A ground-breaking ceremony has been held ahead of the construction of an ultra-modern, multi-purpose facility to support teaching and research at the University of Mines and Technology, Tarkwa. The project, which is estimated at a cost of One Million, Two Hundred and Ten Thousand Dollars (US $1,210,000) is sponsored by the Tertiary Education Fund (TEF) of the Ghana Chamber of Mines. The Fund, which was set up in 2019, is expected to yield an annual amount of $440,000 to support teaching and learning including provision of scholarships, bursaries, research support, internships and resources to facilitate teaching and learning. The building will house the Mining and Mineral Resources Faculty of the University and is expected to be completed within two years.
Speaking at the ceremony, the Chief Executive Officer of the Chamber, stated that “UMaT is an essential institution in the training and moulding of the requisite human capital for the mining industry and other relevant sectors of Ghana’s economy and it is therefore important that they continue to receive the needed support of government, industry, and donors.”

According to Mr. Koney, “the University’s contribution to the training of professionals and conducting research in the minerals sector means that it continues to attract more and more young people who see its engineering and other unique programmes as springboards for career paths worth charting. While this is a positive development, the University’s facilities have been stretched to its limits in tandem; especially as UMaT desires to increase its intake without compromising its acclaimed quality.”

“On behalf of member companies of the Chamber, whose benevolence has made it possible for the realisation of the TEF, I wish to assure you that the Chamber will continue to deepen its relationship and partnership with the University. We are confident that the Chamber’s TEF will become the yardstick for similar Funds across universities in Ghana and the sub-region,” he added.

The Vice Chancellor of the University, Prof. Richard Kwasi Amankwah, applauded the efforts of the membership of the Chamber for setting up the TEF. He indicated that the University has started seeing the benefits of the TEF and is looking forward to the completion of the main infrastructure projects to boost teaching and learning. He promised to offer the contractors the needed support to ensure a successful completion of the project.

The Chief Director of the Western Regional Coordinating Council, Mr. Frederick Agyemang, represented the Regional Minister at the event. The facility will be constructed by a wholly owned Ghanaian company, Wilhelm Limited, which is renowned for its high-quality performance and output. This is a sure way to retain value in the country, particularly within the local economy of Tarkwa.

Other Initiatives to support UMaT

In a related event the Governing Board of the TEF has presented scholarships to thirty (30) undergraduate students pursuing courses in mining engineering, electrical engineering, metallurgy engineering, geology, among others. The total amount of scholarship presented to the thirty students was One Hundred and Thirty-Three Thousand Two Hundred and Ninety-Eight Ghana Cedis (GH¢133,298). This batch of beneficiaries is the first in many as the Chamber, through the vehicle of the TEF, strives to create an enabling environment for teaching and learning at the University of Mines and Technology.

The Chairman of the TEF’s Governing Board, Mr Stephen Ndede, stated that the Fund is poised to support the transformation of an institution that has served as the reliable backbone and pipeline for mining professionals in Ghana and globally. He averred that in addition to the scholarships: “fourteen (14) faculty members of the University have successfully completed secondment with mining firms of the Chamber. I am pleased to inform you that the procurement of a software and hardware to support virtual teaching and learning has also been completed. The software called SMART Classroom will allow the university to offer virtual classes for students, especially workers who do not have the flexibility of studying on campus.”

One key aspect of the TEF’s mandate is to support faculty members and post-graduate students to undertake research works pertinent to the mining industry. Processes are underway to ensure effective implementation of this programme. It is the Chamber’s expectation that the studies produced will be the basis for innovation and technological advancement in Ghana’s mining industry.

Finally, second and third year students who have received the scholarship will also have the opportunity to be part of the “Industry Training Programme”, which will provide undergraduate students with specific and guided industry training. It is expected that, the mining industry will be the ultimate beneficiary of the skills and expertise of these young minds.

3D design of the Ghana Chamber of Mines’ Mining and Mineral Resources Block
The Ghana Chamber of Mines (GCM) has donated a generator to the Maamobi General Hospital in the Ayawaso North Municipality in Accra. The 100 KVA-generator, estimated at GH¢147,000, is meant to augment power supply to the hospital and improve quality healthcare delivery.

The President of the Chamber, Mr Eric Asubonteng, who presented the generator set to the Management of the Maamobi General Hospital, said the donation formed part of a public-spirited programme to support hospitals across the country.

He said the generator would provide reliable power to the hospital and improve health services to residents in the Municipality. “Lack of regular power supply can put the lives of women in labour and new-born babies at risk,” Mr Asubonteng said.

