

**SPEECH DELIVERED BY MR. LEN ALLEN,
RESIDENT MANAGER OF ACRES INTERNATIONAL
CONSULTANTS FOR THE PROJECT**



Thank you Mr. Tibshirani,

Menanfo,

On this occasion there are no words that can adequately describe the deep emotional feelings that my wife and I are now experiencing on leaving this project and our many Ghanaian friends.

In 1952 as a young engineer I remember as if it were only yesterday measuring the Volta water at a place, which we no know as Akosombo.

In 1974 I once again stood with VRA ENGINEERS at this very point to complete the dam and power facilities, which we see here today.

Between the time of Akosombo and Kpong, I have been engaged with Acres International on power projects in many parts of the world. But I can sincerely and honestly say that my first and last love has been the Volta and the people of Ghana.

During my 11 years of work in Ghana I have been fortunate to get to know the true heart and mind of the Ghanaian people, which I must say, can only come with time. I have perceived their long cultural heritage and their enviable deep life values. I have shared their happiness and their sadness in camps at remote areas of the Volta watershed in the far north and in the depths of the excavations for the river structures here at Kpong.

These experiences have taught me that we are finally all brothers and sisters under one NYAM. We cannot do without one another. As the famous Ghanaian thinker and philosopher, Dr. Agreey, once said many decades ago: “for harmonious music, we need both the black and the white keys”.

My fervent wish in leaving Ghana tomorrow is that I will one day return – but that is a selfish wish. For Ghana I wish for more development that will benefit the people and their future generations, which I am convinced projects such as Kpong will do.

Menanfo Medassi Papa – a – pa! Nyame Inshramu, Inshramu