Chairperson’s Closing Remarks –

Pastor (Dr) Mensah Otabil - Central Gospel Church

Thank you very much I’m suppose to make my comment I have already yielded about 5 minutes to all of you so I don’t have much to say. The only thing I wanted to say, the question I wanted to ask is whether the prescription fits the sickness. Do we have an answer to the problem we want to solve or we have an answer but which is not suited to the problem. If the diagnosis is wrong the prescription will be wrong and if the prescription is wrong the patient suffers and I think history has taught us as we’ve gone through this procedure over and over and over something is fundamentally wrong with our assumption as to what are the issues to address in this country and if we don’t go fundamentally to clarify what is needed to be done we would have all these nice documents presented with all the acronyms and they will be totally meaningless to our self existence and expression and survival as a people so I think that we need to do more fundamental things than what we are doing now. I think we have taken off an assumption and its one government after the other picking up from the previous government’s program on and on and on. What if the primary assumption was wrong and we’ve just been developing on it. We wouldn’t be able to answer the real issues so I leave it to the chief on my right hand here so that in the process of thinking through and in the dialogue we would be more fundamental than we are doing now.

Secondly I had a few comments on almost all the speakers but Dr. Abbey when you started talked about some of the problem we had with monitoring and accountability as related to the institutions for monitoring which most of which are not well suited to us and I think you went ahead and to talk about domesticking some of the institutions. I thought we would have explored that a little bit further but there is no space for that probably you may have to look at it at another time. And the counter question I had is whether we needed to domesticate the systems and institutions to suit us or we needed to change to accommodate new system. Its two ways of looking at it because if we keep trying to domesticate things to suite us we may in the end have a mutation of a system which doesn’t serve as and doesn’t serve its original purpose also so we probably may have to be doing some changes at our level. But all together I think we’ve had an engaging discussion, fruitful
dialogue as I said earlier on we can’t solve all the problems in 3 hours. These are problems that started from 1844 and we need to be a little bit more committed and more focused to solve them so I want to thank all of you, thank the CDD and the partners who put this dialogue together and we trust that the 3rd one which comes on in Tamale will find all of us brazing the journey to go to Tamale to talk within context of where the needs really are expressed. I have been told that refreshments are been served right now and the meeting can now be brought to a close. Thank you.