

# Ministry donates handwashing materials to mining communities

From Timothy Ngenbe, OBUASI

**T**HE Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources has presented handwashing and safety materials worth GH¢500,000 to mining communities across the country to help in the fight against the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

The items, which include Veronica buckets, hand sanitisers, liquid soap and tissue paper, were provided by the Minerals Development Fund (MDF) Secretariat as part of its mandate to serve the welfare of mining communities.

The distribution of the items started

on June 2 from the Tarkwa Nsuam municipality in the Western Region, where the Minister of Lands and Natural Resources, Mr Kwaku Asomah-Cheremeh, presented some of the materials to the Municipal Chief Executive, Mr Benjamin Kessie.

A similar donation was made to the Obuasi, Obuasi East, Adansi North, Akrofuom and Amansie West districts in the Ashanti Region.

Each district received 35 Veronica buckets, 30 boxes of hand sanitisers, 10 boxes of liquid soap and 10 packs of tissue.

## Tour

Mr Asomah-Cheremeh, who is on a two-day tour of the Western and the Ashanti regions, said the donation was

to ensure that the COVID-19 was brought under control in mining areas.

He was joined on the tour by the Deputy Minister of Lands and Natural Resources in charge of Mines, Naana Eyiah; the Administrator of the MDF, Dr Norris Hammer, and other officials of the Lands Ministry.

As part of the tour, the team inspected progress

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**GH¢500,000**

of work on some MDF-funded projects at the University of Mines and Technology (UMaT), including an administration block, a cafeteria and a lecture hall.

## Adherence to protocols

The minister urged residents of mining communities to take the safety protocols on the COVID-19 seriously and strictly adhere to them to prevent the spread of the virus.

"I want to encourage you to maintain physical distancing, wash your hands regularly, wear your nose masks and use hand sanitisers to stop the spread of the pandemic," he said.

He also urged the chief executives of the assemblies to strengthen public education on preventive measures against the virus.

## Assurance

For his part, Dr Hammer said the donations were made to the mining communities because the MDF Act, 2016 (Act 912) mandated the fund to facilitate development in mining areas, which included their health.

"We have started the distribution from the Western and the Ashanti regions and we will ensure that all mining areas in the country receive these materials," he said.

On behalf of her colleagues, the District Chief Executive for Obuasi East, Mrs Faustina Amisah, thanked the Lands Ministry and the MDF for the donation.

She said the donation was timely because it would help the districts to fight the COVID-19.



• Mr Kwaku Asomah-Cheremeh (2nd right), the Minister of Lands and Natural Resources, presenting the items to Mr Benjamin Kessie, the MCE for Tarkwa Nsuam