

**SPEECH BY CHAIRMAN OF THE ADJUDICATING BOARD, PROF. J.S.Y.  
KUMA ON THE OCCASION OF THE MAIDEN EDITION OF THE GHANA  
MINING INDUSTRY AWARDS 2015**

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

The Minister for Lands and Natural Resources, Hon. Nii Osah Mills,  
The Minister for Finance, Hon. Seth Terkper,  
The Minister of Environment, Science, Technology & Innovation, Hon. Mahama Ayariga,  
Honourable Deputy Ministers present,  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President of the Ghana Chamber of Mines, Mr. Fred Attakumah,  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President of the Chamber, Mr. Alfred Baku,  
Excellencies, members of the diplomatic corps,  
Captains of the mining industry,  
Nanonom,  
The Media,  
Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

I bring you greetings from the University of Mines and Technology, Tarkwa on this august evening as we gather to recognize excellence and celebrate achievement in the mining industry. It goes without saying that 2015 has been a long and difficult year for the mining industry globally and Ghana's crippling power crisis has not helped the already daunting global downturn. However, in the face of these very difficult times, companies have been resolute in keeping their operations afloat and relevant to Ghana's economy. Yes! We need to celebrate the captains of industry who have kept the ship of mining on an even keel, not just for investors, but for the larger economy.

For as we already know, even in these difficult times the mining industry continues to be a significant Sector to our economy - providing the bulk of foreign exchange and contributing the most to the GRA's domestic collection. It is also noted for a high value employer, providing business opportunities to a host of Ghanaian suppliers.

On this note, I wish to refer to the findings of a recent study on Ghana's mining industry. It stated that for every one employee in the mining industry, a further 15

persons are engaged through its supply chain. Again, for every one million US dollars companies spend in their supply chain, 105 jobs are created.

On behalf of the members of the Adjudicating Board, I would like to congratulate all companies and individuals who have been nominated for awards this evening. To those who actually win the top prizes this evening, I beseech you to make it a regular target and not just a flash in the pan. We would like to see all of you back on this stage next year, hence do not rest on your oars. To those who do not win today, need I say you have your jobs cut out for you?

Ladies and gentlemen, between the 20<sup>th</sup> of October and the 10<sup>th</sup> of November, 2015, the Board painstakingly examined all nominations entered as well as performance of companies obtained from regulators to ensure that every company or individual has a fair chance of winning an award based solely on set criteria which was widely advertised. During the very insightful discussions at the meetings, the Board ensured that there was transparency in the process of evaluation for verification by carefully documenting decisions and courses of action on the various categories.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, three categories were examined based solely on nominations presented. These are:

- 🏆 Best Performer in Innovation;
- 🏆 Best Performer in Mines Supplies and Support Services; and the
- 🏆 Lifetime Achievement Award;

In order to ensure that there was a level playing field for all nominees, a standardized evaluation sheet was developed for these three categories and disseminated to elicit clear responses to aid in the assessment.

Other categories were assessed based exclusively on reports of the Minerals Commission and the Environmental Protection Agency which are the foremost regulatory institutions of the industry. These are:

- ✚ Best Performer in Environmental Management,
- ✚ Best Performer in Occupational Health and Safety; and
- ✚ Best Performer in Local Content.

The capstone Mining Company of the Year was assessed on the performance of each mining company across the corporate award categories. I would like to reiterate that the reports used for selecting winners of each category were based on 2014 assessment and audit information.

Distinguished, ladies and gentlemen, let me hastily add that after the thorough work done by the Adjudicating Board and its support staff, the evaluation information was handed over to a team from the renowned audit firm, PwC, for validation. The essence was not only to guarantee transparency but also assure the integrity of the process as well as to eliminate any form of doubt about the winners of the categories. After all, you cannot write an exam and mark your own script and still remain 100% objective about your efforts. The mining industry is known to be hazardous and it is therefore critical that it thrive on excellence in all aspects of the mining phase.

Ladies and gentlemen, although the mining industry faces many challenges in Ghana, it is my fervent expectation that together we can recognize and build upon the successes of mining companies and they can draw on the Ghana Mining Industry Awards to deepen their efforts to reach higher heights.

On this note, it is my immense pleasure to introduce my colleague members of the Adjudicating Board who made the process of evaluation fairly smooth, based on their knowledge and experience which they unselfishly brought to the fore. Like a school headmaster, permit me to do a quick roll-call.

- ✚ Mr. Obiri-Yeboah Twumasi, the Chief Inspector of Mines at the Inspectorate Division of the Minerals Commission who represented Dr. Toni Aubynn, CEO of the Minerals Commission;
- ✚ Mr. Daniel S. Amlalo, Executive Director of the Environmental Protection Agency;

- ✚ Dr. Steve Manteaw, Campaigns Coordinator of the Integrated Social Development Centre; and
- ✚ Mr. Sulemanu Koney, Chief Executive Officer of the Ghana Chamber of Mines.

You would all agree with me that these are men of integrity who have worked diligently to make the awards a success. Colleagues, your resourceful contributions were key to the success of the GMIA 2015, and I doff my hat out to you. Ayekoo!

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all who have contributed to the awards process, whether by serving on the awards planning sub-committee, as support staff or through submitting nominations. Without your contributions, we would certainly have overlooked many a “hidden gold” in Ghana’s mining industry.

Let us celebrate the day with much zeal and thrill because we have all earned it. I wish you all the best and a golden Christmas period.

Thank you.