

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF JUDICATURE
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
(CRIMINAL DIVISION)
ACCRA – A.D. 2025.

07/10/2025
10:28 am/pm
Registrar
HIGH COURT, ACCRA

DOCKET NO.: CP/0006/2026

THE REPUBLIC

VERSUS

AKONTA MINING COMPANY LIMITED
BERNARD ANTWI BOASIAKO @ WONTUMI
KWAME ANTWI (AT LARGE)
EDWARD AKUOKO
KWADWO OWUSU BEMPAH @ SLY (AT LARGE)

1ST ACCUSED PERSON
2ND ACCUSED PERSON
3RD ACCUSED PERSON
4TH ACCUSED PERSON
5TH ACCUSED PERSON

CHARGE SHEET

COUNT ONE

Statement of Offence:

Undertaking a mining operation without a licence, contrary to Section 99(2)(a) of the Minerals and Mining Act, 2006 (Act 703) as amended by Section 3 of the Minerals and Mining (Amendment Act), 2019 (Act 995).

Particulars of Offence:

AKONTA MINING COMPANY LIMITED, that you, in the year 2022, in Samreboi in the Western Region and within the jurisdiction of this Court, being incorporated with the object of engaging in mining and exploration, did, without a license granted by the Minister, undertake a mining operation in the Tano Nimire Forest Reserve.

COUNT TWO

Statement of Offence:

Undertaking a mining operation without a licence, contrary to Section 99(2)(a) of the Minerals and Mining Act, 2006 (Act 703) as amended by Section 3 of the Minerals and Mining (Amendment Act), 2019 (Act 995).

Particulars of Offence:

BERNARD ANTWI BOASIAKO, alias WONTUMI, 49 years old, entrepreneur; KWAME ANTWI, at large; that you, in the year 2022, in Samreboi in the Western Region and within the jurisdiction of this Court, being the owners and directors of AKONTA MINING COMPANY LIMITED, did, without a license granted by the Minister, undertake a mining operation in the Tano Nimire Forest Reserve.

COUNT THREE**Statement of Offence:**

Undertaking a mining operation without a licence, contrary to Section 99(2)(a) of the Minerals and Mining Act, 2006 (Act 703) as amended by Section 3 of the Minerals and Mining (Amendment Act), 2019 (Act 995).

Particulars of Offence:

EDWARD AKUOKU, 48 years old; and KWADWO OWUSU BEMPAH alias SLY, at large; that you, in the year 2022, in Samreboi in the Western Region and within the jurisdiction of this Court, being, respectively, the General Manager, and the Operations Manager at AKONTA MINING COMPANY LIMITED, did, without a license granted by the Minister, undertake a mining operation in the Tano Nimire Forest Reserve.

COUNT FOUR**Statement of Offence:**

Felling trees in a Forest Reserve without written authority from the competent forest authority, contrary to Section 1(1)(a) of the Forest Protection Act, 1974 (NRCD 243) as amended by Section 1 of the Forest Protection (Amendment) Act, 2002 (Act 624)

Particulars of Offence:

AKONTA MINING COMPANY LIMITED, that you, in the year 2022, in Samreboi in the Western Region and within the jurisdiction of this Court, being incorporated with the object of engaging in mining and exploration, did, without written authority from the competent forest authority, fell over 300 merchantable trees and unquantifiable saplings in the Tano Nimire Forest Reserve.

COUNT FIVE

Statement of Offence:

Abetting the unauthorised felling of trees in a Forest Reserve, contrary to Section 1(1)(a) of the Forest Protection Act, 1974 (NRCD 243) as amended by Section 1 of the Forest Protection (Amendment) Act, 2002 (Act 624) and Section 20(1) of the Criminal Act, 1960 (Act 29).

Particulars of Offence:

BERNARD ANTWI BOASIAKO, alias WONTUMI, 49 years old, entrepreneur; KWAME ANTWI, at large, EDWARD AKUOKU, 48 years old; and KWADWO OWUSU BEMPAH alias SLY, at large; that you, in the year 2022, in Samreboi in the Western Region and within the jurisdiction of this Court, being owners, directors or officers of AKONTA MINING COMPANY LIMITED, did purposely facilitate the unauthorised felling of over 300 merchantable trees and unquantifiable saplings in the Tano Nimire Forest Reserve.

