



REPUBLIC OF GHANA

OFFICE OF THE
ATTORNEY-GENERAL
AND MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

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Date: 12th September 2023

**RE: REPORT ON ALLEGED INVOLVEMENT OF GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS
ON ILLEGAL MINING ACTIVITIES**

Your letter number CID/AR.233/2023/2 dated 9th June 2023 on the above subject matter refers.

On 2nd March 2023, Professor Frimpong Boateng, a former Minister for Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation and a former chairman of the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Illegal Mining (IMCIM) was a guest on Ghana Broadcasting Corporation's television program, *"Legends of our Time."* In a video footage of the program, the Professor alleged that some government officials and private citizens were involved in illegal mining activities, popularly known as "galamsey".

When the attention of the Police was drawn to the said allegations, they wrote to Professor Frimpong Boateng on 20th March 2023 and requested his assistance in connection with investigations into the alleged involvement of government officials in illegal mining activities. On 21st March 2023, the Police visited the Professor at his residence to elicit further information with respect to the allegations. At the said meeting, the Professor did not name any government official involved in illegal mining activities. However, he submitted a number of documents to the Police.

Notable among these documents was a 36-page document written in response to a letter from the Acting Chief Director of the Office of the President requesting

for a report on the work of the IMCIM. The report signed by Professor Frimpong Boateng is dated 19th March 2019 with the title: ***'Report on the work of IMCIM so far and the way forward'*** ('The Report'). It is in this document that certain persons including government officials alleged to be involved in illegal mining activities were mentioned.

Persons cited in the report as being involved in illegal mining activities are Laud Commey, Charles Nii Teiko Tagoe, Frank Asiedu Bekoe @ Protozoa, Hon. Joseph Albert Quarm, Charles Owusu, Kwadwo Owusu Afriyie, Captain (Rtd.) Edmund Kojo Koda, Donald Entsuah and an unnamed former Member of Parliament for Wassa East Constituency.

Seth Mantey, John Ofori Atta and Ekow Ewusi are alleged to be involved in the sale of excavators, whilst Gabby Asare Otchere-Darko, Hon. Kojo Oppong Nkrumah and Kwaku Baako Jnr. are said to have done acts which directly or indirectly inhibited the Professor in his fight against illegal mining.

The Report contained the following allegations:

- Laud Commey, Charles Nii Teiko and Frank Asiedu Bekoe who are all appointees in the Jubilee House are doing, supporting or interfering with illegal mining or the fight against the menace.
- A former NDC Deputy Minister who was also the Member of Parliament for Wassa East Constituency has been actively mining in the Subri forest for years.
- Hon. Joseph Albert Quarm, a former Member of Parliament for Manso Nkwanta Constituency in the Ashanti Region and a Board member of the Minerals Commission, used his position as a Board member to acquire several large-scale concessions in Manso Nkwanta District which he sold for two hundred thousand Ghana cedis (GH¢200,000) per concession.

- Charles Owusu, Director of Operations at the Forestry Commission called Professor Frimpong Boateng sometime in January 2021, to claim ownership of a concession at Bepotenten and seven excavators which had been seized.
- Donald Entsuah, owner of C&J Aleska and subsequently Imperial Heritage Ltd., had through these companies caused extensive damage to the Diaso, Kopro and Apaprama forests. The IMCIM after dislodging them from Diaso sought to dislodge them from Krobo forest.
- Kwaku Baako Jnr. called Professor Frimpong Boateng to inform him that the managers of C&J Aleska were his friends. Kwaku Baako Jnr. proceeded to publish unsavory things about Professor Frimpong Boateng in the New Crusading Guide newspaper purposely to make the Professor unpopular.
- Gabby Asare Otchere-Darko also called Professor Frimpong Boateng on phone to inform him that he was the lawyer for Heritage Imperial Limited when the IMCIM were ready to dislodge the company from the Kopro forest.
- Kojo Oppong Nkrumah on 8th February 2020 assembled a group of journalists from the National Democratic Congress (NDC) and New Patriotic Party (NPP) affiliated media houses at Forest Hotel, Dodowa, to discuss a strategy to bring down Professor Frimpong-Boateng because of his involvement in the fight against illegal mining. It is also alleged that the Minister's briefing to cabinet, on the fight against illegal mining and missing excavators was a deliberate and sinister attack on Professor Frimpong Boateng.

- Captain (Rtd.) Edmund Kojo Koda called the IMCIM task force to release two seized excavators that belonged to his brother.
- Seth Mantey, a journalist with Peace FM was arrested for being involved in the sale of excavators. In the course of investigations, Mantey stated that he was contracted by John Ofori Atta, then National Security Coordinator for the Central Region and Ekow Ewusi to use his bank account at the National Investment Bank (NIB) to receive proceeds of the sales. According to Mantey, the proceeds were then withdrawn in cash and given to Mr. Ofori Atta who in turn gave some to Mr. Ewusi. These allegations are also contained in a statement given by Seth Mantey - found in one of the documents given to the police by Professor Frimpong Boateng.
- The late Kwadwo Owusu Afriyie, as Chief Executive Officer of the Forestry Commission, is alleged to have permitted some mining companies to mine in the forest. From the Report, this is contained in fifty-six separate letters written and signed by the late Kwadwo Owusu Afriyie. A number of letters signed by Kwadwo Owusu Afriyie, granting approval for the issuance of entry permit to various companies to conduct exploratory activities in specific forest reserves were given to the Police by the Professor.

