

**WELCOME SPEECH BY MR. WILLIAM TEVIE, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS AUTHORITY AT THE TVWS WORKSHOP IN ACCRA, GHANA.**

*16<sup>th</sup> August, 2016 at the Holiday Inn Hotel*

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Distinguished stakeholders

Media partners,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Good morning.

On behalf of the Board, Management and Staff of the National Communications Authority (NCA), I welcome you to this workshop which is a continuation of the Public Consultation on the Television White Spaces (TVWS) Regulatory Framework. The aim of this workshop is to interact with you, our stakeholders, on the components of the proposed framework.

Improving the communications experience of Ghanaians is the vision of the NCA. Day in and day out, consumers are growing more and more dependent on the internet as means of communication and as a link to other resources for everyday life. Clearly, access to internet connectivity is almost becoming a basic human right.

Unfortunately, due to environmental obstacles, distance from major ISPs, and lack of financial incentives, connectivity is scarce in some areas with low population density. This results in expensive and complex networks with a lack of options for those living in these unserved communities.

The NCA believes that with the emergence of Television White Spaces this issue of inability to serve scarcely populated areas will gradually become a thing of the past.

Typically a home Wi-Fi can travel through two walls. White Space broadband on the other hand can travel up to 10 kilometers, through vegetation, buildings, and other obstacles. Tablets, phones, and computers can all access wireless internet using TVWSs through fixed or portable power stations.

Aside from connecting people, TVWS is also capable of connecting things. This technology can make connecting to home or work from another remote area a reality by offering a broadband signal capable of handling multiple devices as well as reporting large amounts of data across long distances. In the not to distance future, TVWS will encourage the creation of smart cities with interconnected devices to home, schools, shopping centers, municipal areas, and more.

The Authority has been regulating the communications industry for more than 20 years. Within that period, we have effectively promoted the use of radio frequencies and reached a realization that there is a broad social value for effective wireless communication. With your support we hope to ensure that TVWS also serves the consumer and the general public as effectively as possible.

In 2013, the Authority collaborated with Google and other institutions to carry out TVWS trials in Labadi and East Legon. The results of these pilot initiatives have helped us determine the capabilities of TVWS in reaching far reaching areas than Wi-Fi, the trials also indicated that TVWS can also be used as an extension of fixed-line broadband to reach places that are not connected via cable with resorting to line of sight technology such as satellite or microwave.

It is our hope that at the end of these deliberations, the final Regulatory Framework will be reflective of what will benefit stakeholders and the industry at large.

Thank you.