COUNT SIX

Statement of Offence:

Erecting buildings in a Forest Reserve without written authority from the competent forest authority, contrary to Section 1(1)(b) of the Forest Protection Act, 1974 (NRCD 243) as amended by Section 1 of the Forest Protection (Amendment) Act, 2002 (Act 624).

Particulars of Offence:

AKONTA MINING COMPANY LIMITED, that you, in the year 2022, in Samreboi in the Western Region and within the jurisdiction of this Court, being incorporated with the object of engaging in mining and exploration, did, without written authority from the competent forest authority, erect buildings in the Tano Nimire Forest Reserve.

COUNT SEVEN

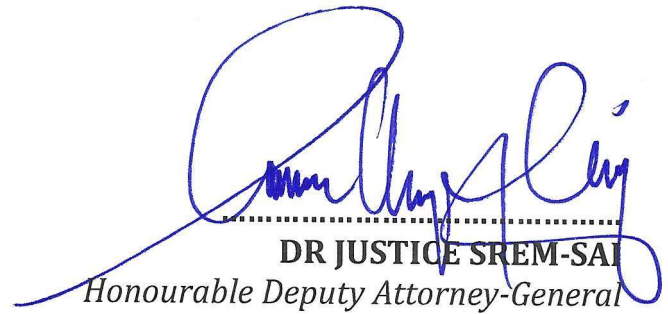
Statement of Offence:

Abetting the unauthorised erecting of buildings in a Forest Reserve, contrary to Section 1(1)(b) of the Forest Protection Act, 1974 (NRCD 243) as amended by Section 1 of the Forest Protection (Amendment) Act, 2002 (Act 624) and Section 20(1) of the Criminal Act, 1960 (Act 29).

Particulars of Offence:

BERNARD ANTWI BOASIAKO, alias WONTUMI, 49 years old, entrepreneur; KWAME ANTWI, at large, EDWARD AKUOKU, 48 years old; and KWADWO OWUSU BEMPAH alias SLY, at large; that you, in the year 2022, in Samreboi in the Western Region and within the jurisdiction of this Court, being owners, directors or officers of AKONTA MINING COMPANY LIMITED, did purposely facilitate the unauthorised erecting of structures in the Tano Nimore Forest Reserve.

**DATED AT THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL, THE LAW HOUSE,
LIBERIA ROAD, ACCRA, THIS 6TH DAY OF OCTOBER 2025.**



DR JUSTICE SREM-SAI
Honourable Deputy Attorney-General

**THE REGISTRAR
HIGH COURT
(CRIMINAL DIVISION)
ACCRA**

**AND FOR SERVICE ON THE ABOVE-NAMED ACCUSED PERSONS OR THEIR
LAWYERS.**

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2ND ACCUSED PERSON
3RD ACCUSED PERSON
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BRIEF FACTS

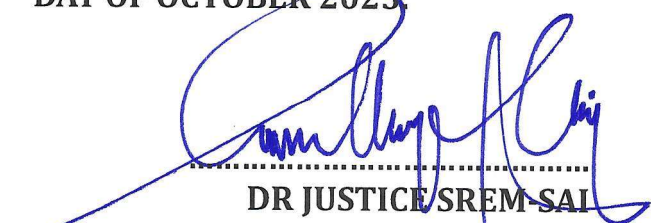
1. The 1st Accused Person (**A1**) is AKONTA MINING COMPANY LIMITED. It is a company incorporated under the laws of Ghana on **November 5, 2010**, with the object of mining and exploration. Tarkwa is listed as its principal place of business. However, **A1** conducts its mining activities mainly in the Samreboi area. Tarkwa and Samreboi are in the Western Region. The 2nd Accused Person (**A2**) is BERNARD ANTWI BOASIAKO alias WONTUMI. He is a 49-year-old entrepreneur, and a native of Kuntanase in the Ashanti Region. In the records of the Office of the Registrar of Companies, **A2** is one of the two shareholder and one of the two directors of **A1**. The 3rd Accused Person (**A3**) is KWAME ANTWI. He is at large. He is listed as the other shareholder and other director of **A1**. When asked of the whereabouts of his co-shareholder and co-director (**A3**), **A1** stated during interrogation that he never saw or heard of him (**A3**) since year 2010 after they both completed **A1**'s incorporation and other authorisation formalities. Investigations have, accordingly, established that **A2** alone has since exercised absolute control over **A1** and its activities. Further investigation is ongoing to establish the existence (if at all) and identity of **A3**.
2. The 4th Accused Person (**A4**) is EDWARD AKUAKO. He is 48 years old and a native of Cape Coast. He, at all material times, is the General Manager of **A1**. The 5th Accused Persons (**A5**) is KWADWO OWUSU BEMPAH alias SLY. He is, at all material times, **A1**'s Operations Manager. He, too, is at large.

