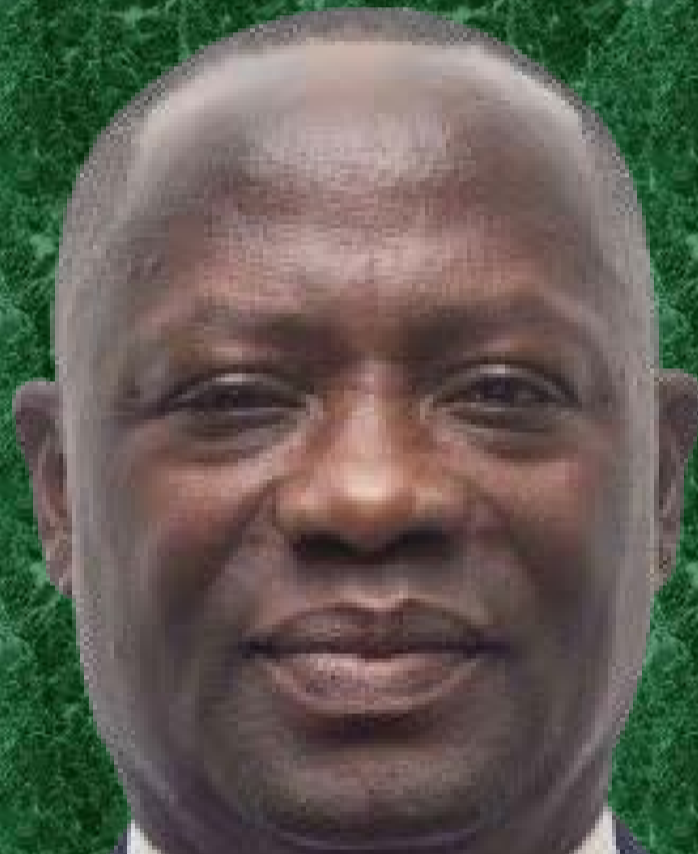


FEB 10 - FEB 14 2025



MINISTRY OF LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCES

MLNR WEEKLY E-NEWSLETTER



HON. EMMANUEL ARMAH-KOFI BUAH, MP

MINISTER FOR LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCES

ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK

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- **LANDS, INTERIOR, DEFENCE & ASHANTI REGIONAL MINISTERS INSPECT AFARIWA MILITARY HOSPITAL**
- **LANDS MINISTER AFFIRMS GOVT'S COMMITMENT TO SUSTAINABLE MINING; MEETS CANADIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER**
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OTUMFUO PLEDGES SUPPORT FOR GOVT'S RENEWED GALAMSEY FIGHT, AS HE LAUDS LANDS MINISTER'S REFORMS FOR THE MINING SECTOR

The Minister for Lands and Natural Resources, Hon. Emmanuel Armah-Kofi Buah, MP, on Friday, February 14, 2025, paid a courtesy call on the Asantehene, His Royal Majesty, Otumfuo Osei Tutu II. Disclosing the purpose of his visit, the Minister who was in the company of some heads of the agencies under his Ministry, stated that the blessings of Asantehene Otumfuo II is of paramount importance to him and the government. Hon. Emmanuel Armah-Kofi Buah elucidated that as the government embarks on a mission to reform the mining and forest sub-sectors of the country, the support and guidance of Otumfuo would be extremely important. The courtesy call was also to seek Otumfuo's buy-in for the programmes and projects under the ministry.

He eulogized the Asantehene for his outstanding and exemplary leadership, which is manifested in the lack of land-related disputes in the Ashanti Region, and made a humble appeal to the Asantehene to share his wisdom and leadership with him as he seeks to transform the lands sector through the execution of innovative and transformative projects. On the matter of illegal mining, Hon. Armah-Kofi Buah, commended Otumfuo for some major interventions he has made in the past and appealed for support for him and the government as they chart a new path which he is convinced will lead to a complete turnaround in the situation. He decried the devastating impact of galamsey on the country, noting that forty-four (44) of the country's Two Hundred and Eighty-Eight (288) forest reserves have been devastated by galamsey activities, with the turbidity level of the country's major water bodies moving from 5,000 NTU to 12000.

Asantehene Otumfuo Osei Tutu II commended the Lands Minister for the visit and expressed overwhelming confidence in him to deliver as the Minister of Lands and Natural Resources, and urged the Heads of Agencies and other officials of under the ministry to give him the required support.

