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REPUBLIC OF GHANA

THE NINE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH

ACT

OF THE PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF GHANA
ENTITLED

MINERALS DEVELOPMENT FUND ACT, 2016

AN ACT to establish the Minerals Development Fund, to provide financial resources for the benefit of mining communities and for related matters.

DATE OF ASSENT: *29th March, 2016.*

PASSED by Parliament and assented to by the President:

Minerals Development Fund

Establishment of the Minerals Development Fund

1. (1) There is established by this Act a body corporate to be known as the Minerals Development Fund.

(2) The Fund may, for the performance of its functions, acquire and hold movable property or immovable property and may enter into a contract or any other transaction.

(3) Where there is hindrance to the acquisition of property, the property may be acquired for the Fund under the State Lands Act, 1962 (Act 125) and the cost shall be borne by the Fund.

Object of the Fund

2. The object of the Fund is to provide financial resources for the direct benefit of

- (a) a mining community;
- (b) a holder of interest in land within a mining community;
- (c) a traditional and local government authority within a mining community; and
- (d) an institution responsible for the development of mining.

Sources of money for the Fund

3. The sources of money for the Fund include

- (a) twenty percent of mineral royalty that is received by the Ghana Revenue Authority on behalf of the Republic from holders of mining leases in respect of the mining operations of the holders,
- (b) moneys approved by Parliament for the Fund,
- (c) grants, donations, gifts and other voluntary contributions,
- (d) moneys that accrue to the Fund from investments made by the Board, and
- (e) other moneys that may become lawfully payable to the Fund.

Bank account for the Fund

4. (1) The moneys of the Fund shall vest in the Board.

(2) The Board shall open a bank account on behalf of the Fund with the approval of the Minister responsible for Finance.

(3) A person who receives money intended for the Fund shall, not later than the next business day, pay the money into the bank account opened under subsection (2).

Application of the Fund

5. For the purpose of achieving the object of the Fund, moneys for the Fund shall be applied to relevant activities that the Board may determine, to

- (a) redress the harmful effects of mining on affected communities and persons;
- (b) promote local economic development projects and alternative livelihood projects in communities affected by mining activities;

- (c) undertake minerals related research and development of capacity in human resource for mining institutions and institutions that train manpower for the regulatory institutions;
- (d) undertake projects aimed at promoting the mining sector; and
- (e) support the policy planning, evaluation and monitoring functions of the Ministry in respect of mining related activities.

Management of the Fund

Governing body of the Fund

6. (1) The governing body of the Fund is a Board comprising

- (a) a chairperson,
- (b) one representative of the following Ministries not below the rank of a Director:
 - (i) Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development,
 - (ii) Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation, and
 - (iii) Ministry of Finance,
- (c) the Chief Director of the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources,
- (d) the Chief Executive Officer of the Minerals Commission,
- (e) the Executive Secretary of the Lands Commission,
- (f) the Administrator of Stool Lands,
- (g) a representative of the Ghana Chamber of Mines,
- (h) a traditional ruler from a mining community nominated by the National House of Chiefs, and
- (i) one other person, who is a woman, nominated by the Minister.

(2) The members of the Board shall be appointed by the President in accordance with article 70 of the Constitution.

Functions of the Board

7. The Board is responsible for the management of the Fund and for that purpose shall

- (a) ensure the proper and effective performance of the functions of the Fund;
- (b) pursue policies to achieve the object of the Fund;

- (7) Where there is a vacancy
- (a) under subsection (3) or (4) or section 10(2),
 - (b) as a result of a declaration under subsection (6), or
 - (c) by reason of the death of a member,

the Minister shall notify the President of the vacancy and the President shall appoint another person to fill the vacancy.

Meetings of the Board

9. (1) The Board shall meet at least once every three months for the despatch of business at the times and in the places determined by the chairperson.

(2) The chairperson shall at the request in writing of not less than one third of the membership of the Board convene an extraordinary meeting of the Board at the place and time determined by the chairperson.

