

WELCOME ADDRESS 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 WEDNESDAY 27TH SEPTEMBER 2006 AT 10.00 AM.

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

It is a pleasure to welcome you and also to host the Fifth Africa Road Maintenance Funds Association's (ARMFA) General Meeting and Technical Workshop being held in Accra from 27th – 30th September, 2006.

I also wish to take this opportunity to render my sincere thanks and appreciation to ARMFA for selecting Ghana to host the General Meeting and Technical Workshop.

I would also like to welcome Representatives of the various International Organizations who are present here today. You are all warmly welcome to Ghana.

Mr. Chairman,

I am sure that the choice of Ghana for the meeting was influenced to a large extent by the fact that Ghana has since 1985 made great strides towards a sustainable way of funding road maintenance. The establishment of a first generation Road Fund in 1985 attests to that fact.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Three years in the annals of the existence of ARMFA means that the Association is still in its infancy and can at best be described as a toddler. In spite of this, the Association has chalked great successes and its membership has increased from nineteen in December 2003 to about twenty nine within a space of three years.

ARMFA has not only offered the various Managers of Road Funds in Africa the opportunity to interact with one another but has also offered them the platform to share experiences.

Mr. Chairman

Such an organization therefore needs to be well nurtured in order to play its role in our quest to internally generate adequate resources for the sustainable maintenance of roads in Africa. The maintenance of our road network is critical if we are to make any headway in the socio-economic development of the continent.

To this end, it is my expectation that the three days of deliberations in Accra will go a long way to help formulate appropriate and far reaching policies, adopt strategies and make recommendations that will ensure sustainable funding for road maintenance in Africa. This will then give true meaning to the existence of ARMFA as a credible partner in development as well as poverty reduction in Africa.

Mr. Chairman,

I strongly believe that collaboration and sharing of ideas are the vehicles which we can use to ensure the sustainability of the funds we manage in our countries.

I wish to invite all delegates especially those who are visiting this beautiful and peaceful country to take time to enjoy the proverbial Ghanaian hospitality.

I wish you fruitful deliberations and hope the Accra conference will help to strengthen the existing bond of friendship and cooperation among ARMFA member countries.

Thank You.