

**ADDRESS BY THE MINISTER FOR LANDS AND NATURAL  
RESOURCES, HON. SAMUEL A. JINAPOR, MP, AT THE  
NATIONAL LAND CONFERENCE, HELD AT THE ACCRA  
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE CENTRE, ON  
WEDNESDAY, 7<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2022.**

Mr. President;

Nana Chairman;

Hon. Ministers;

Deputy Ministers;

Members of Parliament;

My Lord Justices;

Chairman and Members of the Lands Commission;

Nananom, Niimeɪ, Naamei;

Distinguished Guests;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

I thank the President of the Republic for his continuous support to the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources, in the discharge of his mandate.

Mr. President, a couple of months ago, you graciously accepted our invitation and commissioned one hundred (100) mercury-free gold processing equipment, known as Gold Katcha, as part of measures to promote sustainable and environmentally-sound small scale mining. Shortly thereafter, on June 10, you led the entire nation to plant over twenty-five million (25,000,000) trees, on the Green Ghana Day, as part of our aggressive afforestation and reforestation programme. And today, you are here, once again, to open the National Land Conference, the first of its kind in the history of our country, and the second consultative assembly on land, since the coming into force of our national Constitution.

The first consultative assembly on land, resulted in the National Land Policy of 1999, which, until recently, provided policy direction for the management of our land resources. Though still relevant, technological advancement and infrastructural developments have created new challenges that require major reforms through broader consultations. That is why this national conference is being held, under the theme "***Leveraging National Land Policy, Legislation and Institutional Capacity towards Sustainable Socio-Economic Development.***"

Mr. President, the theme for this conference has been carefully selected to reflect the importance of efficient and robust land service delivery to national development. The Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources recognises the important role, secured land and property rights play in governance, peace and security, as well as sustainable economic growth and development.

Unfortunately, over the years, we haven't been able to construct an efficient land administration in our country. As a Ministry responsible for lands, we are not oblivious of the many challenges in our land service delivery and its attendant costs, including conflicting judicial decisions. For example, in several cases beginning with the **In Re Adjancote Acquisition case** delivered on 15<sup>th</sup> December, 1982 through to the Supreme Court case of **Agyei Osae** delivered on 7<sup>th</sup> May, 2008, the same parcel of land has been held to belong to the Shiashie Stool, the Klanaa Quarter Stool, Odaitei Tse We Family, Nuumo Nmashie Family, and the Osae Family.

Mr. President, I am happy to report, however, that under your distinguished and outstanding leadership, a lot of progress has been made. The Lands Commission has rolled out the Enterprise Land Information System (ELIS), and successfully migrated some of its operations, including searches, online.

Drones are being employed in surveying and mapping to produce accurate, georeferenced, and efficient orthophoto maps to support land title registration and base-maps for development of local planning schemes. Six (6) new, fully functioning, offices have been provided for the six (6) new regions, and land service delivery is being decentralised to the various regions.

We are also working rigorously to ensure the digitisation and digitalisation of the Lands Commission. This will lead to improved maps and spatial data, digital transformation, systematic recording, verification and creation of national cadastre and implementation of national spatial data infrastructure.

Mr. President, Nana Chair, Chairman and Members of the Lands Commission, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources is conscious of the centrality of land to national development. The adverse consequences of ineffective, fraudulent and weak land administration, is, perhaps, the most serious threat to our national security and development. But we are poised to build, here in our country, a robust and functioning land administration, which will discard the usual inefficiencies, fraud and delays, and which will be anchored on the principles of transparency and integrity.

I thank you for your attention.