

**CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS BY MICHAEL EDEM AKAFIA ESQ.  
PRESIDENT, GHANA CHAMBER OF MINES  
AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE 2024 WEST AFRICAN MINING AND  
POWER CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION (WAMPOC/WAMPEX)  
5 JUNE 2024  
ACCRA INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE CENTRE**

- *Odeneho Okyere Kusi Ntrama, Essumeja Omanhene, Asanteman Benkumhene, representing Otumfuo Osei Tutu II, Asantehene,*
- *Hon. Samuel Jinapor, MP for Damongo and Minister for Lands and Natural Resources,*
- *Hon. Kwaku Ofori Asiamah, Minister of Transport*
- *Hon. Dr. Oladele Henry Alake, Minister for Solid Minerals Development of the Federal Republic of Nigeria,*
- *Hon. Umaru Napoleon Koroma, Deputy Minister of Mines and Mineral Resources of the Republic of Sierra Leone,*
- *Representatives of Ministers from the ECOWAS Subregion*
- *Esteemed Past and Present Executives of the Chamber of Mines,*
- *Your Excellencies, Members of the Diplomatic Corps,*
- *CEOs and Captains of the mining and power sectors,*
- *CEOs and Heads of Institutions,*
- *The Media,*
- *Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,*

It is with great pleasure and honour that I accept to Chair the opening ceremony of the 2024 West African Mining and Power Conference and Exhibition (WAMPOC/WAMPEX).

As President of the Ghana Chamber of Mines and Chairman of this prestigious event, I am thrilled to see such a distinguished gathering of industry leaders, experts, and stakeholders from across the sub-region and beyond.

This conference comes at a pivotal moment for the mining and power sectors in West Africa. Whereas our region continues to witness significant contributions of these sectors towards its growth and development, our people expect more value creation in the most sustainable manner. Both industries are expected to appropriately respond to the glaring effects of climate change and other challenges confronting us. Events like this give us a unique opportunity to reflect on the achievements of the past, address the challenges, share perspectives, explore opportunities and chart a course for the future of mining and power in West Africa.

The theme of this year's conference, "**The Mining and Power Hub; Driving Sustainable Investment Opportunities in West Africa**", underscores the importance of collaborating and creating synergies in the mining and energy sectors of West Africa to drive sustainable development for our people.

These two critical and interdependent sectors need to adopt responsible and innovative practices to enhance productivity, promote environmental stewardship,

social responsibility and community development. We have no choice but to embrace sustainable development principles as we navigate the complexities of our industry, ensuring that our operations benefit not only our shareholders, but the broader society and the environment in which we operate.

Throughout this conference, we will delve into various topical matters, including navigating regulatory frameworks/challenges, innovation, technology and AI, investment opportunities as well as current trends in ESG and sustainability. Through insightful discussions, interactive sessions and networking opportunities, I am confident we will gain valuable insights and forge meaningful collaborations to drive our industries forward. One study shows that:

- 95% of professionals believe that events such as this are essential for long-term relationships.
- In-person interactions like this one have 34 times chance of success than through other means.
- Brands that exhibit at events such as WAMPOC/WAMPEX are 28% more innovative.
- Events such as these have a 40% conversion rate for turning prospects into deals.

I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to all our sponsors, partners, and participants for their unwavering support and commitment to making this event a success. Your contributions are instrumental in creating a platform for dialogue, knowledge sharing and collaboration that is essential for advancement and growth. Please join me in thanking and applauding them.

I encourage all of you to actively participate in the sessions, engage in the networking discussions and seize the opportunities presented by this conference to contribute to the sustainable development of mining and power in West Africa. Past participants can attest to the lasting benefits from previous WAMPOC/WAMPEX events.

I wish you all a productive and enriching experience at WAMPOC/WAMPEX 2024.

Thank you.