

**ADDRESS BY THE MINISTER FOR LANDS AND NATURAL
RESOURCES, HON. SAMUEL A. JINAPOR, MP, AT THE
INAUGURATION OF THE NATIONAL PLANNING
COMMITTEE FOR THE GHANA GREEN STREET PROJECT,
HELD AT THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE MINISTRY ON
TUESDAY 2ND AUGUST, 2022**

Deputy Ministers;

Chief Director;

Our revered Chief and Chairperson of the Ministerial Advisory Board;

Directors of the Ministry;

Friends from the Media;

Distinguished Guests;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

Let me welcome you all, and thank you, sincerely, for responding to our invitation to join us for this brief but important ceremony.

Ladies and Gentlemen, last month, when I took my turn at the Press Briefing to update Ghanaians on the programmes and projects being implemented by the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources in support of the President of the Republic, Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo's vision to bring the much-needed development to our country, I did announce, that the Ministry was going to inaugurate a National Planning Committee to implement another very consequential programme of Government, the Ghana Green Street Project.

Distinguished Guests, events around the world, call for urgent action to halt the devastating effects of climate change. Record-breaking heatwaves, ravaging fires across the European landscape and disruptive climate patterns have become the reality of the day.

It is for this reason that last year, we launched the Green Ghana Day to restore our lost forest cover and contribute to global efforts at halting climate change. But apart from their contribution to climate action, trees play an important role in the beautification of our cities, the quality of the air we breathe, and contribute to good health and well-being.

A look around some of the major cities across the world, reveals an intentional planting of particular types of trees, to add to the aesthetics of the city. London in the United Kingdom, Paris in France, and to some extent, Cairo in Egypt, Abuja in Nigeria and Abidjan in Ivory Coast, are just a few examples.

Government has, therefore, decided to implement this Ghana Green Street Project, as part of measures to beautify our cities and contribute to global climate action. The overarching objective of this Project is to plant appropriate tree species, capable of providing both aesthetic view and environmental related benefits for a healthy and sustainable world.

The Project will begin with the planting of trees along streets and avenues in Accra, Kumasi, Tamale and Takoradi. These four cities will form the First Phase of the Project, and will gradually be extended to all the sixteen (16) regional capitals of our country.

A robust and ambitious Project like this requires that we put together a dedicated team from relevant stakeholders, to see to the design and execution of the Project. The Committee which we inaugurate today is, therefore, made up of members drawn from

1. The Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources;

2. The Ministry of Local Government, Decentralisation and Rural Development;
3. The Ministry of Roads and Highways
4. The Forestry Commission;
5. The Ghana Highway Authority;
6. The Department of Urban Roads;
7. The Department of Parks and Gardens;
8. Zoomlion Ghana Limited; and
9. Mullen Lowe.

The Committee will be co-chaired by the Deputy Ministers for Lands and Natural Resources, and that of Local Government, Decentralisation and Rural Development, and their Terms of Reference are:

1. To identify principal or major streets and avenues in the cities where trees will be planted;
2. To identify resilient and fast-growing tree species to be planted in each of the regional capitals of the country;
3. To develop detailed strategy, work plan and budget for the project, including strategies for nurturing and protecting the trees planted; and

4. To propose sources of funding for the execution of the project.

As the rains continue to fall, it is expected that the Committee will start work immediately, so that we can take advantage of the current season.

Deputy Ministers, Nana, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, the Government of President Akufo-Addo, is committed to a greener, cleaner and beautiful environment that contributes to achieving Sustainable Development Goal 11 (building sustainable cities and communities), and Goal 13 (combating climate change). I am convinced that with the institutions represented on this Committee, and the expertise of the members, we will realise this noble goal.

And on this note, it is my singular honour and privilege to declare the National Planning Committee of the Ghana Green Street Project duly inaugurated.

Let us get to work and green our cities.

I thank you for your attention.