



AUG 21 - AUG 26 2023

MINISTRY OF LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCES

MLNR WEEKLY E-NEWSLETTER



HON. SAMUEL A. JINAPOR (MP)

**MINISTER FOR LANDS AND NATURAL
RESOURCES**

ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK

(HEADLINES)

- **LANDS COMMISSION UPDATES NEWS EDITORS ON UN DRUG & CRIME REPORT**
- **GHANA'S DEMOCRACY AND STRONG LEGAL FRAMEWORK CONDUCTIVE FOR INVESTMENT – HON. MIREKU DUKER TO PERU INVESTORS**
- **MR. JAMES E. DADSON BOWS OUT AS LANDS COMMISSION EXECUTIVE SECRETARY**
- **“WE WILL NOT LET YOUR EFFORTS GO WASTE” - NEW LANDS COMMISSION BOSS TO PREDECESSORS**
- **LANDS COMMISSION CELEBRATES FORMER EXECUTIVE SECRETARIES FOR COMMITTED & OUTSTANDING LONG SERVICE**
- **NAELP HOSTS MLNR ADVISORY BOARD**



LANDS COMMISSION UPDATES NEWS EDITORS ON UN DRUG & CRIME REPORT

The Lands Commission (LC) has on Monday, 21st August, 2023 engaged news editors from key media houses to among others set the record straight on a recent report from the United Nations Office on Drug and Crime (UNODC) in 2021 which placed the Lands Commission as the 4th public sector agency in Ghana where corruption was most prevalent and 1st in terms of average bribe size.

Speaking at the forum, the Deputy Minister for Lands and Forestry, Hon. Benito Owusu-Bio established that the meeting was to make the citizenry know the position of the Commission on the report and further discuss on some innovative strategies being undertaken by the ministry to ensure a robust land service delivery system which is focused and result oriented. He acknowledged that the Lands Commission by their nature of work and current infrastructure, has made it possible for middlemen to operate and take advantage of unsuspecting clients.

He however stated, that a number of interventions are being pursued by the Ministry to scale up the commencement of Land Administration Reform project before the end of the year.

Hon. Owusu-Bio pointed out that some staff of the Commission who were dragged before court for stamp duty fraud are currently being investigated for possible prosecution if found culpable. He said, this punitive action will serve as a deterrent to other officers.

He assured the participants of the Lands Commission's readiness to serve its clients with efficient services, and for that reason an improved service delivery.

In a comprehensive presentation, the Executive Secretary, Mr. James Dadson addressing the UN report stated some innovative interventions to mitigate the issue. These includes;

A) Digitisation of Lands Administration Services

B) Modernised records management system

C) Delivery & Compliance Dashboard

D) Online payment of fees and receipts

E) infrastructural development amongst others.

Mr. Dadson touted some challenges affecting the Commission's work outputs as multiple sale of parcels of lands, inadequate equipment & tools, non use of professionals by the public among others.

He noted that under the auspices of the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resource, the Lands Commission has commenced processes to engage experts in the private sector to transform operations of the Lands Commission as mitigating strategies, way forward and the expected outcome.

Responding to a question from one of the editors on the Commission's absence in court on land litigation issues, Mr. Dadson indicated their engagement and collaboration with the judiciary to have better representation as far as land related cases are concerned.

He resolved that actions taken by the Lands Commission have genuine repelling effect on Ghana's economy.



GHANA'S DEMOCRACY AND STRONG LEGAL FRAMEWORK CONDUCTIVE FOR INVESTMENT – HON. MIREKU DUKER TO PERU INVESTORS

The Deputy Minister for Lands and Natural Resources, Hon. George Mireku Duker has outlined the effective legal and regulatory framework as well as the country's thriving peace and democracy as factors that guarantees success for investment in the country's viable artisanal small-scale mining sector.

According to the Deputy Minister, the determination of the government to sanitize the small-scale mining industry and eliminate the excesses that incur losses for industry players should be enough to stimulate the interest of investors in the sector.

Addressing a five-member delegation from Ansong Askew Company Limited, a mining company based in Peru, at the Ministry on Wednesday, 23 August 2023, Hon. Duker outlined that Ghana's mining regulatory regime is second to none on the continent.

He disclosed that the government views the small-scale mining sector as a platform to create local giants in the mining industry and that any investment that guarantees benefits for the locals without harming the environment is welcomed.

"Ghana has a well-regulated industry as well as the ASM is concerned. We have a legal framework. Democratically, we all know Ghana is one of the most stable countries in Sub-Saharan Africa and choosing Ghana as the place for your entry to Africa is the right choice", he said.

Mr James Askew, the Chief Executive Officer of Ansong Askew Company Limited outlined the processing capacity of his outfit, indicating that they are the biggest gold exporters in Peru.

