

**WELCOME ADDRESS BY THE EASTERN REGIONAL MINISTER,
HON. SETH KWAME ACHEAMPONG, AT THE MEETING OF THE
EASTERN REGIONAL ENGINEERING CO-ORDINATING TEAM
(RECT), HELD ON FRIDAY, 13TH JANUARY, 2023 AT THE RCC
CONFERENCE HALL, KOFORIDUA**

THE AG. REGIONAL CO-ORDINATING DIRECTOR,

REGIONAL HEADS OF DEPARTMENT,

**MEMBERS OF THE REGIONAL ENGINEERING CO-ORDINATING
TEAM (RECT),**

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

It is my greatest pleasure and honour to welcome you to the first meeting of the Regional Engineering Co-ordinating Team for the year 2023. I must indicate that I am excited to be part of this all important meeting.

Let me first of all take this opportunity to say Happy New Year to all of you. We are indeed grateful to the Almighty God for His mercies, grace and protection during the past year and also ushering us into the new year.

May I also thank you for your hard work and contribution in bringing the year 2022 to a successful end. It is a clear demonstration of your commitment towards effective and efficient service delivery in the Region. **I say “Ayekoo”.**

Admittedly, last year was a difficult one due to the country's economic crisis, translating into rise in general cost of living, among others. However, government, under the able leadership of President Akufo-Addo, began implementation of some pragmatic measures and policies which have so far yielded positive results and we can all attest to that. For instance, fuel prices have seen some decline in the past few weeks. We are hopeful that things would turn around with the implementation of the 2023 National Budget and Economic policy.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

The National Engineering Co-ordinating Team (NECT) was formed in 1996, following the establishment of the Department of Urban Roads in 1988. Consequently, the Road Reservation Management Manual for co-ordination was published in 2001 to clearly define the role of the various

stakeholders; Road Agencies (RAs) and Utility Agencies (UAs) and Procedures involved in the acquisition and management of the Right of Way (RoW) or Road Reservation.

The function of the National Engineering Committee is to define a clear national policy on the development and maintenance of road infrastructure, co-ordinate with Regional, Metropolitan, Municipal and District Engineering Committees, review and amend Ghana's legal enactments relating to the co-ordination of road works and the activities of the Utility Agencies. The last meeting of the Regional Engineering Co-ordinating Team was held on 16th June, 2022.

The purpose of today's meeting therefore, is to engage stakeholders once again on the mandate of the Regional Engineering Co-ordinating Team (RECT) to find sustainable ways on how to collaborate and work within the road reservations.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

Section 188(1)(c) of the Local Governance Act, 2016 (Act 936) enjoins the Regional Co-ordinating Council to review and co-ordinate public services generally in the Region.

Again, Section 198 of Act 936 emphasises, Regional level inter-service and inter-sectoral collaboration and co-operation.

It is in view of the above provisions that the Regional Co-ordinating Council considers the organisation of today's engagement session as very crucial and timely. So, I entreat all stakeholders to work together to ensure the realisation of our set objectives. I urge you to uphold the high level of co-operation and commitment to duty for effective service delivery and development of the Region and Mother Ghana as a whole.

In bringing my address to conclusion, I wish to reassure you of the support of my good self and that of the RCC to ensure the Regional Engineering Co-ordinating Team (RECT) delivers successfully on its mandate.

On this note, I once again warmly welcome you to the meeting and wish you fruitful deliberations.

Thank you for your attention.