

**ADDRESS DELIVERED BY HON. MRS. CATHERINE RECKLING,  
DISTRICT CHIEF EXECUTIVE FOR SEKYERE SOUTH DISTRICT ON  
THE OCCASION OF GHANA'S 67<sup>TH</sup> INDEPENDENCE ANNIVERSARY  
CELEBRATION HELD AT THE AGONA PRESBY SCHOOL PARK ON  
WEDNESDAY, 6<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2024**

**Nananom;**

**Hon. Member of Parliament for Afigya Sekyere East Constituency;**

**Hon. Assembly Members;**

**Heads of Security Agencies;**

**Heads of Department/Agencies;**

**Teachers and Parents;**

**Students and Pupils;**

**Our Friends from the Media;**

**Ladies and Gentlemen;**

Today, we celebrate the 67<sup>th</sup> Independence Day Celebration and also commemorate what our heritage won for us through the blood and toil of our forefathers.

**Nananom**, as a nation we also pay homage to the valiant men and women who led our fight for freedom and independence. I salute our founding fathers led by Osagyefo Dr. Kwame Nkrumah, through whose untiring struggle and sacrifice, Ghana gained independence from the British Colonial masters on March 6, 1957.

**Nananom**, our independence from the British colonial rule was significant for Africa as it set the tune for other African countries to follow suit. Drawing from this precedence, Ghana has always been a trailblazer of the continent in many facets of life, hence being often referred to as the gateway to Africa. We must therefore be proud of ourselves and strive for excellence.

**Nananom**,

The theme for the 67<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration: “**Our Democracy, Our Pride**”, encapsulates the essence of what makes our nation truly great. Our democracy is not merely a system of governance. It is the heart of our nation, beating with the voices of our people. It is the cornerstone of our society, providing a platform for our citizens to participate in the decision making process and hold their leaders accountable. It is also the beacon of hope and inspiration, showing the world what we can achieve coming together in unity and purpose.

**Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen**

On this Anniversary, let us re-affirm our commitment to our democracy. Let us pledge to uphold the principles of justice, equality and freedom for all. Let us continue to work together to build a better future for our country and the generations to come. Our democracy is our pride and we must stand together to protect it. We need to celebrate this anniversary with gratitude for the progress we have made and a renewed determination to safeguard the values that make our democracy strong.

**Nananom, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,**

This year is an election year. And as we prepare to go to the polls on 7<sup>th</sup> December, 2024, it is crucial that we approach the electoral process with thoughtfulness, responsibility and a commitment to democratic values. All stakeholders must work together to assure the consolidation of our democracy and help us maintain our pride of place on the continent as a model of democracy in Africa.

I entreat all and sundry to stay positive and respectful. We have to engage in constructive conversations with those who have different opinions and avoid spreading hate and division. We must all be committed to the promotion of tolerance and respect, rather than resorting to violence or hostility to ensure a violence free election on 7<sup>th</sup> December, 2024.

**Dear Students,**

The Independence Day defines and constitutes our nation as a sovereign state. It is my sincere hope that the pride that radiates as you salute the flag today will blossom into deep patriotism which will make you revere, uphold and protect the national Constitution throughout your lives.

**Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,**

The dream of our founding fathers was that Ghana would be a free, progressive and prosperous country that would be the beacon of hope for Africa and the light of the world. That dream still lives on. Our generation should continue to be inspired by

that dream. Indeed the greatest honour we can give to the patriotic and gallant people who led the struggle for independence is to translate their dream into reality.

**Nananom,**

The peace we enjoy today would become a nightmare, if we do not begin to consciously cultivate a high sense of national vigilance in all aspects of our lives especially family values, the environment, chieftaincy, governance and security. It is an urgent task of all the people in the District to rise like one man, to rid the District of all security threats. One significant feature of the history of Sekyere South is that in the face of all trials, difficulties and disagreements, we are never torn apart. This indeed is an achievement we must be very proud of. We must try to maintain this cohesion and refuse to be disintegrated by any form of strife or misunderstanding.

**Nananom, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

As we celebrate 67 years of independence and sovereignty, it is worthwhile to remind ourselves that freedom is a living flame to be constantly fueled, and not a monument to be saluted and revered occasionally. Ghana's freedom must be an eternal flame to be continuously fueled by all our governments and people, because it defines our humanity.

Let us all resolve on this special occasion that Ghana's democracy must be made to work. It is through sustained democracy that we can bounce back better and build a peaceful, prosperous and united Ghana.

I am indeed grateful for your presence that had graced the occasion and made this year's parade a grand one. I congratulate the entire contingents for their smart turn out and the impressive parade that has added colour to this important National Day.

*I wish you happy Anniversary.*

*Long live Sekyere South District.*

*Long live Ghana.*

*Thank you for your attention.*