



**ADDRESS BY HIS EXCELLENCY FLT. LT. J.J. RAWLINGS
CHAIRMAN OF THE PROVISIONAL NATIONAL DEFENCE COUNCIL
ON THE OCCASION OF THE INAUGURATION OF THE EXTENSION
OF THE NATIONAL GRID TO THE BRONG AHAFO REGION
ON FRIDAY, JUNE 23, 1989**

Your Excellencies, Nananom. Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen.

I am happy indeed to be present here this morning to perform the inauguration of power supply from Akosombo to the Brong Ahafo Region. Today's ceremony marks the beginning of the fulfillment of the desires and wishes of the people of the Brong Ahafo Region from Akosombo hydroelectric power. Though the Brong Ahafo Region has for a long time enjoyed electric power supply from the diesel plants, the supply has been unreliable and costly to operate. Today, we in this region should jubilate over the realization of a wish fulfilled.

I wish at this juncture to extend my profound gratitude to the African Development Bank for providing the funding for the first phase of the Northern Electrification Project. I extend similar gratitude to the World Bank, the Canadian International Development Agency, the Commonwealth Development Corporation, the European Investment Bank, Saudi Fund, the Kuwaiti Fund and the Japanese Exim Bank for funding the second phase of the project that will take power to Bolgatanga and Tamale. We are confident that the success of this project will encourage them to participate in future energy developments of this country.

The elements of the Northern Electrification Project, which are being inaugurated today, mark the first step in the supply of the Akosombo hydroelectric power to the Northern sectors of Ghana. I am happy to mention that Brong Ahafo is the first Regional Capital to benefit from this connection. The inauguration of this substation goes to emphasize commitment of the PNDC Government to the country. The extension of the implemented are shared by all regions in the country. The extension of the Akosombo hydroelectric power to the Brong Ahafo region should therefore enable the region to expand its cocoa and timber industries for which the region is noted. You must also be prepared to share the proceeds from these industries with the less fortunate regions and people of this country.

With the availability of a reliable and dependable power supply, I am confident that you will expand your economic development of this region to support the Economic Recovery Programme.

As you are all aware, all good things cost money and the Substation, which is being inaugurated today, is being put in place at a high cost to the nation. I have however been informed that some unpatriotic elements have started stealing some of the components meant for the project. If this activity is not checked it would not only delay the project but would have adverse financial impact on the project. It would also mean that your brothers and sisters in the Northern and the two Upper Regions would be denied the facility you are enjoying today. I am therefore appealing to all the Organs of the Revolution, the Assembly men and all patriotic citizens to mount vigilance with a view to stamping out this act of sabotage and bringing to book all persons indulging in this act.

I am confident that the people of this region will not only put the new power supply to very good use

but also take very good care of it.

I take this opportunity to congratulate the two main contractors SAE Sadelmi and SICOM and also salute the workers of the Volta River Authority for working expeditiously to get power from Akosombo to Sunyani well ahead of schedule.

Your Excellencies, Nananom, Distinguished Guest, Ladies and Gentlemen, I wish to thank you all for finding the time to be with us on this memorable occasion. We also thank you for all the support you have giving us in our efforts to develop the country.

THANK YOU.