In case of reply the number and

Ghana Police Service

Criminal Investigation Department

P.O. Box 505

Accra

18th August, 2022

date of this letter should

be quoted

Our Ref: CID/SIU.3/V.2/2021/

The Director-General/CID

CID Headquarters

Accra

**REPORT ON ILLEGAL MINING AT SUBIN INVOLVING SUSPECTS**

**YANG MAOJI AND OHENE FIANKO**

*My Sitrep No.**CID/SIU.2/V.1/2021/64 dated 31/08/2021 refers, please.*

1. On 21st May, 2021, letter of referral from Ghana Military Police with Reference number GMP/208/17 was received from the Commanding Officer Military Police Headquarters through Director General CID together with suspect Yang Maoji, a Chinese National to be investigated for operating illegal mining at Subin in the Central Region. Attached to their letter of referral were exhibits to wit: two (2) cigarette lighters, a non-citizen Ghana card, a copy of his resident permit and a sum of GHȼ 104.50 retrieved from the suspect and same handed over to Police.
2. On 22/05/2021, Major Martin Dziedzorm Dey submitted his statement and stated among other things that on Friday, 14th May 2021, the 2nd Infantry Battalion team led by himself commenced phase II of an operation dubbed “operation halt II” with the responsibility to conduct operations along the left side of River Offin from Adaboye in the Western North Region up north and to search, locate and arrest or destroy all mining equipment being used legally or illegally within the 100 meters to water bodies. That, they arrested suspect Yang Maoji at a small -scale mining site at Akwabusu.
3. The suspect in his investigation caution statement admitted that, he was indeed arrested at the site AT Akwabosu and taken to the river bank of river Offin. He added that he had worked at the site in December 2018 to August, 2019 for one Yang Kwesi a Chinese national but he wasn’t paid his salary during that period and he left to Kumasi. That, Yang Kwesi called him to proceed to the site for his money for the period stated above but met his absence as a result of which he decided to stay there for a while. Upon inspection at the site, mining equipment’s including tipper trucks, water holes, water pumping machines, unserviceable mining equipment were found.
4. On 25th may, 2021 a team of investigators from CID/HQRS Accra, accompanied by some team of Military Personnel led by Lieutenant Justice Okine at Takoradi Naval Base together with suspect Yang Maoji revisited the mining site at Subin in the Central Region to conduct further investigation. Lieutenant Justice Okine led the team to a shed in the middle of the site where they saw suspect Yang Maoji lying on a bench. That, the suspect had attempted to escape upon seeing them but he was pursued and arrested. According to Lieutenant Justice Okine after arrest of the suspect he was led to the river bank of about four (400) meters from the site where a water pumping machine was found and destroyed. That, the commanding officer Major Mathias Dziedzorm Dey then interviewed the suspect which went viral on social media. The security man Hakeem Wagah was the only person met at the site. He was interviewed and gave the name of the owner of the mining company as Mr. Nana Fianko who resides in Accra. The crime scene management team with the support of the ICT men took photographs, video recording and drone footage of the scene.
5. On 01/06/2021, suspect Ohene Fianko was arrested to assist in investigation and in his investigation caution statement he stated among other things that, he is the Chief Executive Officer of Excess Investment Ventures Limited that has some mining concessions within Subin Akwabosu in the Central Region of Ghana and that he has five (5) mining licenses granted him by the Minerals Commission. He further stated that, he acquired the concessions for rock mining and procured mining equipment for same but in the cause of fixing the machines, a directive from the President that all mining activities should be brought to a halt made him to stop the fixing of the machines. He also stated that, his attention was drawn by his security men that some military personnel had come and arrested a Chinese man close to his site and that, he does not know him and has not engaged anyone to do anything on his site. He also submitted his concession documents covering all his concessions to police to substantiate his assertion.
6. Police investigation at the scene disclosed that the lieutenant and his men were on patrols monitoring illegal mining activities within the Subin area. That, on reaching the mining site allegedly owned by Nana Fianko they saw the suspect under a shed in the middle of the site and got him arrested. He was handed over to Police for investigation.
7. On 20th May, 2021 investigation was extended to the Ghana Immigration Service where it was disclosed that, suspect Yang Maoji was granted a one-year work permit to work with a company in Ghana and that he is living in Ghana legally. Attached to their response was the work permit.
8. On 8th June, 2021 investigation was also extended to Registrar-General’s Department where it was revealed that, Excess Investment Ventures was incorporated on 10th May 2016 to undertake activities including hardware and building materials as well as mining and mining services.
9. On 8th June, 2021, a letter of request was forwarded to the Chief Executive officer of the Minerals Commission for information on whether or not Excess Investment Ventures has been granted license to do mining. On 15th June, 2021 the minerals commission submitted their response to Police and stated among other things that, the suspect’s company was granted three (3) small-scale mining licenses within Akwabusu area in the Upper Denkyira West District of the Central Region and that, he was required to obtain environmental Protection Agency and the Inspectorate Division of the Minerals Commission permits. Investigations at the Inspectorate Division of the Minerals Commission revealed that, Excess Investment Ventures Limited has not been granted any permit from either the Inspectorate Division or the Environmental Protection Agency.
10. On 17th July 2021, a team of investigators together with suspect Yang Maoji accompanied by surveyors from the Minerals Commission led by Supt/Mr. Ebenezer Nketia revisited the crime scene where suspect Yang Maoji was arrested. At the scene, two (2) security men namely Kwabena Ayim @ Peter and Abrefa Emmanuel were met and statement obtained from them. They told Police that they did not know suspect Yang Maoji and that, they were mandated to guard the machinery of the company. It was observed that, the place had been mined. The Surveyors took coordinates of the area whilst photographs were taken by the crime scene team.
11. On 17th August, 2021, the Survey department of the Minerals Commission submitted their report to Police and stated among other things that, the point of arrest of suspect Yang Maoji falls within a Small-Scale mining block-out area (i.e. D.C.B. Afigya North Small-Scale Mining Block-out area). That, the total size of the area alleged to be mined out by the suspect at Subin is estimated as 731.72 acres and that an area of 233.04 acres of the total area which was alleged to be mined out by the suspect falls within the Prospecting License for Adansi Gold Company Ghana Limited and the remaining area of 498.68 acres falls within the Small-Scale Mining block-out area. It further stated that, the installations and camp for Excess Investment Ventures Ltd were found to be sited within the Prospecting Licence of Adansi Gold Company Ghana Limited. The report also indicated that, as per the records at the Minerals Commission, the fieldwork and composite maps it was found that the areas alleged to be mined out do not fall within any of the three (3) licences granted to Excess Investment Ventures Ltd.
12. On 31st August, 2021, a duplicate case docket was prepared and forwarded to the Attorney-General’s Department for study and advice and the advice is being awaited.
13. Suspects Yang Maoji and Ohene Fianko were put before court and are to re-appear on 1st September, 2022.

**EBENEZER NKETIAH**

C/SUPERINTENDENT/SIU