

## Speech by Dr. K.K. Sarpong

Chief Executive, Ghana National Petroleum Corporation (GNPC)

At the Sankofa First Oil Ceremony || Takoradi Naval Base || July 6, 2017

- i. Your Excellency the President, Nana Akufo-Addo
- ii. Your Excellencies, former Presidents
- iii. Your Excellencies, Ambassadors
- iv. Nananom
- v. Honourable Ministers and Members of Parliament
- vi. Chairman and Members of the Board of Directors of GNPC
- vii. Colleague Chief Executives
- viii. Friends from the Media
- ix. Invited Guests
- x. Ladies and Gentlemen.

Let me first of all thank our partners, ENI and Vitol, for working hard and efficiently in delivering the Sankofa Project under budget and ahead of planned delivery time. First oil was achieved 3 months ahead of schedule. It is our expectation also that First gas would be delivered by the end of the first half of 2018. To the Parliament of Ghana, the Ministry of Energy, the Petroleum Commission, consultants and army of contractors who collaborated with us, we say a big thank you.

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen. There is great potential to produce more gas from the Sankofa field. Production of more gas should lead to cheaper price for the product, which should translate into cheaper electricity for users, and also set the stage for the promotion of petro-chemical industries in our country.

GNPC has positioned itself to venture into the production of fertilizer, ethanol and other petrochemical products once more gas is produced. In this regard, we will be inviting private investors to join hands with us.

Your Excellency, GNPC is launching *Operation Find Oil in the Voltaian Basin*. The next 18 months will see more exploration activities in our quest to discover hydrocarbons in the Voltaian Basin, which stretches across the Eastern, Ashanti, Brong-Ahafo, Northern and Volta regions of Ghana. The Voltaian Basin is a potential game-changer in Ghana's oil and gas sector. A geo-

chemistry technique, which has been successfully deployed in Senegal, will be tested soon before full scale 2-D seismic survey is embarked upon as a way of reducing cost.

Your Excellency, your Executive approval is needed to overcome procurement challenges currently delaying the project.

Mr. President, GNPC's new approach to Corporate Social Investment (CSI) would significantly improve the industry's contribution to localization, skills and technology transfers, and the well-being of Ghanaians. The new direction is anchored on three (3) pillars, namely:

- i. Education & Training,
- ii. Environment and Social Amenities, and
- iii. Economic Empowerment.

Your Excellency, under the Education and Training pillar, emphasis would be shifted from the granting of scholarships to study abroad to scholarships tenable in Ghanaian tertiary institutions, mainly in STEM education. The focus will be the basic sciences, namely, physics, chemistry and biology, and mathematics. This is to provide science resource personnel for our second cycle schools and research institutions. The engineering and technology component of this scheme would be skewed towards women under a 'Women in Engineering Initiative'

Mr. President, it is projected that \$3,500 per annum per student is more than adequate for such training in Ghana compared with about \$60,000 per annum per student trained overseas. In the next four years, beginning this year, a total of one thousand (1,000) scholarships will be awarded.

GNPC will invest significant resources to minimize the impact of oil and gas operations on the environment, and improve the social conditions of Ghanaians under our *Environment and Social Amenities* pillar. Boreholes to provide potable water in deprived communities across the country, especially, in the three Northern Regions, would be provided.

Investments under the Economic Empowerment pillar will focus on targeted interventions to enable persons affected by oil and gas activities to secure sustainable livelihoods. Inhabitants in the Western enclave and the Voltaian Basin will be provided support for their key economic activities. GNPC would work with identifiable development-oriented organizations and partners to assist farmers and fishermen in these areas to have access to inputs, markets, credit facilities, advisory services, and value-addition

Our partners are invited to join GNPC to develop an industry-wide CSI strategy that is more coordinated, better targeted and highly responsive to the real needs of the people.

Your Excellency, GNPC is working to realize your vision of seeing increased impact of oil operations in this (Western) Region. In this regard, relocation of the operational activities of GNPC has commenced. The GNPC Foundation will start operations in Sekondi-Takoradi next month.

Mr. President, Honourable Minister, ladies and gentlemen, I thank you for your attention.