

**CLOSING SPEECH DELIVERED BY GEORGE AFFUL AIDOO, AG.**  
**DIRECTOR GHANA ROAD FUND SECRETARIAT ON THE OCCASION OF**  
**THE FIFTH AFRICA ROAD MAINTENANCE FUNDS ASSOCIATION (ARMFA)**  
**GENERAL MEETING AND WORKSHOP HELD AT THE M-PLAZA HOTEL,**  
**ACCRA ON FRIDAY 29TH SEPTEMBER 2006.**

**Mr. Chairman,  
Hon. Ministers of State,  
Hon. Members of Parliament,  
Chief Director, Ministry of Transportation  
President of ARMFA,  
Distinguished ARMFA Members  
Members of the Ghana Road Fund Board  
Representatives of International Organizations,  
Distinguished Invited Guests,  
Members of the Press  
Ladies and Gentlemen**

All too soon, three days of deliberations have come to an end and participants will soon be leaving for their various countries. I must admit that before May 2006, I had no idea about the Association. The days spent here have given me an insight as to what ARMFA is all about.

Mr. Chairman,  
Road maintenance for which a lot of time and effort has been spent this week is a major problem confronting Africa. As mentioned during the discussions earlier on, we are currently covering only between 50-60% of the maintenance requirements. This is not good enough. It is imperative that we look for sustainable means of funding road maintenance.

How do we do this? The establishment of a well functioning second generation road fund with increased revenue base holds the key to solving the problem.

Mr. Chairman,  
In Ghana we still depend on fuel levy for about 92% of our revenue one of the highest in Africa whilst the other revenue generating sources contribute between 8-10%. The over-dependence on fuel levy alone is not good enough and that is all the more reason why I welcome the need to diversify the source of revenue.

Tolling has a potential to increase from a meager 2% to 10% if the low rates which have not seen any increase since 1998 are adjusted upwards as well as road use, vehicle registration and international transit fees.

Mr. Chairman, In order not to create any backlog of maintenance as we witnessed in the 70's and 80's we need to implement some of the strategies discussed here to generate additional revenue to cover the maintenance of the network.

The link between transport and poverty reduction is well known to all of us. We need to work assiduously to ensure that the livelihood of our unfortunate brothers and sisters in the rural areas where poverty is endemic improve through the provision and maintenance of roads in the rural areas. This will facilitate the rapid evacuation of farm produce and create access to social services.

Mr. Chairman,

My expectations have been met. What about yours? Let us keep talking to each other in order to learn from the experiences of others.

I believe my colleagues have enjoyed their stay in Accra and will depart from Ghana with sweet memories. I wish you safe journey to your countries and hope to see you again in the not too distant future.

Long live ARMFA, long live Ghana.

Thank you.