

Liberia: 'We Don't Want It Like Butaw' - Senator Teajay Cautions

By Bettie Johnson

Monrovia — Sinoe County Senator Milton Teahjay has warned new concessionaire, Hummingbird Resources (HBR) which has signed a 25-year mining agreement with the Government of Liberia not to tread the path of Golden Veroleum in the county. HBR Thursday signed a 25-year mineral development agreement for the development of Dugbe Gold mine in Sinoe County and it is expected to create over 200 direct jobs and invest in excess of US\$100m over 25 years.

It can be recalled that several citizens in Sinoe protested recently decrying GVL failure to live up to its corporate social responsibility, an incident that led to several arrest including a pregnant woman. Speaking at the signing ceremony in Monrovia Thursday, Senator Teahjay commended the company but expressed fear that it should not be like GVL where citizens have to strike before they are given attention.

"I commend you for coming, there are not much issues so, I promise that this will be ratified by my colleagues, also I hope if you begin you shouldn't be like GVL where the people have to chase them. We will not like that," he said. Senator Teahjay disclosed that the site of the mining is a traditional area and he is urging the company to work in line with county officials to smoothen the company's operation.

HBR is expected to begin implementation after the Mineral Development is ratified by the National Legislature and published in to handbills. Also following its first commercial production, the company is expected to upgrade the existing road between Greenville and Dugbe to a two-lane road for general public use, with capacity for handling heavy traffic.

Additionally, the company after ratification is to give US\$1.5 million to be paid on the granting of the mining license. National Investment Commission Chair, Etmonia Tarpeh described the signing ceremony as a historic event, saying it will improve the growth and contributes to Liberia's economy. She thanked all who contributed to the signing of the agreement and added that it is a turn in Sinoe as schools, hospitals and infrastructure will be guaranteed.

Representing Land Mines and Energy, Mr. Stephen Dorbor, Deputy Minister for Planning & Human Resource said at first Liberia largely mined Iron ore but was glad that the new signing is targeting gold. He added that the signing would attract investors, which will show to the world that Liberia is ready for business. "We pledge that we will work with you in making sure that the job is done correctly in the interest of the Liberian people", Deputy Minister Dorbor promised.

The program brought together several Government officials including George Wisner Executive Director National Investment Commission, James Kollie, Ministry of Finance, Axel Addy, Minister of Commerce, Benedict Sannoh, Minister of Justice, and Eugene Fallah Kparkar, Representative Lofa County among others.

For his part, Daniel Betts, President of HBR commended the Government of Liberia for the signing and promised that his company will target the people first as they commence mining activities. "Liberia is a dedicated country and we have been looking forward to this day, our commitment is from all sides, as we play our role, the Government must also play its role, we know that the place is poor but investment still matters as the country needs to improve," he declared.

Also speaking Justice Minister Cllr. Sannoh said, "Our focus is the people, HBR, we call on you to seek the people interest first, we don't want issues that will arise from your site which will bring a bad image to you, and work to the best as we know there will be constraints". Representative Eugene Fallah Kparkar speaking on behalf of the House Committee on concession said he hopes the signing will bring relief to the people in the mining area.

"We hope this signing bears good fruits for the people of the county, we all know that the negotiation, consummation and ratification is needed, and the Legislature has to ensure that the necessary due diligence is done in confirmative with the investment code of the republic, financial, tax code and mineral law", the lawmaker said. On an annual basis, commencing on the first anniversary of the effective date, HBR is to make an annual contribution to the Government to a social fund for the affected communities.

Year 1-2 US\$100,000, year 3-4; 150, 000, year 5-10; 200,000, year 11 onward US\$250,000 throughout the term of agreement and the company is expected to pay taxes and duties as set out in a fiscal agreement between the Government of Liberia and HBR.

Copyright © 2015 FrontPageAfrica. All rights reserved. Distributed by AllAfrica Global Media (allAfrica.com). To contact the copyright holder directly for corrections — or for permission to republish or make other authorized use of this material, [click here](#).

AllAfrica publishes around 1,500 reports a day from more than 140 news organizations and over 500 other institutions and individuals, representing a diversity of positions on every topic. We publish news and views ranging from vigorous opponents of governments to government publications and spokespersons. Publishers named above each report are responsible for their own content, which AllAfrica does not have the legal right to edit or correct.

Articles and commentaries that identify allAfrica.com as the publisher are produced or commissioned by AllAfrica. To address comments or complaints, please [Contact us](#).

AllAfrica is a voice of, by and about Africa - aggregating, producing and distributing 1,500 news and information items daily from over 140 African news organizations and our own reporters to an African and global public. We operate from Cape Town, Dakar, Lagos, Monrovia, Nairobi and Washington DC.

© 2016 AllAfrica

AllAfrica - All the Time