Message from the CEO

Dear Reader,

I wish to welcome you to the Chamber’s new look newsletter. With the subtleties and changes in the business world, particularly in mining, the Chamber continues to innovate in engaging its stakeholders and in keeping the public abreast of the contributions of member companies toward national development. It is for this reason that the Mining News is being presented to you in this digital form to further showcase the sustainable operation of our member companies across the country.

In this edition, we celebrate two personalities: Mr. Stephen Osei-Bempah, General Manager of Gold Fields Tarkwa Mine for winning the Mining Personality of the Year; and Mrs Catherine Kuupol Kuutor, who was adjudged Female Mining Professional of the Year at the 6th Ghana Mining Industry Awards.

We would also share with you measures adopted by member companies to support communities in the national campaign against the Covid 19 pandemic. The contribution of mining companies in this effort is the most palpable demonstration of the ‘all-hands-on deck’ approach to managing a global crisis. We are in it together!

It is our expectation that we can continue to collaborate in playing complementary roles to bring more value to Ghana’s mining industry. While at that, there is a need for us all to adhere strictly to the health and safety protocols related to the pandemic in order to safeguard lives and property. Your life is invaluable, #MaskUp.

Enjoy!

Sulemanu Koney
Chief Executive Officer

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The Covid-19 pandemic is a global health crisis, which has challenged health standards worldwide. Since March 2020 when the first infection was recorded in Ghana, there has been a concerted effort and collaboration between public and private institutions to tackle the situation head-on.

A lot has changed today since March 2020 with different strains of the virus threatening to cripple all the gains made globally. While many other industries scurried to develop protocols to fend off the virus, it was work as usual for mining companies, who are generally well prepared for such eventualities with world class health and safety protocols already in place.

Prior to Ghana recording its first case, all producing member companies of the Chamber had deployed comprehensive response plans to contain the infections and spread of the virus at all mine sites and regional offices. These response plans transcended the mining companies to the host communities as the sustenance of the former depended largely on the wellbeing of the residents and the environment of the latter.

The strategy identified risk levels and provided mitigation measures for each risk, ranging from screening to quarantine and isolation. The companies ensured that mine sites were well equipped to adequately manage suspected and confirmed cases.

In augmenting government’s efforts in the communities, the mining companies worked closely with their respective local assemblies and health directorates to support community education and behaviour change communication efforts, by so doing reducing infections among residents. By extension the wellbeing of employees of the mining companies was also safeguarded as many of them reside in the communities.

Moreover, working through the Secretariat of the Chamber, producing member companies contributed USD 2 million dollars in April 2020 to support the purchase of logistics for the Ministry of Health for testing and treatment of Covid 19 cases. Individually, these companies expended millions of dollars to support community and regional level efforts against the pandemic, working in concert with the local people and government institutions.

The mining companies further deployed smart employee work schedules enabling some persons to work from home and still contribute effectively to the operations of the mines. The evidence shows that these work scheduling has worked effectively for most mining companies who continue to adhere to the requisite protocols to protect employees and their families.

As an industry that remains the bulwark of Ghana’s economy, the industry stretched its support across every nook and cranny in a bid to ensure that the economy stood firmly on its feet once again. While the virus seems to have gained a new lease of life, it behoves all and sundry to stop it in its tracks. The mining industry will continue to take a centre stage in that endeavour.
Asanko Gold Ghana Limited (AGGL,) from the outset of the spread of COVID-19 in Ghana, has demonstrated great commitment in supporting our local communities in the fight against the pandemic. This is evidenced in the numerous interventions initiated in collaboration with the District Health Directorates of the Amansie West and South Districts, all aimed at mitigating transmission of the virus within our districts of operation.

At the onset of the disease, AGGL donated assorted items to the Amansie West and South District Assemblies to support the fight against the pandemic which included Veronica buckets, nose masks, hand sanitizers, latex gloves and liquid soaps all valued at Sixty Thousand Ghana Cedis (GHS 60,000). This was accompanied by a cash donation of Forty Thousand Ghana Cedis (GhS 40,000.00) to the two Districts.

