

**ADDRESS BY THE MINISTER FOR LANDS AND NATURAL  
RESOURCES, HON. SAMUEL A. JINAPOR, MP, AT THE  
COMMISSIONING OF THE REGIONAL OFFICE OF THE  
GREATER ACCRA LANDS COMMISSION, HELD AT THE  
REGIONAL OFFICE, ACCRA ON TUESDAY, 2<sup>ND</sup> APRIL,  
2024**

Chairman and Members of the Lands Commission;

The Executive Secretary and Deputy Executive Secretaries;

Chairperson and Members of the Greater Accra Regional Lands  
Commission;

Advisor on Special Projects;

Management, Directors and Staff of the Ministry and the Lands  
Commission;

Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

Today marks a very important step in our quest to build an  
effective, transparent, responsive and orderly land  
administration which is steeped in integrity.

I commend the leadership of the Lands Commission and the  
Greater Accra Regional Lands Commission, for putting up this  
edifice to serve the land needs of the people of our capital city,  
Accra.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, the importance of land to our socio-economic development cannot be overemphasised. All human activities revolve around land. Land is the fulcrum to the success of all sectors of the economy such as Agriculture, Mining, Security, Manufacturing, Finance, Trade, Education, Transportation, Infrastructure, Energy, Health among others. Hardly, anything gets done without land. Indeed, the Ghana Statistical Service (GSS) estimates that some ninety percent (90%) of our population derive their livelihoods directly or indirectly from land.

Apart from its importance to development, land in our country is of cultural significance. Our traditional political systems and our political economy, revolve around our land ownership and tenure. Our quest to transform our national economy and bring about the much-needed development and prosperity to our people, cannot, therefore, be achieved if we fail to anchor an effective land administration.

The adverse consequences of ineffective, fraudulent and weak land administration is very damning. It is, therefore, not surprising that article 258 of our national Constitution establishes the Lands Commission to, among others, manage public lands, see to the effective registration of land, and formulate national policies for the administration and use of land. And to ensure

that this is done effectively throughout the entire country, the Constitution, under article 260, establishes Regional Lands Commissions in each Region, to perform the functions of the Commission in the Regions.

Indeed, the Committee of Experts that made the proposals for our Constitution noted that the absence of Regional Lands Commissions in the past, seriously impeded the work of the Commission. The Regional Lands Commissions are, therefore, very crucial to the overall functioning of the Lands Commission. To ensure efficient land administration, therefore, we must equip and empower the Regional Lands Commission to perform their constitutional functions.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, as our nation evolves and our land-related challenges become more complex, it is imperative that we adapt and enhance the capabilities of the Lands Commission to meet the demands of the modern era. That is why under the able and outstanding leadership of President Akufo-Addo, we have been championing reforms in land administration with the view of transforming the Lands Commission into a modern, efficient, and customer-centric institution capable of meeting the diverse needs of our society.

At the heart of these reforms is the decentralisation of land administration. We have, therefore, established six (6) fully

digitised offices for the six (6) new Regions, and we are establishing Satellite Client Service Access Units (CSAU) in all Regional Offices of the Commission across the country to bring land administration services closer to our people, and ensure greater accessibility and efficiency in land-related transactions.

Effective and efficient land administration includes providing suitable workspaces for staff of the Commission, and providing the necessary tools and equipment to promote productivity. This building we are commissioning today is, therefore, part of a number of projects being undertaken to provide conducive work environment for the staff of the Land Commission, and those who access the services of the Commission. A new office complex for the National Lands Commission is almost complete, and a District Office for Tema, which is about seventy percent (70%).

We are, also, implementing our Urban Redevelopment Scheme, under which five hundred and four (504) one and two bedroom self-contained housing units, with a school complex, a clinic and a recreational area, have been constructed for the Ghana Police Service, and office complexes constructed for the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Authority (DVLA), the Ghana Airport Company Limited and the Ghana Meteorological Agency (GMA). This will

pave way for the redevelopment of the 80-acres of land between Stanbic Heights and the Ministry of Defence.

In addition to these developments, we are pursuing an aggressive digitisation agenda, to digitalise the records of the Lands Commission, to promote a robust land administration that ensures peace, security, economic growth, and resource development. Already, the Commission has successfully migrated some of its operations into the digital environment and rolled out the Enterprise Land Information System (ELIS), which offers some select services fully online. Today, a search in the Commission's records can be conducted from anywhere in the world, and at any time of the day. The introduction of the Electronic Property Mass Appraisal System (EPMAS) has, also, facilitated the revaluation of properties in several Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies (MMDAs), and boosting revenue collection.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, without a doubt, the Greater Accra Region, holds a special place in land administration in our country. I am told, unsurprisingly, that it is the busiest Regional Office of the Commission. It is, therefore, imperative that we provide a befitting office space that ensures that majority of our people who access their services get the best of service delivery. With this state-of-the-art facility, I am

convinced that the Commission will fulfil its vision of becoming a beacon of excellence in land services delivery.

Chairman of the Commission, Regional Lands Commission Chair, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, we must work to make land administration in our country more robust and fit for purpose. We cannot continue with business as usual. We must work together to tackle the challenges that have bedevilled land administration over the decades, and the Regional Lands Commission has a significant role in this regard. The construction, equipping, and establishment of Satellite Client Service Access Units and Regional Offices signifies our commitment to creating conducive work environments for staff and stakeholders.

I want to specially thank the Chairman of the Commission, Mr. Alex Quaynor, the leadership of the Greater Accra Regional Lands Commission, led by its Chairperson, Surveyor Yvonne Odoley Sowah, and the management and staff of both the National and the Greater Accra Regional Lands Commissions for their dedication and hard work in bringing this project to fruition. It is my hope that this magnificent edifice will be maintained and preserved to facilitate effective land service delivery in the Greater Accra Region.

On this note, I have the singular honour to declare the Greater Accra Lands Commission Office Complex duly commissioned. May it serve as a cornerstone of progress and prosperity for our nation, embodying the values of diligence, transparency, and service to our people.

I thank you for your attention.