In the course of investigations, the police interviewed and took statements from the following persons cited in the allegations made by Professor Frimpong Boateng in his report. They are:

- Hon. Kojo Oppong Nkrumah
- Charles Owusu
- Charles Nii Teiko Tagoe
- Reynolds Kwabi, a Director of Heritage Imperial Company Ltd.
- Laud Commey

- Frank Asiedu Bekoe
- Hon. Joseph Albert Quarm
- Captain (Rtd.) Edmund Kojo Koda.

All of the individuals named above denied the allegations made against them in the Report.

Among the documents submitted to the police by Professor Frimpong Boateng is a statement taken from Seth Mantey in 2019 on the sale of excavators. In the statement dated 16th October 2019, Seth Mantey stated that he was an errand boy for John Ofori Atta, the Central Regional Security Coordinator, and a member of the GalamStop, a task force against illegal mining. According to Mantey, in the course of the operation, he became a contact boy for miners whose excavators were seized by the task force. He alleged that the miners were directed by John Ofori Atta to pay between GHS50,000 and GHS55,000 into his account at NIB to influence the team to release the seized excavators. Mantey further alleges that all the money paid into his account was withdrawn by him and paid to John Ofori Atta who gave some to Ekow Ewusi. According to him about 27 of the seized excavators were released.

Even though the diary of action shows that John Ofori Atta was invited by the police, there is no indication that he was interviewed or that a statement was taken from him. There is also no statement from Ekow Ewusi on the docket. However, it appears from information on the docket and documents submitted that this matter, which was reported to the Police sometime in 2019, is being investigated by the Police. The Police should furnish the Office of the Attorney-General with the outcome of the investigations in that case.

Apart from the report which contained the above stated allegations, Professor Frimpong Boateng also submitted the following documents to the police:

- a compilation of online publications by *awakenewsroom.com*. These publications are not related to the allegations made by the Professor in his report.
- a compilation of letters from the Forestry Commission signed by Kwadwo Owusu Afriyie, granting approval for the issuance of entry permit to various companies to conduct exploratory activities in specific forest reserves.
- a compilation of an updated list of small scale miners permitted to work as at 7th July 2020.
- a statement given to the Police by Seth Mantey with NIB statements of account and deposit slips.
- a decision by CHRAJ in a case filed against Professor Frimpong Boateng by Arnold Agbodo on concessions granted to the Professor's son.
- a compilation of excavators kept at Aviation, Adenta.

Apart from the statement of Seth Mantey and the attached statements of account from NIB which provides some evidence in support of the allegations against Seth Mantey, John Ofori Atta and Ekow Ewusi, none of the above-mentioned documents provide any relevant information in support of the allegations made in the report by the Professor.

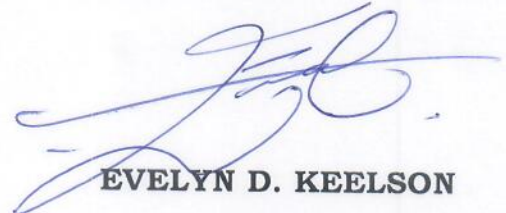
The police also procured two pen drives: one from the Professor and another one from GBC. The first pen drive contains videos of some mining areas captured by the IMCIM; the other pen drive is a recording of an interview granted to GTV by Professor Frimpong Boateng on a program '*Legends of Our Time*'. The interview was mainly on the Professor's life. At the tail end of it, he alleged that some government officials were involved in galamsay activities without mentioning any names.

After a careful study of the Report, the various documents and pen drives submitted to the Police, we do not find any evidence in support of the allegations

made against the persons cited in the Report with the exception of Seth Mantey, John Ofori Atta and Ekow Ewusi. It is recorded that several attempts by the police to obtain further information from Professor Frimpong Boateng to substantiate the allegations made in the Report and to assist them to conduct further investigations proved futile. The Professor refused to provide any further information to the police. He also declined to give a written statement, claiming his Report is "an embodiment of his statement" and all the information he has on the allegations. Investigations by the police have not revealed any evidence in support of the allegations. The allegations are therefore bare and do not provide a basis for any criminal charge against the persons cited in the Report except the three mentioned above.

In the absence of any evidence on the docket in support of any of the allegations of illegal mining activities, we are unable to recommend the prosecution of any of the persons cited in the Report. We however await the outcome of the investigations being conducted in the case involving Seth Mantey, John Ofori Atta and Ekow Ewusi.

Your SIU/CID Headquarters duplicate docket RO. No. 155/2023 is retained pending the submission of the outcome of your investigations as requested above.



EVELYN D. KEELSON

CHIEF STATE ATTORNEY

FOR: ATTORNEY-GENERAL

THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL(CID)

GHANA POLICE SERVICE

ACCRA