

ADDRESS BY HON. GEORGE MIREKU DUKER (MP),
DEPUTY MINISTER OF LANDS & NATURAL RESOURCES AT
THE COMMEMORATION OF THE 110TH ANNIVERSARY OF
THE EXISTENCE OF THE GHANA GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
AUTHORITY (GGSA) ON THURSDAY, 16TH NOVEMBER
2023

Mr. Chairman;

Eminent Traditional Authorities Here Present;

The Board Chairman and Board Members of GGSA;

The Ag. Director-General of GGSA;

The Advisor to the Minister on Mining;

Chief Executives and Directors of Government Agencies;

Former Directors of GGSA;

Officials of the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources and the
Minerals Commission;

Representatives of the Ghana Chamber of Mines;

Friends from the Inky Fraternity;

Captains of the Mining Industry;

Distinguished Invited Guests;

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am thrilled and particularly honoured to be part of this morning's ceremony, which marks the commemoration of the 110TH Anniversary of the existence of the Ghana Geological Survey Authority (GGSA), on behalf of the Sector Minister, Hon. Samuel A. Jinapor. Firstly, I bring you warm regards from His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Ghana, Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo Addo.

Distinguished Invited Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, it is always good to be back here at the Ghana Geological Survey Authority (GGSA). As we convene to celebrate the historical and current contribution to the country's socio-economic development through the application of Geoscience by the GGSA, we also consider the next century of even more outstanding Geoscientific contributions by the Authority to national development.

Mr. Chairman, Ghana is well endowed with substantial mineral resources and has a long mining history, pre-dating the arrival of the first Europeans on our shores in the fifteenth (15th) century. Apart from gold, the country is blessed with bauxite, manganese and diamonds, which we have been mined for close to a century, and proven deposits of lithium, iron ore, nickel, zinc, chromium, copper, cobalt, lead, columbite and tantalite, as well as industrial

minerals, such as clay, feldspar, limestone, salt, granites, silica sand and kaolin have also been identified.

Indeed, we cannot go without saying that the Ghana Geological Survey Authority has been instrumental in identifying potential mineral deposits, which have contributed significantly to Ghana's economic growth. For instance, their work discovered significant gold deposits in Tarkwa, Obuasi, and Prestea areas, leading to increased mining activities that have created jobs for thousands of Ghanaians over the past century.

The global energy transition and the scramble for green minerals project Ghana in a pole position to become a force to reckon with. More investment opportunities that hitherto did not exist are now present with us, with the first lithium mine set to begin production very soon. **It is, therefore, not surprising that the theme chosen for the 110th-anniversary celebration of the Authority, "Ghana's Sustainable Industrial and Socio-economic Transformation: The Pivotal Role of Ghana", is in order.**

Again, the Authority plays a vital role in the country's socio-economic development. The information GGSA collects and disseminates is used by other state agencies, consultants,

academicians, industry players, developers and the general public. This information is essential for the responsible and sustainable development of the nation's mineral, energy and water resources for safe and sustainable extraction and modernisation of infrastructure planning.

In recent years, the world's resources have come under severe stress due to rapid population growth and urbanisation, an incipient demand for raw materials to meet the needs of our modern-day sophisticated lifestyles, and the conundrums of climate change and environmental sustainability. The global demand for raw materials has doubled globally in the last twenty (20) years.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, as the express representation of the broad vision of the President of the Republic of Ghana and the Government, it is essential I lay before you the deliberate policy measures that have been formulated and implemented for the development of the mining and natural resource sector.

First, the government is pursuing an aggressive drive to diversify Ghana's mineral resource base to exploit the economic mineral resources, key amongst them being the critical or green minerals required for the transition to green energy.

Through the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources and its agencies, the Government is vigorously implementing far-reaching policies and programmes to bring sanity into the Small-Scale Mining (SSM) sub-sector. These include:

- i. Increased collaboration between the Minerals Commission and the Ghana Geological Survey Authority to conduct geological investigations in blocked-out areas to ascertain their suitability for legal and well-supervised small-scale mining;
- ii. The World Bank Supported-Ghana Landscape Restoration and Small-Scale Mining Project (GLRSSMP) is complementing the Government's efforts to identify areas which are geologically viable for small scale mining as well as increase the reclamation of mined-out areas;
- iii. The government is also working through policy measures and programmes to enhance institutional capacity by providing operational logistics and legal strengthening of the relevant agencies;

The Government recognises that, for GGSA to be more responsive and to contribute meaningfully to the developmental agenda of the Government through the provision of up-to-date geoscientific data,

there is the need to enact Legislative Instruments (LIs) to help operationalise the Ghana Geological Survey Authority Act, 2016 (Act 928). I want to assure everyone that the Ministry will be available to provide the necessary support to realise this vision, not just for the benefit of GGSA but for Mother Ghana.

Mr. Chairman, Our country is faced with challenges which require a more prominent role of the Authority in addressing societal challenges. These challenges are not limited to illegal small-scale mining (galamsey) or the rampant collapse of buildings but also include sustainable food supply, climate change, and disaster management that arise from natural phenomena such as floods and earthquakes.

In this context, Act 928 empowers the GGSA to conduct site or foundation investigations and issue certified reports before major construction works or projects that potentially impact the environment's subsurface structure, socio-economic, cultural and aesthetics. I hope these factors shall be considered with the development of the upcoming Legislative Instruments (LIs) of the GGSA to give firm backing to Act 928.

Distinguished Invited Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, The GGSA must continue to strengthen collaboration and stakeholder engagements with the Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies, Traditional Authorities and other Government Agencies to make the implementation process a smooth one.

There is also the need for the GGSA to expand its outreach programmes to educate communities on natural disasters and natural resources management, as well as schools so that young people can learn about them at an early stage.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, while it is safe to expect that this 110 years of GGSA will usher in changes to many aspects of the Authority, the future success will largely depend on how successfully it provides solutions to the changing needs of our country.

I am optimistic about the future and have confidence that the GGSA will gain strength in its journey as it continues to build on past successes and adapt itself to the ever-changing global landscape in the practice of Geosciences through partnerships and collaborations.

Let me conclude by congratulating the Governing Board, the Ag. Director-General, past Directors of GGSA, Management and the entire staff of the GGSA on 110 years of proud achievements. May the next 110 years be better, and may GGSA contribute significantly to the well-being of Ghana, our beloved country.

Long live GGSA !!!!!!!!!!!

Thank you for your attention.