

# GEA ENGAGES MINISTER OF BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT IN AN EXECUTIVE BREAKFAST MEETING IN KUMASI

The Ashanti Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) of the Ghana Employers' Association in Kumasi organized a Chief Executive Breakfast Meeting on Friday, 6<sup>th</sup> July 2018 at the Golden Tulip Hotel. The meeting, which was attended by the **Minister for Business Development, Dr Mohammed Awal**, was **to discuss pertinent issues affecting the business fraternity in the country.**



*From left: Mr. Amponsah Koduah (RAC Chairman), Hon. Mohammed Awal (Minister for Business Dev't), Mr. Alex Frimpong (CEO of GEA) at the Meeting in Kumasi.*

At the meeting, GEA called on government to involve its members in the implementation of its flagship One District One Factory initiative. It was reported that since the membership base of the Association comprises medium and large-scale businesses, the Association is poised to partner government to significantly impact on the successful implementation of the program, which is essentially private sector-driven.

In addition, the following recommendations were made for government's consideration:

- ✚ The need to help small enterprises within the Association to access the National Entrepreneurship and Innovative Fund to enable them mentor young entrepreneurs.

- ✚ The need to collaborate with the Ministry of Health to ensure that GEA members in the pharmaceutical industry are allocated products from the restricted list of medicines reserved for local manufacturers. These medical consumables could then be supplied to health service providers under the NHIS at a negotiated price.



*Participants at the breakfast meeting - Kumasi*

- ✚ The need for government to establish a funding agency where employers can access direct capital at a faster and efficient pace with minimal interest rate.
- ✚ Bridging of infrastructural deficit, particularly, road and railways network in the country, as measure to reduce the cost of doing business.

In his response, Dr. Awal pledged government's commitment to introduce business friendly interventions to grow the private sector. He indicated that the initial \$10 million set aside to support upcoming businesses has been increased to \$100 million, and that large-scale businesses will soon be supported as well. He also indicated that the concerns of the Association shall be tabled before other Ministries to make businesses flourish in the country.

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