AGGL subsequently distributed safety and hygiene items, valued at One Hundred Thousand Cedis (GHS 100,000) to 23 public schools within our host communities in June 2020. The donation included 46 fully mounted veronica buckets, 113 pieces of 5-liter gallons of hand sanitizers, 2,000 reusable nose masks, 113 pieces of five 5 liters’ liquid soaps and 113 pieces of dispensing bottles. The donation to the schools was in response to the Government of Ghana’s directives to reopen schools for final year Senior High School (SHS) and Junior High School (JHS) Students in June 2020.

Asanko further developed various educational and awareness creation materials to create awareness on the COVID-19 prevention protocols within the community and to also stem the tide of stigmatisation that was rising against people who had contracted the disease. In collaboration with the District Health Authorities, this intervention was rolled out through Community Information Centres to achieve the required level of sensitization.

Management of Asanko considers the support as complementary to the effort of government in preventing the spread of the virus in the Districts where we operate and, of course, across all of Ghana.

Asanko has taken the further step of establishing a COVID-19 PCR laboratory at a cost of approximately $300,000. The Asanko COVID-19 Lab serves both the company’s employees as well as members of the community and is the only such facility within the Amansie West and South Districts of the Ashanti Region.
The 3rd edition of the Obuasi Trade Show under the theme “Diversifying the economy of Obuasi through trade promotion” occurred with active participation by exhibitors and buyers. The show was launched with traders from all backgrounds showcasing their goods and services. Others were recorded for a virtual promotion due to the covid-19 to reduce numbers on the grounds.

The programme which is sponsored by AngloGold Ashanti Ghana in collaboration with the National Board for Small Scale Industries (NBSSI) and supported by both the Obuasi Municipal and Obuasi East District Assemblies took place at the AGA Club House, Wawase.

Before the launch of this year’s Trade Show, participants received training on best ways to package and brand their products for the Trade Show and beyond. The two-days training benefitted almost 100 vendors.

Also, as part of Obuasi Trade Show 2020, the Kunka market was purposefully promoted on the 18th of December with a road show through the principal streets of Obuasi and a durbar to improve patronage at the market.

The Senior Manager Sustainability, AngloGold Ashanti Ghana, Mr. Emmanuel Baidoo in his remarks noted that the Social Management Plan of the Mine has many interventions of which small-medium scale and trade promotion remain key. This he noted is aimed at helping to diversify the Obuasi economy.

Honorable Faustina Amissah, the District Chief Executive for Obuasi East, also mentioned that Obuasi Trade Show has come to stay, hence urged exhibitors to use the opportunity to promote their Businesses.

The DCE, said the collaboration between the Obuasi East District and the mine is important in improving the standard of living of the people in Obuasi. She urged all present to be good ambassadors for the show and tell others about it.

The Obuasi Municipal Director of NBSSI, Kelvin Ofori Attah, called on patrons to patronize the Trade Show as most are produced in Obuasi. The week-long trade event ended with an Artists night on 26th December 2020. Divisional Queen mothers, odikros, Assembly members graced the launch with their presence.
The General Manager of Gold Fields Ghana Limited (Tarkwa mine), Mr Stephen Osei-Bempah, was named Mining Personality of the Year (The President’s Award) at the 6th Ghana Mining Industry Awards (GMIA) held in Accra.

Mr. Stephen Osei-Bempah is the General Manager for Gold Fields Tarkwa Mine.

Mr Osei-Bempah was honoured for playing a significant role in promoting the mining industry in Ghana in 2019. The flagship award is also in recognition of his exemplary leadership and demonstrable high ethical standards, which have seen the Tarkwa mine maintain its position as the leader in responsible mining in Ghana.

Organised by the Ghana Chamber of Mines, the GMIA is the only mining industry-focused awards scheme in Ghana, and celebrates excellence and responsible mining.

