



# GHANAIAN Times

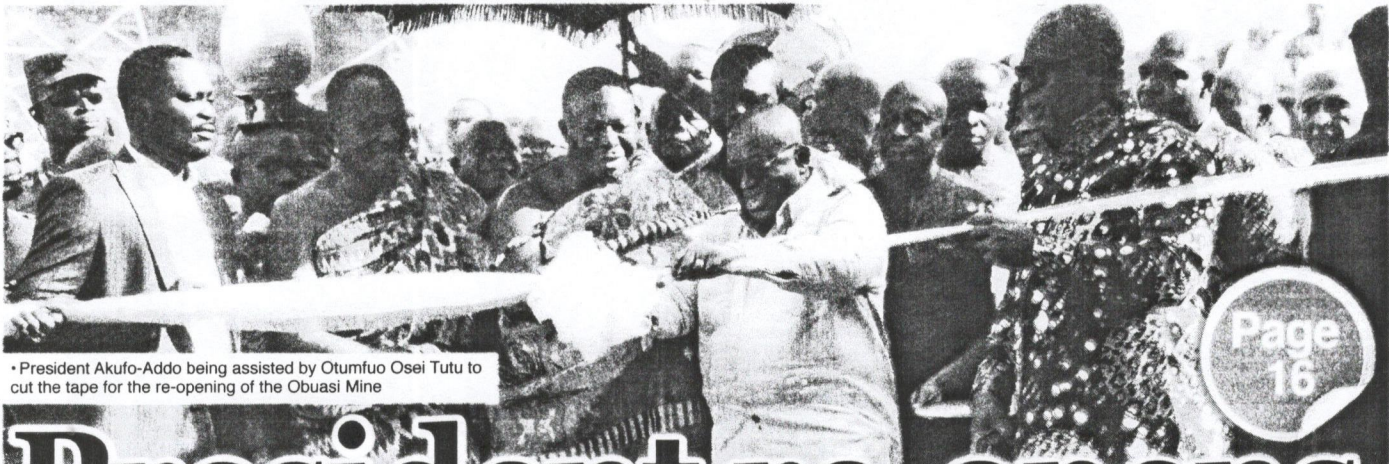
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• President Akufo-Addo being assisted by Otumfuo Osei Tutu to cut the tape for the re-opening of the Obuasi Mine

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# President re-opens Obuasi gold mines

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## ...after suspending operations for 4 years

FROM FAUSTINA KWABEA OSEI, OBUASI

President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo yesterday performed the re-opening ceremony of the AngloGold Ashanti Gold Mines in Obuasi, projecting that it would rake in \$2.16 billion in royalties, corporate and withholding taxes in the next 22 years.

With an initial investment of \$881 million and total investment of \$1.6 billion projected for the entire 22-year lifespan of the mine, the redevelopment is expected to create 2,500 direct and indirect jobs.

Addressing the chiefs and people of Obuasi, President Akufo-Addo was confident that the vibrancy of Obuasi would bounce back again

with an improved livelihood of residents.

He assured the people of Obuasi that events that led to the closure of the mine will not recur, saying “the days of forceful encroachment on the concession of the company, as witnessed between 2010 and 2016, are over.”

The mine was shut down in 2014 due to several challenges including encroachment and losses. This slowed down the socio-economic activities that characterised the energetic town.

Its redevelopment is in fulfillment of a 2016 campaign promise made by the President.

President Akufo-Addo recalled that upon his assumption of office, a series of discussions and negotiations took place in order to help An-

glogold Ashanti secure the needed investment for the project.

“Government had to provide a number of fiscal incentives, and guarantee the stability of the project against changes in the legal environment, especially in the early years of the mine’s operations,” he said.

He expressed the hope that all the agreements reached, including the vigorous implementation of domestic content policy, would be scrupulously honoured and performed to consolidate the gains.

According to the President, the distress state of the Obuasi town did not baffle a town with a viable mining company and therefore announced that government had awarded the Obuasi Ahwia Nkwanta road on contract.

He urged management of AGA

and workers to work harmoniously to bring development to the Obuasi town.

The Asantehene, Otumfuo Osei Tutu II, was excited about the reopening of the mine which he said had been the backbone of the country’s economy together with timber.

He said the reopening of the Obuasi mine was an indication that the gold resources in the area had not been exhausted and that it should instill confidence in the people by providing enough jobs.

Otumfuo Osei Tutu called on all stakeholders to work together to make sure the mine operated in good condition so as not to face another shut-down.

The Managing Director of AGA Ghana, Mr Eric Asubontin, com-

mended the government and the Asantehene for their support over the four-year suspension of underground mining of the company.

According to him, the suspension led to a painful mass retrenchment and he could not hide his joy for the reopening of the mine which has enabled the company to employ people.

The project included a five-year underground mining partnership between AGA and Underground Mining Alliance Limited (a joint venture between Africa Underground Mining Services and Rocksure International).

Under the project, AGA is expected to produce 350,000oz to 450,000oz in the first 10 years and is would produce its first gold by the end of 2019.