

SPEECH

BY

**KWADWO BAAH-WIREDU, MP
MINISTER OF FINANCE & ECONOMIC
PLANNING
CHAIRMAN
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
GLAHCO**

ON THE

**FORMAL OPENING OF GOLDEN TULIP
KUMASI CITY**

ON

SATURDAY, 12TH JANUARY 2008

Nana Chairman

His Excellency President of the Republic of Ghana

Otumfuo Osei Tutu II, Asantehene

Hon. Chief of Staff

Hon Members of the Council of State

Colleague Ministers of State

Members of the Diplomatic Corps

Hon. Members of Parliament

Chief Executive of KMA

Nananom

Members of Board of Directors and Management of

GLAHCO and GHTDCO,

The CEO of Golden Tulip Hospitality Group and

The Hotel Management

Members of the Media

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

I am extremely delighted to be here today to participate in the formal opening of the Golden Tulip Kumasi City by His Excellency the President.

2. This reconstructed hotel is owned by the Ghana Libyan Arab Holding Company (GLAHCO) which was established in the early 1980s as an investment company by the Government of Ghana and the Peoples Socialist Libyan Arab Jamahiriya through the outcome of bilateral and investment co-operation agreement.

3. GLAHCO has entered into a Contractual Agreement with the Golden Tulip Hospitality Group of the Netherlands to manage its Kumasi Hotel under the brand name Golden Tulip Kumasi City just as it has under a similar agreement for its Accra Hotel with the brand name Golden Tulip Accra.

4. Nana Chairman, His Excellency the President, Otumfuo Asantehene, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, Golden Tulip Kumasi City has an interesting history.

5. In August 1996, a company called Ace Hotels and Resorts Limited acquired the former City Hotel which had been placed on divestiture by the Government.

6. In 1997 Ace Hotels approached GLAHCO on the formation of a joint venture company to rehabilitate the hotel and an agreement was entered into to that effect.

7. Problems, however, arose in the implementation of the project leading to a dispute between Ace Hotels and Resorts and GLAHCO. The matter therefore ended up in court. This delayed the rehabilitation of the hotel for a long period.

8. After several years of litigation, the matter was successfully settled out of court in 2004 at the initiative of the Government of Ghana.

9. At this stage, I wish to place on record the efforts by His Excellency the President in giving his full support and backing for the out-of-court settlement. His Excellency the President also kept on talking to the Libyans to keep their interest in the project.

10. I also wish to take the opportunity to commend my predecessor for his role in getting the matter settled out of court.

11. After a tender, China State Hualong Construction Ghana Limited won the bid to reconstruct the City Hotel into what we are witnessing today as the Golden Tulip Kumasi City. The Contract Administrator and Architect for the project is Messrs J + F Johnston Overseas Limited of Edinburgh in Scotland, United Kingdom.

12. Among the major financiers of the project is the Ghana Commercial Bank which provided US\$13.0 million loan.

13. The Libyan Arab African Investment Company, the Libyan Government Investment Company in Africa provided US\$ 4.5 million while the Government of Ghana provided an amount of US\$ 3.7 million in addition to the hotel property.

14. The rehabilitation works started in June, 2006 and after a little over 18 months the project is completed and it is to be inaugurated today.

15. It is significant to note the personal support and interest that we received from His Excellency the President who visited the project on a number of occasions and gave us a lot of encouragement. I also want to mention especially the keen interest shown by Otumfuo. He was at the project site several times to see progress of work for himself.

16. We also received a lot of support from the former and current Regional Ministers, the KMA Chief Executive and the Authorities in Kumasi who were all willing to help this project succeed.

17. I wish at this stage to commend the Contract Administrator, Members of the Implementation Technical Committee especially Messrs. John McLaren, Hassan E.A. Swesi, Mr. J. A. Acquaye and Mr. Osei Asante, the Contractors and the Management of GLAHCO for their excellent work and dedication.