Mr Osei-Bempah is a Mining Engineer with over 28 years of career experience. He first joined Gold Fields in 2003 as Senior Mining Engineer and rose to the position of Chief Mining Engineer before leaving the company in 2007. He re-joined Gold Fields in 2011 as the Mining Manager of the Tarkwa mine until his appointment as General Manager of Gold Fields’ Damang mine in 2016. He was later appointed General Manager of the Tarkwa mine in 2017.

Under his leadership, the Tarkwa mine continues to set high standards in operational excellence, safety, business sustainability, environmental stewardship, local enterprise development, as well as host community development. Mr Osei-Bempah attributes the gold mining company’s success to its committed employees.

“We have a great team of dedicated and hardworking individuals who ensure that we achieve our targets, while minding our safety, as we create and share value from our operations with our stakeholders,” Mr Osei-Bempah said.

He added that: “I am truly humbled by this recognition, which wouldn’t have been possible without the immense support of the talented people I work with”.

Mr Osei-Bempah noted that it was an honour to follow the footsteps of his boss, the Executive Vice President and Head of Gold Fields West Africa, Mr Alfred Baku, who was named the Mining Personality of the Year in 2019.

With a steady production of approximately 500,000 ounces annually, the Tarkwa mine is the second largest mine in Ghana and the highest producing mine within the Gold Fields Group, which has operating mines in Australia, Chile, Peru and South Africa.
Mrs Catherine Kuupol Kuutor, the Metallurgical Manager of Abosso Goldfields Limited (Damang mine), was named Female Mining Professional of the Year at the 6th Ghana Mining Industry Awards (GMIA) held in Accra.

The award was in recognition Mrs Kuutor’s immense contribution to the productivity and business success of the Damang mine in 2019.

The GMIA is organised by the Ghana Chamber of Mines, and celebrates excellence and responsible mining in Ghana.

Mrs Kuutor was appointed the Metallurgical Manager for the Damang mine in 2017, becoming the first female to head the Metallurgical Department at Gold Fields Ghana, which operates both the Tarkwa and Damang gold mines in the Western Region.

A Minerals Engineer with over 16 years of experience, Mrs Kuutor said she believed that the recognition would inspire young women to take up Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) subjects in school.

“While this is a great career milestone for me, I believe it will motivate many young women who are interested in pursuing STEM subjects in schools.

“I want to assure young women that nothing can stop them from fulfilling their dreams, even in male-dominated careers. They simply need to be competent,” she added.

She noted that it was also equally important for companies to make a conscious effort to provide female employees with opportunities to develop their full potential and contribute to the success of the organisation.

“Consistently, women have proven that they can excel in all careers, and I see women actively and progressively taking up challenging operational mining roles. I am particularly grateful to Gold Fields for empowering women and providing access to all occupations.”

Mrs Kuutor is currently pursuing her PhD degree at the University of Mines and Technology (UMaT) in Tarkwa.
Newmont Ghana, in partnership with the Government of Ghana and the Ghana Cocoa Board (COCOBOD), has commissioned the construction of the 41 kilometre road from Nkawkaw to New Abirem Road in the Eastern Region as part of efforts to promote infrastructural development in its host communities and surrounding areas.

Under this partnership, Newmont Ghana will invest US$15 million to construct 16 kilometers of the road while the Government and COCOBOD will fund the rest.

“As a company, our aim is to leave our operational areas better than we found them in ways that matter and we believe that the best approach to sustainable development is through partnerships,” Francois Hardy, Newmont Africa’s Regional Senior Vice President, said.

At the sod-cutting ceremony for the road construction project, Ghana’s President, Nana Akufo-Addo lauded Newmont for its contributions to the infrastructural development of Ghana and for uplifting the living standards of its host communities.

“This project aligns with our purpose of creating value and improving lives through sustainable and responsible mining, which is our driving force as we strive to catalyze socio-economic growth in our host communities,” Mr. Hardy added.

