

**SPEECH DELIVERED BY THE HON. DEPUTY MINISTER FOR
CHIEFTAINCY AND TRADITIONL AFFAIRS,MR. JOHN ALEXANDER
ACKON AT THE LAUNCH OF THE FAMILY TREE OF THE ATSYIAME
CLAN AND FIRST ANNIVERSWARY OF ATSYIAME CLAN CHIEFS AT
DAGBAMEFE ON SATURDAY APRIL 19 2014 AT 10.00 AM**

Chairman,

Rt. Hon. Speaker of Parliament

Hon. Volta Regional Minister,

Dufia of Dagbamete,

Dufia of Atsyiame Clan

Hon. MP for Akatsi South,

District Chief Executive,

Traditional Rulers from the various Clans,

Distinguished Invited Guests,

The Media,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my pleasure and honour to be with you this morning for the launch of the Family Tree of the Atsyiame Clan. The ceremony incidentally is also to commemorate the first anniversary of the Atsyiame clan chiefs Union.

These events have a lot of significance in the promotion of our cultural heritage as a nation, and in particular that of the chiefs and people of Dagbamefe.

Chairman, Distinguished Invited Guests, Togbuioo, Mamawoo, I extend to you the warm and fraternal greetings of my Minister, Dr. Henry Seidu Daannaa who I am representing because he has to attend to other equally important official engagements.

Chairman, today's event is twofold as we have enumerated The launch of the Family Tree of the Atsyiame clan and secondly the celebration of the first anniversary of the Atsyiame clan chiefs Union. However, it is gratifying to note that these events have a common objective of promoting and fostering unity for the development of Avenor Traditional Area. One significant aspect of the event is that today the Chiefs and people of Atsyiame are witnessing the re-unification of their clans. I have been informed that the idea to put together this documentation which is being launched today is borne out of the desire to trace the origin of the various families and clans of the Atsyiame traditional area with the view to re-establishing the ancestral lineage of the clans. The Family tree is very symbolic and has a lot of significance. It redefines our history and

establishes our common identity. It is symbolic because every family clan has a stake in it. It is comparable to a normal tree which is held together by its branches, but as you cut off the branches, you dismember the tree. Therefore as families and clans, we owe it as our duty and responsibility to ensure the 'tree' is always protected. It is the branches that provide the shade and bear the fruits, and therefore we should be seeing ourselves as the branches that provide comfort for the family and even for generations yet unborn.

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, the Bible is a classic example of reference to the Family tree. It has the genealogy of Jesus whose family can be easily traced so that in itself gives us ample example for all of us to establish these family identities.

The Ministry of Chieftaincy and Traditional Affairs is advancing a project already started called 'Codification of the lines of Succession' which can be likened to what is being done here. If all traditional areas should follow your example, then the Ministry's job will be made easier and true lines of Succession would be clearly stated which will eventually reduce if not eliminate Chieftaincy conflicts in the country.

So the Ministry fully commends you and urge you not to give up but follow as new generations are born.

Today, the world has become very diverse and cosmopolitan. We leave our homes to seek greener pastures to enhance our standard of living. As we continue to strive this way, it is mindful on our part to be reminded of who we are and where we come from, in order not to lose our roots which is the foundation of our identity.

Chairman, Distinguished Invited Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, in my candid opinion, I believe that the theme for the event is well chosen to reflect the importance of the event. “Fostering Unity in Diversity for the Development of Avenor Traditional Area” is indeed a clarion call on all the indigenes of the traditional area, both home and abroad to come together as one people to promote the development of our ancestral home. Yes, as a people we may have our differences and our diversities in our approach to issues, our thoughts and even expectations. But these differences should not be setbacks to our unity of purpose to forge ahead as one big

family to drive the development of our traditional area to the next level. Let us always be reminded of the adage that in unity lies strength, united we stand, divided we fall. Our rich cultural diversity should be a source of our collective strength and serve as a pivot for our sustainable development. The Avenor Traditional Area is one of the traditional areas in the Volta Region which has the potential for growth and development. But this can only be achieved when there is peace, unity and collective responsibility on the part of each and every one of you. You need to garner your strength and resources together as one people. This will provide the opportunity for you to attract investments.

Thankfully, the chiefs in the Traditional Area have provided the initiative, and I must say that your support as citizens of the area is critical.

Chairman, Togbuioo, Mamawoo, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, as we commemorate the first anniversary of Atsyiame Clan Chiefs Union, dedicated to the unity and development of the Avenor Traditional Area, it is my firm believe, that this Union will grow from strength to strength. Next year, when another opportunity beckons us to celebrate with you, we hope to see some of the notable progress and achievements which have been

initiated and completed. On this note, I want to thank you once again for your invitation.

Thank you.