The President said the GCM would bear the cost of servicing the generator for one year at an estimated cost of GH¢45,000.

Mr Asubonteng pledged the continued commitment of the mining industry toward quality healthcare delivery, adding that the industry spent GH¢11.5 million to support the testing of COVID-19 cases.

Mr Asubonteng commended the staff of the Maamobi General Hospital for their role to improve healthcare and the wellbeing of the people living in the Municipality and the citizens in general.

Receiving the Generator, the Medical Superintendent of the Maamobi General Hospital, Dr Dorcas Olga Anfu Okine commended the GCM for the support to the hospital.

She said the hospital went through challenging times due to unstable power supply, which negatively affected service delivery at the laboratory, theatre, maternal ward and Neonatal Intensive Care Unit.

“The days of staff using rechargeable lamps and mobile phone torch when the national grid goes off and our old generator is unable to provide power due to its obsolete state is currently over,” she said.

Dr Okine said because of the erratic power supply, the hospital had to refer cases it could handle to other hospitals.

The Deputy Director in charge of Administration at the Greater Accra Regional Health Directorate, Dr Dery Lucio said the Maamobi General Hospital was critical to healthcare delivery due to its strategic location.

He said the hospital served many women and vulnerable people in society.

Dr Dery said it was usually a difficult moment for doctors when during a medical procedure, the power suddenly went off at the hospital, adding the generator would address that challenge.
The Ghana Chamber of Mines has urged local companies to reposition themselves to become major players in the provision of mine support services in the West African sub-region. Mr Sulemanu Koney, Chief Executive Officer of the Ghana Chamber of Mines, who made the call, said the move would enable local companies and entrepreneurs to benefit from the many opportunities and investments in the mining sector, especially in the West African sub-region.

The Chamber advised the companies to be strategic in their approach. He said, "All of these we do to ensure that we have the capacity in-house because if that capacity is not there, then our desire to be the hub for mine support services in West Africa will come to nought. Let's make sure that we use the mining industry as an opportunity to grow the mining support services companies.

If we are sure that we can supply to these multinational companies in our own country, then we can be confident that they can be competitive when they go out there."

Mr Koney emphasised that "It is important that we use our mining industry as a backbone to create capacity for our local mine support services companies so that they can compete sustainably in West Africa."

Mr Koney said the Ghana Chamber of Mines was working to ensure that local mine support services companies remained competitive to sustainably compete in the West African sub-region.

It will be well over US$200,000.00 trying to get consultants to conduct a study into the various mine support service segments. How can we identify the major players? How can we give them the capacity? How can we assess them and bridge the competency gap such that we can bring them to the highest level so that they can be competitive on a sustainable basis?"

Meanwhile, the Ghana Chamber of Mines donated a cheque for GH¢20,000.00 to the Ya-NA Education Trust Fund to support education in the Dagbon Kingdom.

Ya-Na Abukari (II) commended the Ghana Chamber of Mines for supporting his Education Trust Fund to ensure access to education for all at all levels.

He also welcomed all support towards peace in the Dagbon Traditional Area to ensure that the area contributed to the development of the country.
Chamber of Mines meets Western Regional Minister

The Chief Executive Officer of the Ghana Chamber of Mines, Mr. Suleman Koney on Monday 29th March called on the Western Regional Minister Dr. Kwabena Okyere Darko-Mensah in his office at the Regional Coordinating Office, Sekondi.

Mr. Koney used the opportunity to congratulate the minister on his reappointment to lead the region. While at it, he underscored the importance the Chamber of Mines attached to the development of the Western Region, considering that Ghana derives most of its mineral and agricultural resources from the region. He therefore announced his readiness for a strategic plan with stakeholders to develop the region.

“...to achieve this height there should be a plan to craft a strategy to explore the linkage opportunities within the Western Region," he added.

The Western Regional Minister who also doubles as MP for Takoradi, Dr. Darko-Mensah was delighted to receive the Chamber of Mines. He was even more delighted about the Chamber’s quest to collaborate with the regional administration to make the region a better place to live.

He used the opportunity to outline the things that have influenced his governance style in positioning the Western Region as the model region of Ghana, based on 3 pillars; Entrepreneurial Governance System, Enterprise Western Region and mainstreaming the youth throughout the SDG’s so that the youth can benefit.

“I am particularly happy that you have asked that we do some kind of a development plan. I want to assure you that we have a plan. Our plan is straightforward. We want to see a region that is spatially balanced, economically diversified and that which is environmentally friendly, and I strongly believe that you should immediately get to work to make sure this plan is put together and running,” he added.