Mr. Hardy also mentioned that the project complements other Akyem community road improvement projects Newmont Ghana had previously completed, including rehabilitating the 2.3 kilometre stretch of road from the Mine to Adausena in 2013, as well as the 2.9 kilometre road from New Abirem to the Akyem Mine in 2016. The company is also currently collaborating with the Ghana Highway Authority to maintain and construct a 5-kilometre road within its Akyem host communities at a cost of US$1.2 million. Newmont Ghana is also constructing 4 kilometres of key roads in its Ahafo South communities, where its other mine is located.

The Deputy COCOBOD Chief Executive, Emmanuel Agyeman Dwomoh, said the Cocoa Roads Rehabilitation Programme has contributed significantly in improving the road network in the country to open it up for economic activities.

Volta Impex, a Ghanaian contractor, will execute the road construction project over the next 18 months, relying on local employment and sourcing. The Ghana Highway Authority will provide technical supervision for the road project and a Joint Governance Team consisting of Newmont Ghana, COCOBOD and Ghana Highway Authority representatives will be responsible for managing the project.
Chirano Gold Mines Limited has commissioned an ultra-modern science laboratory for the Queens Girls’ Senior High School at Sefwi Anhwiaso, in the Bibiani-Anhwiaso Bekwai Municipality of the Western North Region.

The GH¢ 720,000 science laboratory will be an addition to nine schools, with computer laboratories, teacher motivation and other programs donated by Chirano Gold Mines, to improve on the standard of education and develop the youth of the area. The completion of this science lab is an important milestone in on-going efforts by Chirano Gold Mines Limited, to support local authorities in the provision of quality education to communities in the catchment area.

The beneficiary school, Queens Girls’ Senior High School, the first all-female SHS in Sefwi was specifically chosen to lend a hand to Ghana’s agenda to promote the education of the girl child for accelerated national development. We believe the laboratory will inspire many young females of the school to develop a keen interest and pursue the study of science.

Commissioning the project, VP/GM, Terence Watungwa, said the Mine firmly noted that the education of the youth is vital to the socio-economic transformation of every society. It is for this reason that the Mine has for many years, supported the provision of educational infrastructure to local schools and we will continue with this commitment in the future.

These infrastructure include the construction of basic school for nine communities, three of these schools have been provided with fully equipped computer laboratories for ICT education. The Mine has also constructed an ultra-modern library complex and computer laboratory for Sefwi Wiawso, Capital of the newly created Western North Region.

Teachers of some selected basic schools have also been incentivized to provide extra tuition to students to enable them catch up with the academic curriculum. This has resulted in improved pass rates among the students in the Basic Education Certificate Examination.

The President, H. E. Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo who commissioned the building commended the Mine for the project.

Since 2011, Chirano Gold Mines has provided $1.8 Million dollars (10.3 Million cedis) in educational support to local communities, positively impacting the education of tens of thousands of children in the catchment area of the Mine.
N othing is more important to our operations than the safety of our people, environment and communities, which are the key pillars of our vision, to be a diversified sustainable operation that our above stakeholders are proud to be associated with. However, the same operations that brings value to our stakeholders produces waste, and over the years, we have been responsible in its management.

Tailings Storage Facilities (TSFs) play an important role in the practical surface disposal of large quantities of mineral processing waste. This is the reason why most mining companies in Ghana store their processing waste in TSF’s. Over the years, Golden Star has effectively managed its own Tailings, and converted parts of its TSF into palm plantations.

Currently Golden Star operates an underground mine at its Wassa concession in Ghana where mined out stopes are by legislation to be backfilled. The two major methods employed to back fill mined out stopes are cemented rock fill and paste back fill. We opted for the paste back fill option.

In 2020, we achieved our milestone with the completion of a Paste Backfill Plant to manage our processing waste while literally strengthening our underground mine. The plant when fully operational will convert process waste, which would have otherwise been stored in the TSF, into paste to fill underground mining stopes or voids.

The facility, constructed with the expertise of local staff in the Civil Engineering, Processing and Underground departments, is the first of its kind in Ghana, and with the use of ceramic filters to improve safety, is set to become the first of its kind in Africa.