(3) The quorum at a meeting of the Board is seven members of the Board or a greater number determined by the Board in respect of an important matter.

(4) The chairperson shall preside at meetings of the Board and in the absence of the chairperson, a member of the Board elected by the members present from among their number shall preside.

(5) Matters before the Board shall be decided by a majority of the members present and voting and in the event of an equality of votes, the person presiding shall have a casting vote.

(6) The Board may co-opt a person to attend a meeting of the Board but that person shall not vote on a matter for decision at the meeting.

Disclosure of interest

10. (1) A member of the Board who has an interest in a matter for consideration shall

(a) disclose the nature of the interest and the disclosure shall form part of the record of the consideration of the matter; and

(b) not be present at, or participate in the deliberations of the Board in respect of the matter.

(2) A member ceases to be a member of the Board if that member has an interest in a matter before the Board and

(a) fails to disclose that interest; or

(b) is present at or participates in the deliberations of the matter.

(3) The Board may revoke or nullify a decision on a matter that is arrived at during deliberations if a member

- (a) contravenes subsection (2), and
- (b) benefits from the contravention.

Establishment of committees

11. (1) The Board may establish committees consisting of members of the Board or non-members or both to perform a function.

(2) A committee of the Board is advisory unless the Board delegates its power to the committee.

(3) A non-member of the Board who is appointed to a committee of the Board shall depose to an oath of confidentiality.

Allowances

12. Members of the Board and members of a committee of the Board shall be paid the allowances approved by the Minister in consultation with the Minister responsible for Finance.

Ministerial directives

13. The Minister may give directives to the Board on matters of policy and the Board shall comply.

Administrative Provisions

Appointment of Administrator of the Fund

14. (1) The Board shall, in consultation with the Minister, appoint an officer as the administrator of the Fund.

(2) The Administrator is responsible to the Board in the performance of the functions relating to the Management of the Fund.

(3) The Administrator shall hold office subject to the terms and conditions specified in the letter of appointment.

Appointment of other staff

15. (1) The President shall, acting in accordance with article 195 of the Constitution, appoint staff that are necessary for the proper and effective performance of the functions of the Fund.

(2) The Board may engage the services of advisers or consultants as determined by the Board.

(3) Other public officers may be seconded to the Fund.

Mining Community Development Scheme

Establishment of the Mining Community Development Scheme

16. (1) There is established by this Act a Mining Community Development Scheme for each mining community.

(2) Where before the commencement of this Act a Mining Community Development Scheme exists in a mining community, that Scheme shall be deemed to be a scheme established under subsection (1).

Object of the Scheme

17. The object of the Scheme is to facilitate the socio-economic development of communities in which mining activities are undertaken and that are affected by mining operations.

Sources of funds for the Scheme

18. The sources of funds for the Scheme are

- (a) mineral royalties under section 21 (3)(b);
- (b) moneys that the Fund may receive under section 3(c); and
- (c) donations made by mining companies and other related business entities.

Local Management Committee

19. (1) Without limiting section 11, the Board shall establish a Local Management Committee for a mining community.

(2) A Local Management Committee established under subsection (1) shall comprise

- (a) the Chief Executive of the District Assembly of the mining area for which the Local Management Committee has been established or the representative of the Chief Executive,
- (b) traditional rulers of the mining community,
- (c) one representative of
 - (i) the District Office of the Minerals Commission nominated by the Chief Executive Officer of the Minerals Commission, and
 - (ii) each mining company within the district,
- (d) one representative of an identified women's group in the mining community, and
- (e) one representative of an identified youth group in the mining community.

(3) A person in the community appointed by the Board in consultation with the District Assembly and traditional authorities of the mining community shall be the chairperson of the Local Management Committee.

(4) The person appointed under subparagraph (i) of paragraph (c) of subsection (2) shall be the secretary to the Local Management Committee.

(5) A Local Management Committee shall perform the functions assigned to it by the Board.

(6) Despite subsections (1) and (3), the management of a Mining Community Development Scheme, deemed to be established under this Act by section 16(2) shall serve as the Local Management Committee of that scheme.