He was happy to announce that he has set up the Sekondi-Takoradi financial services hub for mining support services, agric processing, manufacturing and making Western Region a hub for oil and gas industry. He revealed that government has awarded a 100 million dollars contract for the commencement of the dual carriage road from Takoradi to Tarkwa and called on the mining industries to collaborate in completing the project.

He suggested that the Chamber should set up a fund in the Western Region as part of the mining support service to facilitate mining projects within the region.

Responding to the Minister’s suggestion for a Fund, Mr Koney indicated that while it is a laudable idea, mining companies cannot set up such a Fund. He however stated that the Chamber has been engaging the Ghana Association of Bankers to identify innovative ways to support mine support services with access to competitive funding. This he believed will stimulate growth among mine support service providers and create more value for the economy.
Ghana, Burkina Faso to collaborate in addressing mining challenges

Ghana is set to constitute a joint technical team with Burkina Faso to facilitate mining operations and address challenges bedeviling the sector in the two countries.

Minister of Lands and Natural Resources, Samuel Abu Jinapor, who disclosed this in Accra said, the collaboration with Burkina Faso for the exploitation of the natural resources in their respective countries, was for the ultimate benefit of their people.

“Ghana is prepared to collaborate with our neighbour in the area of natural resources exploitation for the mutual advancement of both countries,” he noted.

Mr. Jinapor stated this when the Burkina Faso Minister of Energy, Mines and Quarry, Dr. Bashir Ismael Ouedraogo, led a three-member delegation to call on him in Accra.

One area of concern, according to Mr. Jinapor, was capital flight in the area of mining which was affecting both countries adding that “it is disturbing and we must work to solve it.”

He said that, relations between President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo and his Burkinabe counterpart, Roch Marc Christian Kabore, would further strengthen bilateral ties between the two countries.

On his part, Dr. Ouedraogo, lauded relations between the two nations, stating “that Burkina Faso and Ghana’s collaboration on mining will mean that the African is solving the African problem.”

He said Burkina Faso was looking forward to a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Ghana to enable young people of Burkina Faso to understudy their Ghanaian counterpart in the mining sector.

As a fast-rising mining destination in the sub-region, he said, Burkina Faso would rely on Ghana’s expertise in the formulation of its minerals and mining local content and participation regulations.

He was confident that the collaboration would aid in the setting up of a refinery in Burkina Faso to add value to its minerals and the urgent call to join forces to explore other key areas of mutual interest.

In a related development, Mr. Jinapor has inaugurated a seven-member Ministerial Planning Committee chaired by Benito Owusu-Bio, Member of Parliament for Atwima-Nwabiagya North Constituency to be responsible for the organization of National Consultative Dialogue on Small Scale Mining directed by President Akufo-Addo.

Source: Ghanaian Times
In February 2021, the government nominated some personalities to serve as Ministers in key sectors of the economy. In this edition of the newsletter, we present to you the profiles of the Ministers for Lands & Natural Resources and for Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation.

Hon. Samuel Abdulai Jinapor
- Minister for Lands and Natural Resources

Mr. Samuel A. Jinapor is the Member of Parliament of the Damongo constituency in the Savannah Region. He is a qualified Barrister and Solicitor of the Supreme Court of Ghana. He graduated from the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Kumasi, with a Bachelor of Science degree in Physics, and specialised in Biomedical Physics. He was called to the Ghana Bar in 2012. He undertook his pupillage with the reputable Messrs. Kulendi @ Law, and studied under the tutelage of the renowned lawyer, Yonny Kulendi, who is now a Justice of the Supreme Court of Ghana. Mr. Jinapor earned his Master’s Degree in Law (LL.M) in Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) from the Faculty of Law, University of Ghana, in May 2017. In the course of his studies, amongst others, he successfully took academic sessions in International Commercial Arbitration, Labour Law, Law and Society.

In 2017, President Akufo-Addo appointed him as Deputy Chief of Staff in charge of Operations at the Office of the President, at a very youthful age of thirty-three (33), the youngest in the history of Ghana to occupy such a position. As Deputy Chief of Staff, he assisted the Chief of Staff in mobilising government machinery to support the execution of the President’s agenda for the country. Having worked, closely, in various capacities with President Akufo-Addo, both in opposition and government, Mr. Jinapor has gained considerable experience in the workings of government.

Hon. (Dr.) Kwaku Afriyie
- Minister for Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation

Dr. Kwaku Afriyie is a Medical Doctor by profession and has previously served as Minister of the Ministries of Health, Lands and Natural Resources, Western Regional Minister, and Minister of State Interests and Governance Authority (SIGA) at various stages of his political career. He obtained an MB CBH from the University of Ghana Medical School, a Master of Public Health from Tulane University, New Orleans, U.S.A.