The benefits of the Paste Backfill plant move beyond environmental benefits to provide Structural, Safety and Economic gains for Golden Star as well as its stakeholders.

It enables the storage of tailings underground, a better option to mitigate risk of TSF failures compared to surface disposal. In addition, it saves green fields, which are used to construct more TSF’s as mining operations continue.

Structurally our underground mine becomes more fortified with the filling of mined stopes. This reduces rock bursts and roof falls and improves safe work conditions at the Underground.

Economically, the structural integrity provided by filled mine stopes gives Golden Star access to high-grade pillars which leads to higher recovery and therefore higher returns.

The construction of the Paste Backfill Plant signifies our values of respect, caring, collaboration, fairness and honesty in action. We do our work using these values to achieve our vision.

For the future we continue to explore innovative ways of operating, to ensure shared value for our stakeholders, without compromising safety and the environment in which we operate.
Perseus Mining (Ghana) Limited (PMGL) through Edikan Trust Fund has awarded bursaries to 100 beneficiaries pursuing various degree programme from its catchment communities in Ayanfuri. This is part of the company’s overarching approach to support quality education for residents in the host communities.

PMGL, which is operating the Edikan Gold Mine in the Central and Western Regions of Ghana established the Trust Fund 2012 as part of its Corporate Social Investment plan to support various development programmes in its catchment communities. These initiatives are geared towards improving lives for the people in the area. The Edikan Trust Fund has contributed immensely to the development of the communities.

On 2nd February 2021, a ceremony was organized in Ayanfuri where 100 students pursuing various degree programmes also benefited from bursaries to support their education. Beneficiaries included 54 males and 46 females from the Catchment Communities. A total of GH¢ 100,000.00 was disbursed as bursaries at the event; an increase over the GH¢ 97,000 spent in 2020.

The occasion was graced by the Ayanfuri Traditional Council, represented by Kyidomhene, Nana Kwaku Yamoah; the General Manager of PMGL, Dr. Stephen Kofi Ndede; the Municipal and District Chief Executives for Wassa Amenfi East and Upper Denkyira West Assemblies respectively; as well as the District Education Director-Upper Denkyira West District, among others.

A speech read on behalf of the Board Chairman of PMGL, Ehunabobrim Prah Agyensaim VI who is also the President of Assin Owirenyi Traditional Council, commended the company for its commitment to education. He urged the beneficiaries to take advantage of the opportunities to gain the requisite skills and knowledge in order to support the development of the area.

Since the inception of the Edikan Trust Fund, PMGL had contributed over GH¢ 9.4million as of September 2020 to fund development projects in the catchment communities and those in which the company carries out exploration activities. The company has invested in education, healthcare, water and sanitation, promotion of sports and culture, and the improvement of existing infrastructures. This is manifested through the provision of numerous projects including:

- Construction of School buildings
- I.C.T Centre at Ayanfuri S.H.S
- Teachers quarters at Fobinso
- Kitchen for Ayanfuri S.H.S
- I.C.T Centre at Nkonya Primary School
- Rehabilitation of Gyaman Primary School
- Abenabena Health Center and Nurses quarters
- Fobinso CHPS Compound
- Gyaman Health Centre
- Asikafo-Amantem water expansion project, Ayanfuri.
- Fobinso small water system
- Refuse skipped containers for Ayanfuri.
- Community Center at Abenabena

Currently, the Edikan Trust Fund is sponsoring the projects including:

- 1500 capacity community centre project at Nkonya.
- 1 No. 4-unit Nurses quarters project at Fobinso.
- 3 No. 4-unit general quarters project at Abenabena.
- Renovation of Ayanfuri D/A Primary and JHS.
Teberebie Women Obtain FDA’s Approval for Mass Production of Hand Sanitizers

The Food and Drugs Authority (FDA) has given approval for the Teberebie Women’s Group to produce hand sanitizers and sell in the open market, under the business name - Tebcom.

Iduapriem Mine facilitated the training of the 19 women in soap and detergent production as part of its Local Economic Development Project (i-LED) aimed at providing sustainable economic opportunities to help boost income levels of women in its host communities.

