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MEDIA STATEMENT

69th Independence Day Statement: Building Prosperity, Restoring Hope through Agriculture and Agro Industry Transformation Agenda.

On the occasion of Ghana's 69th Independence Anniversary, the Chamber of Agribusiness Ghana joins the Government and people of Ghana in commemorating this historic milestone under the national theme "Building Prosperity, Restoring Hope."

As the leading voice of the Agri-food industry and agribusiness sector in Ghana, the Chamber believes that this theme resonates profoundly with the central role agriculture must play in shaping the nation's economic future. For nearly seven decades since independence, agriculture has remained the backbone of Ghana's economy. From the early post-independence period, when agriculture accounted for over 50% of national GDP and employed the vast majority of the population, the sector laid the foundation for Ghana's economic development. Cash crops such as cocoa, oil palm, rubber and timber positioned Ghana as a major agricultural exporter, while staple crop production supported food security and rural livelihoods.

Today, agriculture still employs more than one-third of Ghana's workforce and continues to anchor rural economies across the country. However, the global agricultural landscape has evolved dramatically. Nations across Asia, Latin America and parts of Africa have accelerated investments in agro-industrialization, agricultural technology, logistics systems and global value chain integration. Countries that were once food importers are rapidly becoming agro-export powerhouses.

In contrast, Ghana's agriculture sector currently faces structural competitiveness challenges. Despite abundant natural resources, favorable climate conditions and a strong entrepreneurial base among farmers and agribusiness operators, Ghana continues to experience rising food import dependency. The national food import bill has increased significantly over the past decade, placing pressure on foreign exchange reserves and exposing the country to global commodity price shocks.

Post-harvest losses remain one of the most critical systemic inefficiencies within the agricultural value chain. Conservative national estimates suggest that Ghana loses between 20% and 50% of agricultural produce due to inadequate storage systems, poor logistics, insufficient processing infrastructure and weak market linkages. These losses translate into billions of cedis in wasted production annually, reduced farmer incomes and higher food prices for consumers.

Furthermore, the global agricultural marketplace has become increasingly competitive. Countries are deploying advanced digital agriculture systems, climate-smart technologies, mechanized production models, and highly efficient agro-processing industries that enable them to export competitively priced agricultural products into global markets. Ghana's agro-industry must therefore adapt rapidly to remain competitive.



Against this backdrop, the Chamber of Agribusiness Ghana calls for a bold and transformative national agenda to reposition agriculture as the primary engine of economic growth, industrialization and food security. The Chamber strongly advocates for a comprehensive Seven-Year National Agriculture and Agro-Industry Development and Transformation Strategy, designed to fundamentally restructure Ghana's agricultural economy.

This national strategy should pursue ambitious but achievable national targets, including:

- ❖ Reducing Ghana's national food import bill by 60 percent within seven years.
- ❖ Reducing national post-harvest losses by 80 percent through modern storage, logistics and processing systems.
- ❖ Reducing food waste across the value chain by up to 90 percent through integrated food management systems.
- ❖ Expanding domestic agro-processing capacity to absorb local raw materials and increase value addition.

Achieving these targets will require a fundamental shift in national policy priorities.

1. The Chamber calls for substantially increased budgetary allocations to the agriculture sector, in line with and exceeding the commitments of the Maputo Declaration on Agriculture and Food Security, which recommends allocating at least 10% of national budgets to agriculture. Strategic public investment must be directed toward agricultural research, mechanization services, irrigation systems, digital agriculture platforms and climate-resilient production systems.
2. Ghana must prioritize large-scale agricultural infrastructure development. Rural feeder roads, integrated logistics corridors, cold chain systems, aggregation centers, commodity storage hubs and agro-processing parks are critical components of a modern agricultural economy. Without efficient infrastructure, farmers remain disconnected from markets and value chains remain fragmented.
3. The Chamber emphasizes the urgent need to expand post-harvest technology deployment nationwide. Modern storage facilities, grain silos, solar-powered cold rooms, mobile processing units and packaging infrastructure must become standard components of Ghana's agricultural system. These technologies will dramatically reduce losses while increasing product quality and export competitiveness.
4. Ghana must significantly strengthen farmer education, agricultural literacy and skills development. A modern agriculture sector requires a new generation of farmers equipped with knowledge in agronomy, climate-smart agriculture, digital tools, financial management and agribusiness entrepreneurship. The integration of agriculture into national technical and vocational training systems will be essential.



5. The Chamber calls for the establishment of structured agricultural value chains and commodity development programs that connect farmers directly with processors, exporters, retailers and international markets. Strengthening farmer cooperatives and producer organizations will be critical to improving market access and price stability.
6. The country must accelerate agro-industrialization. The development of agro-processing clusters and food manufacturing hubs across Ghana's regions will enable the country to transform raw agricultural commodities into high-value finished products for both domestic consumption and export markets.
7. The Chamber reiterates the urgent need for a long-term National Agriculture and Agro-Industry Development and Transformation Policy that transcends political cycles and provides continuity for investment, planning and institutional coordination. Agricultural transformation is a generational undertaking that requires consistent policy direction over decades.

As Ghana celebrates 69 years of independence, the nation stands at a pivotal moment. With the right policies, investments and partnerships, agriculture can once again become the cornerstone of Ghana's economic prosperity. The Chamber of Agribusiness Ghana reaffirms its commitment to working closely with government, development partners, financial institutions, research institutions and private sector actors to drive this transformation.

If Ghana succeeds in building a modern, technology-driven, agro-industrial economy, the country will not only restore hope but will also secure sustainable prosperity for future generations. Agriculture must move from subsistence to enterprise, from fragmented production to integrated value chains, and from raw commodity exports to globally competitive agro-industrial production.

This is the path toward building prosperity and restoring hope for Ghana

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