He disclosed that the company has the capacity to transform the Ghanaian small-scale mining as it operates in a transparent manner and ensure traceability of the minerals they purchase.

He added that his company raised over \$200m from exportations last year with 97% of the proceeds staying in the country and being used to grow the sector.

According to him, local miners stand a chance of tripling their investment if they decided to transact business with his outfit.

Mr. James Askew indicated awareness of Ghana's ban on the use of mercury for mining, detailing that his company will not conduct their activities in a way that will have no negative ramifications on Ghana's environment.

After learning of the company's capacity and commitment to the protection of local interest, Hon. Mireku Duker expressed delight, indicating that it aligns with the government's policy and plan for the sector.

He further disclosed that the promise that over 95% of generated revenue will circulate in the Ghanaian mining economy is in accordance with Act 703 which dictates that the small-scale mining sector should be the preserve of Ghanaians.

He assured the delegation that the ministry will take measures to facilitate their smooth establishment in Ghana.



MR. JAMES E. DADSON BOWS OUT AS LANDS COMMISSION EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

After 30 years of outstanding service, the Executive Secretary of the Lands Commission, Surv. James Ebo Dadson has officially bowed out and gracefully handed over the baton to Mr. Benjamin Arthur as the new Executive Secretary of the Lands Commission.

At a brief handing over ceremony held at the Commission on Monday, 21st August, 2023, the Deputy Minister for Lands and Forestry, Hon. Benito Owusu-Bio on behalf of the Sector Minister, Samuel A Jinapor commended the great strides achieved by the outgoing Executive Secretary.

Hon. Owusu-Bio eulogised Surv. Dadson's efforts in advancing land administration in the country while disclosing that Mr. Dadson will continue his work as a Consultant at the Ministry to help in the transformation of land system in the country.

He urged staff of the Commission to offer their unwavering support to the new Executive Secretary and work harmoniously to make his work a success.

Surv. James Dadson on his part expressed his appreciation to the Lands Minister and the Commission for the opportunity given him to serve the nation.

He indicated that in spite of the different sections under the Commission, team work and hard work were the key rationale behind his accomplishment.

The outgoing Executive Secretary hoped that strong ties built among officers will continue even in his absence to improve work output and further boost the public's confidence in them.

On his part, the new Ag. Executive Secretary, Mr. Ben Arthur accepted the baton and conveyed his outmost appreciation, while assuring the gathering of his readiness to achieve greater heights.

Chairman of the Lands Commission Board, Directors and other members of staff took turns to wish both the outgoing and incoming Executive Secretaries well in their endeavours. Others also shared fond memories they had with Mr. James Dadson as he exits.



“WE WILL NOT LET YOUR EFFORTS GO WASTE” - NEW LANDS COMMISSION BOSS TO PREDECESSORS

The New Ag. Executive Secretary of the Lands Commission, Mr. Benjamin Arthur has given a firm assurance to the immediate past Executive Secretary of the Lands Commission, in the persons Mr. James Dadson and Alhaji Sulemana Mahama, that he will do his best to ensure that their efforts in building a strong land administration system is not wasted but put to good use. Giving a short speech at a send-off programme organised to celebrate the former Executive Secretaries on Wednesday, 23rd August, 2023, he said the work vested by his predecessors cannot be overemphasised. Adding that "I feel all the tree stumps have been removed the stumps on the bare Land and this will really make my work easy".

He opined that he is optimistic that with most obstacles removed to the barest minimum and with the work that has been done, he is certain that his work will be quiet smooth as he rides on their success to achieve the hopes and aspirations of the Lands Commission.

He appreciated Mr. James Dadson for the good training he has offered him while he worked as his deputy in charge of operations and to Alhaji for his continuous guidance over the years.

On his part, the outgoing Executive Secretary, Surv. James Dadson appreciated the Commission for celebrating him and for their support during his days as the Executive Secretary.

He particularly appreciated the Minister for Lands and Natural Resources, Hon. Samuel A. Jinapor for all the support and the Deputy Minister responsible for Lands and Forestry for always being available for the Commission's needs.

He hoped that same support he received will be leveled up for the incoming Executive Secretary to continue with the good work that has already been done.

He concluded his speech saying "The journey has been worth it. Good times and turbulent times but in all we sailed through. And truthfully, The team work has brought us thus far and I am grateful, Thank you all"

Alhaji Sulemana Mahama, retired Executive Secretary of the Commission before Mr. Dadson appreciated the organisers of the programme for the recognition and the celebration.

He gave a short advice to the incoming Executive Secretary and the other continuing officers saying "Stay true to yourself, stay true to your God, and stay true to the Lands Commission"

The National Chairman of the Commission, Mr. Alex Quaynor charged the Management and staff of the Commission to braise themselves for the tasks ahead as government makes efforts to support the Commission with adequate resources for an even more effective Land administration system for the country.