The Mine is liaising with the FDA to obtain approval for mass production of other products of the group, including bar soap, washing powder, disinfectants and after wash.

In a recent visit to the group to obtain firsthand information on the project, the Chief of Teberebie, Nana Kojo Minnah II, commended the Mine for the initiative and urged the women to take full advantage of the project to help improve upon their standards of living.

“As you know, one of the major problems in Teberebie is unemployment, especially work which would put money in your pockets regularly,” said Nana Kojo Minnah II. “However, through this project, you can make a lot of money to support in taking care of your families.”

The Teberebie Soap and Detergent Project is also part of the Iduapriem Women Empowerment Program aimed at accelerating development in its host communities, especially for vulnerable women, by providing vocational and skills development opportunities for sustainable and improved incomes for beneficiaries.

Newmont Ghana signs GH¢3M MoU with KCCR to support fight against COVID-19 virus

Newmont Ghana has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Kumasi Centre for Collaborative Research in Tropical Medicine (KCCR) to support the nation’s fight against the COVID-19 pandemic.

Under the MoU, Newmont Ghana will procure PCR equipment, ancillary equipment, reagents and other consumables to augment the capacity of KCCR to scale up its testing. Also, KCCR will help set up two laboratories in Newmont’s Ahafo and Akyem host communities to build their testing capacity for COVID-19 and other infectious diseases.

The total value of procuring the PCR machines, ancillary equipment, reagents and setting up of the laboratories is GH¢ 3.1million ($545,000).

KCCR is one of the two major testing centers in the country and the increasing number of cases in the country has put significant strain on the facility.

The Director of KCCR, Prof. Richard Phillips, expressed gratitude to Newmont Ghana, saying “this will significantly boost our capacity to test more samples. With the rising number of COVID-19 cases in the country, this support could not have come at a better time.”

Vice President, Sustainability and External Relations at Newmont Africa, Adiki Ayitevie, said, “Protecting the health and safety of our communities and workforce is our priority. We believe that procuring PCR machines and setting up laboratories for public health facilities in our host communities will help significantly in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic.”

The MoU is part of the company’s initiatives sponsored from its Africa Region’s allocation of $3.3m of the Global Community Support Fund set up by the company to support COVID-19 management efforts in its operating jurisdictions.

So far, Newmont Ghana has approved over $2million (GH¢11million) to be spent on employee and community health, food security and local economic resilience initiatives within and beyond its host communities.

Among the beneficiary institutions are the Birim North Health Service, Birim North District Assembly, Birim Central District Assembly, Asutifi North District Assembly Asutifi North Health Service, Asutifi North District Police Service, Tano North Municipal Assembly and the Tano North Health Service.

Earlier in April 2020, Newmont Ghana donated US$50,000 to help procure testing kits for the Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research and the KCCR. The company also contributed about $554,000 (approximately GH¢3million) of the Ghana Chamber of Mines $2million donation to support the national COVID-19 management effort.
The Ghana School of Railways and Infrastructure Development has finally started operations.

The School of Railways and Infrastructure Development is part of the University of Mines and Technology, Tarkwa. All programmes being offered by the School are engineering courses.

On January 15, 2021, the first batch of students reported to the School and are currently undergoing orientation.

In 2021, the School is expected to admit some 300 students. Over the next four years, the School is looking to admit about 5,000 students.

The duration of each programme is four years.

For years (2017-2021), the Minister of Railways Development, Hon. Joe Ghartey, spearheaded the establishment of the School.

With the massive investments made in the railway sector by the Akufo-Addo Government, the development of human resource capacity in the sector is expected to record a major boost.

It would be recalled that Hon. Ghartey signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the University of Mines and Technology (UMaT), Tarkwa to develop the Railways Training School into an accredited Institution of higher learning for the award of certificates and diplomas.

The collaboration was also aimed at transforming the Railways Training School into a degree-awarding university.

And after years of hard work by the Member of Parliament for Essikado-Ketan Constituency and key stakeholders in the railway sector, Ghana now has a Railway School fully operational.

