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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)

- **GOV'T CLARIFIES OUTSTANDING ISSUES WITH CSO'S ON TERMS OF ATLANTIC LITHIUM AGREEMENT - LANDS MINISTER TO CSO'S**
- **AFRICA COUNTRIES NEEDS FINANCIAL BACKING TO ACCELERATE CLIMATE CHANGE EFFORTS— LANDS MINISTER**
- **CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION: THE TIME IS NOW— LANDS MINISTER TO WORLD LEADERS AS GHANA WRAPS UP COP28 ENGAGEMENT**



GOV'T CLARIFIES OUTSTANDING ISSUES WITH CSO'S ON TERMS OF ATLANTIC LITHIUM AGREEMENT - LANDS MINISTER TO CSO'S

Hon. Samuel A. Jinapor, MP, the Minister for Lands and Natural Resources has continued his staunch and relentless defense of the Ghana-Barari DV lithium agreement, revealing the key components of the deal that makes it unprecedented, Ghanaian-centered and an improvement from previous agreements.

Speaking at a forum organized by some Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) on the agreement on Friday, 15 December 2023, Hon. Jinapor took time to disclose key details about the deal, dispelling the false narratives, demystifying the myths around it and curing the political mischief which have generated following the deal.

He forcefully advanced the viewpoint that in the history of the country, never has any government signed a more profitable deal which has the interest of Ghanaians at its core.

The Minister explained the various clauses within the agreement, asserting his conviction that they signify a departure from the historically exploitative colonial approach to Ghana's mineral resources. Hon. Jinapor says these clauses align with the government's strategic direction, emphasizing value addition in the utilization of the country's mineral wealth.

The Lands Minister mentioned the listing of Bavari DV on the Ghana Stock Exchange which allows for potential Ghanaian investment through the purchasing of shares, the obligation for local participation and the value addition clauses as key components of the deal that contrary to some assumptions, ensures that Ghanaian interests reign supreme in the exploitation of the lithium ore.

"This is the first time that by law, we have made provisions that this company will have to list on the Ghanaian Stock Exchange. They are also required to have a minimum of 30% Ghanaian participation. We already have 19% so we have 11% and it could be more. This arrangement is the number one factor which in my mind jettisons the colonial term of mining.

"The second one is value addition. We've always had export of raw materials but this is the first time we have signed a mining lease with clauses which states that they will have to retain a significant proportion of the value chain by establishing a technical plant and refinery here in Ghana. It has never happened before," he said.

Armed with credible and relevant information from other countries, Hon. Jinapor, maintained that the lease agreement is the best the country could have negotiated.

"Australia accounts for 52% of global lithium production. Chile account for 25%. Zimbabwe is the largest lithium producing country in Africa and their grades are better than ours but when it comes to royalties, Australia pegs its at 5%, Mali pegs its 6% and Zimbabwe at 5%. The Ghana government has negotiated a 10% benefit which is twice Zimbabwe and Australia and 4% more than Mali," he said.

He also refuted accusations that the deal has been shrouded in secrecy, explaining the transparency has been the hallmark of this deal and that the signing ceremony with an active media presence is enough indication of the commitment by the government to the tenets of transparency and accountability.

Whiles welcoming criticism and feedback from the public, Hon. Jinapor urged critics to propose alternative and better deals instead of outlandishly rubbishing the one signed by his outfit.

He assured Ghanaians that the government will continue to pursue strategies, policies and commitments that serves and protect the best interest of the country.

The Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources in October, signed the first-ever Lithium Lease Agreement with Lithium Atlantic, an Australian mining firm, for mining of the mineral at Ewoyaa in the Central Region meanwhile speaking on Joy Fm's Super Morning show earlier on Friday, December 15th 2023, the Lands Minister used the platform to dismiss claims by a section of the public that the whole deal is being rushed stressing that " government did not rush in signing Atlantic Lithium agreement ", he maintained.



AFRICA COUNTRIES NEEDS FINANCIAL BACKING TO ACCELERATE CLIMATE CHANGE EFFORTS– LANDS MINISTER

Hon. Samuel A. Jinapor, MP, the Minister for Lands and Natural Resources, is urging global powerhouses to honour their commitments and fulfil promises made to African countries to enable the countries secure the funding necessary for the swift and effective implementation of their climate action policies.

In an interview with the BBC World Service on Thursday, 14th December, 2023, on Ghana's assessment of the 28th session of the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP28), Hon. Jinapor explained that the focus of the conference afforded Ghana the opportunity to remind the world of the ravaging effect of climate change and the need to accelerate plans for the building of a resilient global climate.

The Minister noted that the contribution of Sub-Saharan African countries to the global effort towards building a sustainable climate is 'negligible' and that the developed countries need to act immediately to empower the African countries upscale their climate action plans.

