



**GHANA CHAMBER OF  
TELECOMMUNICATIONS**  
LBG  
*M-Powering People. SIMpacting Lives*

**WELCOME ADDRESS DELIVERED BY**

**Dr. Ing. Kenneth Ashigbey**

**Chief Executive Officer – Ghana Chamber of  
Telecommunications**

**10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Launch – Ghana Chamber  
of Telecommunications**

**10th Anniversary - Leveraging the gains of the  
past decade to accelerate Ghana's digital**

**TTURSDAY, 2<sup>ND</sup> DECEMBER, 2021**

**Marriot HOTEL**

## **10th Anniversary - Leveraging the gains of the past decade to accelerate Ghana's digital *Salutations***

- Hon Minister of Communications & Digitalization –  
Represented by Hon. Ama Pomaa
- Hon Minority Leader & Former Minister of Communications –  
Hon Haruna Idirisu
- Chairperson Select Committee of Communication - Hon.  
Cynthia Mamle Morrison
- Hon Members of Parliament
- Governor Bank of Ghana – Represented by Mr Kwame  
Oppong
- Director General, National Communication Authority – Mr  
Joe Anokye
- Resident Representative UNDP – Mad Angela Lusigi
- Former CEO of Chamber & Chairman of Mineral  
Development Fund – Mr Kwaku Sakyi Addo
- Chairman Governing Council & Members of the Chamber
- Captains of Industry
- Distinguished invited Guest
- Members of the 4th Estate of the Realm
- Ladies and Gentlemen

**OPENING REMARKS & WELCOME ADDRESS BY DR. ING. KENNETH ASHIGBEY, CEO OF GHANA CHAMBER OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS AT THE 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF THE GHANA CHAMBER OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS AT THE MARRIOTT HOTEL, AIRPORT ON THURSDAY DECEMBER 2, 2021 – THEME- 10TH ANNIVERSARY - LEVERAGING THE GAINS OF THE PAST DECADE TO ACCELERATE GHANA'S DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION**

1. It is a great privilege that on behalf of the governing council and the secretariat, I welcome you all to the launch of the 10th Anniversary of the Ghana Chamber of Telecommunication. We are grateful for the support we have had over the past decade.
2. Yes, when Robert Palitz of Kasapa, Brett Goschen of MTN, David Venn of Vodafone, Christophe Soulet of Tigo and Philip Sowah of Zain saw the vision of going together so that they could go far and engaged Kwaku Sakyi Addo and birthed the Chamber on the 28th of November 2011. They sowed a seed that has resulted in the great achievements for the telecommunications industry and now the digital financial sector too.
3. As we grew, it became imperative to strengthen the Chamber as an advocacy organization by including other key players especially as the telecommunication industry became more ubiquitous. In 2014, we added to our portfolio the tower companies namely ATC, Helios and Eaton. And in 2019 we added to our fold Huawei, Comsys and CSquared. So currently the Chamber boast of 8 members namely; AirtelTigo, MTN, Vodafone, ATC, Helios, Comsys, CSquared and Huawei.
4. Today is all about introspection of what we have done in the past decade and with the fast pace of change, how the Chamber can contribute to Ghana bridging the developmental gap on the back of the 4<sup>th</sup> industrial revolution. So, our theme for the yearlong celebration is, **10th Anniversary - Leveraging the gains of the past decade to accelerate Ghana's digital transformation.**
5. Today is about saying big Thank-Yous. **Akpa lotooo** to all our stakeholders who have made this possible. Working together over the past decade we have moved data coverage from 8 million at inception to 23 million in August 2022, a growth of over 187%. Voice penetration currently stands at over 132 %.

6. Total Mobile Money Accounts stands at 47.3 million and the balance on float stands at GHS8.4B. There has been remarkable growth in financial inclusion, in the last 10 years due to the Mobile Financial sector. We have seen far more than traditional brick and mortar banks have been able to do in over century. This has been due to working together among ourselves and the Bank of Ghana the regulator.
7. The journey has been turbulent but rewarding because we have **worked together** with our stakeholders and our partners. Hon Deputy Minister permit me to thank the following stakeholder who have worked together with us on this journey of a decade.
8. The Executive have played crucial roles in our success. From the then Vice President H.E John Mahama was at our inauguration event in 2011 to whom we owe a debt of gratitude. To H.E the Vice President Mahmud Bawumia who has shown a lot of interest in the Chamber's affairs from our Spectrum management workshop in 2019, to having MT4D 2020 and 2021 held under his auspices. We are grateful to the Presidency.
9. The Ministry of Communication and now with Digitalization added, our supervising Ministry. The growth we have seen with Ghana placing 3<sup>rd</sup> in the GSMA Mobile Connective index in Africa has been through working together with the Ministry of Communication. We are grateful that Hon. Haruna Idirisu who was our pioneer minister who is here together with the current Deputy Minister representing Hon. Ursula Owusu Ekuful. It is the Ministry that has facilitated a lot of what we do. We are eternally grateful.
10. Our GMS Regulator the NCA has been a great partner in Working Together. Today we have representation of the very top; the DG and two of his deputies. What immediately comes to mind is how under the direction of the Minister of Communication when COVID-19 struck, you rallied us together to form the National Telecommunication Disaster Response Team. The awareness creation and working together to ensure that we Sim-pacted Ghanaians and kept the networks running is commendable and we are grateful.
11. To the Bank of Ghana, over the decade we have enjoyed collaborative regulation and engagement. This has moved us from working together to

formulate Guidelines to passing Act 987 then to Directives & Regulations on Digital Financial Services. Now we are working the Electronic Currency and other innovation. We are eternally grateful.

