

## PRESS RELEASE

### FINAL COMMUNIQUE: FIRST WABA (GH) OIL & GAS CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION HELD ON JUNE 2-4 2009 AT TAKORADI

We, participants at the First WABA (GH) Oil and Gas conference and exhibition, held in Takoradi between the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> of June, 2009, after three days of open and frank deliberations, keen to ensure that the many good ideas that came out of our discussions are acted upon and confident that Ghana's oil and gas industry will be a blessing rather than a curse, hereby call on all stakeholders to place priority on the following issues:

1. Management of expectations through informing and educating the youth and people of the Western Region in particular and Ghanaians in general on the nature of the emerging industry with an emphasis on the limits of job availability and expected direct benefits.
2. Strengthening of educational and training institutions to equip the youth with the requisite skills and expertise needed in the Oil & Gas Industry.
3. Strengthening of the environmental and regulatory institutions to ensure effective and efficient transportation, movement, and storage of hazardous and dangerous materials from the ports of entry to their respective destinations.
4. Proper handling of hazardous material by workers and the general public and the disposal of waste at appropriate and safe locations.
5. Avoidance of possible pollution of water bodies and lands within the communities nearest to the operations.
6. Open and transparent procedures in respect of identification, processing and allocation of Oil Blocks to prospective oil and gas drilling companies.
7. Open and transparent negotiations with suppliers within the Oil and Gas industry.
8. Effective planning and execution of activities with time lines to avoid costly delays in the production timetable.
9. Open, honest and transparent accounting of revenues accruing from the oil industry and its disbursement by the respective organs of government to ensure that the expectations of the people for development are met.
10. Acquisition of the requisite knowledge required within the Oil and Gas industry by all officials of the requisite ministries, government departments

- and agencies to ensure that the interest of the country and people of Ghana are protected.
11. Enactment of the appropriate laws, rules and regulations, necessary to ensure that effective environmental standards are maintained.
  12. Minimization of politics in the conduct of all business related to the industry.
  13. Active involvement of the media acting as the fourth estate to monitor and follow up on the progress made by government to keep it on its toes and avoid excessive talk shops with little or no follow up action.

We, the leadership of WABA (GH) and all the other participants at the First WABA (GH) Oil and Gas Conference and Exhibition believe that time is critical in all issues, given the projected flow of oil in 16 months time. Government, industry, education, and the local Chamber of Commerce must mobilize all resources and FAST TRACK plans and policies before the end of 2009 in readiness for the production. We believe that if all the above issues are properly addressed, the discovery of Oil and Gas in Ghana will become a blessing rather than a curse.

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CHAIRMAN - WABA Ghana

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The conference was chaired by Nana Kobina Nketiah V, Omanhene of the Essikado Traditional Area. Dignitaries who presented papers included Nana Kobena Nketsiah, Dr. Joe Oteng Adjei, Minister for Energy, Ms. Hanna Tetteh, Minister for Trade and Industry, and HE Dr. Nicholas Westcott, the British High Commissioner to Ghana.

Other speakers included representatives of the Ghana National Petroleum Corporation, the Ghana Shippers Council on behalf of the Minister for Transport, the Ghana Investment Promotion Centre, the University of Mines on behalf of the Ministry of Education, the Ghana Free Zones Board, the UK West Africa Action Group, the Regional Maritime University, the British Council, the Takoradi Chamber of Commerce and a delegation from the Western Region Youth Association.

Other dignitaries present included the President of the Western Regional House of Chiefs, Awulae Attibrukusu III, the Deputy Minister of Energy and Member of Parliament for Ellembelle, Emmanuel Buah, the Member of Parliament for Takoradi, Kwabena Okyere Darko and various Traditional Authorities.

The presentations were followed by open, honest and objective debates and discussions.