



INAUGURATION OF ADVANS GHANA HEAD OFFICE

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

BY

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SECOND DEPUTY GOVERNOR, BANK OF GHANA

Advans Ghana Head Office – The Hive | Wednesday, 7 October 2026

The Chairman for the occasion, Nii Adotey Odaawulu I, Sempe Akweiman Mantse, representing His Royal Majesty the Ga Mantse, King Tackie Teiko Tsuru II,

Your Excellency the French Ambassador to Ghana, Diarra Dimé-Labille,

Members of the Advans Group and Advans Ghana Board led by my good friend Mr Eli Hini,

The Chief Executive Officer, Management and Staff of Advans Ghana,

Chief Executive Officers of other Savings and Loans Companies,

Invited Guests,

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning.

1. I am delighted to be here to witness the inauguration of the new head office building for Advans Ghana Savings and Loans Company Limited. On behalf of the Governor, I congratulate the Board, Management and staff of Advans Ghana, the Advans Group, and everyone whose dedication and expertise made this possible.
2. Mr Chairman, Advans Ghana was incorporated in November 2007 and licensed by the Bank of Ghana in October 2008. In the nearly two decades since it opened its doors in Accra, it has grown to more than twenty (20) branches across several regions of the country. This building is a testament to the institution's confidence in its future, and a clear commitment to its long-term growth and continued contribution to Ghana's financial sector.
3. I understand that the Boards of all Advans subsidiaries have convened in Accra for this year's Advans Group Board Week. That you chose to gather here signals confidence in Ghana's financial sector and in the economy at large.
4. Since its inception, Advans Ghana has been pivotal in advancing financial inclusion, bringing low-income clients into mainstream financial services through innovative products and services.
5. Digital products such as the "MyAdvans GH" app have enabled more customers to access financial services easily and quickly while propositions such as

“AdvansHER” and the “Shea Business Empowerment Program” (SBEP) have promoted women-led entrepreneurship.

6. These strides are worth celebrating, and I urge you to keep rolling out innovative products and services for the unbanked and underserved. In particular, I would like to see tailored financial and non-financial products for young entrepreneurs who have great ideas but no capital or collateral. Cash-flow-based lending, credit bureau data and guarantee arrangements are among the tools that can help.
7. As the Bank of Ghana regulates and supervises savings and loans companies to promote safety and soundness, we also expect industry players to be more inclusive in their offerings, so that the real sectors of the economy can access financial services to grow their businesses and contribute to national growth.
8. But such products must rest on sound credit underwriting and risk management. Ladies and Gentlemen, the Bank of Ghana’s Notice on Non-Performing Loans issued to industry in 2025 sets supervisory expectations for credit risk management governance frameworks, establishes prudential limits on NPL ratios, and outlines remedial measures to address Wilful Defaulters. We expect regulated institutions to bring their NPL ratio to no more than 10 percent by the end of December 2026. The banking industry’s ratio stood at 16.1 percent at end-June 2026, down from over 23 percent a year earlier. However, for the Savings and Loans sub-sector the NPL deteriorated from 15.35% in July 2025 to 19.44% in July 2026. So, there’s some real work to be done in this last quarter to bring this in line with the regulatory expectation.
9. In addition to the regulation on NPLs, the bank is in the process of issuing a directive on Credit Risk Management. This directive aims to ensure that Regulated Financial Institutions (RFIs) develop and implement appropriate frameworks for managing their credit risk by establishing a robust credit risk environment; a sound credit-underwriting process; and maintaining appropriate credit administration, measurement, monitoring, and recovery processes and functions.

10. Over the years, the Savings and Loans and Microfinance sub-sectors have contributed significantly to financial inclusion, poverty reduction, employment and economic growth. They have reached the youth, women and MSMEs whom conventional banking often overlooks. A sector carrying that responsibility must be strong enough to bear it, and that is why the Bank of Ghana is reforming it. Let me speak plainly to our guests from across the Advans network, who are investing in Ghana's future. An international investor asks three questions of any regulator. Will the rules be clear? Will they be applied consistently? And is there a fair path to compliance? Allow me to answer each.
11. **Clear rules.** The reform replaces the former Tier 1 to Tier 4 structure with four categories: Microfinance Banks, Community Banks, Credit Unions, and Last Mile Providers, each with a defined mandate. Existing savings and loans companies may transition into Microfinance Banks, which are deposit-taking institutions serving mainly micro, small and medium enterprises, groups and individuals.
12. **A fair path to compliance.** Existing institutions have until 31 December 2026 to meet the minimum capital of GH¢50 million required to transition into a Microfinance Bank, while new entrants face GH¢100 million. The framework sets out clear pathways: meeting the requirement on a standalone basis, merging with or being acquired by another institution, transferring assets and liabilities in an orderly manner to a qualified institution, or exiting voluntarily. The aim is a sector in which every institution is strong enough to protect its depositors and keep serving its clients.
13. **Consistent supervision.** Fragmentation has allowed uneven supervision and regulatory arbitrage to persist. With clearer categories, institutions of the same kind will be held to the same standards. We also expect improved governance: Boards and Management must bring the skills, expertise and ethical standards that the work demands. The Directors of the Advans Group here today know that, in every subsidiary, accountability starts at the Board.
14. It is our expectation that when this reform takes hold, public confidence and trust will be rebuilt, financial inclusion will deepen as more of the underserved

gain access to financial services, and the sector will attract investors while strengthening local participation and ownership. We value long-term partners such as the Advans Group who invest alongside that local participation.

15. The success of these reforms does not rest with the Central Bank alone. It requires collaboration among financial institutions, government agencies, development partners and customers, and a shared culture of compliance, innovation, transparency and professionalism. Let us view the reforms not as obstacles, but as opportunities to build stronger institutions, restore and deepen public trust, and support Ghana's economic growth.
16. Let me commend Advans Ghana for its commitment to meeting the new capital requirements. I also express our appreciation to the Advans Group for the confidence it continues to place in Advans Ghana and for its support in helping meet the new regulatory requirements. We encourage other foreign shareholders to show a similar level of commitment to support their Ghanaian subsidiaries as all institutions work towards the end-of-year deadlines, for capital and for non-performing loans alike.
17. Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, in concluding, permit me to congratulate Advans Ghana once again on the milestones achieved over the years and on this new head office. I look forward to Advans Ghana's next chapter under the new framework, and to its continued role in serving the clients and businesses who depend on it.
18. I wish the Board of Directors, Management, Staff and cherished customers success in the years ahead.

Thank you.