- 12.** We are appreciative to the following stakeholders for working together with us. Today the Vote of Thanks is at the very beginning. It is the reason why we are here.
- 13.** Ministry of Finance, working together with the GRA on tax policy and other fiscal policy measures we are grateful. The Tax Dialogue & Social Partnership Council. Let's do a lot more engagement. Working together we can do more in the next decade.
- 14.** Ministry of Local Government & Rural Development – Engagement on Business Operating Permits, we have a voice at the table where these fees are fixed.
- 15.** Ministry of Roads & Highways, the Road Agencies, Ghana Highway Authority, Department of Urban Roads, Departments of Feeder Roads. We have NECT where we collaborate with other utilities and regulators. The Fibre cuts are too high, we are making progress though. We need to work more together to fix this challenge. During the anniversary year we would dedicate a month for awareness creation on fibre cuts, vandalization and theft of telecommunication infrastructure.
- 16.** Parliament has been a major ally working together. Especially the Select Committee on Communications. Our Engagement on legislation formulations have been fruitful. Recent examples are the passing of Cybersecurity Act and Payments Systems & Services Act. In the anniversary year working with Hon. Chairperson, we are planning a workshop with members.
- 17.** EPA, another collaborative regulator that was worked together with the Chamber. Collectively with the NCA and other regulators we have reviewed the Tower Guidelines and it is now awaiting the Hon Minister of Communications and Digitalization's approval. Hon Deputy Minister one of our requests is for Hon Minister to grant us a speedy consideration and approval of the guidelines. We are also hopeful that working with the EPA we would resolve our current discussions on fees. We are grateful for the support so far.

- 18.** Working with the Judiciary we got the Mandate of the Copper Courts expanded and in partnership with Judicial Training Institute we have trained almost all High Court and Magistrate Court judges on the expanded mandate to cover fibre cut, vandalizations and theft at telecommunication site. Please join me observe a moment silence for the soul of Justice Samuel Marful-Sau, the Director of JTI who worked with us. May his gentle soul rest in peace. Criminals beware the plight that befell Kojo Nkrumah at the Cape Coast Circuit court would befall you. You could be jailed for 13 years.
- 19.** National Cybersecurity Authority – one of the new regulators who have had very close collaborative regulatory relationship with the Chamber. We grateful to DG and his team. We worked on the celebration of the Cybersecurity Month and the crafting of the enabling legislation with them. They are also a critical part of the Fraud Control Dashboard, another milestone in the decade working with the NCA, Bank of Ghana and Cyber Crime Unit of the Ghana Police Service.
- 20.** Radiation Protection Authority and Data Protection Agency have also been critical stakeholders. We are grateful.
- 21.** Our engagement of the Political Parties in our Manifesto Watch has also been fruitful and we are thankful.
- 22.** There are other partners who we are eternally grateful to in our working together over the past decade.
- 23.** The media have been critical partners. They cover our Knowledge Forums, the Chamber Dialogues and the Media Dialogue we hold every year. The next one is 10<sup>th</sup> of December at the Chamber.
- 24.** We are grateful to Ghana Internet Service Providers Association, Private Enterprise Federation, Institute of ICT Professionals, Ghana, A4AI, C-GAP, UNDP and GSMA. Working together with these and other partners, thus far we have come.
- 25.** Going into the future we would leverage upon the achievement in the past decade to drive Ghana's Digitalization agenda. The new technologies of 5G, AI, Internet of Everything, ubiquitous innovations in the digital financial space

would be accelerate. It would all be because we would continue **work together**, among the members of Chamber and with you our key stakeholder.

26. We would want to deepen the engagement with policy makers, regulators and other industries. For Digital would continue to the rails upon which all other industries would ride. We would want to engage more closely with academia, start-ups and grow more home based innovative solutions that would become global brands. It is possible working together more closely and openly.
27. In the next decade we hope to build on self-regulations schemes working with the regulatory bodies to spur on fast paced innovation that is guided but not restricted. The regulation for the future would have to change be a lot more agile and forward looking.
28. The 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration which we launch today would be a year-long event and we would be engaging all of you working together to drive Ghana Digital Transformation agenda. Some of the programmes would include
29. Working with MoCD and other stakeholder on Ghana Digital Policy, including pushing our 5G strategy as we seek to expand 4G to cover to the entire country.
30. Push for Dig-Once Policy more infrastructure sharing. Work with GHA, DUR & NECT to get ducts incorporated into all road construction for utilities. This should curb the destruction of fibre that impacts on quality of experience for all of us as telecoms subscribers.
31. Practicalization of CII Directive to deal with the theft of fuel, cables and now the active devices that we are beginning to see. We would work with the NCA to get Ministry of National Security's support.
32. We would deepen customer awareness on the Fraud Control Dashboard and continue the awareness creation to improve customers cyber hygiene and continue to expose the modus operandi of the fraudsters.
33. Hon. Deputy Minister, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen. Back to my task here, the welcome address, you are welcome to the Chamber's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary launch. Mia woe zo & God richly bless you