

# Harmonise mining policies for investment — Addo-Kufuor

By Suleiman Mustapha

**T**HE President of the General Assembly of the ECOWAS Federation of Chambers of Mines (EFEDCOM), Mr Kwame Addo-Kufuor, has urged West African leaders to harmonise their regional minerals policies to boost investment in the mining sector.

Speaking at the second Assembly meeting of the Federation in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, Mr Addo-Kufuor expressed satisfaction at the progress made by Burkina Faso in the mining sector over the past years.

The meeting, which coincided with the 2nd SAMAO Conference and Exhibition in Ouagadougou, was attended by members of the EFEDCOM's Executive Council from Ghana, Nigeria, Cote d'Ivoire and Burkina Faso.

"A prerequisite for deepening this collaboration is mutual trust. We must harness the resources of the sub-region to ensure that our people benefit

immensely from the sector. Anything short of that will be failure on our part," Mr Addo-Kufuor added.

EFEDCOM's mandate to provide leadership and propel sub-regional cooperation and effective minerals policy development with the ECOWAS Commission.

The mission is to advocate

for the effective policies to promote sustainable and responsible mining, and to use the resources and capabilities of the members to serve the needs of its stakeholders within the communities.

Speaking at the meeting, Mr Oumarou Idani, Minister of Mines and Quarries of Burkina Faso, reiterated the need to build stronger ties among the countries.

He stated that Burkina Faso was poised to exploit its minerals to develop the country.

"We are willing to develop strong partnerships to achieve our agenda of economic transformation".

"The extractive industry has always been recognised as the engine and catalyst for growth and it would remain

so for a very long time. The important thing is to translate that investment into development that benefits our people," he added.

A Deputy Minister of Lands and Natural Resources from Ghana, Mr Barbara Oteng Gyasi, who participated in a panel discussion on the challenges and development of artisanal and small-scale mining within the sub-region said the small-scale mining sector had not been regulated properly in the past and this shortfall has stimulated the growth of the illegal mining.

She indicated that the government's Temporary ban on activities of small-scale mining in Ghana was to re-assess the challenges and reorganize the sub

sector through the implementation of the Multilateral Mining Integrated Project (MMIP).

Prior to the meeting, a delegation of the EFEDCOM led by its Executive Director, Mr Sulemanu Koney paid a courtesy call on the President of Burkina Faso, Mr Roch Marc Christian Kabore at the Presidency.

The Burkinabe President assured the Federation of his country's determination to support responsible mining for sustainable development.

He encouraged EFEDCOM to work diligently to bring on board all the Chambers in the sub-region to ensure cohesion in the administration of mining within the sub-region.



• Mr Kwame Addo-Kufuor

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