



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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- **GHANA SECURES \$30M UAE GRANT FOR FOREST CONSERVATION**
- **DEPUTY LANDS MINISTER ENGAGES TANZANIAN DELEGATION ON GHANA'S VALUE ADDITION, GOLD FOR OIL POLICIES**
- **GALAMSEY FIGHT: DEPUTY LANDS MINISTER RALLIES WESTERN REGION COMMUNITIES AGAINST ILLEGAL MINING**
- **DEPUTY LANDS MINISTER CHAIRS COCOA and FOREST OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE STRATEGIC MEETING**
- **HON. GEORGE MIREKU DUKER URGES SMALL SCALE MINERS TO SUPPORT GOVT IN THE FIGHT AGAINST ILLEGAL MINING**





## LANDS MINISTER ASSURES PUBLIC OF RESOLUTE ACTION AGAINST GALAMSEY

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The Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources, on behalf of the Forestry Commission, has signed a Letter of Intent with the Government of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) for the grant of Thirty Million US dollars (USD \$30,000,000.00) to provide additional/alternative livelihood support to forest fringe communities as an incentive for them to engage in enhanced forest protection, forest restoration and reforestation. This forms part of efforts by the Government of Ghana to achieve the biodiversity and climate objectives under the Resilient Ghana Package launched at COP28 in Dubai, last year.

In 2022, at COP 27 in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, the President of the Republic, H.E. Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, and the then Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, Rt. Hon. Rishi Sunak, launched the Forest and Climate Leaders' Partnership (FCLP) as a new political forum that brings together governments and partners to work together to implement solutions that reduce forest loss, increase restoration, and support sustainable development. Subsequently, at COP 28 in Dubai, Ghana launched her Resilient Ghana Package for nature, climate, and people, under the FCLP. The Resilient Ghana package includes an integrated system-wide suite of interventions to help halt and reverse forest loss while delivering sustainable development and promoting inclusive rural transformation.

It is underpinned by three key pillars, namely nature-based industrialization and rural development; future-fit green jobs and livelihoods; and scaling climate ambition. At the launch of the Package in Dubai, several countries pledged their support to the Resilient Ghana Package. UAE, the COP28 Presidency, as part of its commitment to contribute funds to target deforestation and biodiversity loss, committed to invest Thirty Million Ghana Cedis (US\$30,000,000.00) to enhance Ghana's efforts towards halting and reversing deforestation and forest degradation by 2030. This was followed by several engagements between the two countries to unlock the necessary funding to support the Package.

On the 27th September, 2024, on the sidelines of the United Nation Climate Week in New York, the Minister for Lands and Natural Resources, Hon. Samuel A. Jinapor, MP, on behalf of the Government of Ghana, and the UAE Minister for Climate Change and Environment, H.E Dr. Amna Al Dahak Al Shamsi, in the presence of the UAE Climate Change High-Level Champion for COP28 and President of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), H.E. Razan Khalifa Al Mubarak, on behalf of the Government of UAE, signed a Letter of Intent to provide up to US\$30,000,000.00 to implement the biodiversity and climate objectives of the Resilient Ghana Package and REDD+ Strategies.

The funds would be used to support programs ranging from targeted interventions within specific geographic landscapes in Ghana to wider ambitions for national level efforts. Speaking after the signing ceremony, Mr. Jinapor reiterated the Government of Ghana's commitment to developing strategies to restore habitats, protect endangered species, and promote resilient ecosystems. He noted that though the challenges were daunting, through collaboration and a shared vision, Ghana can pave the way towards sustainable solutions that benefit not only the country, but the entire global community. He expressed his deep appreciation to the Government of the UAE and all those who have been involved in the negotiations and discussions that led to the signing of the agreement, adding that Ghana will develop the necessary strategies to achieve the objectives of the Resilient Ghana Package.

On her part, H.E. Amna lauded Ghana for her leadership on forest and nature-based solutions to climate change. Commenting on the partnership, HE Dr Amna Al Dahak stated "Our partnership with Ghana is a testament to the UAE's focus on global biodiversity, climate, and development goals. It underscores our commitment to the UAE Consensus which calls for the ending and reversal of deforestation by 2030 and highlights the importance of protection and preservation of biodiversity.





## DEPUTY LANDS MINISTER ENGAGES TANZANIAN DELEGATION ON GHANA'S VALUE ADDITION, GOLD FOR OIL POLICIES

The transformative works of the government in the mining sector continues to make waves around the continent with several countries visiting Ghana, particularly the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources to understudy and assimilate Ghana's success story. The latest country to pay a knowledge-acquiring visit to Ghana is Tanzania who have sent a three-member delegation to Ghana to engage the Government through the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources and other relevant institutions on Ghana's impressive situation.

