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EFEDCOM WORKING TO ADDRESS SECURITY ISSUES IN MINING STATES



Adama Soro, President of EFEDCOM (L) and Executive Director of EFEDCOM, Dr. Sulemanu Koney (R)

President of ECOWAS Federation of Chamber of Mines (EFEDCOM), Mr. Adama Soro has stated that the Federation is closely working with various relevant authorities across member states to address the critical issues of security and artisanal mining.

Mr. Soro said “we are working to increase the institutional anchorage of EFEDCOM, by closely collaborating within country as well as regional institutions. In line, we are working to address one of the biggest challenges of the moment, which is security issues in several ECOWAS countries like Burkina Faso and Mali. The security issues, coupled with rising Artisanal Mining increases pressure on industrial mining and jeopardizes our efforts to really contribute to the social and economic development of our communities. We are halfway to our vision; this is why I would like to call on all our member states and partners for close collaboration”.

The EFEDCOM President said this at a day’s webinar for members of the EFEDCOM and mining sector stakeholders on the theme “Local Content in the mining sector in ECOWAS: Lessons from Ghana and Cote D’Ivoire.

The ECOWAS Federation of Chambers of Mines is a private sector voluntary mining sector organization in West Africa established in November 2016 as a company limited by guarantee, with a Secretariat located in Accra, Ghana. Its mission is to advocate for effective policies to promote sustainable & responsible mining, and to use the resources and capabilities of members to serve the needs of its stakeholders within the ECOWAS Community.

He stated that local content “has become mainstream in the West Africa mining sector, following a strong will of governments and other stakeholders alike, to increase the contribution of mining to the development of the local communities by stimulating our economies using every output of the mining value chain”.

Mr. Soro noted that although the need and will were strong, “the implementation of the local content laws meets some key challenges across most member states. Fortunately, there are positive experiences we can learn from Ivory Coast and Ghana”.

He expressed hope that the webinar would help clear the concerns, and most of all, allow participants to come out with a region-wide best practice and roadmap with regards to optimizing the value of local content in West Africa.

The President of the Federation further informed participants that EFEDCOM has a new board which has made a commitment to achieve low cost of operations for the sector as well as integrate the benefits of local content initiatives for the whole region.

The Executive Director of EFEDCOM, Dr. Sulemanu Koney called for the development of local capacity in the ECOWAS regional value chain of the mining sector for socio-economic development of the region.

Explaining the rationale for the webinar, Dr. Koney said, “given the commonality of minerals in West Africa, there are immense collaborative opportunities through economies of scale and comparative advantage”.

The Executive Director added that it was “imperative as a first step for us to understand and appreciate local content in West Africa’s mining industry”.

The workshop was to allow for exchange of lessons from Ghana and Cote D’Ivoire regarding local content in the mining industry and share experiences and ideas among EFEDCOM members and key stakeholders in the sub-region. The Webinar saw participants from members of EFEDCOM and beyond.

Chairman of EFEDCOM Executive Council, Alhaji Mohammed Sani Shehu on his part said about USD3 billion mining consumables were imported into the sub-region, hence the need to reverse the trend and ensure that these consumables were produced locally for the benefit of the citizens within the ECOWAS region.

Presentations were made by Ms. Lawrence Boahemaa Awuah, Senior Officer responsible for Human Resources, Operations and Local Content at the Ghana Chamber of Mines and Mrs. Yalli Samake, Local Content Champion for Endeavour Mining Group & Local Content Team Lead for Chamber of Mines, Cote D’Ivoire.

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