LANDS COMMISSION CELEBRATES FORMER EXECUTIVE SECRETARIES FOR COMMITTED & OUTSTANDING LONG SERVICE

The Lands Commission in Collaboration with the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources, has on Wednesday, 23rd August, 2023 organised a beautiful sendoff programme in honour of their immediate former Executive Secretaries Surv. James Dadson and Surv. Alhaji Sulemana Mahama respectively.

Following an official handing over ceremony held for the outgoing Executive Secretary, Surv. James Dadson, the programme had a dual purpose, which were to first appreciate the retiring and retired Executive Secretaries for their commitment and hardwork during their tenure of office and also to inspire the continuing Executive Secretary and other officers to continue with the hard work of promoting effective land administration.

Deputy Minister for Lands and Natural Resources, responsible for Lands and Forestry, Hon. Benito Owusu-Bio on behalf of the Sector Minister, Hon. Samuel A. Jinapor congratulated the duo for their contribution towards land administration in Ghana.

He applauded Mr. Dadson and Alhaji Sulemana for giving so much of his lives to building a better land administration system than it was before. Adding that "it therefore makes it very worthy and important to hold such a sendoff programme for them"

Giving the purpose of gathering, the National Chairman of the Lands Commission Mr. Alex Quaynor hoped that in the future, transitions will be smooth for the Commission to organise proper sendoff ceremonies like this for the Executives who have served the Commission and the country well.

He ended with a charge to the continuing staff saying "We are forging an institution together, it will not be easy but in all, we must have one objective, that is to do our best, work in the interest of Ghana, be committed to our work and let us always remember why we have come to work and do more".

Former Executive Secretaries and Senior officers of the Commission and the Ministry also took turns to wish them well and some goodwill messages from the Administrator of Stool Lands, Mrs. Maame Ama Edumadze-Acquah and other attendees were also taken.

The various institutions and Boards that these men have impacted, read and presented some citations to the Executive Secretaries for their instrumental roles well played for the Commission and for the County.



NAELP HOSTS MLNR ADVISORY BOARD

The National Alternative Employment and Livelihood Programme (NAELP) welcomed esteemed members of the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources (MLNR) Advisory Board at their Cantonment, Accra office on Monday, 21st August 2023.

The MLNR Advisory Board stands as a guiding force, mandated to advise the Sector Minister on matters concerning Lands, Mines, and Forests. Their role encompasses fine-tuning policy directions, refining planning objectives, and enhancing operational strategies to ensure optimal outcomes.

Under the guidance of Nana Prah Agyensaim VI, the Board Chairman, the visit to NAELP held a dual purpose. Firstly, it aimed to comprehensively review the ongoing activities of the programme. Secondly, it intended to evaluate the achievements that had been attained thus far and to address any challenges obstructing the path to future success.

Dr. Louise Carol Serwaa Donkor, the Coordinator of NAELP, deftly navigated the attendees through a comprehensive presentation that illuminated the programme's inception, its core mission, encountered obstacles, and the envisioned roadmap. She highlighted the three central pillars of NAELP: the reclamation of degraded lands, the establishment of sustainable employment opportunities for illegal miners, and the advocacy for responsible, viable, and sustainable small-scale mining practices.

Two remarkable accomplishments were unveiled by Dr. Serwaa Donkor – firstly, the successful reclamation of approximately one thousand hectares of land across the Ashanti, Eastern, and Western North Regions. This impressive feat echoes the programme's dedication to not only rejuvenating the environment but also uplifting the lives of those engaged in illegal mining activities. Secondly, NAELP has made incredible strides by providing employment to over 110,000 workers, with a substantial portion of this workforce being comprised of women.

Nana Prah Agyensaim VI, the Chairman of the Advisory Board, expressed deep appreciation and admiration for Dr. Serwaa Donkor and her team's outstanding efforts. He lauded their achievements and encouraged them to continue striving towards meeting their targets. On a reflective note, Nana Prah Agyensaim VI highlighted the often-overlooked lifestyle that accompanies mining endeavors. He called for a paradigm shift, advocating that individuals be encouraged to engage in sustainability ventures that ensure their holistic well-being. With these insightful words, Nana Prah Agyensaim VI concluded the meeting, setting forth a vision of more prosperous and sustainable paths ahead.

SECTOR MINISTER & HIS DEPUTIES



Hon. Samuel A. Jinapor (MP)
Minister – Lands & Natural Resources



Hon. Benito Owusu-Bio (MP)
*Deputy Minister in charge of
Lands & Forestry*



Hon. George Mireku Duker (MP)
Deputy Minister in charge of Mines

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