

**REMARKS BY THE HON. DEP. MINISTER, PROF GYAN BAFFOUR, AT A MEETING
WITH PARTICIPANTS FROM THE COMMONWEALTH PUBLIC PROCUREMENT
NETWORK-STUDY TOUR ON 6TH NOVEMBER, 2007**

Mr. Chairman,
Representatives from the Commonwealth Secretariat. London,
The Chief Executive of the Public Procurement Authority,
Participants of the CPPN-Study Tour,
Friends from the Media,
Distinguished ladies and Gentlemen

It is my pleasure to have you here this morning and I will want to take this opportunity to warmly welcome you to our beautiful country, Ghana-the Centre of the World.

Ghana has this year which marks its 50th Independence Anniversary played host to numerous gatherings of our African brothers and sisters in events such as the AU Summit, African Business Summit, the just ended ECOWAS Business Forum and the Commonwealth Public Procurement Network held in May that gave birth to this CPPN-Study Tour.

To us, this Study Tour being embarked upon by you - high level public procurement practitioners within Commonwealth Africa is a great opportunity for "Peer Review" and a source of encouragement to our young Public Procurement Reform Process which started in 1996 with an exercise to reform our Public Financial Management System. Issues emerging out of the exercise revealed a number of shortcomings and organizational weaknesses inherent in the country's procurement system at the time. These included the absence of a comprehensive public

procurement policy and the lack of an appropriate legal regime to safeguard the integrity of the public procurement system. Others were the absence of a central body with the requisite capability, technical expertise and competence to develop a coherent public procurement policy.

The recommendations of an oversight group which conducted an in depth studies into the public procurement systems in Ghana finally led to the enactment of the Public Procurement law, Act 663 of 2003 which also created the Public Procurement Authority as a regulatory body with functions that include monitoring public procurement to ensure compliance with the statutory requirements.

It is with respect to this that the Government of Ghana in collaboration with other Agencies have developed the Public Procurement Model of Excellence (PPME) Tool that is designed to assist in assessing levels of compliance with the Public Procurement Act, 2003 (Act 663) through

- Baseline Indicator System Reports;
- Performance Assessment System Reports; and •
- Performance Measurement Indicator Reports

and recommend areas for improvements.

It is therefore our desire that at the end of the Study Tour, participants will have a practical based experience in the use of Ghana's PPME Tool and achieve stronger collaboration through effective networking.