



• Mr Addo Kufuor (right) with the Minister of Lands and Natural Resources, Mr John Peter Amewu, at the AGM

Chamber of Mines to create online portal for local contractors

By Suleiman Mustapha, ACCRA

THE Ghana Chamber of Mines plans to launch an online portal on local content to provide in-depth information on mining inputs required by mining companies, which local contractors and suppliers could bid to provide.

The portal, which launches later this year, will support potential investors and local entrepreneurs with up-to-date and specific information to enhance the implementation of the local content regulations.

The President of the Ghana Chamber of Mines, Mr Kwame Addo-Kufuor, who announced this at the 89th Annual General Meeting of the Chamber, said besides the significant fiscal contributions of mining to the economy, the industry was keen on creating and growing a robust local supplier base.

He said the Chamber and its member companies had at various times taken voluntary initiatives to promote in-country expenditure on mining inputs, including machinery and equipment, engineering services, power and fuel.

In 2015, the mining industry

achieved about 73 per cent of its planned local purchases per the local content regulations.

Mr Addo-Kufuor said there were opportunities for local manufacturing, which could create the necessary linkages with other sectors of the economy and further enhance the role of mining in national development.

"I will re-emphasise here that the Chamber's preference is for suppliers to manufacture locally and supply into the value chain of member companies," he

said and added that that would create multiplier impacts for the economy.

He urged the government to invite businesses and investors through the 'One District, One Factory' policy to explore the opportunities in the mining sector.

Mineral revenue

On the local impact of mining expenditure across the value chain, Mr Addo-Kufuor said member companies of the Chamber returned

\$2.3 billion out of their realised mineral revenue of \$3.25 billion into the country, representing 70.9 per cent.

Out of the \$2.3 billion repatriated revenue, \$1.8 billion was channelled through the commercial banking system and the remaining \$500 million was ploughed back via the Bank of Ghana.

He said the mines spent \$1.01 billion on purchases of goods and services, excluding diesel and power, in the country.

"The consecutive increase in spending on local goods and services by

the producing companies mirrors the Chamber's commitment to promoting local content in the mining industry," Mr Addo-Kufuor said.

The mining and quarrying sector was the leading source of direct domestic revenue with fiscal receipts up to GHe1.65 billion in 2016 from GHe1.35 billion in 2015.

In addition, total direct employment by the producing companies stood at 11,628, an increase of 16 per cent over the 2015 figure of 9,939.

"Out of this, Ghanaian nationals represent about 98 per cent, further buttressing the commitment of

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GH¢1.65b

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member companies to make mining more relevant to our people," Mr Addo-Kufuor said.

Fighting illegal mining

On illegal mining, Mr Addo-Kufuor reiterated the Chamber's commitment and support for the fight to end illegal mining.

He also suggested that the moratorium placed on small-scale mining by the minister must be used to study and enhance the regulatory framework within which such mining activities would take place.

The Chamber, he said, was willing to support the government to streamline and regulate the operations of illegal miners across the country.

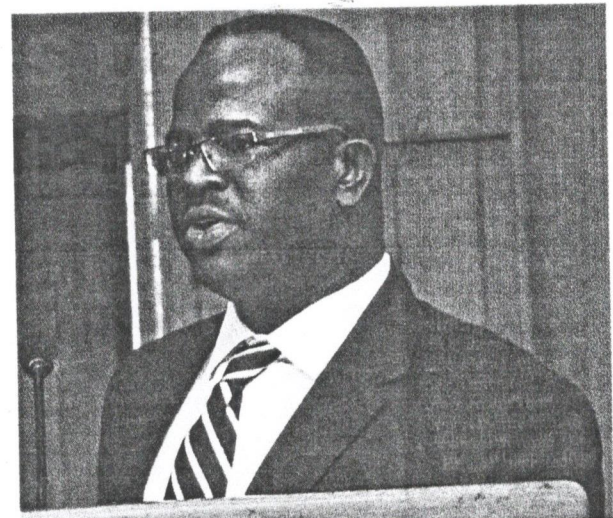
He said regular monitoring of illegal mining sites, with the support of the media, chiefs and community leaders should help the national effort to end the menace.

Transparency in mining

For his part, the Minister of Lands and Natural Resources, Mr John Peter Amewu, said transparency in the mining sector was critical to the positive image of the industry.

He said the perceived lack of transparency in the industry had been the underlying factor of acrimony between mining companies and their host communities, as well as public suspicion that mining companies were exploiting the nation.

"The government expects that, as partners, we will be able to work together openly with mutual trust devoid of any hidden tricks," Mr Amewu added.



• Mr Sulemanu Koney, the CEO of the Chamber of Mines, delivering his speech at the AGM