



• Mr Abdul Razak Alhassan (2nd left), National Communications Director of Ghana National Association of Small-scale Miners, explaining a point to Mr Asomah-Cheremeh during a visit to a designated site for community mining at Tinga

Community mining scheme launched at Tinga

From Timothy Ngenbe, TINGA

A COMMUNITY mining scheme (CMS) has been launched at Tinga in the Bole District in the Savannah Region.

The Tinga area is notoriously associated with illegal mining (galamsey) and it is the vision of the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources to use the CSM to arrest the canker.

Addressing the people at the launch, the sector minister, Mr Kwaku Asomah-Cheremeh, assured the chiefs and people of the area that the licence for the CMS at Tinga would be issued as soon as possible.

"I can see that the people here are eager to mine responsibly so when I get back to Accra, I will ask the Minerals Commission to expedite action on the licensing process and once it gets to my desk, I will sign it immediately," he said.

Mr Asomah-Cheremeh urged the chiefs and opinion leaders in the area to take keen interest in the operations at the CMS to ensure that the local people worked in accordance with the mining laws.

He stressed that only local people were allowed to engage in community mining, "so no foreigner is allowed to participate in it. You must form oversight committees to help monitor the activities at the CMS site."

The minister urged the youth in the area who were engaged in galamsey to take advantage of the CMS and mine responsibly.

Prospects

For his part, the Savannah Regional Minister, Mr Adam Salifu Braimah, said the launch of the CMS in the Tinga area was a major step towards ending galamsey.

He observed that although the Bole District was endowed with natural resources such as gold and timber, the illegal exploitation of those resources had negatively affected the area.

"The launch of this CMS will help reduce social vices such as teenage pregnancy and armed robbery and also create employment opportunities for the local people," he said.

Additionally, he said responsible mining through the CMS would reduce poverty in the area.

"Not all, the Bole District Assembly will also benefit because if things are streamlined well, the assembly will get the right taxes to develop," he added.

No to galamsey

A Deputy Chief Executive Officer of the Minerals Commission, Mr Martin Ayisi, said the launch of the CMS was the beginning of proper mining under the small-scale mining sector in the country.

"What this launch means is that galamsey is dead and gone and you must

not go back to it.

He urged the youth to cooperate with officials of the Minerals Commission in the area to protect the scheme.

Honour

At the ceremony, Mr Asomah-Cheremeh was honoured by the chiefs and people of Tinga for his relentless efforts to end galamsey in the country.

He was conferred with the title "Shua wura" meaning "King of Gold".

The Kui Wura, Alhaji Alhassan and the Kpankpanire Wura, Alhaji Adama Abutu, jointly decorated the minister.

They also called on the minister to ensure that the CMS was religiously

implemented since that would save the environment and take the numerous youth in the area out of the galamsey menace.

Kui Wura Alhassan, who spoke on behalf of the chiefs, further appealed to the minister to expedite action on the issuance of licence to cover the designated areas for the CMS.

The Bole District Assembly will also benefit because if things are streamlined well, the assembly will get the right taxes to develop.