18. The hotel now provides 88 Guest Rooms in the Tower Block, 48 Guest Rooms in the West Annex, 21 Apartments in the Central Annex and 3 Guest Rooms in the Central Annex. The East Annex and the Round Pavilion to the east of the hotel will also be rehabilitated and put to use very soon.

19. The hotel is a 4-star rated hotel and provides facilities such as an a la carte restaurant, a lobby bar, a pool side bar, health club facilities, a swimming pool and Conference and meeting rooms with total seating capacity of up to 500 persons.

20. Nana Chairman, His Excellency the President, Otumfuo Asantehene, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, the opening of the new Tulip Hotel in the Kumasi Metropolis endorses the confidence our partners continue to have in the Ghanaian economy, and especially in the rapidly improving business environment. The progress made towards this objective also fulfils the aspiration of the leaders of the two Sovereign States, Libya and Ghana, towards mutual co-operation.

21. The Government is aware that a well functioning and internationally star rated hotel would enhance the reputation of Kumasi and contribute immensely to the City's economy.

22. It is in this regard that I am most thrilled with the opening of this facility. It is my ardent hope however that the Golden Tulip Kumasi City will strive to

become the international standard bearer and the leader in the hotel industry in Kumasi and in Ghana as a whole.

23. Nana Chairman, His Excellency the President, Otumfuo Asantehene, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, GLAHCO also has as its priority to undertake the following investments;

- i. The rehabilitation of Golden Tulip Accra to bring it to modern standards. It will start in May this year and completed in 6 months. This rehabilitation has been planned in such a way that the hotel will continue in operation whiles the works are on-going.
- ii. The development of the company's land at Osu which is occupied by MTN to an office complex and international 2-star rated hotel.
- iii. The development of the company's parcel of land at Tema near Aluworks Factory to provide warehousing facilities. It starts this year.
- iv. The development of GLAHCO's parcel of land at the Airport City enclave into a modern office building.
- v. The development of GLAHCO's agricultural land near Sogakope in the Volta Region to grow vegetables in commercial quantities for export to Europe. Discussion is on-going with prospective investors from Italy. This will be in addition to the production of mangoes.
- vi. GLAHCO is also in discussions to acquire an adjoining land for the purpose of expanding its hotel in Accra in future.

24. At this juncture, I would like express my sincere gratitude to the Governments of the two sovereign states, stakeholders and all individuals who helped in bringing this tremendous vision into reality especially just in time for the take off of the African Cup of Nations, Ghana 2008.

25. Nana Chairman, His Excellency the President, Otumfuo Asantehene, Colleague Ministers, Members of the Diplomatic Corps, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, I wish you all happy and prosperous New Year and extend my heartfelt wishes for every success in the operations of the Golden Tulip Kumasi City.

Thank you for your attention.

**ADDRESS BY HON. KWADWO BAAH-WIREDU, MINISTER FOR
FINANCE AND ECONOMIC PLANNING AT THE 46TH SPEECH
AND PRIZE GIVING DAY OF ODA SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL
ON SATURDAY 15 MARCH, 2008**

**THEME: THE NEW EDUCATION REFORM – THE ROLE OF
STAKEHOLDERS**

PROF. CHAIRMAN,
HON. MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT,
MUNICIPAL CHIEF EXECUTIVE,
NANANOM,
DIRECTORS OF EDUCATION,
HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS,
HEADMASTERS,
THE CLERGY,
PAST STUDENTS,
THE MEDIA,
DISTINGUISHED INVITED GUEST,
STUDENTS,
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I am indeed happy to be invited to the 46th Speech and Prize-Giving day of Oda Senior High School. The school was established on September 30, 1960; 48 years ago as one of the many Ghana Education Trust (GET) Schools of the first republic. The late Hon. District Commissioner Kwame Kwakye, Nana Frempong Manso III and other founding fathers would be proud to have been associated with this school.

