

600 illegal miners go into oil palm cultivation

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At least one million oil palm seedlings have been planted in the Eastern and Central regions under the government's Livelihood Empowerment Programme.

More than 600 young men and women in some communities in the two regions were involved in the planting exercise.

The group from Akatiakrom and Adeiso in the Eastern Region, and Mante and Dwokwa in the Central Region, have stopped indulging in illegal mining (galamsey) and engaged in agriculture as a means of livelihood.

The board chairman of the Minerals Commission, Mr S.K Boafo, said these when he led the board to introduce themselves to the La Traditional Council, and also commensurate with the council for the demise of La Mantse, Nii Kpobi Tetteh Tsuru III, who passed on last year.

Mr Boafo said the visit was necessary because together, they could brainstorm on how to give the late mantse a befitting burial, and also brief them on what the commission and the board have achieved so far.

The chairman indicated that the

provision of the livelihood programme have begun benefiting the former illegal miners who would be harvesting their first fruits in two years.

He said the commission has also employed mining wardens in settler communities across the

country to protect farms from illegal activities.

He said the board's implementation of government's policies on mining had seen the country overtaking South Africa in gold production, and expressed optimism that with the revamping of

AngloGold Ashanti, Ghana could become the first in just two years.

Mr Boafo disclosed that lithium has also been discovered in commercial quantities in Mankessim, and commercial production would soon start when all studies have been completed.

He said government's next line of action was to start refining and processing the gold in order to create jobs for local artisans for the socio-economic development of the country, and urged the illegal miners to stop their activities and register to rather engage in the community mining.

Mr Boafo used the occasion to present a cheque for an undisclosed amount of money and bottles of Schnapps, and signed the book of condolence thereafter.

The La Shiki Tei-Le, Nii Adjei Koofeh IV commended the board for the gesture and assured that every cooperation would be given to the commission to achieve its mandate, and also promised to officially inform them of the final funeral rites of their late mantse.



• Mr S.K Boafo presenting a cheque to Nii Obodai Addai IV