, CEO of MIG, for his ongoing support of the Zongo communities.

Hajia Rabi Salifu thanked all the partners, panellists, chiefs, and coordinators for their valuable contributions, emphasizing her renewed hope and optimism for the future. She expressed her conviction that, through collaboration and volunteerism, the transformation they seek can be realized.

She concluded her remarks by expressing her gratitude to everyone in attendance, stating, "MIG, we are deeply grateful, and we can feel the hope emanating from this event. I am confident that we will collaborate, we will volunteer, and God shall guide us in achieving this transformation. Thank you all for coming."





B. Remarks, Head of Operations at Maxwell Investments Group, Maa Lucy Koranchie

Maa Lucy Koranchie, during her address, provided insight into the path forward for Maxwell Investments Group (MIG) in the acquisition of agricultural commodities such as soybeans and shea nuts. She emphasized the crucial role played by local farmers in producing these commodities, highlighting that MIG offers them a readily accessible market.

For those interested in supplying these agricultural products, she explained that they should contact the company through the designated phone number, 0553931755, which connects them to the operations team. As the head of this team, Maa Lucy Koranchie is likely to communicate directly with prospective suppliers to discuss the terms of the business arrangement and negotiate pricing.

Upon reaching an agreement, MIG strives to ensure a mutually beneficial relationship for both parties, fostering a strong connection between the company and the supplier, while contributing to the growth and prosperity of the local agricultural community. For any inquiries related to the topics discussed, all are encouraged to contact MIG through the company's admin office phone number, 0200394120.

C. Closing Prayer

It was an immense privilege to have Dr. Mrs. Beatrice Amponsah, the CEO of Cosmopolitan Health Insurance, lead the closing prayer. With a strong sense of purpose and unity, Dr. Mrs. Amponsah's heartfelt words drew the curtains on the gathering, reflecting the shared commitment of all participants to the vision and goals discussed throughout the day.

The closing prayer served as a poignant reminder of the importance of working together to foster positive change and create a lasting impact within the community and beyond.



VI. APPENDIX

A. List of Speakers, Panellists and Delegates

1. Former Director/CEO of Stanbic Bank - Naa Dr. Alhassan Andani
2. The Paramount Chief of Sagnarigu - Ambassador Sagnari Naa Yamuna Abdulai
3. The Presidential Coordinator, Zongo and Inner-Cities Development Secretariat under the Office of the President of the Republic of Ghana - Hon. Ben Abdallah Banda, ESQ.
4. Board Chairman Zongo Development Fund - Mr Seidu Nasigri, Esq.
5. CEO of the Zongo Development Fund - Dr. Arafat Suleman
6. Chief of Zongo Tamale - Sheik Abdul Mumin Dalhu
7. Delegation from the from Zongo Development Fund
8. CEO of Maxwell Investments Group - Dr. Maxwell Ampong
9. General Manager of Maxwell Investments Group – Dr. Abigail T. D. Anyomi
10. Operations Manager of Maxwell Investments Group – Madam Lucy Koranchie
11. The CEO of Myneral Labs UK – Mr. Max Boender
12. Chief Technology Officer of Myneral Labs UK – Bogdan Ionut Gheorghe
13. The Head of Trade in Services, Manufactures, and Petrochemicals Department at Ghana Export Promotion Authority (GEPA) - Mr. Banda Abdallah Z. Khalifa
14. CEO of Cosmopolitan Health Insurance - Dr. Mrs. Beatrice Amponsah
15. Head of Operations of Cosmopolitan Health Insurance - Mr. Emmanuel Badu
16. Head of Sales & Business Development of Cosmopolitan Health Insurance – Mr. Alexander Anim
17. The Ag. Head of Business at KNUST-AISWAM, represented by Madam Vanessa Asare
18. Senior Sales & Marketing Executive at KNUST-AISWAM, Faiza Rahman
19. Youth Leader, Eastern Region - Mr. Kasim Musah
20. Youth Leader, Ashanti Region - Mr. Muhsin Mohammed Tahiru
21. Youth Leader, Bono Region - Mr. Jima Alfa
22. Delegation from the Ghana Muslim Students Association (GMSA)
23. Hon. Alhaji Masawudu Osman, Third National Vice Chairman of the Ruling Party
24. Mrs Hajia Rabi Salifu, Deputy Communications Director of the Ruling Party
25. Hon. Aziz Haruna Futa, National Nasara Coordinator
26. Hon. Hajia Ayesha Yussif, Deputy National Nasara Coordinator
27. Hon Abdul Taric Bonsu, Deputy National Nasara Coordinator
28. Hon. Abdul Taric Bonsu, Deputy National Nasara Coordinator
29. A Delegation of Thirty-Two (32) Regional and Deputy Regional Nasara Coordinators
30. Executive from the Office of the President of the Republic of Ghana - Gideon A. Buahene
31. Executive from the Office of the President of the Republic of Ghana - Edem Aheto
32. Chief Executive Officer at Business & Financial Times - Dr. Godwin Acquaye
33. Events Manager at Business & Financial Times – Mr. Charles Ekow Panyin-Atkins
34. Information Technology Manager at Business & Financial Times – Mr. Benson Arthur
35. Head of Training, General Agricultural Workers Union (GAWU) of Trade Union Congress (TUC) – Mrs. Emelia Ghansah











