



AUG 07 - AUG 11 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)

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CABINET APPROVES LITHIUM POLICY- IT COVERS OTHER GREEN MINERALS

Cabinet has approved a new policy for the exploitation, management and regulation of lithium and other green minerals in the country.

Often referred to as "minerals of the future", green minerals are metals and other mineral resources that are needed to support the transition to clean energy technologies aimed at reducing carbon emissions.

A wide range of minerals that fall under the umbrella of green minerals include bauxite, cobalt, copper, lithium, granite, manganese and nickel.

The Minister for Lands and Natural Resources, Hon. Samuel A Jinapor said this in an interview with the media on Thursday, 3rd August, 2023 that Cabinet approved the policy on July 27, 2023 after a rigorous interrogation.

Hon. Jinapor noted that the new policy would insist on a higher level of local participation in the green minerals value chain as opposed to the 10 percent vested interest the state had currently in mining entities.

He added that the overarching goal of the new policy was anchored on the principle that the exploitation of green minerals must benefit Ghanaians who were the true owners of the resource.

The Minister stressed that the policy was also focused on putting in place incentives and measures to attract the needed investments, adding that stabilisation clauses, development agreements and other measures would be put in place to give investors the comfort to put their resources in the sector.

He indicated that, aside from green minerals such as bauxite, manganese, granite and cobalt, Ghana has discovered commercial quantities of lithium, especially at Ewoyaa in the Central Region.

Hon. Jinapor explained that contrary to reports that some licences had been issued for mining lithium, the government had not given out any licences.

"No person or company has any permit or licence to mine or exploit lithium. The licences that were granted were for exploration, which is different from exploitation", he emphasized.

The Minister said, although the next stage was to mine the mineral resources, government's focus was to put in place the policy framework before moving into mining.

Globally, it is estimated that the lithium industry alone is valued at US\$ 11 billion at the mining stage, with the value of the industry at the highest end estimated at US\$ 7 trillion.



LANDS MINISTER INAUGURATES 10-MEMBER COP28 COMMITTEE

The Minister for Lands and Natural Resources, Hon. Samuel A. Jinapor has inaugurated a 10-member committee to plan and facilitate Ghana's effective participation in the 2023 United Nations Climate Change Conference on Conference of the Parties of the UNFCCC known commonly as COP 28.

The committee which is Chaired by the Deputy Minister for Lands and Natural Resources, Hon. Benito Owusu- Bio has been tasked to identify sources of funding for the acquisition of a pavilion, facilitate the participation of government officials at COP28, planning a Natural Resource and environmental sector PRE-COP28 event and also create a number of events at Ghana's pavilion during the COP.

Speaking at the inauguration of the committee on Wednesday, 09 August 2023, Hon. Samuel A. Jinapor said government has assumed a leading role in discussions about climate change on the globe and that there is rife expectations on the country to contribute immensely to the policy ideas and initiatives about the climate at COP28.

Hon. Jinapor disclosed that it is on the back of the huge expectations that he took the proactive step of setting up a committee to ensure that the country's representation and participation at COP28 is impactful and successful.

He disclosed that, Ghana as co-chair of the COP28 alongside the United States of America has an honor and a big challenge of delivering a successful conference and that the committee will have to execute to perfection its terms of reference so as to protect the country's reputation and image.

"For very good reasons, Ghana has become a leading country when it comes issues of climate action. For COP28, expectations are very high and our ambitions are also high and I felt that very early on, I put together a team of competent and capable people which will be chaired by Benito Hon. Owusu-Bio" he said.

The Lands Minister also proffered some suggestions to the committee on some the events that they can draw up to ensure that Ghana is well-represented at the conference.

He said "the Second Lady has become an iconic figure when it comes to climate action and I think that we should have a high-level event which will be dedicated to her where she can address audience at the event. I also think that you should have a panel discussion of high-level people. You can get John Kelly and other Ministers from forest countries to join me and the president," he said.

The Minister also stressed on the importance of highlighting the African story relative to climate change and climate action. He is concerned that the territory has remained uncharted hence the need for Ghana to explore it.

The Chairman of the committee, Hon. Benito Owusu-Bio welcomed the challenge handed him and the members by the Minister and assured that the committee will deliver perfectly.

He promised to provide the leadership necessary for Ghana to have a successful participation and stressed on the importance of COP28 for Ghana's climate action plans.