The School is creating employment in Tarkwa, with residents renting their pro properties to students who have moved to the area to pursue courses in railway development. The School commenced operations in January 2021.
The School exists to among other things, provide quality and practical training in rail transport and logistics, responsive to a vibrant market environment through research and technology to adopt the changing world economy with an innovative and creative mindset to grow the rail business survival.

It also seeks to become a world-class railway institution dedicated to professional excellence in rail transport management.

The successful opening of the Railway University is one of the key legacies of Hon. Ghartey who after his appointment as Minister of Railways Development by President Nana Akufo-Addo in 2017, spearheaded the massive transformation of Ghana’s railway sector.

The development of modern, standard gauge railway tracks across Ghana, and several other achievements in the railway sector from 2017 till date, has earned Hon. Ghartey praises from several Ghanaians.

The whole idea of establishing a railway institute for Ghana dates back to 1945 when the Ghana Armed Forces handed over its barracks in Takoradi to the then Ghana Railways and Ports Authority for use by the Railway Central Training Institute for the training of its staff.

The construction of the Railway Central Training Institute in Sekondi began in 1984 and was funded with a World Bank loan. The project was initially started by Messrs Commazzi Contractors Limited but was later completed by the State Construction Corporation and Frednaro Construction Limited with Architectural and Engineering Services Corporation as the Constituency firm.

The Central Training Institute was set up to among other things, provide training in such disciplines as signal and telecommunication engineering, permanent way, mechanical and electrical engineering, and traffic.

The Central Training Institute was an in-house training institute and had gone into complete disrepair by 2017.
Obuasi Goes Agro (OGA), a flagship Socio-Economic Development intervention of AngloGold Ashanti Ghana was launched on October 16 2020 on the AGA farms in Adaase. The programme currently provides direct employment to at least 90 farmers in the mine’s host communities and is cultivating 170 acres of land.

Launching the Obuasi Goes Agro (OGA) Programme, the representative of the Bekwaimanhene, Nana Opoku Ababio Bekwai Adontenhene applauded the mine for the initiative and urged the beneficiaries to be committed in order to attract more people unto the programme. OGA is implemented as a Social Enterprise in partnership with host communities, KB Agricare Consult and Evergreen Ghana Initiative (both Obuasi-based private Agro businesses) and the Department of Agriculture of the Obuasi Municipal Assembly.

Senior Manager, Sustainability Mr. Emmanuel Baidoo said the mine has committed over Two Million Ghana cedis in its current three-year Social Management Plan Budget for Agriculture interventions. He pledged the mine’s continuous commitment to the development agenda of Obuasi by donating a Motor bike and a computer to Directorate of Agriculture, Obuasi Municipal to facilitate their monitoring.
To promote higher learning in our catchment communities, Kinross Chirano has launched the Chirano General Manager’s Scholarship Initiative. It will provide higher education opportunities for local youth, and grant funds to cover tuition, accommodations and other expenses at the tertiary level.

The scheme will admit students from Public Universities, Public or Mission Colleges of Education, Public or Mission Nursing Training Colleges and Public Vocational Training Institutions. Beneficiaries must be residents of a Chirano catchment community, must have attended a local basic school and be needy with excellent academic records at the Senior High School level.

Launching the scholarship at the Q3 CCC meeting, VP/GM, Terence Watungwa said Chirano recognizes education as an essential element in community advancement. With the Company’s vision of using capacity-building to change lives for the better, the initiative aims to support, encourage and promote learning and higher education.

He noted that the attainment of higher education is critical to the socio-economic transformation of every society: “Chirano is proud to announce this scholarship initiative to lend a hand to students from the Senior High School Level who might not be able to progress to the higher level because of the lack of financial support. Providing support to the young people of our community and supporting their education is important for our Company,”

Outgoing Chairman of the CCC, Nana Frimpong Manso II commended Terence for the initiative, saying it will substantially contribute to the enrichment of the human resource of the area.

