

JULY 31 - AUG 04 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 MINISTER AND UK FOREIGN SECRETARY LAUNCH PROGRAMME TO SANITIZE GHANA'S SMALL SCALE MINING SECTOR**
- **IN PICTURES: MAIDEN AFRICA WOMEN AND CHILDREN CONFERENCE (AFRIWOCC) ON CLIMATE ACTION HELD**
- **DEPUTY LANDS MINISTER LAUNCHES 2023 CLOSED SEASON FOR WILDLIFE.**



LANDS MINISTER AND UK FOREIGN SECRETARY LAUNCH PROGRAMME TO SANITIZE GHANA'S SMALL SCALE MINING SECTOR

The Minister for Lands and Natural Resources, Hon. Samuel A. Jinapor, MP, on Monday, 31st July, 2023, joined the United Kingdom's Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, the Rt. Hon. James Cleverly, MP, to launch a new programme to support Government's fight against illegal mining.

The programme, dubbed UK-Ghana Gold Mining Programme, seeks to eliminate illegalities associated with the small scale mining sector by increasing community resilience, promoting regulatory reform and supporting law enforcement. It will be implemented in the Ashanti, Savannah and Western Region.

At a short ceremony to launch the programme at the Kotoka International Airport, the Minister said the relationship between Ghana and the United Kingdom is historic, and the two countries have been collaborating to execute socio-economic policies and initiatives that have significant impact and benefit for their respective citizens, and that the gold mining program is yet another avenue where the two nations will join forces on a worthy cause.

He said the initiative will complement others being implemented by Government to fight illegal mining, including the National Alternative Employment and Livelihood Programme (NAELP), the Community Mining Schemes, and other law enforcement measures. Mr. Jinapor noted that the small scale mining sector is a strategic sector in the economic development of the country and that these several interventions being made by Government are aimed at purging the sector of its excesses and promote sustainable and eco-friendly small-scale mining sector.

"The relationship between Ghana and the UK has been long-standing. The Ghanaian government has taken the issue of illegal mining seriously because apart from the impact on our economy, its impact on the environment is dire. The government has taken some very bold steps like NAELP, Community Mining Scheme to ensure that we have community miners who adhere to the highest level of operational measures," he said.

He commended the UK Government for the initiative, describing it as a 'huge impetus' and boost to the fight waged by Government against illegal mining. He assured the preparedness of his Ministry to work effectively with the UK team to deliver in the programme.

On his part, the UK Secretary Of State For Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs commended the government of Ghana for the crackdown on illegal mining, opining that the fight is a bold step by government to do good with Ghanaians and protect them from the negative environmental impact of illegal mining.

He said the UK government is proud to associate itself with the battle by the Ghanaian government and will commit resources and personnel to ensure it works.

The new illegal gold-mining program will see the UK and Ghanaian government work together to increase community resilience, promote regulatory reform and support law enforcement.

The three-year initiative will see the UK government commit 3.9 million pounds to complement Ghana's fight against illegal gold-mining in the Western, Ashanti and Savannah Regions.

Experts and officials from the UK government will work with a Technical Team at the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources to ensure the workability and effectiveness of the program.

IN PICTURES: MAIDEN AFRICA WOMEN AND CHILDREN CONFERENCE (AFRIWOCC) ON CLIMATE ACTION HELD





DEPUTY LANDS MINISTER LAUNCHES 2023 CLOSED SEASON FOR WILDLIFE.

The Deputy Minister for Lands and Natural Resources, responsible for Lands and Forestry, Hon. Benito Owusu-Bio has launched the 2023 Closed Season for Wildlife Observation themed; "Effects of Climate Change on Forest & Wildlife Resources" at a brief event on Tuesday, 1st August, 2023 at the Achimota Basic School Park in the Greater Accra Region. The Deputy Minister announced that a ban will be placed on hunting, capturing and destroying of wildlife animals from August 1st to 1st December, 2023 as specified in the Wildlife Conservation Regulations.

"The only animal that could be hunted during this period is the grasscutter but this can only be done with a valid license issued by Wildlife Division", he added.

He asserted that climate plays a key role in the makeup and proper functioning of forests and wildlife resources and therefore, a change in climate such as temperature and precipitation (rainfall) can directly affect the health of forests and its resources.

Hon. Owusu-Bio announced the passage of the Wildlife Resources Management Bill, 2022 by the Parliament of Ghana on Friday, July 28, 2023. He said, the bill seeks to revise and consolidate all laws relating to Wildlife and Protected Areas which will be in conformity with existing policies and emerging trends in the natural resources sector.

He continued that the new legislation will also give legal backing to local communities in wildlife management through the creation of Community Resource Management Areas (CREMAs) and also introduce higher penalties and sanction regimes for wildlife offences, to serve as a deterrent to other perpetrators.

The Deputy Minister urged all citizens to observe the closed season while supporting Government's efforts to address illegality in the forests and wildlife sectors for the collective benefit of all Ghanaians.

In an interview with the media, he noted that through government interventions and partners, wildlife rangers and forest guards are being given the necessary training and adequate equipment's to effectively protect all natural resources which includes wildlife.

Mr. Sulemana Nyadia, the Deputy Chief Executive for Forestry Commission at the event described the importance of preserving wildlife and the impact of climate change on human lives and environment.

Mr. Nyadia said the implementation of the closed season will regulate the utilization and curb the decline of wildlife resources in the country which will ensure sustainable use of the resources for animals during their critical breeding periods. Awareness creation, he believes is very important in driving change and should inspire everyone to take up new lifestyle that will help the conservation of nature and the environment.

" We will enhance public campaigns to highlight the importance of our forests and wildlife emphasizing their role mitigating climate change and nurturing a vibrant ecosystem ".

Nana Akosua Konadu Agyeman Prempeh, Forestry Commission Board Commissioner and Chairman of the event on her part, explained that the closed season is a period of no hunting and capturing activities of all wildlife including antelopes, porcupine , elephants among others.

Certificates were presented to some basic schools for their participation in Wildlife Clubs, as well as some awards were presented to best students in the Wildlife Conservation Education Drawing Competition held.

UPCOMING EVENT

Lands Minister to inspect Jubilee project site on Wednesday, 9th August, 2023.

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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