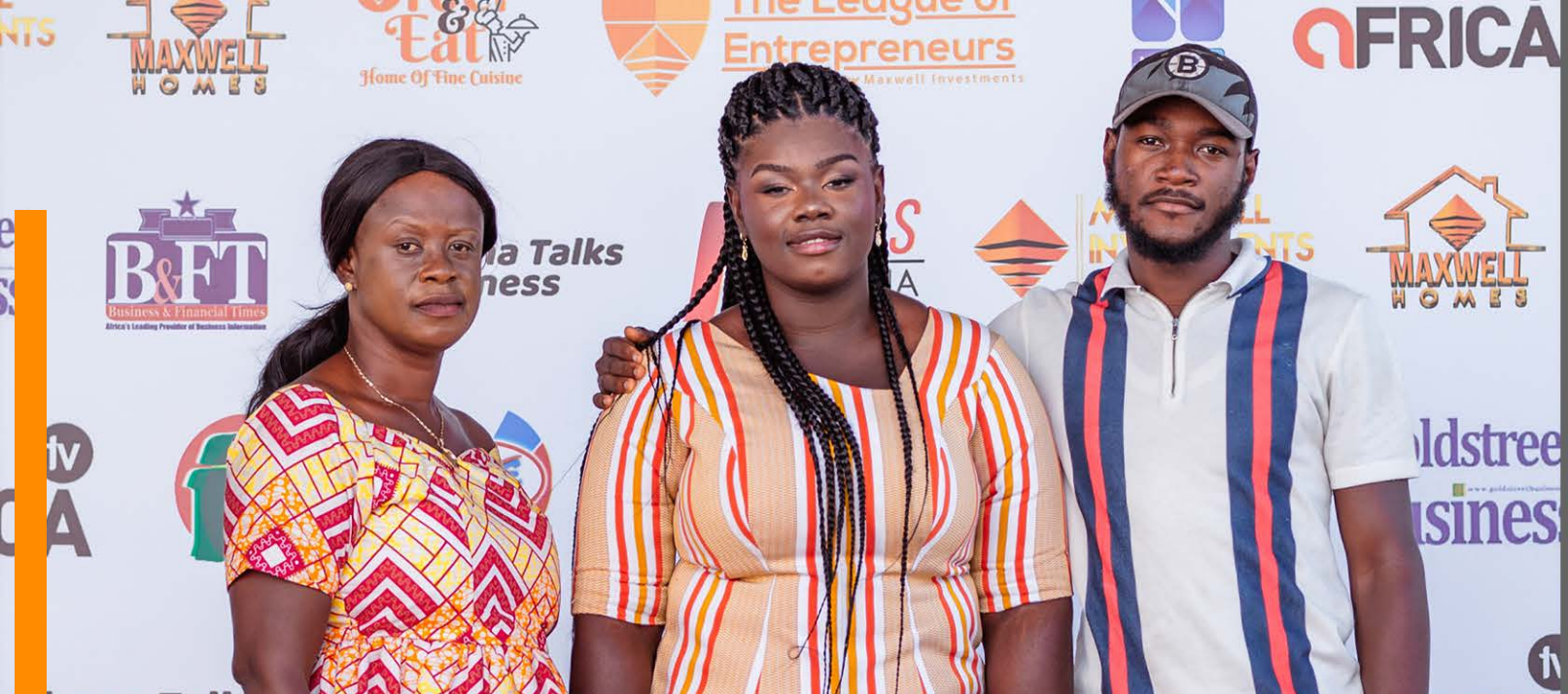
MIG BUSINESS FORUM













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