On Tuesday, October 1, 2024, Hon. George Mireku Duker, MP, the Deputy Minister for Lands and Natural Resources responsible for Mines hosted the team led by Archard Kalugendo, the Assistant Commissioner of Mines at the Tanzania Ministry of Minerals. During the meeting, Hon. George Mireku Duker espoused the unique features of Ghana's mining industry that makes a sustainable and revenue generation sector capable of funding key government initiatives. He commended the Tanzanian Ministry for taking steps to learn from established and experienced industry like Ghana, noting that as an emerging giants in the mining sector, it is imperative that Tanzania opens itself to knowledge sharing and support from countries like Ghana who are renowned for resource harnessing policies.

He disclosed that Ghana's mining industry is currently on a path toward complete refinement of discovered resources and that it is an ambition of His Excellency President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo to make Ghana the hub of value addition in the West African sub-region. Hon. Duker revealed through the establishment of Ghana Integrated Aluminum Development Corporation (GIADEC), Ghana Integrated Iron and Steel (GIISDEC) and others, the dream is in the final stage of being actualized. He also shed light on the Gold For Oil Policy which has been a significant intervention in the efforts to strengthen against other currencies.

He commended the delegation for indicating their interest in learning from the innovative policy, noting that it could be a gamechanger in their economy. The Deputy Minister assured the delegation and by extension other African countries of the openness by Ghana to share knowledge, resources and experience with the aim of improving the sector.

The leader of the Tanzanian delegation, expressed gratitude to Hon. Mireku Duker for what he considers to be valuable tips and said Ghana has a big brother role to play in helping African countries advance from mere mineral production to value addition. He was particularly excited with the value addition by Ghana and said that the time has come for African countries to chart the same path as Ghana as it is the only the countries can enjoy the full benefits of their resources. Mr Archard Kalugendo was in the company of Bahati Minja, ADFM, office of Treasury, Registrar and Joseph Ngulumwa- a Geologist Ministry of Minerals.





## **GALAMSEY FIGHT :DEPUTY LANDS MINISTER RALLIES WESTERN REGION COMMUNITIES AGAINST ILLEGAL MINING**

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As government intensifies the fight against illegal mining, popularly known as galamsey, Hon. George Mireku Duker, MP, the Deputy Minister for Lands and Natural Resources in charge of Mines, has embarked on an exercise to engage communities in mining areas on the importance of responsible and sustainable exploitation of the country's mineral resources. This week, Hon. Duker focused his sensitization work on communities in the Western Region, where he has been engaging leaders and members of small-scale mining groups, as well as residents of communities, on the risks posed by galamsey.

Addressing gatherings in Wasa Amenfi West, the Deputy Minister rallied small-scale miners against galamsey, enjoining them to actively participate in the fight against illegal mining. He warned the small-scale miners against undertaking mining activities in forest reserves and water bodies, highlighting the devastating impact of such activities.

He reminded the small-scale miners of their duty to the state by reporting illegal miners to the appropriate authorities for decisive action to be taken. He warned that their work could be badly affected if the government decides to ban all forms of mining. "Let's do everything possible to sack all illegal miners from our water bodies. Over the years, successive governments have tried to use the military to fight galamsey, but none of them succeeded. This shows that militarization of the galamsey fight won't provide a long-term solution", he stated.

"We are the ones who can solve the galamsey problem. The solution to the menace is not the deployment of the military. The solution lies in all of us showing commitment and willingness to protect our rivers and water bodies. It has been done in other countries, so we are the ones who can solve it. We can form community watchdogs to protect our water bodies," he said amid applause from the residents. At Prestea Huni Valley, the Tarkwa-Nsuaem lawmaker emphasized the need to place the interests of Ghanaians at the center of any policy or intervention in the mining sector.

According to him, God endowed the country with mineral resources for the benefit of the average Ghanaian, and the government is committed to ensuring that Ghanaians enjoy the benefits of these resources. He further stated that government is aware of the contribution of the sector to the economy and is therefore averse to imposing a complete ban on the sector adding that government will continue to undertake measures that will reform the sector.

Barbara Oteng, the Board Chairman of the Minerals Commission and NPP Parliamentary candidate for Prestea Huni Valley reiterated the commitment of the government to the small-scale mining sector. She outlined some of the innovations introduced by the government to sanitize the small-scale mining sector which includes the introduction of the Community Mining Scheme, decentralization of the licensing regime, among others

On Tuesday, Hon. Duker visited communities in Wassa Akropong and Wassa Amenfi Central, where he made similar statements, charging the small-scale miners to support the government's fight against illegal mining.





