

**SPEECH BY THE FIRST LADY  
FIREWORK DISPLAYS IN ABIDJAN**

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2017**

**Plateau**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I am very pleased to attend the **launch ceremony of the firework displays « Abidjan Perle des Lumières »**.

First of all, I would like to extend my greetings to **Minister Beugré MAMBE, Governor of the district of Abidjan**, for bringing many families together to attend this beautiful event organized every year.

Thank you Mr. Governor, dear brother, for hosting this light festival that has brought so much joy to our hearts for seven years now.

I also appreciate your kind words, thank you for all you do to make the city of Abidjan great.

Now, I would like to warmly welcome our dear sister **Mrs Clarisse DUNCAN, wife of the Vice-President** ; our dear **Great Chancellor Henriette Dagri DIABATE, as well as all members of the Government, Ambassadors**, here with us tonight, to celebrate the end of the year in this magic and joyful atmosphere.

I would also like to offer my greetings, **to Mr. Noël Akossi BENDJO, Mayor of Plateau**, whom I thank for his warm welcome address.

My greetings also go to **Mr. DAO Mamadou, Director General of Apotéoz**, leading this beautiful project with his team since it started. Congratulation to you dear brother for your passionate commitment in organizing this magnificent festival of lights.

Finally, I extend my greetings to our **honorable traditional and religious leaders** supporting us with their blessings ; as well as to all the people gathered here tonight to celebrate this beautiful event.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**Each end of the year at the same time, Abidjan sparkles with a thousand lights** in the most elegant ways. This magical moment so much awaited by children and adults allow us to symbolically open the Christmas season.

Indeed, this event « **Abidjan Perle des Lumières** » has become a long-awaited tradition for Ivorians over the years. **I still remember this month of December 2011, when the lights sparkled for the first time in the sky.**

It was wonderful to see parents bring their children to discover this beautiful show they had never seen before, and that no one wanted to miss. Today, several neighborhoods and cities of Côte d'Ivoire can enjoy the firework displays. To this end, I would like to congratulate again, the Governor of the District of Abidjan, for this beautiful initiative full of creativity and originality.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

The magnificent illuminations that were installed this year, were designed around the **word « Akwaba »**. I believe that this word is in line with the sense of hospitality and generosity of the Ivorian people.

This year illuminations also symbolize the incredible platform of exchange and development that our country has become over the last few years.

Moreover, on the night of December 31, we will again have the firework displays. I hope each of you will enjoy these wonderful moments.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**On behalf of my lovely husband President Alassane OUATTARA** and myself, I wish you a very happy holiday season.

I would like to extend my best wishes to you all and hope that 2018 brings you joy, peace and happiness.

Best wishes.

**Thank you.**