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I am particularly honoured and privileged to have been invited to participate and present a keynote address to the Commission on Population and Development on the topic "Emigration from Ghana: A Historical Perspective".

HOW MANY GHANAIAN MIGRANTS?

It is estimated that there are some three million Ghanaians living outside the country with about a third of them in Europe and North America. These are made

Mr. Chairman,

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acquiring skills which prove useful when they decide to return home. Such skills are useful in supporting our development efforts.

A positive aspect of the emigration of such unskilled persons is that they help in reducing the number of unemployed persons in the country - a situation which will have associated with it a number of social problems with its associated negative

Students

A number of Ghanaians leave the country to acquire academic and professional skills. Many of these persons return to the country to add to our human capital and contribute to our national development efforts.

Skilled manpower

The loss of skilled manpower constitutes a major problem for the country. Recent

studies have confirmed that brain drain from a skills-scarce poor country leads to a permanent loss in growth and income levels. Also, brain drain reduces the

Kingdom, Canada and South Africa as well as to the Arabian Gulf. It is believed that there are more Ghanaian doctors working outside than there are in Ghana

Similarly, the attrition of nurses reached significant proportions over the past 5

years. In the past decade, Ghana is estimated to have lost 50% of its professional nurses to the United Kingdom, United States, Canada, and other countries.

The situation in the education sector is also alarming especially at the tertiary level where the shortage of academic, professional and research staff have left some of the universities with inexperienced and insufficient staff with low morale. Some courses are taught by staff without the requisite expertise and

which aim at ensuring that migration issues are taken into consideration in all our development activities.

Additionally, the Ghana Immigration Service has established a Migration Information Bureau which will provide the data on Ghanaian emigration and immigration.

immigrants coming to the country.

Non-Resident Ghanaians

Non-Resident Ghanaians Fund

The Government of Ghana has targeted foreign based Ghanaians as a potential

Mr Chairman,

Combating Brain Drain

The health and education sectors are areas where emigration has had tremendous negative impacts. A number of initiatives are thus being taken to reduce the large numbers of professionals who leave the country. The Government is working to improve the conditions of service of doctors and health professionals and to

professionals in the education sector and to provide a conducive environment as the first line of defence against brain drain. There have been increases in basic salaries and allowances, and incentive schemes such as housing and means of transport to encourage staff at post and potential staff.

With the support of the International Organisation for Migration, the Government of Ghana is involved in a programme of training and retraining of

- Collection of up-to-date information on migration;
- Building of the capacity of specific institutions involved in programmes relating to migration;
- Exchange of information on migration issues;
- Exchange of personnel engaged in migration activities;
- Development of arrangements with various countries for managed migration of both skilled and unskilled Ghanaians.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, the relationship between migration and development is complex and needs to be properly managed. As T. ...

managed, migration could be considered as a motor for development not only with respect to the remittances from emigrants but also from the ...