Other members of the committee are Mr. John Allotey, CEO Forestry Commission, Mr. Sulemana Koney , CEO Ghana Chamber of Mines, Mr. Martin Ayisi CEO, Minerals Commission , Mr. Joseph Osiakwah, Technical Director Forestry, Ms. Roselyn F. Adjei, Director Climate Change , Forestry Commission, Head Climate Change Unit (EPA), Mr. Emmanuel Okang, Head, Protocol Unit, Mr. Cletus Alengah, Mrs Juliet Osei-Wusu.

COP28 which is scheduled for November 30 until December 12, 2023 will be held at the Expo City in Dubai.



WE ARE NOT JUST BUILDING HOUSES, WE ARE BUILDING A COMMUNITY- DEPUTY LANDS MINISTER ASSURES

The Deputy Minister for Lands and Natural Resources, responsible for Lands and Forestry, and Chairman of the Appiatse Reconstruction Implementation Team, Hon. Benito Owusu-Bio has reassured victims of the Appiatse explosion of handing over a modern green community as expected.

The Deputy Minister maintained that, in spite of meeting timelines, " government is not just building houses, we are creating a modern green community with all amenities like good drainage systems, roads, markets among others to bring Appiatse back to life".

He gave this assurance when some members of the reconstruction Implementation team paid a site visit to Appiatse on Friday, 11th August, 2023 to among others inspect the progress of work.

After a careful examination of work at the site, Hon. Owusu-Bio charged the project consultants, AESL to pay close attention to the detailing of the houses and ensure that external works like the drains and roads should continue, when the rains subside however, wiring and plastering of rooms should proceed.

Hon. Owusu-Bio explained that buildings that were with partially destroyed will be assessed and rebuilt to their formal state. "Damaged roofs and windows which were adversely affected will be repaired".

He also took the opportunity to debunk the false news of completion of the project in 3 months while urging the people to exercise patience to get allow the smooth progression of the project.

Mr. Charles Blankson-Hermans, a member of the ARIT Committee also tasked AESL to urgently address roadworks and landscape to magnify the outlook of work as well as construction of the market, memorial and stores.

Consultants, AESL assured the Deputy Minister and team that all instructions will be taken into consideration and implemented soon.





VALCO IS LUCRATIVE AND OPENED TO INVESTMENT— HON. MIREKU DUKER TO STAKEHOLDERS

Hon. George Mireku Duker, the Deputy Minister for Lands and Natural Resources in charge of Mining, has entrusted the Management and Staff of the Volta Aluminium Company (VALCO) with the task of ensuring the total transformation of the company to enable it assume a strategic position in government's plans for the integrated aluminium industry which hinges on value addition.

The Deputy Lands Minister holds the viewpoint that VALCO under its current management has shown signs of making full recovery and that the Ministry is counting on them to revamp the company and return it to its once glorified status. Hon Mireku Duker who led a delegation from the Ministry to VALCO on Tuesday, 08 August 2023 made efforts to woo investors, stressing that with the company now looking to turn a curve, it has become an attractive package for the investing public.

He disclosed that VALCO is in a healthy state, currently on the cusp of becoming a profit-making company and that investors will not be a wrong decision investing in VALCO.

He noted with confidence the vision of the board and management and stated that he is positive about the future of VALCO. He also promised VALCO of the collaboration of the Ministry to facilitate the revamping of the company.

"I'm happy that we have people who will want to see VALCO revamped and as a country it sometimes worrying that we mine bauxite, export it in its raw form and turn around to import alumina at a very high cost. That's why the President in his own wisdom brought up the idea of upscaling value addition along the value chain by turning the bauxite into aluminium in-country and that VALCO is key within these strategic plans", he stated.

"I'm happy that Ghanaians will know VALCO is not going down as being discussed in the public domain. VALCO is in good hands and VALCO is going to progress. VALCO will be the shine of the country in a few years to come", he added.

"I want to assure the investor public that VALCO is lucrative and open to the market and we believe whatever they invest won't go to waste. We are available as a ministry to play our supervisory role and will ensure the company gets to an enviable pedestal," he said.

Mr. Daniel Nii Kwartei Titus Glover, the CEO of VALCO provided a thorough overview of the state of the company, explaining that despite some challenges facing them, they have made some remarkable progress.

He outlined the management's vision for the company which is to revamp and expand operations to ensure full utilization of the lines.

"As we stand now, we are not making full utilization of the lines. We were supposed to have 200 but because of the challenges, we are doing 117. The business plan is to achieve between 140 and 150 by close of the year", he noted.

UPCOMING EVENT

Deputy Minister's Working visit to Akroma Gold Company Ltd on Friday, 18th August 2023 at Nkawkaw in the Eastern Region.

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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