Otumfuo, however, admonished Hon. Armah-Kofi Buah to address the root cause of the illegal mining canker, which is youth unemployment. He asserted that if the youth in the mining areas are exposed to meaningful and sustainable sources of livelihoods, they would resist the temptation of mining in water bodies and forest reserves. He also encouraged the government to go after the "big fishes" in the galamsey business, apprehending and prosecuting them instead of only focusing on the youth who go out to seek their daily bread, adding that the ministry should develop an although livelihood programme to cater for the youth. On the issue of Public Lands, Otumfuo also counseled the Lands Minister to ensure that the phenomenon of the indiscriminate sale of public lands to public officials is halted under his tenure.

He praised the Lands Minister for the aggressive afforestation initiative and pledged his support for the project, citing the Tree for Life initiative as laudable. On his part, the Ashanti Regional Minister, Dr. Frank Amoakohene, thanked Otumfuo for his support and advice and assured that he would work with the colleague Ministers to deal with the galamsey menace.

Earlier, Hon. Armah-Kofi Buah, joined the Ministers of Interior, Hon. Muntaka Mohammed-Mubarak, Defence, Hon. Dr. Edward Omane-Boamah and the Ashanti Regional Minister to tour the Afari Military Hospital, which was commenced by the Mahama led government in 2014 but stalled under the President Akufo-Addo administration.



WE ALIGN WITH YOUR AGENDA & READY TO HELP YOUR GOV'T SUCCEED - CHINESE, AUSTRALIA & US ENVOYS TO LANDS MINISTER

His Excellency, Tong Defa, the Chinese Ambassador to Ghana has disclosed that the Chinese government has been impressed by the policies and plans of the H.E John Dramani Mahama's government and prepared to serve as avid collaborators in the implementation of these innovative policies. In a brief speech made during a courtesy call to the Minister for Lands and Natural Resources, Hon. Emmanuel Armah-Kofi Buah, MP, the Chinese Ambassador commended the President, H. E. John Dramani Mahama for attending the Chinese Lantern Festival Celebration and delivering a speech of epochal significance.

Ambassador Tong Defa, who described President Mahama's speech as 'incredible' stated that the Chinese government, which has always been a strategic partner for Ghana is prepared to help the government's transformation agenda. The Lands Minister, Hon. Emmanuel Armah-Kofi Buah, in his address referenced the well documented history of Ghana's partnership with China which traces back to the era of Ghana's first president, Osagyefo Dr Kwame Nkrumah who interestingly hails from the same district (Ellembelle) as Hon. Armah Kofi-Buah. The Minister used the meeting to arouse the interest of the Chinese and Australia and US Ambassadors at separate meetings held at the Ministry on Thursday, 13th February 2025. The Minister stated that policies such as the 'Tree for Life and 'Blue Water' initiative present significant opportunities for Chinese investors to tap into a new market and generate benefits.



Hon. Armah-Kofi Buah also outlined the government's plan to shift Ghana from resource production to resource refinement and value addition noting that there are plans by government to revamp VALCO and that new investors are welcomed to leverage on the opportunity. He stated that the promotion of legal and sustainable mining activities is a priority among priorities for the Ghanaian government and that the Chinese, Australia and the US investors can trust the government of Ghana to create the necessary legal framework for their investment to thrive especially in the mining and forestry sub-sectors. The Lands Minister who doubles as the Member of Parliament for Ellembelle stated that the government will continue to partner the Chinese, Australia and the United States of America government for the country's growth.

Hon. Armah-Kofi Buah also received Her Excellency Berenice Owen-Jones, the Australian High Commissioner to Ghana with the conversation focusing on the mining industries in both countries with emphasis on how Ghana can learn from the success story of Australia which is one of the world's leading countries when it comes to mining. The Lands Minister further outlined the challenges confronting the Ghanaian mining industry, seeking the support of the Australian government and investment community in dealing with the challenge. Hon. H.E Berenice Owen-Jones, the Australian High Commissioner to Ghana, indicated the preparedness of Australia to provide personnel and logistical support to Ghana as the country navigates its illegal mining challenge. She promised to engage relevant stakeholders and ensure that the government gets the required support to turn around the situations about its river bodies and forests.

Meanwhile, the United States of America High Ambassador to Ghana Her Excellency Ms. Virginia E. Palmer also paid a courtesy call on the Hon. Minister. She congratulated the Lands Minister on his appointment and also discussed ways of deepening bilateral cooperation between Ghana and the United States. The Hon. Minister in his response admitted the importance of collaborating with the US government to improve Ghana's forest management especially through programmes such as women in afforestation. He added that government through the Ministry will revive and sanitize the mining sector to boost productivity and value addition.