As a former Minister of Health from 2001 to 2005, Dr. Afriyie led the introduction of the National Health Insurance Scheme, from concept, through legislation, to implementation.
The Chief Executive Officer of the Ghana Chamber of Mines has paid a courtesy call on the Regent of Bimbilla, Nyelinbolgu Naa Yakubu Andani Dassana. The visit was part of the Chamber’s community outreach programmes, which have seen the Chamber engage stakeholders in the region and provide support to various institutions in the area including the Bimbilla hospital.

Mr Sulemanu Koney stated that the Chamber was ready to partner key chieftaincy institutions to identify ways to obtain the best value from mining in Ghana. He indicated that the northern parts of Ghana have become hotbeds for mineral exploration, hence the need for the chiefs and people to take advantage of the emerging opportunities to develop the regions.

“The mines are expected to spawn economic activity within the catchment communities and create opportunities for the residents when they begin operations. Hence, communities and local entrepreneurs must begin to position themselves to take advantage of the prospects therein.”

“The Chamber’s experience over the years puts us in good stead to effectively engage citizens across the country and share ideas on ways to continually attract both local and foreign investors into the mining industry to stimulate economic development.”

“As good corporate citizens, the Chamber and its members identify with the progressive national efforts to protect the people and institutions in our host communities and the nation at large. We will continue to play that crucial role as the country moves into the next phase of the fight against the Covid 19 pandemic in rolling out vaccines,” Mr. Koney stated.

Addressing the gathering, the Regent of Bimbilla urged the Chamber to support the people of the area with the requisite skills and knowledge to stand in readiness for the opportunities. He further requested support in youth development to take young people away from engaging in all manner of nefarious activities.

The CEO also engaged with the leadership of the District Assembly where a discussion was held on the need for such areas to be positioned as centres for the manufacturing of critical mining inputs to support the local economies.

Two years ago, the Ghana Chamber of Mines supported the Bimbila Government Hospital with some medical equipment including an incubator and hospital beds. At the height of the Covid 19 in November 2020, the Chamber extended additional support to the facility to support healthcare delivery.

The CEO took the opportunity to visit the hospital and assess how the equipment have been useful amid the plethora of challenges facing health practitioners.

The Medical Superintendent of the Bimbilla hospital, Abdulai Osman commended the Chamber of Mines for their support over the years and stated that the hospital emerged the best hospital in the Northern Region in 2019 and second-best in 2020.

“Despite our achievement as a hospital in the region for the past years, we are still challenged and we still need more support. We appeal for support to help us renovate our old labour ward to a modern early child care unit.”
AngloGold Ashanti Ghana on 4th March 2021 officially commissioned the reconstructed 1.3-km Ashpalt road from Kunka Junction to Nyameso Shell filling station in Obuasi.

The asphalt road, which costs $1 million serves as a link road to neighboring towns such as Dunkwa, Jacobu, and Kumasi.

“This major link road will have a significant impact on the lives of the people in our host communities, it cuts travel times and reduces the safety risks of travelling on a bad road” said Mr. Eric Asubonteng, Managing Director, AGAG. Infrastructure according to Mr. Asubonteng remains a crucial investment area for the mine as enshrined in the mine’s Social Management Plan.

Commissioning the project, Ashanti Regional Minister, Honourable Simon Osei-Mensah, commended the Obuasi mine for the initiative. He noted that though the government attached great importance to the provision of infrastructure using its own annual budgetary allocations, government alone could not fulfil the task of development.

Hon. Osei Mensah, thanked and urged both political and traditional leaders and community members to collaborate with the mine to improve the state of Obuasi. He urged the Department of Urban Roads and contractor Knatto Complex Limited to ensure that the road is maintained whiles pledging his support for the success of the mine and its host communities.

On her part, Queen Mother of Adansi Traditional Council, Nana Amonimaa Dede II could not praise the mine enough saying the peaceful co-existence between the mine and the host communities has yielded mutual benefits and urged the communities to support the mine so they can do more.
Gold Fields’ Tarkwa Mine pays GH¢120.7m dividend to government

Gold Fields Ghana Limited (Tarkwa Mine) has paid GH¢120.66m (US$21m) to the government as its portion of dividends declared for the 2020 financial year.

The payment represents government’s 10% stake in the Tarkwa Mine. Under Ghana’s mining laws, the state owns 10% free-carried interest in large-scale mining companies in the country.