Six beneficiaries - two from each paramountcy - will be selected.
Iduapriem Mine has presented essential medical items to the Tarkwa Municipal Hospital for the establishment of a Breast Care Unit in the facility to help in the screening and treatment of breast cancer victims in the Tarkwa Nsuaem Municipality.

After renovating a place for the establishment of the unit, Iduapriem Mine further provided 32 essential medical items for the effective functioning of the unit, including medical examination couch (bed), weighing scale, stainless medical tray, personal protective equipment, cabinets, detergents, furniture, bedsheets with pillows, medical supplies, among others, which were procured at a cost of GH¢118,446.32.

The establishment of the Breast Care Unit at the Municipal Hospital comes as a relief for victims of breast cancer who had to travel outside the municipality to receive medical care. It is also expected to help in early detection and treatment of victims of breast cancer in the municipality.

Speaking on behalf of the Managing Director of Iduapriem Mine, Dr Kwesi Gyeni Annor, Manager - Health Services, said about 164 women who were referred for further assessment and treatment in 2019, during the Mine’s commemoration of the Pink Month, had to visit medical facilities outside the municipality due to the absence of a well-resourced breast care unit.

On her part, the Municipal Director of Health, Mrs Caroline Otoo, commended Iduapriem Mine for the initiative and support in establishing the Breast Care Unit. She stressed that it would go a long way to help the Municipal Hospital, and indeed the entire Tarkwa Nsuaem Municipality, to offer breast care services throughout the year for patients who would visit the facility.

“Now, people in the Tarkwa Nsuaem Municipality will no longer have to wait till World Breast Cancer Awareness month in October every year to have their breast screened, but they can do that throughout the year,” she said.
The Ghana Chamber of Mines is pleased to disclose information on payments to parastatals, expenditure on key mining inputs and corporate social investments by its producing member companies in 2019. This is in furtherance of its value of transparency and commitment to deepening accountability in the minerals sector.

Data from the country’s fiscal authority, Ghana Revenue Authority (GRA), show that fiscal revenue (excluding dividends) attributable to the mining and quarrying sector increased by 70.3 per cent on year-on-year basis, from GH¢2.36 billion in 2018 to GH¢4.02 billion in 2019. The sector’s payments translate into 18.3 per cent of direct domestic receipts mobilized by the GRA and 7.6 per cent of total government revenue in 2019. Likewise, the Non-Tax Revenue Unit of the Ministry of Finance received GH¢38.52 million as dividend payments by the mining industry in 2019.

Further, the Bank of Ghana’s statistics on merchandise exports show that the minerals sector accounted for 42.6 per cent of gross exports receipts in 2019. The sector’s output in terms of share of gross export receipts was the approximate equivalence of the sum of shares of the country’s two other major export commodities, crude oil and cocoa. In the light of the upturn in its export revenue performance, the minerals sector consolidated its position as the foremost source of foreign currency from export earnings.

In consonance with the Chamber’s commitment of spurring socio-economic activity through repatriation and expenditure of export earnings in-country, its producing member companies returned US$ 3.3 billion of their realized mineral revenue of US$ 4.5 billion in 2019 through the local commercial banks. This translates into 73.1 per cent of their mineral export revenue.

As well, the producing member companies expended US$ 2.54 billion on purchases of goods and services, inclusive of electricity and diesel, from resident manufacturers and suppliers in 2019. Relative to mineral receipts, the expenditure on locally sourced non-labour inputs amounts to 55.6 per cent.

More so, the producing member companies spent US$ 24.45 million in 2019 on a variety of projects that were aimed at improving socio-economic infrastructure and services in their respective host communities. Table 1.0 provides a summary of the key expenditure items as well as fiscal payments by producing member companies of the Chamber in 2019.

The dividend payment in 2019 was in respect of the 2018 financial year.

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Source: *Ghana Chamber of Mines*

**Ghana Revenue Authority**

***Non-Tax Revenue Unit of Ministry of Finance***

Tel: 0302 782157 / 760652

www.ghanachamberofmines.org

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