3. A few years ago, the Headquarters of the Criminal Investigation Department of the Police Service received multiple petitions from various individuals and organisations demanding a criminal investigation into the activities of **A1** and its controlling owner and director – **A2**. The petitions were about the unauthorised mining and mineral rights related activities of **A1** and **A2** in the Tano Nimire Forest Reserve.
4. Subsequently, the Police Service launched investigations into **A1**'s activities within the Forest Reserves. The investigations reveal that in July 2022, **A1** lawfully obtained mining leases over concessions in Samreboi and Abekoase, both in the Western Region. These concessions were located outside the Tano Nimire Forest Reserve. Later in August 2022, **A1** applied for a permit to enter and undertake mining operations in the Tano Nimire Forest Reserve. The application was, however, refused.
5. Accordingly, **A1** did not obtain or have a mineral right to undertake mining operations within the forest reserve. Neither did it acquire lawful authority to enter.
6. In the same month – August 2022 – a Forest Range Supervisor of the Forestry Commission who was on patrol discovered that not less than six excavators had crossed the Tano River into the Tano Nimire Forest Reserve and were engaged in active mining operations. All the excavators were branded with **A1**'s corporate logo. The Forest Range Supervisor promptly reported this to his superior officers. Subsequent investigations established that **A1** entered the forest reserve, the refusal of its mining lease application notwithstanding. Further investigations reveal that **A1** had, without a permit, brazenly erected security checkpoints and other structures, and had begun conducting extensive mining operations therein, still without a license. The structures and checkpoints had **A1**'s corporate logo marked on them.
7. A few weeks later, it was observed that the number of excavators had rapidly increased to more than 40, many boldly bearing **A1**'s corporate logo. To provide housing for the teeming number of persons working for it, **A1** put up several makeshift structures across the Forest Reserve. Investigations reveal that **A1** and **A2** had no authorisation to erect such structures and buildings in the Forest Reserve.
8. **A1**'s mining activities in the forest reserve caused extreme environmental destruction, including the devastation of approximately 13 hectares of land covering the bed and banks of the Tano River and adjoining portions of the

forest reserve. This destruction involved the uprooting and felling of hundreds of merchantable trees and unquantifiable saplings, the loss of vegetation cover, and severe pollution of the river ecosystem.

9. On **August 17, 2022**, officials of the Forestry Commission accompanied by media personnel and officers of Samartex Timber and Plywood Limited visited the site of **A1**'s illegal activities within the forest reserve. Samartex Timber and Plywood Limited held timber harvesting rights as the sole concession holder in the Tano Nimire forest reserve. The Forestry-Commission-led team arrested some persons believed to be employees of **A1** and seized their mining equipment, including water-pumping machines and metal pipes. Whilst making their way out of the forest reserve, they were confronted by **A1**'s armed personnel who had blocked the exit, preventing the Forestry-Commission-led team from exiting with the seized mining equipment. The said armed personnel drove in vehicles which were marked with **A1**'s corporate logo. They were led by **A4**. **A5**, who was also at the confrontation scene, belligerently demanded the release of the seized equipment from the Forestry-Commission-led team. Investigations established that **A1**'s armed personnel released the Forestry-Commission-led team, but *only* after they had forced them (the Forestry-Commission-led team) to surrender the seized equipment to **A1**'s armed men.
10. Based on these facts, three of the Accused Persons were apprehended after several attempts by the security and intelligence agencies, including a confrontation in Kumasi between the armed men accompanying **A2**. They were cautioned and, subsequently, charged. Hence this arraignment.

**DATED AT THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL, THE LAW HOUSE,
LIBERIA ROAD, ACCRA, THIS 6TH DAY OF OCTOBER 2025.**


DR JUSTICE SREM-SAI
Honourable Deputy Attorney-General

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