

**REMARKS BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF THE GHANA CHAMBER OF MINES, SULEMANU KONEY, ON THE OCCASION OF THE MAIDEN EDITION OF THE GHANA MINING INDUSTRY AWARDS.**

**THURSDAY, 3<sup>RD</sup> DECEMBER, 2015**

The Honourable Minister of Lands & Natural Resources, Nii Osah Mills,  
President of the Ghana Chamber of Mines,  
1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Presidents of the Ghana Chamber of Mine,  
Past Presidents and CEOs of the Chamber  
Vice Chancellor of the University of Mines & Technology,  
CEO of the Minerals Commission,  
Executive Director of the EPA,  
Captains of the Mining Sector in the Sub-region,  
Members of the Diplomatic Corps,  
Nananom,  
The media,  
Colleagues,  
Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

It is a fact that the stature of the Chamber as a respected private sector business association has been built on the shoulders of great men and women who have served the mining industry and indeed mother Ghana well. In deed the assembly and recognition of great minds today underscores the rich pool of talent that has contributed to the strength of our industry. I believe the past Presidents and CEOs of the Chamber deserve another round of applause. We are grateful.

At a recent interaction with the media in Takoradi, a journalist posed a very incisive question. “Has the Chamber courted some regulators into its membership so they will treat them with kid gloves?”

Our response was simple: The days where the regulator was seen as a police are no more. The Chamber works intimately with its regulators to ensure that potential infractions or issues are nipped in the bud before they materialize. In a sense therefore the Chamber provides the platform for regulators and the mining companies to **Co-regulate the sector**.

We therefore commend our key regulators - the Minerals Commission and the Environmental Protection Agency for serving on the adjudicating board of these awards. As has been explained, most of the awards were based on their regulatory work and the Chamber has provided the platform to celebrate outstanding performance in the sector.

In the same vein we wish to commend our Sector Minister, Hon. Nii Osah Mills and the Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation for endorsing the awards, and so to speak, permit us to piggyback on the regulatory reports for these awards. The Deputy

Minister for Finance, Hon. Mona Quartey, always makes the time to listen to our challenges and offer some useful advice as well.

Ladies and gentlemen, as you may be aware, the list of institutions and organizations that collaborate with the Chamber in its endeavours is endless. However, I wish to mention the Parliamentary Select Committee on Mines and Energy for its continued support. The Committee's Chairman, Hon. Alhaji Amadu Sorogho has taken the time to be with us this evening. It is much appreciated.

The heads of various diplomatic missions here present whom we collaborate with and have graced this occasion, we say thank you for coming and for your support. The Administrator of Stool Lands, the Real Sector Division of the Ministry of Finance, we are most grateful. PWC generously agreed to validate the work of the Adjudicating Board pro bono. They deserve a round of applause as they see the value of this initiative.

And to my colleague members of the Adjudicating Board, the Council of the Chamber could not have endorsed any other group than such a great team made up of people of integrity and experience.

Now to my colleagues at the Secretariat who provided research, and general administrative support - Ahmed Nantogmah, Christopher Opoku Nyarko and Derick Adogla - congratulations. I know I pushed you to the limit to get the best out of you and you didn't disappoint.

To our event organisers Lindiwe Consulting, many thanks for helping with the leg work when our hands were full at the Secretariat.

Yes! Indeed, the awards have come to stay and trust me we shall continue to expand the scope to recognise a larger spectrum of outstanding performers in our industry as a way of inducing positive behaviour.

It is quite interesting that the corporate awards at this maiden edition have been evenly split among producing member companies. It shows that each company has a strength, which could be shared via the cross learning opportunities that the Chamber offers to its members. It therefore highlights the importance of working together as an industry through the Chamber as the benefits for our industry and country are immeasurable.

On this note I wish to thank everyone for coming, especially our guests as we embark on this exciting and rewarding journey.

Enjoy the rest of your evening!