**STATEMENT**

**BY**

**HON. COLLINS DAUDA, MP**

**MINISTER FOR WATER RESOURCES, WORKS AND HOUSING**

**AT THE**

**National Learning Alliance Platform Forum**

**VENUE: FIESTA ROYALE, DZORWULU**

**28th March, 2013**

Mr. Chairman,

Sanipath Project Team Experts,

Members of NLLAP,

Distinguished Invited Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen

I thank the organisers of the National Learning Alliance Platform and the Sanipath Project Team for their kind invitation to me to be part of this learning and experience sharing platform today.

Mr. Chairman, the population of Accra, according to the 2010 Population and Housing census is over 4 million. With this population figure, the water and sanitation infrastructure in the city is severely over stretched as a result of the growing demand for them. It is worth noting that with the current population growth of about 2.4%, the population of Accra could be doubled in Twenty years as the rural urban drift goes on unabated. This will definitely increase further the demand for improved sanitation and water delivery. The Government of Ghana and the World Bank anticipate the pressure that will come on the WASH infrastructure during the period and have planned a $700 million investment in the next decade to expand the infrastructure. The decision on how to spend this fund should depend on the availability of sector wide sufficient data.

In this vain, I congratulate SaniPath for their initiative to organise this study which seeks to throw more light on what goes on in the sector. Looking around the room, I appreciate the depth of Knowledge assembled to discuss the findings. This gives me the hope that the report and its recommendations will guide the prioritization of the investments that government and the stakeholders plan to make in the sector in the next decade. The prioritisation that we make, should lead to achieving accessibility, equity and ensuring quality of WASH service delivery.

Mr. Chairman, every citizen recognises the importance of potable water and sanitised environment. However, owing to rapid urbanisation in this country, demand for these basic facilities have always gone ahead of supply.

Mr. Chairman, to tackle the problems within the WASH Sector, it is paramount to build close partnership with all stakeholders. In this vain, it is gratifying to observe that, Ghana’s pre-eminent research institutions, the Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research, Water Research Institute of CSIR, TREND Group, and the Center for Global Safe Water at Emory University in the USA have all put their knowledge together to strengthen capacity for environmental health research in Ghana. The synergy drawn from this collaboration should be enough to catapult the country from its current low level in WASH services delivery to an enviable position on the African continent. When we attain this level, we should endeavour to sustain it.

I have learnt that the SaniPath study seeks to address the policy objectives of the National Water Policy on urban water supply. Section 2.3.8 of the National Water Policy, Focus Area 8, calls for “evidence-based decision making in the provision of urban water.” Your study I am told is consistent with policy measures and actions (ii) and (iv) of Focus Area 8, which indicates Government’s support and to build the capacities of Research Institutions and Universities to help improve services to low-income areas and the poor effectively.

Planning sections within the sector should not only be mere rhetoric but should reflect the real situations on the ground. By so doing we can measure the quantity and quality of the gains made within the sector. On this note, I call for a stronger collaboration between the ministry, research institutions and universities for the attainment of a better Ghana for all of us.

I thank you and may God bless us all.