

Draft

Welcome Address by Mr. Dave Schummer, 1st Vice President of the Ghana Chamber of Mines at the 83rd Annual General Meeting on Friday, 27th May, 2011.

Hon Ministers of State

Members of Parliament

President and Madam Chief Executive Officer

Colleague members of the Chamber of Mines

Distinguished Invited Guests

Members of the Press

Ladies and Gentlemen

It is my pleasure and privilege to welcome you all to the 83rd Annual General Meeting of the Ghana Chamber of Mines. I would like to extend a special welcome to our special guests for taking time of their tight schedules to honour our invitation.

Our theme for this year's AGM is **Building Partnerships for Sustainable Community Development**. The theme could not be more appropriate looking at the quest of the Chamber and its members to be key partners in the development of the country.

The Ghana Chamber of Mines which represents the mining industry has been actively pursuing proactive strategic relationships with its major stakeholders in order to create the right basis for addressing the key issues relating to the dual role of mining. On the one side, mining as the important economic factor for enhancing national development and on the other side being simultaneously a good corporate citizen with regard to human rights, social responsibility and

environmental sustainability. In doing so the industry has obtained the indispensable social license necessary for sustainable mining operations.

Accordingly, the industry has developed beyond being a sheer economic producer, by addressing the socio-cultural, and economic needs of host communities, and endeavoured, as much as possible, to protect and preserve the environment by applying best practices and cutting-edge technologies in our mining operations.

Over the years, Ghana has benefited from its mineral resources and in times where the value of other export products such as cocoa and timber had fallen short, mineral revenues had been used to cushion the national economy.

Time will not permit me to elaborate on the details of all the economic benefits of mining to Ghana but I would like to mention a few.

Mining has helped Ghana by providing;

1. Foreign Exchange

Mining is among the highest foreign exchange earners; in 2010 the mining industry contributed over 49% of the Gross foreign exchange earnings.

2. Revenue Generation

These take the form of Taxes, Royalties, and Dividend to major stakeholders.

3. Employment

The Ghanaian mining industry employs over 12,000 people, 98% of which are Ghanaians. Careers in the industry are almost limitless in their diversity. We have accountants, economists, geologists, lawyers, managers, metallurgist, chemist, environmental specialists, mining and mineral processing engineers, computer specialists, public relations specialists, caterers, drivers to mention just a few.

4. Rural Development

Mining has contributed significantly to the development of host communities under our corporate social responsibility initiatives. We have assisted communities through the provision of social amenities such as portable drinking

water, construction of roads, building of schools, hospitals, providing alternative livelihood projects for the inhabitants and many others.

We have also realized that stakeholders' expectations of responsible conduct are higher than ever before. Let me assure you that members of the Chamber remain committed to upholding human rights within their operational areas and to promoting its observance in the host communities where we operate. We have recognized that in order to minimize the social conflicts associated with mining which are often fanned by other extraneous actors, it is necessary to actively involve the local inhabitants, be sensitive to the tradition and culture of the people, and develop the communities into understanding the dynamics of modern mining and their implication on company/community relations as well as the new challenges in the sustainable management of the environment.

With our current membership of 53 members comprising mining companies, mining service providers and other affiliated members, we employ the resources and capabilities of our members to deliver services that address the needs of our members, Government and host Communities in order to enhance sustainable development.

Sustainable development is a desired goal and to reach it, the Chamber is willing to work with government and stakeholders to implement principles of co-operative decision-making and shared responsibility for the management of social and environmental issues. It is my hope that in the years ahead, all the stakeholders in the mining sector will continue to partner with the Chamber to catalyze the development of the Ghanaian economy.

One again you are welcome to our 83rd AGM Celebrations. **Akwaaba**

Thank you and God bless us all.