

SPEECH: HON. EMMANUEL ARMAH-KOFI BUAH(MP), MINISTER FOR LANDS & NATURAL RESOURCES - GHANA

EVENT: THE 23RD AFRICA DOWN UNDER CONFERENCE

THEME: GHANA'S INITIATIVES AND POLICIES ON MINING AND EXPLORATION – ATTRACTING INVESTMENT AND BUILDING SYNERGIES TO TACKLE CHALLENGES

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VENUE: PERTH, WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Colleague Ministers

High Commissioners – I know one very hardworking one – H.E. Berenice Owen-Jones

Captains of the Mining Industry

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

Good morning,

Yaka! (I learnt that word yesterday, and it means ‘hello’ in the language of the Aborigines of Australia)

Perth is a beautiful, calm, and serene city, and I love the lush greenery that surrounds it.

I am happy to be here, so I want to say ‘thank you’ to the organisers for committing to this annual gathering that allows us to continue the beautiful collaboration between Africa and Australia.

I bring you greetings from the President of the beautiful Republic of Ghana, H.E. John Dramani Mahama, who has embarked on a transformative Reset Agenda to make Ghana the most attractive mining jurisdiction in Africa.

As Minister of Lands and Natural Resources of Ghana, I want to share with you compelling reasons why Ghana should be your destination of choice when you think of investment on the Continent.

I believe we are here today, not merely to discuss rocks and minerals, but to build the future — a future of shared prosperity, sustainable development, and mutual growth.

Ghana needs no introduction in the mining world. Our land has always been synonymous with gold. We were once called the Gold Coast, and that legacy is not just a historical footnote; it is a living testament to the immense mineral wealth that lies beneath our soil.

So, why Ghana?

We are proudly Africa's leading gold producer, and that leadership is built on a foundation of continuous discovery. But we have only just scratched the surface.

The data is clear, the geology is proven, and the potential for new, world-class discoveries has never been greater. Ghana remains a premier destination for high returns on exploration investment.

I can assure you that you can invest in Ghana with confidence, knowing that your investments are protected by a stable political environment and a government that upholds the principles of good governance, including the rule of law and the sanctity of contracts.

The choice of Ghana is a choice of an improved business climate with comprehensive regulatory and legal reforms designed to streamline bureaucracy, reduce operational hurdles, enhance transparency, and improve operational costs.

A key example is the modernization of the Mineral Licensing System through the Mineral Cadastre Administration System (MCAS) — a transparent, online platform that simplifies licensing and accelerates approvals. We recently concluded a transparent audit of all small-scale licenses in the system, and we are replicating the same for large-scale licenses. The goal is to ensure compliance and to improve workflows.

Industrial minerals continue to underpin Ghana's infrastructure growth, with over 110 licensed quarry operations extracting clay, feldspar, limestone, granite, sand, and salt across the country.

Ghana is home to some of the world's top gold mining firms, including Newmont, Goldfields, AngloGold Ashanti, and now Zinjin, and we continue to attract new entrants who recognize our business-friendly environment. Australian companies are not lost in these important partnerships. Cardinal Resources, Azumah Resources, Perseus Mining, Adamus Resources, and Castle Minerals continue to journey with us. Their presence highlights Ghana's global appeal as a mining destination and reflects the strength of our bilateral partnerships.

These companies are complemented by a thriving ecosystem of over 200 engineering and mine support service companies, ranging from drilling to assaying, contract mining to logistics, and laboratory analysis, forming a complete value chain.

Exploration remains vibrant, with over 500 active projects targeting gold, lithium, iron ore, and bauxite, among other commodities.

Geological investigations have also confirmed viable prospects for iron ore, nickel, zinc, chromium and lead, all of which are resources critical to the global energy transition.

Let me walk you through some of the key opportunities for your consideration.

Bauxite: The Ghana Integrated Bauxite Aluminium Development Corporation (GIADEC) is actively promoting an integrated bauxite and aluminium industry. Opportunities exist across the value chain, from mining and refining to smelting and downstream industries.

Iron Ore: The Ghana Integrated Iron and Steel Development Corporation (GIISDEC) is tasked with managing Ghana's abundant iron ore resources — over 1.5 billion tonnes with an average grade of 40% iron oxide. The Corporation seeks private sector partners to develop operations along the value chain and establish industrial parks.

Base Metals: Recent geological investigations have identified potential for base metals like cobalt, copper, nickel, zinc, and chromium. The Government

welcomes proposals from the private sector to partner in exploring these occurrences to create socio-economic value.

Lithium: Ghana is pursuing the development of its lithium deposits to support clean technology. Atlantic Lithium Limited is actively exploring these resources and has confirmed the historical deposit.

Industrial Minerals: Ghana is endowed with industrial minerals such as feldspar, kaolin, silica sand, and granite. Exploiting these would promote linkages with other economic sectors and reduce the reliance on imported substitutes.

Engineering & Other Mine Support Services: Significant opportunities exist for investments in contract mining, drilling and blasting, exploration services, equipment supply, and assay laboratories. Using Ghana as a base, companies can expand their activities throughout the West African sub-region.

It is not surprising that Ghana's mining sector has attracted approximately US\$20 billion in investments over the past two decades.

Our fiscal policies support project viability through generous capital allowances and loss carry-forward provisions, striking a balance between investor returns and national development objectives.

Ghana remains firmly anchored in the rule of law, which underpins our democratic governance and economic stability. With over three decades of peaceful democratic transitions and institutional maturity, we offer a predictable and secure environment where rights are upheld regardless of

political shifts, earning Ghana its reputation as a beacon of democracy in Africa.

It is also worth noting that we also have strong institutions that provide effective policy oversight, regulation, enforcement, and compliance along the entire value chain.

But my friends, let's be very clear - Ghana is not just about extracting resources.

We are committed to a paradigm shift in mining — one that moves beyond the colonial “dig and ship” model to a value-added approach. In line with this, the Government is pursuing several key initiatives to achieve its vision of mining as a catalyst for sustainable development.

Now, let me give you yet another compelling reason to invest in Ghana. The capital city, Accra, is the host city of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), offering investors a gateway to a unified market of over 1.3 billion people across the African continent.

In response to the challenges of illegal mining prevalent in Ghana today, our Government is implementing robust policy reforms. These include enhancing transparency, enforcing regulations, and aligning with global sustainability standards to protect our environment and communities.

All of these efforts are designed to ensure that the sector delivers fair and lasting benefits to investors and local communities while aligning with global sustainability standards.

Despite Ghana's impressive track record in the mining sector, we refuse to rest on our oars. Ghana remains an active participant in good governance practices by subscribing to the;

- Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI),
- The Kimberly Process Certification Scheme (KPCS) for diamonds, and
- The African Mining Vision (AMV).

Ladies and Gentlemen, let me emphasize in conclusion that Ghana is open for business, our doors are open, the data is available, and the opportunity is now!

But we seek more than capital.

We are open to ethical, innovative partners committed to long-term value creation.

Partners who understand that mining is not just about extraction, but about transformation and shared value.

I invite you to come to Ghana, the gateway of Africa!

See for yourself!

Talk to our people!

Collaborate with our institutions, and let us co-create solutions that benefit investors, communities, and the nation alike.

Together, we can build a mining future that is resilient, inclusive, and prosperous.

I invite you to join us to write the next great chapter of African mining together.

Thank you and may God bless our fruitful partnerships.