

*Mr. Chairman, Nana Dr. Owusu-Afari, Past President of Association of Ghana Industries  
Your Excellency, Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, President of the President of the Republic of Ghana  
Your Excellency, General Abdulsalami Alhaji Abubakar, Former President of the Republic of Nigeria  
Your Excellencies,  
Mr. John Agyekum Kufour, Former President of Republic of Ghana  
Mr. Jerry John Rawlings, Former President of Republic of Ghana  
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 Yinka Sarfo, Archbishop of Anglican Church, Kumasi  
Captains of Industry  
Distinguished guests  
Ladies and Gentlemen and the Media present*



First and foremost, I want to express my sincere gratitude to the Almighty God for bringing me this far in my career. Indeed, I am humbled by this august gathering and I also stand here this evening with mixed feelings of joy, hope and trepidations as I take office as the 19<sup>th</sup> President of the Association of Ghana Industries. It means a lot to us to have former Heads of state and Presidents in our midst tonight.

**Nana Chairman, Members of the AGI National Council, Ladies and Gentlemen,** as I take over the mantle of Leadership from our out-going president Mr. James Asare-Adjei, I want to thank all our member companies for the confidence reposed in me in voting for me massively, along with other capable men and women, to lead the AGI for the next two years, to serve mother Ghana at this great and crucial time in its history.

I am also grateful to all Past Presidents and National Councils of AGI for all their contributions towards building the enviable AGI brand, as the leading voice of the Private Sector of the Republic of Ghana.

**Distinguished guests,** our electioneering is over. It is now time to build on the legacy and the confidence that the Government and the good people of Ghana have in the leadership of AGI.

**Nana Chairman**, as president, I intend to adopt a teamwork approach with my other elected officials to consolidate the gains of the past leadership of AGI by mobilizing all human and financial resources available to us. I wish to outline a few plans that I have to further strengthen our Association and to ensure our continued success;

1. Pursue the set vision and mission of AGI passionately, as guided by the Statutes of the Association, and that is; promoting local industries through advocacy and rendering business services to ensure sustainability of the businesses.
2. AGI under my Leadership will collaborate more extensively with Government to ensure the effective implementation of Government's industrialization agenda under the 1 District, 1 Factory (1D1F industrialization) policy initiative to bring to fruition in order to
3. Create employment for our youth  
Promote made in Ghana products both locally and for export  
Promote economic growth and development through payment of our corporate taxes.  
Promote local investment for development of the economy
4. Implementation of AGI's 5-year strategic plan which embodies the Association's goals, values, mission, and vision began last year. The Key Strategic Objectives under my Leadership will focus on;
  - ✓ Engaging in a cutting edge evidence-based research in various sectors of the Ghanaian economy in order to make meaningful input to Government's policy decision-making in the interest of the private sector, and educate our members on business trends in the economy.
  - ✓ Promote our business and industrial relations with business counterparts in the Republic of Nigeria through investment, collaboration, training and trade for the benefit of ECOWAS. Effective collaboration with sister countries in our Economic bloc, ECOWAS especially with the Republic of Nigeria to create a common market for the over 200 million people in Ghana and Nigeria.
  - ✓ Work with the Chairpersons of the 21 sectors of AGI, National Council, and Regional Executives of AGI in order to achieve the National industrialization agenda of our country for
    - --Job Creation
    - --Quality Assured products
    - --Policy development
    - --International Affairs
  - ✓ We will continue to publish our flagship AGI Business Barometer quarterly to educate the public and captains of industry on the business climate.

- ✓ Engaging key stakeholders such as the Ministry of Trade & Industry, Ghana Investment Promotion Centre (GIPC), Ghana Employers Association (GEA), Ghana National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GNCCI), Ghana Export Promotion Authority (GEPA), and foreign investors for business development through our local embassies across the globe to build our economy.

**Nana Chairman,** we can achieve all the aforementioned, if Government and its agencies give the Private Sector the full support, by creating the enabling business environment for us to work, and pay equitable taxes to support the economy. We will need the following to create that enabling environment for businesses;

- Government's full support in procuring our locally produced products. Implementation of the 70% local procurement policy for locally made goods and NOT IMPORTED goods by local traders.
- Enforcement of business regulations to prevent importation of sub-standard products into the country, and laws that will promote local businesses.
- Bank of Ghana to work closely with local commercial banks to lower interest rates to enable companies borrow at lower rates to support their businesses.
- The high cost of electricity and cost of clearing raw materials at our ports including further facilitation of both import and export procedures.
- The need to augment the current stock of infrastructure to ensure smooth implementation of 1D1F since companies will find it difficult to locate their businesses in areas with bad roads and other essential amenities.

**Nana Chairman, Ladies and gentlemen,** I am fully convinced that as Americans build America, Germans build Germany, we Ghanaians and as matter of fact Africans must realize that our destiny as a Nation is in our hands, and we will do our very best to ensure that Ghana, and in fact Africa as a continent becomes a better place through our hard work and dedication to work and create better opportunities for the next generation.

Once again, I accept to lead this Association in the coming years and to build upon the distinct path set by my predecessor, with your support.

In conclusion, I want to thank you all eminent personalities gathered here this evening, for giving us such great privilege of hosting you on this memorable occasion.

***God bless AGI***

***God bless Ghana***

***God bless Africa.***