

**STATEMENT BY THE HON MINISTER FOR FOOD AND
AGRICULTURE, DR OWUSU AFRIYIE AKOTO ON THE
CELEBRATION OF THE 33RD NATIONAL FARMERS' DAY**

Mr Speaker,

Tomorrow, Friday the 1st. of December comes as the National Farmers' Day, and as it were, this august house needs to be informed accordingly.

Mr. Speaker, I therefore stand before you to speak to this important annual event that we as a Nation have set for ourselves to celebrate on the first Friday of December each year.

Mr. Speaker, the National Farmers' Day was instituted by the Government of Ghana in 1985 in recognition of the vital role farmers and fishers play in the economy. This Day was therefore set aside to Honour our hardworking Farmers and Fishers for their efforts in sustaining this important

industry. It is also to give very enticing awards to the farmers and fishers who have distinguished themselves by working closely with our research and agricultural officers, and through scientific methods, achieved commendable productivity. Also, the occasion provides us as a nation the opportunity to promote agriculture to the youth in particular and other potential investors in the agriculture sector including you honourable members.

Mr. Speaker, This occasion therefore calls for the blessings and support of all honorable members of this house to join the Government and Ghanaians as a whole to gracefully celebrate the event and make our farmers and fishers proud.

Mr. Speaker, the 32ND National Farmers' Day was celebrated on Friday, 9th December, 2016 at Kintampo in the Brong Ahafo Region. This year's celebration is the 33rd in the

series and the National Planning Committee has selected Kumasi in the Ashanti Region as the venue for the celebration.

Mr. Speaker, we have introduced a new dimension into the celebrations. The Farmers' Day celebrations ^{were} was officially opened in Kumasi by H. E. Dr Mahamudu Bawumia, Vice President of the Republic of Ghana, on 24th November with an 8-day Agricultural Fair. The fair was designed to provide every region a platform to showcase its wealth in terms of the variety and diversity of agricultural produce and potential of the region.

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The fair was also to afford stakeholders in the sector an opportunity to interact, share experiences and get exposed to new products, opportunities for investment and better

insight into Government agricultural policies. Furthermore, the regional focus of the fair was to provide an opportunity to blend the rich and unique culture of each region with agriculture to give the fair an added significance.

Mr. Speaker. The theme for this year's celebrations is 'Farming for Food and Jobs'. The focus this year is therefore on jobs for our Youth and sustained food security for the population. It is important to remind honorable members that the celebration is being co-sponsored by two Ministries: The Ministry of Fisheries and the Ministry of Food and Agriculture.

Mr. Speaker, the award winners ^{have been} will be in Kumasi ^{from} between 24th ^{until today} and 30th ^{Nov} November for ^{the week-long} an agricultural ^{hh} Fair with ~~exhibition and brief~~ tours of some selected agro Industries. ^{in Asho}

While we welcome ^{the Award Winners} ~~them~~ to Kumasi, I wish to invite ^{you} Mr Speaker ^{of this House} and
honourable ^M members to join us at the Heroes Park at the
Baba Yara Sports Stadium in the Ashanti Region on Friday,
1st December 2017 for the climax of this year's National
Farmers' Day celebrations

Thank you Mr. Speaker.