

Ghana Chamber of Mines supports COVID-19 fight

By Timothy Ngnenbe

THE Ghana Chamber of Mines has voted a total of GH¢11.5 million to support the country's fight against the coronavirus disease (COVID-19).

Three institutions are to receive a part of the amount to boost their capacity to test for COVID-19, while other part would go into the purchase of essential medical equipment for the Ministry of Health (MoH).

The institutions are the Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research (NMIMR), Kumasi Centre for Collaborative Research in Tropical Medicine (KCCR) and the National Public Health Reference laboratory of the Korle Bu Teaching Hospital.

The President of the Chamber, Mr Eric Asubonteng, presented a cheque for the amount to the MoH in Accra last Thursday.

A Deputy Minister of Health, Ms Tina Mensah, received the donation. Also present was the Deputy Minister of Health designate, Dr Bernard Okoe Boye.

Breakdown

Mr Asubonteng said GH¢3.3 million of the amount would go into purchasing of 20 ventilators and accessories for distribution to hospitals across the country, while another GH¢3.2 million would also go into procuring 7,000 sets of complete personal protective equipment (PPE) for frontline health workers.

The PPE would include 7,000 boxes of gloves; 7,000 pieces each of medical gowns, goggles, face shields, face masks, N-95 respirators and 1,000 thermometers.

The remaining GH¢5 million would be shared among the NMIMR, the KCCR and the Korle Bu Teaching Hospital to support their efforts as they test 25,000 people suspected to have

contracted COVID-19.

The NMIMR and the KCCR would receive GH¢2 million each for the 10,000 suspected COVID-19 cases they were testing while the Korle Bu laboratory would get GH¢1 million in support of the 5,000 suspected COVID-19 cases it was testing.

Collaboration

Mr Asubonteng said the donation was meant to augment the government's effort at dealing with the challenge head-on.

"The World Health Organisation (WHO) has recommended that increased testing, done quickly and effectively, is a key step in isolating and containing the infection. It is our fervent expectation that this donation will ease the pressure on the government and free up the much needed resources for other essential

aspects of the national strategy to fight the virus," he said.

The President of the Ghana Chamber of Mines said the impact of the pandemic cut across all aspects of human life and for which reason there was the need for the private sector to support the government to contain the disease.

Adherence

Mr Asubonteng stressed that if the COVID-19 pandemic was allowed to linger, the production value chain in both the formal and informal sectors of the economy would be severely affected and that could throw the country into a crisis situation.

He underscored the need for individuals, businesses and institutions to strictly adhere to the health protocols pronounced by the Ghana Health Service.

Fact Sheet

Members of the Ghana Chamber of Mines that contributed to the donation on COVID-19 include Adamus Resources Limited, AngloGold Ashanti Iduapriem Mine, AngloGold Ashanti Obuasi Mine, Asanko Gold Ghana Limited and Chirano Gold Mines. The rest are Golden Star Resources, Goldfields Ghana, Newmont Ghana and Perseus Mining Ghana Limited.

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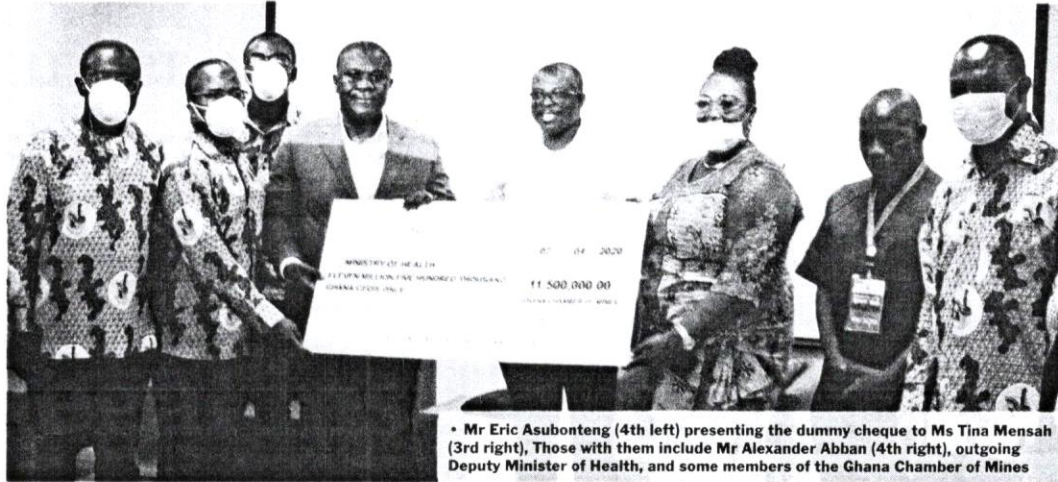
t "The mining industry thrives on
1 discipline, as well as upholding the
f health and safety of our employees and
f host communities; hence, we pledge
f our unflinching support to the
2 government and health authorities to
3 work together to stop the onslaught of
3 COVID-19," he said.

Appreciation

2 Ms Mensah expressed the
3 government's appreciation to the
4 Chamber for its kind gesture, adding
5 that the donation would facilitate the
f fight against the disease.

1 She called on other corporate
1 institutions and businesses to
2 contribute their widow's mite to help
3 address the global challenge.

3 She also called on the public to
3 respect the health protocols on COVID-
1 19, including social distancing and
2 handwashing activities.



• Mr Eric Asubonteng (4th left) presenting the dummy cheque to Ms Tina Mensah (3rd right), Those with them include Mr Alexander Abban (4th right), outgoing Deputy Minister of Health, and some members of the Ghana Chamber of Mines