

WELCOME STATEMENT BY CEO OF AGI MR. SETH TWUM-AKWABOAH, AT THE AGI INVESTITURE DINNER ON JAN. 11, 2018, AT THE LABADI BEACH HOTEL

*Your Excellency, General Abdulsalami Alhaji Abubakar, Former President of the Republic of Nigeria*

*Commissioner Kalilou Traore, ECOWAS Commissioner of Industry & Private Sector*

*Invited Ambassadors of Various Countries represented here*

*Justice Baffoe-Bonnie, Justice of the Supreme Court of Ghana*

*Most Rt. Rev. Prof. Daniel Yinkah Sarfo, Archbishop of Anglican Church, Kumasi*

*Hon. Deputy Minister of Trade & Industry Captains of Industry*

*Distinguished guests*

*Ladies and Gentlemen and the Media present*



On behalf of the National Council of AGI, it is my pleasure to welcome you all to this evening's investiture ceremony. The induction of our AGI President and the National Council into office started about 12 years ago and this our 4<sup>th</sup> investiture. Indeed, it is a tradition that has come to stay. What makes this year's investiture even more unique is the fact that we are privileged to be hosting very prominent personalities from Nigeria and Cote D'Ivoire who have joined us for this ceremony. We value and appreciate the interest shown in our investiture by our ECOWAS counterparts and therefore feel challenged to maintain the standard. Gatherings like this are invaluable since they present networking opportunities as well.

Starting today, our Association welcomes a new leadership who will be charting a path for us to follow.

The year 2017 was incredibly busy but productive and fulfilling. We have tried as much as possible to meet the expectations of our members and also to wield our influence in the advocacy space.

AGI's engagement with policy makers and the public sector for dialogue on policy issues that impact on the private sector is on the increase and it is not surprising that almost every public institution requires AGI's participation in their programmes. Our meetings have yielded some regulatory reforms, incentives for Industry and policy initiatives which are private-sector driven.

We will also be engaging with our regulators on electricity tariff negotiations this year because this has significant bearing on the cost of doing business.

We remain committed to Government's vision of transforming the private sector and Ghana into a truly industrialized economy and we cannot wait to see this happen.

We have come far as an Association and this year also marks our 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. For this reason, the AGI will be carrying out a number of activities in the course of the year to commemorate this 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and we will keep you informed.

I wish to thank our outgoing AGI President, Mr. James Asare-Adjei and his Executives for lifting the Association to another level, *Ayeekoo* !

**Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,** I also have the singular honour to introduce our Chairman for this evening's investiture.

Our Chairman tonight is a seasoned entrepreneur with over five decades of Industry experience. He served as President of AGI from 2010 to 2013 and currently the *Nkosuohene* of *Worawora* Traditional Area in the Volta region. During his tenure of office as AGI President, the advocacy structures of AGI were further strengthened through the support of the AGI-Federation of German Industries Partnership project. He has served as a member of the Ministerial Advisory Boards of the Ministry of Finance, Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration and Chieftaincy and Traditional Affairs and several other boards.

He is currently the Group Chairman for the Afariwaa Group of Companies. Indeed, exactly 4 years ago, he was the one transferring the mantle of the AGI Presidency to the then incoming President

Please help me welcome our Chairman for this evening's investiture, Nana Dr. Owusu-Afari