



**STATEMENT OF AVM CEK DOVLO, COMMANDANT OF KAIPTC  
AT THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE WEST AFRICA  
PEACEBUILDING INSTITUTE (WAPI) 2010**

**August 30, 2010**

*Honourable Minister of the Interior, Mr. Martin Amidu*

*The Executive Director of WANEP, Mr. Emmanuel Bombande*

*The Deputy Head of Mission of the German Embassy in Ghana*

*Media Partners*

*Invited Guests*

*Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen*

On behalf of the Governing Board, Management and entire staff of the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KA IPTC), I wish to welcome all of you to this very important training course.

Over the last decade, Africa's political landscape has witnessed protracted, destabilizing and debilitating conflicts and unacceptable levels of human emergency which have not only destroyed our societies but also derailed every almost every legacy bequeathed to us by our forebears.

Today, we can cautiously say that we are gradually transiting into an era of relative peace and can add with all certainty that organizations like the West African Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP) have contributed largely to this.

Hon. Minister, at KAIPTC the execution of our core mandate of building capacities through research and training is underlined by the belief that peacebuilding is critical for the acceleration of peace and development on this continent. We are also of the opinion that if we must attain stability in Africa, capacity development, promotion of good governance, and protection of human rights must be critical policy priorities.

However, there is no gainsaying the fact that the pursuit of these laudable goals has been challenged by inadequate resource capacity and lack of expertise.

It therefore makes it imperative for this continent to develop strong human and institutional capacities to meet these challenges, as well as sustain advocacy in the peacebuilding process.

This is the reason why KAIPTC continues to collaborate with the West African Network for Peacebuilding(WANEP) and GTZ to conduct this annual course called the West Africa Peacebuilding Institute (WAPI) which has been crafted to facilitate capacity building in all spheres of peacebuilding and good governance for African practitioners.

Honourable Minister, a critical look at the course content reveals that this year's edition has been structured to respond adequately to the current and future challenges of peacebuilding in Africa.

Not only that, the facilitators selected for WAPI 2010 are experienced practitioners who will draw on our lived experiences, best practices and lessons learned from the field. I have no doubt in my mind, therefore, that WAPI 2010 will be a resounding success.

While congratulating participants for being selected, I also wish to encourage them to take full advantage of the experiences of the facilitators and their fellow participants. For me, this course should move beyond asking why there are conflicts and critically tackle the pertinent issue of how we can prevent their escalation. That is the only way the course will make significant impact on the lives of our people.

On this note, Honourable Minister, I want to welcome everyone once again to the Centre and wish you a successful training.

I thank you for your attention