



RE: ILLEGAL MINING ACTIVITIES BY AKONTA MINING LIMITED IN THE TANO NIMIRI FOREST RESERVES

April 22, 2025

The attention of the Minerals Commission (the "Commission") has been drawn to the claim by Akonta Mining Limited ("Akonta" or the "Company") that it has a valid mining lease in an area located outside the Tano Nimiri Forest Reserve. This follows the press conference held on 21 April 2025 by the Minister of Lands and Natural Resources, stating that the Company is involved in illegal mining activities in the forest reserve.

The Company was granted a reconnaissance licence over an area of 135.87 square kilometres in Samreboi on 15th June 2011 for a term of one year, expiring on 14th June 2012. This area is outside the Tano Nimiri Forest Reserve.

When the reconnaissance licence expired, Akonta was granted a prospecting licence over the same area of land on 31st December 2012 for a term of two years, expiring on 30th December 2014.

Under Section 41 of the Minerals and Mining Act, 2006 (Act 703), the area of a mining lease cannot exceed 63 square kilometres. Consequently, the Company applied for three different leases, which were granted on 23 July 2021 for ten years. It is important to state that these three mining leases are not within the Tano Nimiri Forest Reserve.

Akonta's three mining leases have not been ratified, and the Company has no environmental or operating permits.

Our records show that Akonta applied for a prospecting licence to prospect for minerals in the Tano Nimiri Forest Reserve. The application for the prospecting licence was later withdrawn, and the Company applied for a mining lease over a portion of the Forest Reserve on 25th August 2022.

The application for the mining lease was not signed by the previous Minister. Currently, the Company has no mining lease to mine in the forest, nor does it have a forest entry permit to enter and undertake any mining operations or activities whatsoever. Therefore, Akonta has no mining lease in the forest or any other permits or authorisations required to undertake mining operations lawfully in the forest.

For the avoidance of doubt, the Commission wishes to inform the public that the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources, in a press release dated 30 September 2022, stated that Akonta had no mineral rights to undertake any mineral operations in the Tano Nimiri Forest Reserve.

It is important to note that for any lawful mining operation to be undertaken, the Company must have:

- A Ratified Mining Lease,
- An Environmental Permit issued by the Environmental Protection Authority, and
- An Operating Permit, issued by the Chief Inspector of Mines of the Commission

In addition, a Forest Entry Permit is required if mining activities are to be undertaken in the forest.

The investigations and subsequent raid conducted by a team of security officials found agents of the Company working in an area that is the subject of the Company's application for a mining lease, as indicated by the coordinates taken from the Tano Nimiri Forest Reserve.

The Commission wishes to inform the public that, given Akonta did not have either of the following:

- All the requisite approvals and permits (EPA permit and Operating Permit) needed to engage in any lawful mining in the areas covering the three leases located outside the Tano Nimiri Forest Reserve, and
- A mining lease, along with all approvals and permits required to mine or undertake any operations lawfully in the Tano Nimiri Forest,

Hence, any activity or operation conducted in these areas (both inside and outside the forest reserve) constitutes illegal mining.

SIGNED
VICTORIA AWUNI, ESQ
DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER