

**STATEMENT ON THE FLOOR OF PARLIAMENT TO MARK
THE NATIONAL CHOCOLATE DAY BY HON. CATHERINE
AFEKU, MINISTER OF TOURISM, ARTS & CULTURE & MP
FOR EVALUE-AJOMORO GWIRA**

Mr. Speaker, yesterday on behalf of His Excellency the President of the Republic of Ghana, Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo Addo, I joined the Chiefs and people of Mampong-Akuapem to officially cut the sword that will mark the commencement of work for the construction of a befitting Cocoa Museum to celebrate the life of Tetteh Quarshie and the millions of Cocoa farmers whose toil and hard work has fed the nation over the years.

It is expected that a year from now, when we celebrate our annual chocolate day, we will be back in Mampong to outdoor a modern facility that takes visitors through the entire production chain of chocolate - from farm to supermarket.

The museum will be an important addition to the tourism stock of the country providing an educational and relaxation experience for visitors. It is the first of several upgrades of Tourist sites we have earmarked for this year and also to honor Tetteh Quarshie.

Mr. Speaker, the theme for this year's chocolate day celebration, "Eat Ghana, Eat Chocolate" is consistent with our ongoing marketing campaign, "See Ghana, Eat Ghana, Wear Ghana and feel Ghana" being championed by the Ghana Tourism Authority (GTA). Through this campaign we have consistently promoted everything Ghana and re-oriented Ghanaians to the benefits of consuming our own products.

PARLIAMENT OF GHANA LIBRARY

Today at the newly constructed Events grounds at the Accra Tourist Information Center, I will chair the series of activities including exhibition of Cocoa products, a quiz competition for high school students, cocoa based recipe food competition among chefs and chocolate cocktail challenge among bartenders being held to mark the day. The celebration is being replicated in all regional capitals by the Ghana Tourism Authority. This evening, all arriving passengers to Ghana will also be treated to cocoa delights at the Kotoka International Airport. Digitally, there are competitions running on social media with attractive prizes for participants.

Mr. Speaker, this year's celebration has also been done at the back of a strong partnership model within the industry, with Cocobod, Cocoa Processing Company, Gihoc distillery, Chefs Association of Ghana, Tourism Society of Ghana and several other private sector operators joining forces with the Ministry and its agencies to celebrate our natural asset-Cocoa.

Mr. Speaker, in keeping with custom, we have set up a chocolate exhibition right in front of the house to showcase Ghana's cocoa. Each Honorable Member of Parliament is invited to a cup of cold chocolate drink. I wish you all a Happy National Chocolate day.