

**Speech by the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President of the Ghana Chamber of Mines, Frederick Attakumah, on the occasion of the maiden edition of the Ghana Mining Awards on Thursday, 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2015**

**The Minister of Lands & Natural Resources, Honourable Nii Osah Mills,  
The Minister of Finance, Honourable Seth Terkper,  
The Minister of Trade & Industry, Honourable Dr. Ekwow Spio-Garbrah,  
The 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President of the Ghana Chamber of Mines, Mr Alfred Baku  
CEO of the Ghana Chamber of Mines  
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 industry,  
Members of the Diplomatic Corps,  
Our friends from the media,  
Distinguished ladies and gentlemen.**

It is my singular privilege and special honour to welcome you all this evening to the maiden edition of the Ghana Mining Industry Awards (GMIA).

Ghana, as we're all aware, has over a hundred years of mining history and our industry has consistently played a critical role in the development of the country's economy. The growth of our industry to the point where Ghana has for decades been ranked second on the African continent when it comes to gold production, and among the top ten gold mining destinations globally, has been on the back of the sweat and toil of distinguished personalities and organisations who, rather sadly, we've neither acknowledged nor said "Thank You" to over the decades.

This evening, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, we want to change that situation through the vehicle of the Ghana Mining Industry Awards which seeks to identify, acknowledge, recognize and show the industry's appreciation to the said eminent persons and organizations for the solid contribution they have made over the years.

The Ghana Mining Industry Awards, in effect, is an initiative of the Ghana Chamber of Mines meant to celebrate meritorious achievements in our industry and to confer deserving honours on individuals, and companies, who, despite significant challenges, have contributed immensely to the development and growth of the mining industry in Ghana through dynamic and innovative leadership.

These outstanding personalities and institutions have been pivotal in positioning Ghana as an attractive mining investment destination and ensuring the industry continues in its role as a major positive contributor to the country's economy. They

are, indeed, the heroes of our industry and we salute them for the sacrifices and arduous work done in getting us this far.

It is for this very reason that tonight's event is under the theme: **Recognising Excellence, Celebrating Achievement in the Mining Industry**". We believe such recognition will not only be fulfilling for our award winners but also serve as a source of inspiration and motivation for current and future leaders of our industry as we continue to work with government and other stakeholders in leveraging mining for national development.

On this note, please join me in congratulating all individuals and organisations who will be honoured this evening. They have made giant footprints in the sands of time and have successfully passed on the baton to the current generation of leaders who are confronted with the interesting challenge of steering our industry through these turbulent times both locally and on the international market. We are confident we can count on your guidance, wisdom and assistance as we do so.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, it is my firm belief that the Ghana Mining Industry Awards will not only promote responsible mining but also increase healthy competition among member companies as we seek to institutionalize best practice in our operations.

May I take this opportunity to thank and congratulate the Adjudicating Board as well as the validators, PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC), who ensured a fair, objective and transparent selection process. I also want to express our appreciation to the CEO of the Chamber of Mines, Mr Sulemanu Koney, and his hardworking team for the yeoman's job they've done in making this event a reality.

As we approach another new year, I would like to extend my warmest greetings and felicitations of the season to all stakeholders of the mining industry including officials of the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources, the Minerals Commission, the EPA, the Water Resources Commission, Civil Society Organisations, the media, our traditional leaders and, of course, members of our communities for demonstrating a strong commitment to building cordial partnerships with the mining industry. It is our expectation that despite the challenging market situation and operational difficulties, we can count on your understanding, support and continued partnership in the coming year.

On this note, I wish you all a pleasant evening and would once again like to congratulate our distinguished award winners.

God bless Ghana, God bless the mining industry, and may He bless us all. Thank you.