LANDS MINISTER INAUGURATES 18 MEMBER COMMITTEE TO SANITIZE GHANA'S MINING SUB-SECTOR

The Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources has been walking the talk regarding the fight against illegal mining and the protection of the environment as it has collaborated with the Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology to establish a committee to develop a blueprint for the reformation and sanitization of the mining sector. The 18-member committee, Chaired by Professor Oteng Ababio of the University of Ghana, has been given a two-week ultimatum to develop and create a strategy that will serve as the vade mecum for reforming Ghana's mining sector.

In accordance with its terms of reference, the committee will, among other things, review the licensing regime and procedures in the mining industry, assess mining activities in forest reserves, suggest methods to stop mining in water bodies and propose solutions to address issues facing the mining sector. Hon. Armah-Kofi Buah recognized the mining sector as a critical component of Ghana's economic development, noting that all efforts must be geared towards ridding the sector of excesses to ensure maximum benefit. Hence, the inauguration of the committee comprising of select individuals of high competency across diverse backgrounds with the technical know-how in the fight against illegal mining and the transformation of the mining sector. He lamented the wanton destruction of Ghana's river and forest resources, noting that 15% (a staggering 44) out of Ghana's 288 forest reserves have become victims of indiscriminate illegal mining activities. Leveraging a presentation from the institutions in the Water And Resources sector, the Minister noted worryingly that the water being consumed by Ghanaians is nearly poisonous and that radical measures are needed to address it.

He noted that H.E. President John Dramani Mahama made a commitment to Ghanaians to restore the color and quality of the country's water bodies to their natural status and also restore the forest reserves and that he is bent on delivering on the commitment to Ghanaians. He expressed confidence in the respected members of the committee to sacrifice their time and resources to deliver an efficient blueprint that would help save Ghana from the destructive effects of galamsey. On his part, the Minister of Environment, Science and Technology, Hon. Ibrahim Murtala Muhammed emphasized that the challenge facing the country in the fight against illegal mining and the mission to protect Ghana's forest and waterbodies is multifaceted one which requires a multifaceted approach. He stated that through broad stakeholder collaborations, Ghana under the leadership of President John Dramani Mahama will turn the corner in the fight against galamsey.

Nana Agyeman Badu II, Dormahene – a member of the committee, and the Representative of the National House of Chiefs in his remarks commended the efforts of the government and assured of the unwavering support of the Traditional Authorities in the fight. He also expressed confidence in the committee members to deliver on their mandate and assured that the ministries will provide support for the committee to work effectively. The Chairman of the committee, Professor Oteng Ababio thanked the Ministers for their commitment, assured them of quality work, and promised to deliver during the two-week ultimatum given. The committee is made up of experts from the offices of;• The Attorney-General and Minister for Justice,• Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology,• Forestry Commission• Environmental Protection Agency• Minerals Commission• Centre for Extractive Development – Africa (CEDA) representing Civil Society• Ghana Chamber of Mines• Ghana National Association of Small-Scale Miners• Water Resources Commission• The Ghana Armed Forces• The Ghana Police Service• National House of Chiefs• Lands Commission• Ghana Geological Survey Authority• Technical Directors of the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources – Mines, Forestry and Lands



LANDS MINISTER AFFIRMS GOVT'S COMMITMENT TO SUSTAINABLE MINING; MEETS CANADIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER

The Canadian High Commissioner to Ghana, H.E. Myriam Monrat, on Tuesday, February 11, 2025 paid a courtesy call on the Minister for Lands and Natural Resources, Hon. Emmanuel Armah-Kofi Buah, MP. Inherent in the discussions is the commitment of both countries to the fight against illegal mining as well as investment opportunities available in Ghana's extractive sector to Canadian companies. The visit also saw the High Commissioner and the Hon. Minister affirm their cooperation and collaboration for the upcoming Prospectors & Developers Association of Canada (PDAC) Mineral exploration & Mining Convention in Toronto, Canada.

Hon. Armah-Kofi Buah emphasized the commitment of the Ghanaian government to overhaul the mining sector to create a sustainable environment that provides massive returns to investors and contribute to national development. He explained that the government through his Ministry is seeking to eradicate the bottlenecks in the mining licensing regime and make it accessible to investors who commit to undertaking their mining activities in conformity with Ghana's climate and environmental protection laws.

