



Dr Paul Lartey, Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association of Ghana

Thank you for the privilege of addressing the launch of MeTA pilot in Ghana.

I bring you the best of wishes for a successful launch and beyond from the Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association of Ghana (PMAG)

PMAG is a trade association of 35 active companies that produce approximately 30% of the drugs used in our country. Our products save lives, improve health as well as enhance the quality of life of our people. Health is wealth, so we do contribute directly to the economic well being of our nation.

Nonetheless, it has long been recognized that we remain far too dependent on the importation of essential drugs. This is recognized and clearly articulated in studies and documents published by our Ministry of Health and this has also been clearly stated in the Health Strategies document of NEPAD, as an impediment to the development of Africa.

So we as an industry recognize the importance of growth and capacity building so as to meet the needs of our nation and beyond.

In terms of history, pharmaceutical manufacturing in Ghana is as old as the republic itself, having started in 1957, the same year as our independence. Like our nation we have gone through periods of major challenges, but we have emerged stronger and poised to make the transition and reformation needed to improve our competitiveness. Our membership is committed to building capacity, improving technology that will enable us to make an even greater impact on our health and economy.

We are all in this together. We count on the drugs we manufacture to help improve our own health, the health of our relatives, friends and loved ones. So aside from the fact that we are a highly regulated business, mandated by law to attain and maintain a high standards, we have to have faith in the quality and efficacy of what we manufacture.

We see MeTA as an important resource for partnering with all stakeholders in healthcare so as bring the transparency necessary to ensure that information the quality, pricing and availability of drugs is brought to the forefront.

We see MeTA as a resource for information needed for business decisions. Information on pricing and accessibility can help guide the path to profitability and hence sustainability and growth of our industry so as to meet the vital needs of our nation.

We also welcome MeTA as a means of demonstrating and showcasing the high quality of drugs we manufacture right here in Ghana.

To this end, we pledge our full support and cooperation to ensure that MeTA is a success.

Thank you and again congratulations.