Presenting the cheque to the Minister of Lands and Natural Resources, Mr Samuel Abu Jinapor, the Executive Vice President and Head of Gold Fields West Africa, Mr Alfred Baku, said the payment was separate from taxes already paid to the government.

“This is not inclusive of the taxes and royalties that we pay and all the other things that we do for the host communities”.

He added that Gold Fields Ghana, which operates the Tarkwa and Damang gold mines in the Western Region and owns half of Asanko Gold Mine, was committed to honouring its financial obligations to all stakeholders.

“Gold Fields ensures prompt payment of dividends, corporate income tax and royalties, and employee pay-as-you-earn to the government. We are committed to sustainable mining, as well as creating and sharing value with all stakeholders,” he said.

Mr Jinapor noted that the support of all stakeholders was crucial in helping the country recover from the adverse economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

“It is very heartwarming and refreshing to be receiving money on behalf of the government at this very crucial moment in our economic evolution,” he said.

He commended Gold Fields for the prompt payment of dividends to the government and assured that the Ministry would continue to work with large-scale mining companies to realise President Akufo-Addo’s vision to build a sustainable, viable and mutually beneficial mining industry.

According to Gold Fields Ghana, payments of taxes and royalties by the Tarkwa and Damang mines totaled US$170m in 2020. In addition, US$23 million accrued to the government as employee pay-as-you-earn last year.

The Gold Fields Ghana Foundation, which funds development programmes and projects in the mines’ host communities, invested US$9 million in socio-economic development projects in 2020. The company has also committed over US$2.3 million in COVID-19 support to employees, host communities and government.
This year marked the 26th anniversary of the 4th World Conference on Women that took place in Beijing in September 1995. Following that pursuit, in 2015 (20 years later), the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by the United Nations established its fifth objective as “gender equality”.

International Women’s Day is a day to celebrate the significance of women as well as many of the contributions and achievements of women throughout history. It is also a day for reflection that serves as a call to action for greater gender justice in the world.

The theme for the 2021 celebration was Choose to Challenge’. This theme was carefully chosen to address the suppression of women’s right and inequality in the world today. Women of the world want and deserve an equal future free from stigma, stereotypes and violence; a future that is sustainable, peaceful, with equal rights and opportunities for all. To get us there, the world needs women at every table where decisions are being made.

At Perseus - Edikan Mine, a durbar was organized by the Women In Mining-PMGL Chapter where a Resource Person, Miss Hamdia Orleans-Boham, a Lecturer at University of Mines and Technology, Tarkwa, was invited to address members of the Association on the theme “Being the change we want to see in a COVID-19 world”. In her speech, she urged women to take up challenging roles in society. She also admonished women to accept the challenge of combining their career with the feminine part of their lives and never to relinquish their role in caring for their homes.

Present at the occasion were the General Manager, Dr. Stephen Kofi Ndede, Operations Manager, Mr. Andy Amoah who chaired the function, Technical Services Manager, Mining Manager, Project Manager-Rocksure International and other Senior Management Members; representatives of Wassa Amenfi East Municipal Assembly and Queen Mothers from the Mine’s Catchment Communities.

The General Manager in his speech, indicated that choose to challenge means women coming together in groups to challenge some injustices meted out to women in the society collectively and supporting the under privileged to also rise to the challenge. He also challenged Women in Mining to organize educational programs for women in our Catchment Communities or the societies they find themselves to challenge women to educate their children in school as this is a major tool that can help change the narration for women.

The Women in Mining group entertained the guests with a poetry recital and drama to convey the message about the need to assert themselves, play their role effectively, and complement their male counterparts. It was also aimed at encouraging the girl child to take up Engineering related courses which have been preserved for their male counterparts over the years in order to break the cycle of males dominating the mining field.
Asanko Gold Ghana Limited has stocked the libraries of a number of first-cycle schools in the Amansie South and West Districts in the Ashanti Region with furniture and assorted reading materials to promote the culture of reading and enhance literacy.

Eighteen new schools within the company’s operational area also received assorted materials under the firm’s literacy programme which is being executed together with the Canadian Organisation for Development through Education (CODE) and the Ghana Book Trust.

Thirty-two schools in the two districts have already benefitted from the six-year partnership programme which was initiated in October 2016.

A total of 8,800 books, pens and other accessories were distributed to all the 44 schools in the areas.

"This project is being executed in direct response to low literacy levels among some of our students, which is the result of very many causative factors," the General Manager of Asanko, Mr Eben Swanepoel, said at the presentation ceremony.

He said the partnership had provided high-quality, culturally reflective and literacy level appropriate reading materials for schools in its operational area.