"We must review our process too make things simple. The issue of corruption will be taken seriously I can assure you. The government of H. E John Dramani Mahama is committed to making sure that companies that are doing businesses must feel that the systems are clear, while stressing that we must review our process and no need to see any big man", he said. The Lands Minister affirmed Ghana's participation in the Prospectors & Developers Association of Canada (PDAC) which will showcase exploration companies, governments, equipment, and service providers in the mining industry worldwide.

The meeting also highlighted the mutual relations between Ghana and Canada, with the Lands Minister expressing his appreciation for Canada's support and cooperation over the years. The High Commissioner noted that both countries have historically shared common interests and that the area of mining presents another opportunity for both countries to upscale and expand their partnership.



LANDS, INTERIOR, DEFENCE & ASHANTI REGIONAL MINISTERS INSPECT AFARIWA MILITARY HOSPITAL

Lands, Interior, Defence & Ashanti Regional Ministers inspect Afariwa Military Hospital in Kumasi amidst Enchronment of hospital Lands among others. Hospital set to be completed in September, 2025.





LANDS MINISTRY POISED FOR SUCCESS AS MINISTER PLEDGES TO DRIVE POSITIVE CHANGE

The Minister for Lands and Natural Resources, Hon. Emmanuel Armah-Kofi Buah, MP on Tuesday, February 11, 2025, held his maiden engagement with Heads of all the various agencies under the Ministry. The session was an avenue for the leadership of the agencies to discuss the unique challenges they face in their operations and explore ways to enhance collaboration in order to fulfill President Mahama's vision for the lands and natural resources sector.

Expressing gratitude for the warm reception and dedication shown right from his vetting process till date, Hon. Armah-Kofi Buah, commended the agency heads for their professionalism. "You have demonstrated commitment in your roles, and I am excited to join you in this Ministry.

Our core objective is to add value, and I seek your support so we can achieve success together," he stated. "I believe we can strategically position ourselves better for the things we have the comparative advantage of. I am not here just to pass through, but I intend to make good on this opportunity to serve the good people of Ghana, to leave this Ministry better than I met it." Addressing the pressing issue of illegal mining, or galamsey, the Minister reaffirmed President John Dramani Mahama's commitment, "Our Ministry will be a focal point of this agenda. This underscores our priority status with the President and our responsibility to implement and support government policies.

"During the meeting, several Chief Executives from agencies, including the Lands, Minerals, and Forestry Commissions, shared their concerns and challenges with the Minister. In response, Prof. Patrick Agbesinyale, the Chief Director of the Ministry, expressed gratitude for the Minister's encouraging words and assured him of the Ministry's unwavering support to help him succeed



GOLDBOARD TECHNICAL COMMITTEE CALLS ON LANDS MINISTER

The GoldBoard Technical Committee, led by Mr. Sammy Gyamfi Esq., Acting Managing Director of the Precious Minerals Marketing Company (PMMC), met with the Lands Minister, Hon. Emmanuel Armah-Kofi Buah, on Monday, February 10, 2025. During the meeting, Mr. Sammy Gyamfi presented a comprehensive policy concept for establishing the GoldBoard, emphasizing the committee's readiness to collaborate with key stakeholders to present a Bill for the establishment of the GoldBoard.

The Minister for Lands and Natural Resources, Hon. Emmanuel Armah-Kofi Buah, MP, welcomed the initiative, affirming that the GoldBoard, a brainchild of the current government, "is here to stay". This development, he noted indicates government's commitment to advancing the country's natural resource management whiles regulating the gold industry, stabilizing the cedi, and maximizing revenue from gold exports.



CHIEF DIRECTOR OF LANDS MINISTRY CHAIRS MEETING WITH UNIDO ON RESPONSIBLE MINING AND YOUTH EMPLOYMENT

The Chief Director of the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources, Prof. Patrick Agbesinyale on Tuesday, 11th February, 2025, chaired a meeting with a delegation from the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the Minerals Commission and Ghana Geological Survey Authority.

The meeting discussed UNIDO's project aimed at promoting responsible mining and youth employment.

MLNR THIS WEEK IN PICTURES



MINISTRY OF LANDS & NATURAL RESOURCES



HON. EMMANUEL ARMAH-KOFI BUAH, MP
Minister – Ministry of Lands & Natural Resources



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

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