

OPENNING REMARKS OF THE MINISTER FOR FINANCE &
ECONOMIC PLANNING,
HON KWADWO BAAH-WIREDU
AT THE LAUNCH OF THE 2057 BUDGET HELD AT LABADI BEACH HOTEL
ON THE 20TH SEPTEMBER 2007

His Excellency, the Vice President
His Excellencies, Ambassadors and High Commissioners
Members of the Diplomatic Corp
Fellow Ministers
Invited Guests
Our Friends from the Media
Ladies and Gentlemen

1. Ghana is a great nation; a nation of great people and a proud heritage.
Today, we are fifty years in our independence. And today, more than fifty years ago, we are better equipped to achieve our dreams.
2. Better equipped because we have made our mistakes, learnt lessons and had our achievements. We have grown stronger and wiser. We can look into the future with optimism.
3. Fellow Ghanaians and friends of this country, we are gathered here today to take a snapshot of Ghana in 2057; to capture in our mind's eye where we would be in fifty years time.
4. The "2057 Budget" we are launching this morning is 'a summary of the state of Ghana's economy fifty years from now.
5. Indeed, the 2057 Budget Statement of Ghana, likely to be read by a woman finance minister, will announce a GDP of 5 176 trillion US dollars and a per capita GDP of 60 trillion US dollars.

6. With year-on-year inflation at 2%, and interest rates in the neighbourhood of 3%, our international reserves would also have hit 2 years of import cover.
7. The "No Child Left Behind" educational policy would have been fully operationalised. Our educational system would be attracting students from Africa and beyond.
8. By then, the "Healthy Citizen" project would also have been concluded, and the eradication of all communicable diseases essentially completed.
9. With all this, our 77 years life expectancy would not be surprising.
10. But Ladies and Gentlemen, this document is more than a summary of the 2057 state of Ghana's economy. It is a reminder of the hardwork and dedication needed to achieve these goals.
11. We are a capable people, capable of securing a prosperous destiny for ourselves and our unborn generations.
12. In summary, Ghana will be a prosperous and globally competitive country stimulated by an agile science economy that is directly concerned with the generation, distribution and utilization of wealth in a progressive way.
13. We will be expert in managing change.
14. As His Excellency the President put it, there must be a shared commitment to the vision among all national stakeholders, to motivate them to strive for its realization.
15. Let all hands be on deck. Let everybody contribute his or her little, and surely we shall get there.
16. I thank you all. May God bless our Nation.