"This goal is to have future generations of literate young people who will be critical thinkers, earn good livelihoods and contribute effectively towards development of our communities," Mr Swanepoel said.

In addition to the materials, the partners of Asanko Gold also donated assorted COVID-19 protective items to all beneficiary schools of the project.

Each student was presented with two washable face masks while the girls received a number of sanitary pads in addition to the face masks.

The General Manager of Asanko called for support from the chiefs and teachers to ensure an improved education standard in the schools.

The Director of Ghana Book Trust, Ms Genevieve Eba-Polley, said since the project started, there had been significant improvement in the communication skills of the students, which is gradually impacting on their Basic Education Certificate Examination results.

She said the figures were not readily available but on the face of it, there had been a major jump in the results of the students and for the first time in many years, the children had gained admission to some of the best schools in the region.
EPA Boss Lauds Iduapriem for Sound Environmental Management

The Executive Director of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Hon. Henry Kwabena Kokofu, has commended Iduapriem Mine for ensuring continuous adherence to environmental standards in its operations.

Speaking during a working visit to the Mine to acquaint himself with environmental issues, Hon Kokofu lauded Management of Iduapriem Mine for the robust reclamation programme and the other measures instituted to safeguard the environment.

Hon Kokofu, who was accompanied by other officials from the Municipal Office in Tarkwa and the Regional Office in Sekondi, said his outfit was committed to supporting mining companies and other institutions to safeguard the environment.

"While we want companies to realise optimum value for their investments, we are also ready to support them to be environmentally responsible," Hon. Kokofu said.

He urged the Mine to work closely with the Municipal Office in Tarkwa to provide the needed support towards protecting and responsibly managing the environment. He further appealed to management to organise an in-service training to assist in building the capacity of his team to support the Mine in its work.

On behalf of the Mine, Managing Director, Jean Marais, expressed gratitude to the Executive Director and his outfit for the visit and the immeasurable support over the years.

Jean said the Mine was committed to responsible mining and would continue to ensure that its operations and activities promote environmental sustainability. He indicated the readiness of the Mine for continuous engagement with regulatory agencies, especially the EPA, in line with its commitment to responsible mining.
Newmont Ghana’s Women and Allies Network supports host community schools

Newmont Ghana’s Women and Allies Network has donated protective wear and sanitary supplies to three schools near the company’s Akyem mine to support Covid-19 relief efforts in its host communities.

The beneficiary schools – Ntronang Presby School, Afosu D.A. School and Mamanso Presby School – received nose masks, paper towels, gallons of handwashing soap and “Veronica” buckets.

Making the donation, the Senior Manager of Sustainability and External Relations at the Akyem Mine, Derek Boateng, reiterated that the health and safety of people in the host communities is a priority for Newmont Ghana.

“As Ghana continues to implement measures to control the spread of the virus and reduce its impact, we are committed to actively supporting schools, local government, medical institutions and other stakeholders by directly addressing the health challenges in our communities,” Mr. Boateng said.

With the recent reopening of schools, Newmont Ghana said it recognises the importance of providing learning institutions with relief items to help students and teachers to resume studies safely.

Against this backdrop, Newmont’s Women and Allies Network took the initiative of raising funds towards the purchase of safety and sanitary supplies for schools in its host communities.

Receiving the donation on behalf of the beneficiary institutions, Birim North’s District Director of Education, Rosemond Antwi, thanked the Women and Allies Network for the supplies and expressed the belief that they would significantly contribute to ensuring safe behaviours in the community schools and prevent the spread of Covid-19.

The women and Allies Network is a Business Resource Group that empowers women within Newmont and its host communities by providing them with developmental opportunities through education and advocacy.

The group has previously donated medical supplies and equipment to nursing and expectant mothers at the Adausena Maternity Centre and New Abirem Government Hospital, and supported the Ntronang Presby School with books and computers through its Read to Inspire project.

Beyond these efforts, when most educational institutions across the country closed down as a precaution against Covid-19, Newmont drew from Africa’s allocation of its $20 million global fund to help Junior High School (JHS) students in its Akyem host communities to continue their academics through a weekly community radio school.

As the country continues to navigate the impacts of Covid-19, the company said it will direct its resources towards addressing the greatest needs in its communities in partnership with the government, public health institutions and other organisations.
Vivo Energy Ghana, the Shell Licensee, has announced the biggest fuel portfolio launch ever in Ghana. The entire new Shell fuels portfolio, (Shell V-Power, Shell FuelSave Unleaded and Shell FuelSave Diesel) is now designed to enhance engine efficiency as Shell's new fuels contain exclusive DYNAFLEX Technology.

