

# ECG to establish electrical, electronic engineering university

BY JONATHAN DONKOR

**G**OVERNMENT is to support the Electricity Company of Ghana (ECG) to upgrade its training centre to a tertiary one that will specialise in electrical and electronic engineering, education and research.

According to Minister for Energy, Boakye Agarko, this was one of the ways through which the government would support ECG to consolidate its leadership role in the electricity sector in the sub-region when the concession arrangement comes to a financial close in September.

In a speech read on his behalf at a dinner and awards ceremony in Accra on Saturday to climax the

Golden Jubilee of ECG, he said the training centre had the potential to support the capacity building and development of local expertise.

Set up in the 1970s at Tema in the Greater Accra Region, the centre currently trains ECG staff and other personnel from other companies and institutions in Ghana and the sub-region including The Gambia, Liberia and Sierra Leone.

Accredited by the National Board for Professional and Technician Examinations (NABPTEX), it operates as a division under the Company's Human Resources Directorate.

For contributing to ECG's operations over the past half century, 13 companies and institutions including World Bank, GCB Bank Limited

(Ltd), Volta River Authority (VRA) and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) were honoured at the ceremony.

Others were African Development Bank (AfDB); Nexan Kablemetal Ghana Ltd; Tropical Cables Ltd; Reroy Cables Limited; Dupaul Wood; Byes and Ways Ltd; A. T Kearney BV, a consultancy firm; Ghana Electrical Constructors Association and Public Utility Regulatory Commission.

A retiree of ECG, Emmanuel Okai, who worked for 43 years from 1974 to 2017 was recognised for his meritorious service.

Aside the upgrade of the centre, Mr Agyarko said the company would be assisted to leverage its human resource capacity, knowledge and

skills acquired in the past 50 years and commercialise its expertise.

Additionally, he said ECG would feature prominently in the government's drive to scale up generation of renewable energy by engaging its engineering services in roof top solar projects for homes and government agencies.

To aid the intended support, he said management of the company had been directed to develop and submit to the government, a new strategic plan and organisational structure.

He said the government's "beyond aid" vision and industrialisation drive through the one-district-one-factory was dependent on reliable power supply and would ensure that the entire electricity

value chain operated effectively.

Board Chairman of ECG, Keli Gadzekpo urged local companies to engage the concessionaire that would be selected and take advantage of opportunities that would be available in the arrangement.

He said the quality of retail electricity would improve following the concession and pledged that the board would contribute its quota to help shoot ECG up as the finest engineering company in the sub-region.

Managing Director of the company, Samuel Boakye-Appiah said the company had braced the odds and kept the wheels of industry running over the years and would continue to look into the future with optimism.