



WELCOME REMARKS BY MR. SULEMANU KONEY, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF THE GHANA CHAMBER OF MINES AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE WEST AFRICAN MINING AND POWER CONFERENCE/EXHIBITION AT ACCRA INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE CENTRE ON 1ST JUNE 2022

Your Excellency, Vice President of the Republic of Ghana

Alhaji Mahamudu Bawumia

Minister for Lands and Natural Resources, Represented by the Deputy Minister in Charge of Mines, Hon. George Mireku Duker

President of the Ghana Chamber of Mines, Eric Asubonteng

CEO of the Minerals Commission, Mr. Martin Ayisi

Captains of the mining industry

Friends from the media

Ladies and Gentlemen

It gives me pleasure to welcome us all to this year's West African Mining & Power Exhibition and Conference (WAMPOC/WAMPEX). It is exciting for us to engage once again in-person after a two-year hiatus as restrictions of COVID-19 ensured that we held virtual engagements on issues affecting our industry.

Whilst these engagements bridge the information gap somewhat, having the opportunity to meet, see each other physically and share fist bumps is quite refreshing.



Your Excellency, this year's WAMPOC/WAMPEX is being held at an auspicious time. A time when the global economy is going through turmoil, driven largely by the lingering effects of COVID-19 which has been exacerbated by the Russia-Ukraine war. The ramifications of these epochal events have been dire. This has seen food and energy prices increase astronomically as well as spikes in volatility of financial markets amid threats from climate change. As the IMF puts it, the Global economy faces a "confluence of calamities" in the biggest test since World War II.

The impacts on household and business have been acute as rising inflation has squeezed households around the world and central banks keep tightening monetary policy to control inflation.

As a key sector in the global economy, the mining sector is expected to help provide answers to these challenges.

It is our expectation that the deliberations at WAMPOC/WAMPEX 2022 will elicit solutions to some of the challenges facing the mining and energy sectors especially in West Africa. For as we have always said, "if it is not grown, it is mined" and further, agriculture needs the farm implements and fertilizers which are key outputs of mining to be viable. At the same time, we are of the firm belief that mining is about development and indeed a catalyst for socio economic and sustainable development.

It is our abiding belief that the Catalytic role of mining is only realizable whenever we are able to optimise the linkages between the mining industry and the non-mineral economy.

In that regard, our deliberations at WAMPOC/WAMPEX 2022 will discuss various themes in sustainability including a local content and new product development as well as Human Capital Development and the role of sovereign Minerals Funds in national development. Others are climate change as well as themes on ethical investment, environmental and regulatory issues.

We will also have country presentations to bring all of us up to speed on developments in the mining sector in West Africa.

In that regard, Ladies and gentlemen, please permit me to recognize the presence of our friends from West Africa:



- Mr. Adama Soro, President of Burkina Chamber of Mines
- Mr. Amara Kamara, President of Liberia Chamber of Mines
- Alhaji Shehu Sani, Vice Chairman of ECOWAS Federation of Chambers of Mines and Immediate Past President of Miners Association of Nigeria
- Mr. Touissant Bamouni, Executive Director of the Burkina Chamber of Mines
- Jean Claude, President, Chamber of Mining of Cote D'Ivoire
- Christine Logbo-Kossi, Executive Director, Chamber of Mines of Cote D'Ivoire
- Monique Cooper Liverpool

As is the usual practice, the key recommendations and suggestions of the conference will be collated and appropriate action taken on them.

In conclusion I wish to commend our sponsors

- AngloGold Ashanti
- Gold Fields
- Newmont Africa
- Adamus Resources
- Cardinal Namdini
- B5 Plus
- Veolia Ghana
- FLSmidth Inc.
- ABSA, Financial sponsor
- Hexagon,
- FuelOX
- Reminex
- Ramoth Services

I would also like to express my deepest appreciation to the organizing team, who made great sacrifices, worked day and night to put together this event for us. It is my firm belief that, if we continue in this direction, we will



achieve greater things together. Special thanks to Nana Darkwa, CEO of Events & Projects International as well as DMG, an African events management company.



Many thanks to Lindiwe Corporate Services for their several years of support in organising the Chamber's major events as well as the exhibitors at this event. It is our expectation that your objectives for participating will be met.

At this point, it is my great pleasure to introduce the Chairman of this section. A Chartered Accountant with a distinguished career in the mining industry spanning many years. Ladies and gentlemen, please let's welcome my Boss, Dr. Eric Asubonteng, Managing Director of Anglo Gold Ashanti and President of the Ghana Chamber of Mines.

I wish all of us fruitful deliberations.

May God Bless Us!