

**WELCOME ADDRESS BY HON. KWAKU ASOMAH CHEREMEH,
MINISTER OF LANDS & NATURAL RESOURCES, GHANA AT
THE ECOWAS MODEL MINING AND MINERALS ACT (EMMMDA)
SUBCOMMITTEE ON INFRASTRUCTURE, ENERGY, INDUSTRY &
MINING ECOWAS (COMMUNITY) PARLIAMENT MEETING
AT THE MENSVIC GRAND HOTEL, EAST LEGON, MAY 30, 2019**

The Commissioner for Energy & Mines of the ECOWAS
Commission,
Colleague Ministers Responsible for Mines in ECOWAS
Representatives of Ministers
President of ECOWAS Federation of Chamber of Mines
National Experts on Mining from ECOWAS Member States
Civil Society Organizations
Friends of the Media,
Invited Guests.

I am very honored to welcome you all to this important
Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Mining in West Africa
which is the Fourth in the series.

Today's meeting is historical, because for the first time in the
Minerals and Mining Sector, a document called the Draft
ECOWAS MODEL MINING AND MINERALS DEVELOPMENT
ACT (EMMMDA) and its implementation Matrix has been

developed to serve as a blueprint for mineral resource development within the West African sub-region.

My information is that National Experts from Member States have met on a number of occasions in Abuja, Niamey and in Accra to critically review the document prepared under a consultancy agreement with the ECOWAS Commission.

Having perused the Model Act, I am of the firm belief that it is a detailed document that goes beyond a Mining Act. It dealt essentially with many provisions relating to the mining sector which otherwise would have been found in Mining Regulations. This is important, as it would provide the general framework for the harmonization of mining in the sub-region to ensure that we derive optimal benefit from our mineral resources.

The Commissioner for Energy and Mines, the ECOWAS sub-region is geologically endowed with world class deposits of Gold, Bauxite, Diamonds, Manganese, Iron Ore and also with significant deposits of Uranium, Gemstones, Industrial Minerals among others. For example, gold production from West Africa surpasses production from South Africa and Australia. Given the fact that the region is largely underexplored, there is high probability of future discoveries of significant deposits. It is therefore important

that we, Ministers Responsible for Mining in the sub-region, re-position ourselves and ensure that our minerals and mining Acts are such that we derive the maximum benefit from the exploitation of these resources for the benefit of current and future generations.

I am convinced however that the draft document we shall be considering is forward looking and will help to address all the policy, legal and institutional gaps that have been identified over the years in our efforts at developing our mineral resources.

It is worthy to note that we shall also be considering the Draft Supplementary Act for adoption after considering the draft EMMMDA .

The Commissioner of Energy & Mines, Colleague Ministers, Invited guests, our National Experts following from a Consultative Meeting held in Dakar Senegal will also be presenting to us the **Report of the Consultative National Experts Meeting on the State of Artisanal and Small Scale (ASM) Mining in the Region** for our consideration and adoption. We can all attest to the fact the ASM sector in our various countries present us with great challenges in its regularization or formalization and I do hope that this report

will be the first step in the development of a regional framework to address the challenges we face especially in controlling the menace of illegal mining.

Ladies and Gentlemen, on a lighter note, Accra has a lot to offer in terms of its sandy beaches and places of interest. Please take time off and visit the Kwame Nkrumah Mausoleum, the George Padmore and Du Bois Centers for Pan-African Affairs and Culture respectively and the famous Makola Market.

I wish you all fruitful deliberations and once again, you are welcome.