

**ADDRESS BY HON. IGNATIUS BAFFOUR AWUAH (MP),
MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT AND LABOUR RELATIONS AT
THE OPENING CEREMONY OF JUSAG'S 6TH TRIENNIAL
DELEGATES' CONFERENCE HELD ON TUESDAY, 8TH MAY,
2018 AT THE AUDITORIUM OF UNIVERSITY FOR
DEVELOPMENT STUDIES, WA CAMPUS AT 9:00 AM.**

Mr. Chairman;

**The Special Guest of Honour, His Excellency, the President
of the Republic of Ghana, Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo;**

The Keynote Speaker, Her Ladyship, the Chief Justice,

Madam Sophia Akuffo;

The Hon. Upper West Regional Minister;

The Vice Chancellor, University for Development Studies;

The Able Leadership and Members of JUSAG;

Distinguished Invited Guests;

Comrades;

Friends from the Media;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

I am very happy to be a part of this 6th Triennial Delegates Conference being attended today by all members of the Judicial Service Staff Association of Ghana (JUSAG).

Let me begin by expressing my profound gratitude to JUSAG and in particular, the leadership for extending an invitation to me to address you as the Main Speaker for the opening ceremony of this important conference. Certainly, I am very humbled and to be a part of this conference.

Mr. Chairman, permit me to also use this unique opportunity to pay my respect to the first gentleman of our land, H.E. the President, Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo and to thank all dignitaries present here today for taking time out of their busy schedules to join us grace this Conference.

The theme for the session "**Deepening the integrity of the Judicial Service: the Role of JUSAG**" is more than apt and fit-

for-the occasion. As a sector with the mandate to ensure harmonious industrial relations, we are very committed to ensuring that, the welfare of JUSAG members are not relegated to the ground. Why do I say this? It should be recalled that, during the last quarter of last year, JUSAG threatened to embark on a strike action concerning the non-payment of rent allowance to their members. The Ministry recognising the importance of Social Dialogue and the contribution of JUSAG in deepening Ghana's democracy, immediately constituted a Committee to resolve the impasse and bring the matter to a logical conclusion. Thankfully, with the support of all stakeholders, the matter was resolved amicably and has since become a thing of the past. The Ministry of Employment and Labour Relations therefore seizes this platform to express its deepest appreciation to JUSAG for their incontestable cooperation in the resolution process which has indeed paved way for the organisation of this all-important conference.

Mr. Chairman, notwithstanding the above pronouncement, it is prudent we acknowledge that, members of JUSAG have not been well integrated in our socio-economic transformation. Ironically, it is this same group of workers that safeguard our constitution and the least we can do for them is to, put their interest at the centre of our national development discourse. It therefore behooves on us to ensure that, JUSAG is adequately equipped to carry out its mandate as stipulated by the law. After 45 years of JUSAG's existence, it can no longer be business as usual. The Integrity of the Judicial Service in facilitating adjudication cannot be compromised and this is key to the health of the economy. A reliable Judicial Service reposes confidence in the citizenry, boost investor confidence, spurs economic growth and guarantees the right of establishment. In view of this, the Judicial Service we have today is as a result of our collective failure as a nation and going forward, we must change the status quo for the benefit of all Ghanaians and generations yet unborn.

Mr. Chairman, permit me to draw your attention to the Fundamental Principles of Rights at Work, a key pillar of Decent Work Agenda we seek to promote. Decent work sums up the aspirations of people in their working lives. It involves opportunities for work that is productive and delivers a fair income, security in the workplace and social protection for families for which pensions are integral. Government is ever committed to ensuring that, all these are in place within the medium to long term. This, we envisage will facilitate the attainment of full and productive employment and decent work outcomes for all men and women within JUSAG, including young people and persons with disabilities and equal pay for work and value. Against this backdrop, we are ready to dialogue with JUSAG to critically examine the conditions of service for improved service delivery.

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Invited Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, as I bring my address to an end, I cannot conclude without emphasizing the importance of Social Dialogue in the

World of Work today. Social dialogue has been a powerful tool in addressing most challenges within the labour front as well as promoting harmonious industrial relations among social partners. We cannot take for granted the relative industrial peace and labour front tranquility prevailing currently. It is not a coincidence neither is it the hard work of a single group but rather our collective effort as tripartite partners. I am pleased that, delegates and observers here present, who are drawn from all the JUSAG fraternity have assembled to deliberate and share experiences towards their contribution to Ghana's stability. We assure you that, government takes serious cognizance of your contributions to the world of work and the economy as a whole. We encourage you to be unwavering and open-minded in your deliberations as interactions of this nature could be time-consuming and compel you to be irresolute.

It is my fervent expectation that, this triennial conference will reflect concerns of JUSAG as well as meet the objectives of the meeting. Let's continue to engage, collaborate and share experiences towards the common goal of ensuring that, JUSAG's

role in deepening the integrity of Judicial Service come into fruition.

I thank you all for your attention and for having me.

GOD BLESS US ALL.