2. The GET schools were set up as part of Dr. Nkrumah's Accelerated Educational Development Plan to make education available and accessible. Structures were constructed with similar architectural designs to satisfy the unity and oneness of purposes.

3. The New Patriotic Party government is determined to improve on what previous governments have done. The introduction of the new Education Reform emphasizes the importance of making education in Ghana more responsive to the needs of society. Choosing to discuss the role of stakeholders in the new education reform at this 46th Speech and Prize-Giving day is therefore right and appropriate.

4. Professor Chairman, the major highlights of the New Education Reform include a Universal Basic Education of 11 years; 2 years in Kindergarten, 6 years in Primary School and 3 years of Junior High School.

5. The medium of instruction would be through plays and games at Kindergarten and Ghanaian Language and English at Lower Primary. The reform indicates that after the Junior High School, students may choose to go into different streams at Senior High School.

6. To strengthen the teaching and learning process, Teacher Training Colleges will be upgraded to Diploma Status and conditions of service for teachers improved.

7. Professor Chairman, all stakeholders need to play complementary roles in order to achieve the total benefits of the reform. The government through the Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies shall be responsible for the infrastructure development, supervision and monitoring of Basic and Senior High Schools.

8. Travelling along the length and breadth of the country, one will observe that erstwhile dilapidated school buildings have been replaced with new attractive and learning friendly buildings. Thanks to the HIPIC and GET Fund. Where structures were not available, new ones have been provided.

9. At Oda Senior High School, government has spent over GH¢160,000,000 (i.e. ₺16 billion) in the provision of new structures and rehabilitation of old ones. The objective is to upgrade the school to the level of a model school so that citizens within the Oda Municipality and its environs would have access to state of the art education.

10. Professor Chairman, having realized the importance of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in the new education reform, the government is committed to providing the needed resources to build the infrastructural base that will effectively support ICT in schools.

11. The government has also shown its commitment to the cost-sharing concept by absorbing part of the fees that parents should have paid for their wards in the senior high school.

12. The introduction of the Capitation Grant and the feeding programme in the basic schools also shows government's commitment to making education accessible and affordable. These have led to sudden increase in the number of school pupils at all basic schools.

13 Government can only do more if we the citizens also pay our taxes. The source of income for any government is mainly through taxes.

14. Professor Chairman, our dear teachers also have a big role to play in making the new reform successful. There is the need to make your lesson delivery 'student centred and student friendly' through effective preparation. The need to mark assignments and prepare timely school reports cannot be over emphasized.

15. The new reform has made room for the establishment of a new National Inspectorate Board outside the Ghana Education Service, but under the Ministry of Education, Science and Sports that shall be responsible for periodic inspection of Basic and Secondary Schools to ensure quality education.

16. Government has created opportunities for distant education programmes and sandwich courses. Please take advantage of these opportunities to upgrade yourselves.

17. Professor Chairman, a very important stakeholder under the new education reform is the PARENT. Parents have the arduous task of helping to shape the future of their children. It is a god-given responsibility for parents. Parents, let us realize that we are building our future in our children. They will grow to take up the reigns of government and the administration of Ghana.

18. Professor Chairman, I would not have exhausted my speech if I were to leave out the role of the STUDENT or PUPIL. In Ecclesiastes 3:1, Solomon says "There is a time for everything and a season for every activity under heaven". Consequently, while in school, devote all your time and attentions to your studies to enable you pass your exams. Distance yourself from drugs and sex. Remember AIDS IS REAL.

19. Finally Professor Chairman, government is very much appreciative of the role being played by churches of late in setting up universities and other higher educational institutions. However, we hope the churches would move from the over concentration of programmes in the humanities and to initiate science and technology programmes to produce graduates who would carry the nation to the new era of accelerated socio-economic growth.

20. Let us all play our roles well so that our dear nation Ghana will achieve the target that we all have set.

God bless us all.

