

Date:

Honourable Minister Sherry Ayittey  
Ministry of Environment, Science & Technology  
P.O Box M 232, Accra  
Ghana  
Fax: 00233 21 688913

Honourable Minister Ayittey,

Recently I have been informed about the situation which the community members of Adisakrom are experiencing. Living in the Iduapriem mining area of AngloGold Ashanti in the Tarkwa-Nsuaem Municipal Assembly, this community has been deprived of its access to existing water sources.

Residents report that the streams, including the river Angonaben, are contaminated by toxic substances. Because of the pollution, these persons are deprived of their traditional water supply and suffer from various health problems.

The quality and quantity of the water from the borehole constructed by AngloGold Ashanti are inadequate. The victims of pollution are now compelled to buy water at a high cost from private suppliers.

The inaction of the state against the situation in Adisakrom is in full disregard with international law. Ghana is a State Party to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, as well as the African Charter on Human and People's Rights and therefore is obliged to protect the right to an adequate standard of living, including food and water, as well as the right to health of its population.

The inaction is also in disregard with the national legislation in force, including the Water Resources Commission (WRC) Act from 1996, the law L.I. 1692 on water use regulations from 2001, and the National Water Policy from 2008. The WRC should use its monitoring powers to impose measures and sanctions in cases of abuses.

I therefore urge you to ensure that:

- interim measures are immediately taken to guarantee the free access to sufficient and safe water for basic human needs of the community in Adisakrom;
- public authorities in charge, especially the Water Resources Commission, thoroughly investigate the impact of mining activities on water in the Iduapriem mining area;
- citizens are effectively protected against the impact of mining activities on the enjoyment of the right to water; they shall obtain the guarantee of non repetition of such abuses.

Please kindly inform me about the measures you intend to take on this matter.

Sincerely,

Copies to:

Mr. Nana Andoh  
Environmental Protection Agency/Mining Department

Acting Commissioner Ana Bossman  
Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice