



Accra, 17th March 2017

Press release

Deputy Minister in the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, Mr. Thomas Silberhorn, has visited Ghana for two days to congratulate Ghana to 60 years of independence and to hold first high level talks with the new Ghanaian government.

In talks with the three designated Deputy Ministers in the Ministry of Finance, with Minister for Energy, Hon. Boakye Agyarko, and the Minister for Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation, Hon. Prof. Kwabena Frimpong-Boateng, Mr. Silberhorn highlighted that Germany stands ready to continue its long-standing and constructive cooperation with Ghana. Germany in its role as the current G-20 chair has put Africa on the top of their agenda. This and the EU-Africa Summit taking place in November 2017 demonstrate that the interest in Africa is rising. Mr. Silberhorn encouraged his Ghanaian counterparts to use this opportunity. Especially the new government's dedication to private sector reform link Ghana very well to the new initiatives coming up. He also emphasized that domestic revenue mobilization was key and learned from the representatives of the Ministry of Finance how Ghana intends to tackle this important topic.

Thomas Silberhorn also visited several projects profiting from German development cooperation. When discussing with the Ghana Interbank Payment and Settlement Systems Limited (GhIPSS) on the German financed biometric payment mechanism "E-Zwich", he stated: "Digitalization brings about great chances for African countries. Such an innovative payment mechanism does not only give many people access to the banking system. It is also a relevant tool for the new government to fight fraud and corruption." Since authorization in the "E-Zwich" payment mechanisms works through the biometric fingerprint, abuse is easily detected.

Another issue very high on the agenda of Deputy Minister Thomas Silberhorn and his Ghanaian counterparts is vocational training. The German dual system, integrating industry in the vocational training, is high in demand, and Germany has been successfully active in this sector in cooperation with COTVET for several years by now. Mr. Silberhorn visited the Accra Girls' Vocational Training Institute in Tesano, and was especially impressed by the training in consumer electronics for girls.

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