Touching on Ghana's participation at COP28, he disclosed that the country was impressed with the program which saw President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo launched the 'Resilient Ghana' program which is Ghana's climate action package. The outdooing of the country's package saw countries like the United Arab Emirates, US and others making commitment of financial support.

The Lands Minister appealed to them to fulfil those promises as the Ghanaian government believes that the package which is anchored on nature and forest-based solutions to climate change is the best for the world.

"Led by President Akufo-Addo, we participated fully in the conference. The President launched our policy on the sidelines of COP28. Ghana has an energy transition policy that focuses on renewable energy, sustainable production of power and various other interventions which have been rolled out in various aspects of the economy," he said.

Hon. Jinapor also disclosed that the country decided to accelerate its climate actions plans due to the impact already being felt in the country.

He noted with concern that the climate change has impacted the country significantly with the agriculture sector the most affected. He said that the government has moved ahead with measures that it is convinced will stem the crisis.

"The weather patterns in our country have changed and rainfall patterns have changed as well. Agriculture has been impacted hugely and farmers are unable to predict rainfall patterns. The negative consequences of climate change have affected most sectors of the Ghanaian economy", he said.

At the COP28, held from November 30 to December 13, 2023, Ghana signed an agreement which will see it receiving payment of up to Fifty Million US Dollars (US\$50,000,000.00) for emission reductions of up to five million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent, at a unit price of Ten Dollars (US\$10.00) per tonne of carbon dioxide equivalent.



CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION: THE TIME IS NOW— LANDS MINISTER TO WORLD LEADERS AS GHANA WRAPS UP COP28 ENGAGEMENT

As Ghana concludes its participation in the 28th session of the United Nations Climate Change Conference, known as COP28, the Minister for Lands and Natural Resources, Hon. Samuel A. Jinapor, MP, has emphasized the need for global leaders to take decisive, urgent, and crucial measures in addressing the repercussions of climate change.

Addressing a team of local and International press on Saturday, 9th December 2023, the Lands Minister stressed the need for the leaders to demonstrate their commitment to the fight against climate change by acting on the agreements, promises and resolves reached at COP28, hosted by the UAE.

Hon. Jinapor warned of the ruinous impact of climate change already being felt across the globe and cautioned of the risk total capitulation if global leaders do not back their promises with actions.

“The world is witnessing the relentless and devastating impacts of climate change. We cannot ignore the dire consequences we have experienced, the tragedies that have befallen us, and the challenges that lie ahead. We have seen seasons of droughts, woes of intense flooding, prolonged hunger, and the emergence of diseases, including the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic. These are just a few among the myriad of challenges we face as a result of climate change,” he said.

He bemoaned that two years of the Paris Agreement which is a legally binding International treaty on climate change adopted by 196 Parties at the UN Climate Change Conference (COP21) in Paris, France, on 12th December 2015, the world appears to be regressing when it comes to climate change crisis and its impact.

“At COP 21 in Paris, on 12 December 2015, Parties to the UNFCCC, reached a landmark agreement to combat climate change by pursuing efforts to limit global temperature increases as close as possible to 1.5 degrees Celsius. Eight years down the line we continue to grapple with the devastating effects of climate change”, he said.

“Indeed the 1.5-degree benchmark for limiting the effects of climate change, cannot be achieved without nature. It is an indisputable fact that forests possess great potential to generate a third of the global climate solutions needed by 2030 as major sinks of greenhouse gases. This is amply supported by reports from the United Nations Environmental Programme, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Food and Agricultural Organizations, and other renowned scientists,” he added.

Hon. Jinapor also reminded the world once again that the forest and nature-based approach which is the policy direction being championed by the government of Ghana is the most ideal and globally-accepted method of dealing with climate change crisis.

“Undoubtedly, the Forests and Land-Use sector has been globally recognized by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) as a significant contributor of nature-based solutions to help attain the 1.5 degrees target under the Paris Agreement. “Actions such as protecting natural ecosystems from loss and degradation, restoring ecosystems that have been degraded, and sustainably managing working lands can contribute significantly in mitigating climate change and in reaching the Paris Agreement role of keeping global warming below 1.5°C” he said.

He reiterated the commitment and determination of the government of Ghana to partner with countries, public and private agencies to build a resilient climate.

The Minister, therefore, charged the global superpowers to commit funds to the execution of nature based solution to the menace.

“I call on you, stakeholders, to commit finance towards nature-based solutions to resonate tangible outcomes. We must scale-up nature-based solutions to protect and restore our forests to achieve a 1.5 degrees Celsius world. I will leave you with a quote by the renowned English Primatologist and anthropologist, Jane Goodall, “Deforestation is changing our climate, harming people and the natural world. We must, and can reverse this trend.”

It is time to take action!”, he maintained.

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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