This new formulation helps clean and protect key components in vehicle engines, leading to better engine efficiency and performance. The fuels are designed to work with both modern as well as older vehicles.

Shell is constantly evolving its fuel products in line with modern vehicle engine innovations and customer needs. The reformulation of all fuels across the entire portfolio is Shell’s biggest change in formulation. Shell's new and advanced fuels are the result of extensive testing – over 3 million kilometres and more than 170 cars.

Speaking at the launch of the new range of fuels, the Managing Director of Vivo Energy Ghana, Mr. Ben Hassan Ouattara, emphasized the drive that the organisation has to constantly offer its customers the very best at Shell service stations.

“We place customers at the heart of everything we do, and we aim to make their life's journeys better. Our new Shell fuels help to clean and protect car engines, making them more efficient. These advanced Shell fuels are available all over Ghana and are also available to our commercial customers. We believe it is not just where you go, but also how you go that matters.”

“The launch of these fuels is under the platform GO WELL, which champions a positive and energised attitude to journeys and reminds customers that Shell supports them to keep exploring and living lives rich with experience. Our customers will have the opportunity to engage with our teams at Shell service stations countrywide and learn more about the efficiency that DYNAFLEX Technology is bringing to their vehicles.”

Mr. Ouattara added, “We invite motorists to experience the benefits of our new fuels, enhanced with our latest DYNAFLEX Technology, so that they can enjoy better journeys on the road. Whenever our customers visit our stations and walk into our convenience retail outlets; whether they need assistance, or are looking for a place to relax, refresh, and rejuvenate, we aim to be there for them. Whatever car you drive, wherever you are going, visit a Shell station to get the new fuels designed for efficiency and GO WELL.”

The Special Guest of Honour, Reverend Dr. Joyce Rosalind Aryee in her speech commended Vivo Energy for being the benchmark for innovation, quality and safety within the oil marketing industry and urged the company to continue to drive innovation, in the industry to meet the changing needs of consumers.

Shell FuelSave Unleaded and Diesel fuels are available at Shell service stations nationwide from today, and also available to industrial customers and commercial fleet owners through Vivo Energy Ghana Commercial Sales team. The new Shell V-Power fuel is available in selected Shell service stations in Ghana.
Golden Star Resources (GSR) Wassa Mine has said it is poised to increase the representation of women at the mine to 20% by the end of 2025. The company, early last year, announced an inclusion and diversity policy and seeks to attain the set target through apprenticeship and graduate training programmes.

Also, the company is partnering Women in Mining in the United Kingdom to create partnership opportunities for the next generation of women considering career in mining.

Shadrack Adjetey Sowah, Managing Director of the mine mentioned this in an address read on his behalf at a ceremony to mark International Women’s Day at Akyempiin in the Western Region. The event was on the theme: ‘Women in Leadership and Model Parenting in a Mining Community.’

“We live and do our business in communities with potential females who can also benefit from these initiatives if they are empowered,” he said, adding that having the right information and being properly directed into choosing programmes will help children make better decisions.

“This is one of the reasons we organized this programme to help parents and leaders of these communities receive the right information and guide their children especially the girls to challenge themselves holistically,” he added.

President of the Golden Star Ladies Club, Gifty Evelyn Bilson pointed out that mining is a male dominated area but gradually women are changing the story. “Women should be encouraged to offer courses in the mining field to be able to rub shoulders with the men,” she said.

She added that the club has organized several programmes in the community such as breast cancer screening for over 2,000 women, workshops, donation to support women groups and learning material to schools among others. “We want to see women in the communities take promote mining jobs and other alternative jobs.”

During a panel discussion on the theme for the day, Kofi Egyin Bondzie, Head of Human Resource at Golden Star Resources urged parents and guardians to train their children to accomplish their goals in life and not become liabilities on society.

She encouraged women to manage their homes and careers and move along with them despite the challenges that may come their way. He also encouraged women to avail themselves to promotions to better themselves.

Dr. Grace Ofori–Sarpong, Dean of the School of Postgraduate Studies, University of Mines and Technology (UMaT) called for proper parenting, motivation and relationship with children to better understand them and guide into success. “Assign roles to your children in the home and give them the needed support to be responsible in the society,” she said.

Andoh Robertson, Head of Counselling Unit at UMaT urged parents to lead exemplary lives that will motivate their children. “Let your life challenge people in our society.”
The Minister of Lands and Natural Resources, Samuel A. Jinapor, says government is determined to build a viable and sustainable mining industry that will be mutually beneficial to the state and the investment community.

