

# Involve us in galamsey fight

## • GhIS urges government

By Joshua Bediako Koomson

**T**HE Ghana Institution of Surveyors (GhIS) has called on the government to involve them in the fight against illegal mining (galamsey) in the country.

The institution contends that it is well equipped with the technologies to easily track down illegal miners who have moved into the thickest part of forest to mine and thus making it difficult to detect them.

### Surveying

The President of the GhIS, Maame Ama Edumadze-Acquah, made the call at a press interaction held as part of activities to mark the 15th Surveyors Week celebrations of the GhIS as well as its 51st Annual General Meeting.

The event schedule from February 15 -23, 2020 was on the theme: "Surveying and the Emerging Technologies for National Development".

Maame Edumadze-Acquah said the GhIS had the capacity to fight illegal mining activities taking

place indiscriminately across the country..

"We have the capacity to help eradicate this canker and we also have all the required tools too. The only issue outstanding is that the government is not involving us in the fight," she said.

According to her, the major challenge with the issue of galamsey was the ability to locate the grounds the miners are operating on.

She said because the miners know their activities were illegal, they had moved into thick forests where it was not easy to locate them unless with the use of advanced technologies.

### Supporting the country's development

She said the institution had over the years been very instrumental in the country's development process and cited, for example, Ghana's victory in its dispute with the Cote d'Ivoire on delimitation of maritime boundary, in which it supplied solid data.

Maame Edumadze-Acquah said, also, that the institution had added value to tourism in Ghana by delineating the once imaginary Prime Meridian physically on the ground at Somyana. "This shows that our members are

working and demonstrating great skills, character and attitude and this is leading to excellence and recognition," Mrs Edumadze-Acquah said.

### Emerging technologies

Mrs Edumadze-Acquah said it was clear from the theme for the celebration that emerging technologies were redefining the entire survey industry across the world, adding that "it is even harder to imagine what technologies lie ahead."

She said automation, artificial intelligence, virtual reality and augmented realities would play major roles in the future of surveying and, therefore, urged surveyors to find ways of embracing and mastering the new technologies.

"As the world moves towards technological advancement and the requirement of surveyors for national development programmes, the practice of surveying, in particular, cannot be left behind," she said.

According to her, surveyors in the country have no choice but to be abreast of technology, if they want to stay in business and be relevant in the market.

She observed that in many instances surveyors in developing countries, such as Ghana, found it difficult coping with the rate at which technologies and systems kept changing.

She, therefore, urged surveyors in the country to endeavour to stay in sync with technological advancement and also work hard to help create employment opportunities for other individuals.

• The President of GhIS, Maame Ama Edumadze-Acquah, addressing the media

GHANA INSTITUTION OF SURVEYORS  
15TH SURVEYORS' WEEK & 51ST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



The Ghana Institution of Surveyors was established on February 28, 1969 to develop, provide and maintain excellent professional leadership in surveying disciplines.