



TARKWA COMMUNITY MINING (A'KOON)

4th April, 2023

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRESS CONFERENCE BY TARKWA COMMUNITY MINING ADRESSED BY KWADWO SAFO ON DOCUMENTARY BY JOY NEWS JOURNALIST, ERASTUS ASARE DONKOR ON ALLEGATIONS AIRED ON THEIR MEDIA STATION CAPTIONED (TARKWA COMMUNITY MINING:USE OF OLD SHAFT FOR COMMUNITY MINING EXPOSES TARKWA TO DANGER.)

Ladies and gentlemen of the media, good afternoon and welcome to this press conference. The Tarkwa Community Mining (TCM)'s attention has been drawn to the airing of a documentary by a broadcast journalist of Joy News, Erastus Asare Donkor making some Malicious, Damning and preposterous allegations about our operations.

We would like to put on record that, TCM was not provided with the opportunity to watch the documentary as it was neither provided with advance copy of the said documentary nor given a fair hearing seek for our side of the content of the documentary before airing.

Though the TCM did not commission him and Joy News to undertake this exercise and was not given the prior opportunity of it content, we view the allegations circulating in the media very seriously and would wish to take immediate steps to address them:

- 1.The Tarkwa Community Mining (TCM) wishes to emphasize that it is a Company incorporated under the laws of Ghana and as such governed by law of Ghana as well as its own Rules and Regulations as enshrined in the Minerals and Mining Act, 2006 (Act 703) & Tributer System in accordance with Regulation 493-506, 475 and 515 of the Minerals and Mining (health & safety and technical) Regulations 2012(L.I 2182) and the Small Scale and Community Mining Manual 2021. There is no portion of the law that indicates that, the Member of Parliament Hon. George Mireku Duker and Municipal Chief Executive Hon. Benjamin Kessie are owners of the Tarkwa Community Mining as alleged in the documentary.



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2. The TCM wishes to place on record that, A'koon Community is well represented in the Management Board of the Company with three (3) of their own members out of the ten (10) member board going contrary to the assertion in the documentary that, no member of the A'koon Community is part of the Leadership of the Mine.

3. Activities of Mining Companies are viewed undoubtedly as a dangerous activity with acute effects on the social and environmental context within which it operates but as and when such crises comes, due processes are undertaken to ascertain the fact of the matter as to whether those effects are as a result of the activities of the mine or not. Just recently about two weeks ago, our office was served with a letter from the Municipal Mining Oversight Committee to a meeting on the alleged building cracks in A'koon Community from which the Minerals Commission and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) were tasked to do their independent assessments on the cracks and report accordingly to the committee as to whether those cracks were as a result of our activities or otherwise. There are a lot of Mining Companies in Tarkwa Nsuaem whose activities affect A'koon Community directly than to apportion the blame on Tarkwa Community Mining. It is very ridiculous for the uninformed journalist, who should have taken time to study the history of Mining in Tarkwa, to know that, Multinational Companies have undertaken large-scale mining activities in the city of Tarkwa and its environs from time immemorial and there haven't been such media-cabal-sponsored activities against their operations.

4. As mineral-endowed countries become very sensitive to resource nationalism, residents of mining catchment Communities are demanding more recognition of their rights, entitlements and their livelihood. Even though all these and the accompanying managerial issues are of relevance to our mine, the conception of sustainable development in Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) has been predominant in our mining strategies for our catchment Communities with which A'koon Community is of no exception.

Their share of the ore production at our Company is given to the Community every three (3) weeks, construction of an ultra-modern Community Center for the A'koon Community as part of our CSR of which work is assiduously ongoing worth over Two hundred thousand cedis (Gh ₵200,000). Two sets of Jerseys and footballs on a request from their Basic school already purchased for delivery. It is a palpable lie if the documentary says A'koon Community does not benefit from Tarkwa Community Mining.

5. It's also not true, you need to be an NPP before you could be allowed to work at our mine site. It is nowhere stated in the authorities quoted in this release that a person should be affiliated to a particular Political color before coming to work at our mine site. Is the Documentary trying to say, Mubarak Usman Muhammad the newly elected Zongo Caucus Coordinator for the National Democratic Congress who is also actively working at the company is an NPP?

The company leadership is also by this medium, cautioning all media houses to gather their facts right before publishing any information about our mine, or else we will have the court to deal with. There are a lot of benefits the establishment of this Scheme has had on Tarkwa-Nsuaem Municipality and Ghana as a whole which this energy could have addressed remarkably for the government effort than bring it to jeopardy such as:



A. Employed over 6,000 direct workers and still counting across the length and breadth of this country which is even putting pressure on Tarkwa Community Mining hence the call for more establishment in Tarkwa-Nsuaem Municipal by Government to support the teeming youth. We must indicate that our Community Mining Site employs lot of people directly and indirectly than all the Large-Scale Mining Companies all put together in the Municipality.

B. Drastic reduction in crime rate in the Municipality from the captured report of the Ghana Police Service in the Municipality.

C. Has boosted the economic activities in Tarkwa Nsuaem as a lot of traders have entered the Municipality to make business from the existence of the Community Mining.

D. Increased the Small Scale Mining Gold production statistics of the country, hence, supporting the Gold4Oil Policy.

E. Catchment Communities benefiting from our CSR's which has reduced the burden on Government.

Ladies and gentlemen, We want to state categorically that, this said documentary has an iota of mischief and agenda setting attached to it and hereby notify the general public to disregard the video and treat it with the contempt that it deserves, if not why will Erastus Asare Donkor and his Joy News Team neglect the activities of other Small Scale Mining Companies in Tarkwa Nsuaem working in old abandoned Shaft but only mention that of Community Mining?, why will the name of the MP & Deputy Minister for Lands and Natural resources with the Municipal Chief Executive be aligned to the owners of Tarkwa Community Mining?, there are other several commissioned community mining sites in Ghana but why always the bad publications about Tarkwa Community Mining in the public domain of which this is no exception.

We therefore bring to the notice of Ghanaians that, the activities of this Broadcast Journalist as per precedents always seek to either specially target the reputation of individuals or cause blood sharing amongst communities, Companies and individuals, case study : Ejusu-let my vote count, Hon. Kennedy Agyapong vs Erastus Asare Donkor and others, just to mention a few.

We are therefore challenging Erastus Asare Donkor and his Joy News Team to come out with documentary report from the Minerals Commission and the EPA confirming the cracks and other related damages as established in the documentary are as a result of activities of Tarkwa Community Mining and alerting all media outlets who have already aired false information about our Mine site to retract and render an unqualified apology within the next 72 hours or face the full rigorous of the law.

Ladies and Gentlemen, in conclusion, Community Mining is a key and the most important intervention to mitigate all ripple effects of illegal mining. We shall operate responsibly. Thank you for your attention.

KWADWO SAFO

(Media and Public Relations Manager -TCM)