## **HON. GEORGE MIREKU DUKER URGES SMALL SCALE MINERS TO SUPPORT GOVT IN THE FIGHT AGAINST ILLEGAL MINING**

A call to duty has been placed on all licensed small-scale miners across the country to rise up and participate in national conversations about the illegal mining menace. The call was made by the Deputy Minister responsible for Mining, Hon. George Mireku Duker, MP, who warned the small-scale miners that their voices are important to help contextualize the illegal mining problem. Addressing a gathering of small-scale miners at Prestea Huni Valley in the Western Region on Wednesday, October 9, 2024, Hon. Duker noted that the miners have maintained a deafening silence on the raging matter of galamsey and that owing to their silence, the discourse is being swayed in a direction that could potentially deprive them of their livelihoods.

The Deputy Minister who has been a strong advocate for responsible small-scale mining, stated that he and the government need the public support of the small-scale miners to help take charge of the conversation and situate it in the right context. He explained that most people and organizations calling for a total ban on all forms of small-scale mining do not fully appreciate the peculiarities of the trade and that a public show of support to the government and education on how responsible small-scale mining differs from illegal mining will introduce some nuance to the ongoing discourse.

Hon. Duker emphasized that government is not against small-scale mining but rather has a set of lofty and powerful policies that will help shape the sector for the better. "Organized labor is against you. I have been defending you everywhere, but I can't do it alone. You also need to rise and support me. You need to help educate Ghanaians on the intricacies of mining so that they don't confuse your trade for illegal mining. We need to let people understand that mining isn't bad. We all know mining in water bodies is not good, but some people are doing it and they think it is you. If you want to protect your jobs, then you need to help the government get rid of those mining in water bodies," he said.

Hon. Duker noted that the sector provides direct and indirect employment to over 5 million Ghanaians and therefore the government is opposed to placing a total ban on the sector. He urged the small-scale miners to fight against the menace by supporting interventions by the government and reporting galamsey operators to the police. He believes that the ideal approach to tackling the menace of galamsey is the involvement of communities in mining areas.

Hon. Barbara Oteng, the Board Chairman of the Minerals Commission and NPP Parliamentary candidate for Prestea Huni Valley reiterated the commitment of the government to the small-scale mining sector. She outlined some of the innovations introduced by the government to sanitize the small-scale mining sector which includes the introduction of the Community Mining Scheme, decentralization of the commission's services to miners through opening more local offices, and facilitating licensing through the introduction of an expedited online regime, among others.

The Chairman for the Occasion who also doubles as the Divisional Chief of Prestea-Himan supported the minister's message and added that local communities should benefit from their natural resources. He also emphasized that all small-scale miners should not be painted with the misdeeds of a small recalcitrant part. Indeed, no new laws were needed; rather, the government should ensure enforcement against the recalcitrant.

The leadership of the Small Scale Miners' Association also supported the minister's message and added that they are presently undertaking a vigorous registration of their members and instituting a self-regulating framework like GPRTU. They entreated the support of all miners.





## DEPUTY LANDS MINISTER CHAIRS COCOA and FOREST OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE STRATEGIC MEETING

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The Deputy Minister for Lands and Natural Resources responsible for Lands and Forestry, Hon. Akwasi Konadu has chaired the fifth Cocoa and Forest National Oversight Committee Meeting on Friday, 4th October, 2024. The meeting, among others is to provide strategic guidance, make and approve key decisions to CFI implementation. In his statement, the Deputy Minister outlined some measures by government through the Ministry and its partners in fighting deforestation associated with Cocoa production and its willingness to improve the livelihood of Cocoa farmers and their dependents.

He stated, the introduction of Green Ghana Project and the passage of the Wildlife management resource bill, REDD+ and CREMAs are some efforts made by Government through the Ministry to enhance forest conservation and support livelihoods in Cocoa areas. Appealing to the companies present, Hon. Konadu said, the major challenge, however, is how to secure sustainable funding for the CFI National Secretariat operations.

The President of World Cocoa Foundation (WCF), Mr. Chris Vincent, commended Ghana's partnership with WCF in solving the systematic challenges of deforestation linked to Cocoa and restoration of degraded forests. He said, "Through this collaboration, we have seen important achievements on a number of fronts in Ghana last year". Mr. Chris Vincent stated that the CFI partnership will enable the cocoa sector to make further progress on the crucial issues of forest protection and restoration whilst strengthening farmer livelihoods and improving the resilience of the cocoa supply chain. The Technical Director for Forestry at the Ministry, Mr. Joseph Osiakwan led the presentation of key milestone on CFI since its previous meetings. Collective recommendations and decisions were made by partners from various Cocoa companies.

# SECTOR MINISTER & HIS DEPUTIES



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



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



Hon. Akwasi Konadu (MP)  
*Deputy Minister in charge of Lands & Forestry*



Prof. Patrick K. Agbesinyale  
*Chief Director – Ministry of Lands & Natural Resources*



# CONTACT US



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**2024**

**030 267 2336**

**mlnrgov.gh**

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