The resources given to Ghanaians by God should benefit them" he said. The Minister stated this when he paid a working visit to AngloGold Ashanti Obuasi Mine on Wednesday, March, 24, 2021, as part of his two-day tour of the Ashanti Region.

The Minister applauded AngloGold for adhering to the local content policy, especially the engagement of a considerable number of the local workforce at the mine.

He made references to some concerns raised earlier by operators of large-scale mining companies such as Valued Added Tax(VAT) on Exploration and nefarious activities of illegal small-scale miners.

He expressed optimism that interventions by the Ministry and the Minerals Commission with the Chamber of Mines would yield a fruitful outcome to resolve the issues.

He stated, “The only way we can make progress is for us to work in partnerships. This will help to enhance performance in the lands and natural resources sector”.

Mr. Eric Asubounteng, the Managing Director of AngloGold Ashanti Obuasi Mine on his part, lauded the efforts of the Minister and his team, saying that it would support the government to achieve the desired result in the mining space.

At a separate meeting with small-scale miners, the Minister re-affirmed his commitment to partnering them to guarantee their mine rights and promote environmental sustainability

“ I came to seek your support to help curb the illegal mining activities and not to destroy your work,” he assured.
The African Mining Services Ghana Limited (AMSG), a contract mining service provider, has handed over a Toyota Hilux double cabin pickup to support girl child education in the country.

The keys to the pickup were handed over to the Save The Girl Child Foundation, a charity organisation committed to promoting vulnerable girls and children’s right to education in rural communities.

The Operations Manager of the company, Mr Joseph Abu-Baka on behalf of AMSG, presented the keys to Mr Frantz Oswald Wulff, who received them on behalf of the proprietor of the foundation, Ms Mabel Adelaide Ofie-Akoto.

The donation was the latest in a series of support by the mining company to local community businesses as part of its corporate social responsibility.

The company had earlier donated a refurbished Toyota double cabin Hilux vehicle to the Tarkwa Nsuaem Municipal Health Directorate to improve their outreach services, monitoring and supervision.

Mr Abu-Baka explained that the donation was to help the foundation to facilitate its daily activities, adding “we believe every girl-child needs attention and so the objective of the foundation is worthy to support”.

The company, which has been in operation in the country for over 25 years, according to its operations manager, took interest in developing the human resource capital and supporting local community businesses.

It has trained more than 95 young Ghanaians through its sponsorship apprenticeship programmes for the country’s workforce in the sector.

Mr Abu-Baka said the company was looking more into supporting foundations that built human capital and would, therefore, roll out other programmes that would be of help to the community.

On his part, Mr Wulff commended AMSG for supporting the foundation with the vehicle.

“We are very appreciative of what the AMSG has done for the foundation and this will go a long way to facilitate the foundation’s work in advancing girl-child education,” he said.
The Ghana Chamber of Mines

PUBLISH WHAT YOU PAY - 2019

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 export 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.

Table 1.0: Summary Statistics on Payments by Producing Member Companies of the Chamber in 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Revenue</td>
<td>US Dollars</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Mineral Revenue</td>
<td>4,571,622,718</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Mineral Revenue Returned to the Country</td>
<td>3,341,663,608</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of Mineral Revenue Returned to the Country</td>
<td>73.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Expenditure</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Payments for Goods and Services</td>
<td>US Dollars</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(excluding diesel and electricity)</td>
<td>1,883,256,988</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Payment for Electric Power Consumed</td>
<td>316,350,202</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Payment for Diesel Consumed</td>
<td>342,052,148</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Expenditure</td>
<td>2,541,659,339</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Big Ticket Expenditure</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amortizing of loans, including interest payments</td>
<td>165,494,989</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expenditure on imported consumables</td>
<td>203,695,725</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital Expenditure (Capex)</td>
<td>544,215,807</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human Resource Information</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Direct Ghanaian Employees</td>
<td>11,755</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Expatriates</td>
<td>144</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Direct Employment</td>
<td>11,899</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Share of Expatriates in Total Employment</td>
<td>1.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fiscal Payments</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corporate Tax</td>
<td>GH¢ 2,269,768,470</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mineral Royalties</td>
<td>1,006,668,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employee Income Tax Payments (PAYE)</td>
<td>736,256,367</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others (Self-Employed)</td>
<td>674,312</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dividend</td>
<td>38,520,630</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Fiscal Payments to the State</td>
<td>4,051,213,967</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Investment Spending</td>
<td>US Dollars</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expenditure on Corporate Social Investment</td>
<td>24,454,047</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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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