



MINISTRY  
OF  
RAILWAYS  
DEVELOPMENT

P. O. Box MB 453, Ministries, Accra

Digital Address : GA-110-2975

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## PRESS RELEASE

### THE VIRAL VIDEO ON SOME ALLEGED STOLEN RAIL TRACKS AND STEEL SLEEPERS

We make reference to the viral video circulating on social media from Saturday, 29<sup>th</sup> April, 2023 and the subsequent post by the Ghana Police Service on facebook on the alleged stolen rail tracks and steel sleepers, and wish to respond as follows:

1. The world is moving from narrow gauge to standard gauge rail development and per African Union (AU) and Economic Communities of West African States (ECOWAS) directives, countries constructing new Railway Lines must make efforts to migrate from the narrow gauge to the standard gauge line in order to ensure a seamless interconnectivity of rail transportation within the sub-region.
2. As a result, Ghana has started the construction of standard gauge railway lines from Tema to Mpakadan on the extended Eastern Corridor, and from Takoradi Port to Huni Valley on the Western Line, as per the Railway Master Plan. Thus, the Ministry is in the process of decommissioning the narrow gauge lines.
3. Currently with the exception of the Takoradi to Tarkwa section of the narrow gauge line which is in use for the haulage of manganese, and also the Accra to Tema and Accra to Nsawam sections of the narrow gauge lines which are in use for passenger services (the Accra to Nsawam section currently being rehabilitated for the reintroduction of rail passenger service) all the remaining narrow gauge lines in the country are defunct or non-operational. The right-of-way of these non-operational lines are now being encroached upon by various individuals through development of buildings, illegal mining activities, and incessant theft of the rail tracks by some unscrupulous people.
4. The Ministry is aware of the unfortunate level of theft and vandalism of railway facilities on various sections of the rail network across the country. For instance, we are aware that all or most of the rail tracks on the Central line have been stolen. On the Eastern line, various sections of the line especially at the Anyinam to Konongo sections are being stolen. Similarly, on the Western line where, currently, there is the development of new standard gauge line, thieves and other saboteurs are speedily stealing the rail tracks; particular reference is the Dunkwa to Awaso stretch and some sections of the Dunkwa - Obuasi - Kumasi, as well as the Dunkwa - Huni Valley Section.
5. In this regard, and in order for Government not to lose these assets through stealing, the Ministry has decided to harvest them for safe keeping, and to subsequently, and if found necessary, dispose them of to generate some revenue to Government. The Ministry has

Tel: +233 (0) 302 904 841 / (0) 302 904 840

Email : development@mrd.gov.gh

Website : www.mrd.gov.gh

narrow gauge rail tracks on sections of the Western and Eastern lines, after the Public Procurement Authority's (PPA) approval had been sought and duly granted.

6. Thus, the vehicle seen in the viral video transporting some of the rail tracks harvested by Messrs Xingrui International Development Limited, was authorized by the Ministry and not stolen item.
7. Further, we wish to kindly state that, the Ministry duly informed the Ghana Police Service that apart from Messrs Xingrui International Development Limited who has been authorized to harvest or remove abandoned railway tracks and steel sleepers along right-of-ways from Mempeasem to Mrayem on the Western Line, and from Nnadieso to Juaso on the Eastern Line any other person(s) found removing or transporting rail tracks must be arrested and dealt with accordingly.
8. We further wish to conclude that, Messrs Xingrui International Development Limited, is not undertaking the harvesting and transporting of the rail tracks illegally as being purported in the video under reference, but are working under the directives of the Ministry.
9. We sincerely appreciate the concerns of the citizenry, and accordingly wish to assure the general public of our continuous collaboration with the Ghana Police Service and other stakeholders to ensure maximum protection of all rail infrastructure in the country for the benefit of all.

Thank you.

  
**DESMOND BOATENG**  
**CHIEF DIRECTOR**