Management of the Scheme

20. (1) A Local Management Committee shall administer and operate the Scheme within the mining community for which the Committee was established.

(2) The Board shall determine the modalities for the disbursement of funds to a Local Management Committee for its approved activities.

Financial Provisions

Disbursement of the Fund

21. (1) The Board shall disburse moneys from the Fund through the bank accounts of the Fund as provided under this section.

(2) The Board shall disburse moneys from the Fund for goods and services that form part of the Annual Expenditure Programme.

(3) Subject to paragraph (e) of section 7, the moneys received by the Fund from mineral royalty payments made to the Ghana Revenue Authority shall be disbursed as follows:

(a) fifty percent of the moneys shall be allocated to the Office of the Administrator of Stool Lands and disbursed as prescribed by law;

(b) twenty percent of the moneys shall be allocated to the Mining Community Development Scheme;

(c) four percent of the moneys shall be allocated to supplement the mining operations of the Ministry;

- (d) thirteen percent of the moneys shall be allocated to supplement the mining operations of the Minerals Commission;
- (e) eight percent of the moneys shall be allocated to supplement the mining operations of the Geological Survey Department; and
- (f) five percent of the moneys shall be allocated for research, training and projects aimed at the promotion of sustainable development through mining of which at least forty percent shall be allocated for the Geological Survey Department.

(4) The Board shall determine the signatories to the accounts of the Fund for the transaction of banking business.

Expenses of the Fund

22. The administrative and other expenses related to the management of the Fund shall be charged on the Fund and it shall not exceed two percent.

Accounts and audit

23. (1) The Board shall, in respect of the Fund, keep books of account and proper records in relation to them in the form approved by the Auditor-General.

(2) The Board shall submit the accounts of the Fund to the Auditor-General for audit within three months after the end of the financial year.

(3) The Auditor-General shall not later than three months after the receipt of the accounts audit the accounts and forward a copy of the audit report to the Minister.

Financial year

24. The financial year of the Fund is the same as the financial year of the Government.

Annual reports

25. (1) The Board shall, within one month after the receipt of the audit report, submit an annual report to the Minister covering the operations of the Fund for the year to which the report relates.

(2) The annual report shall include

- (a) the report of the Auditor-General on the accounts of the Fund, and
- (b) any other information that the Board considers necessary.

(3) The Minister shall within one month after the receipt of the annual report submit the report to Parliament with a statement that the Minister considers necessary.

Miscellaneous Provisions

Regulations

26. The Minister shall, on the advice of the Board and within one year after the coming into force of this Act, by legislative instrument make Regulations to prescribe generally for the effective implementation of this Act.

Interpretation

27. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,

- “Annual Expenditure Programme” means the Annual Expenditure Programme of the Fund approved by the Minister;
- “banking business” means Class I and Class II banking business in accordance with the Banking Act, 2004 (Act 673);
- “Board” means the governing body of the Minerals Development Fund established under section 6;
- “Commission” means the Minerals Commission established under section 1 of the Minerals Commission Act, 1993 (Act 450);
- “District Assembly” includes a Municipal Assembly and a Metropolitan Assembly;
- “Fund” means the Minerals Development Fund established under section 1;
- “mineral royalty” means royalty payable to the Government by the holder of a mining lease in respect of its mining operations under the Minerals and Mining Act, 2006 (Act 703);
- “mining community” means a community in which mining operations take place or which is affected by mining operations as determined by the Board;
- “Minister” means the Minister responsible for Mines;
- “Ministry” means the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources; and
- “Scheme” means the Mining Community Development Scheme established under section 16.

Transitional provisions

28. (1) On the commencement of this Act, the Ministry of Finance and any other institution shall cease to administer the Minerals Development Fund accounts previously operated by them.

(2) The total sum of money located in any bank before the commencement of this Act which constitutes money intended for the Fund shall, within thirty days, be transferred into the Fund established under section 1.

(3) An amount accruing to the Fund before the commencement of this Act shall, within thirty days, be transferred to the Fund established under this Act.

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