

**CLOSING ADDRESS DELIVERED BY THE HON. MINISTER OF TRANSPORTATION
AT THE 5TH AFRICAN ROAD MAINTENANCE FUNDS ASSOCIATION (ARMFA)
GENERAL MEETING HELD AT M-PLAZA HOTEL, ACCRA, ON FRIDAY, 29TH
SEPTEMBER 2006 AT 6.00 P.M.**

Mr. Chairman,
Members of State,
Honourable Members of Parliament,
President of the African Road Maintenance Funds Association [ARMFA],
Distinguished Members of the African Road Maintenance Funds Association,
Representatives of our Development Partners,
Heads of Agency and Directors of the Ministry of Transportation,
Invited Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen:

I deem it a pleasure for me to be here this evening to deliver the closing address at the three – day 5th African Road Maintenance Funds Association [ARMFA].

We in Ghana are very pleased for the opportunity provided by the Association to play host to this important forum and thereby contribute to the steady and progressive evolution of the Association.

The importance of the Forum is not in doubt and this point was poignantly made on the keynote address delivered by the Honourable Minister to declare the meeting opened on Wednesday, 27th September 2006.

Judging by the high level of participation of member countries and other sister organizations, I am confident that this meeting has in a large measure, contributed to developing and strengthening the Association. Your deliberations and the consequent resolutions, I am sure, will be adopted by the various Road Funds in order to improve and enhance the operations of the Road Funds in order that they could better serve the needs of our people.

Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished Participants,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Given the strategic and critical importance of roads in the economies of all African countries, there is no other choice than for our governments to continue to provide adequate funds for the development of roads and also support the efficient operations of our Road Funds to ensure enhanced services delivery.

In this regard, the legal, technical and financial framework of our Road Funds would have to be overhauled so as to make the Funds adequately support the maintenance of our roads.

There is abundant goodwill and support from all stakeholders for the regular and systematic revenue of the levies, rates and fees that flow into the Funds.

But it is important to caution that we should never take for granted or abuse the trust of our people in the effective maintenance of our roads and the management of the funds.

The Ghana Road Fund Board in its quest to recommend an increase in the level of the fees, rates and levels which accrue to the Fund has embarked upon a nationwide consideration on an education programme for stakeholders. Such public hearings are recommended to other Road Fund Managers when it comes to the issue of the increase in the level of fees which accrue to the Fund as it provides a feedback to the Fund Managers.

Mr. Chairman,
Members of State,
Honourable Members of Parliament,
Members of ARMFA,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen:

I wish to take this opportunity to express once again, my pleasure for the invitation to deliver the closing remarks to bring down the curtain to the 5th African Road Maintenance Funds Association General Meeting.

It is now my privilege to declare this Conference formally closed.

Thank you.