

Compensation Governance Framework: the Perceptions of Community Members in Selected Mining Communities in Ahafo Region, Ghana

Benjamin Ajabuin (Canada), Joseph Kidido and Pascal Zini (Ghana)

Key words: Land management; 1. Compensation governance; 2. mining; 3. Ahafo Region; 4. Ghana

SUMMARY

The implications of large land acquisitions for mining activities on agrarian livelihoods thereby triggering social unrest in mining communities. Community members' protest for rights and services based benefit sharing mechanisms of mining resources remained linked to matters of both procedural and distributive justice. While these social unrests continue unabated, this study examined the perception of mine affected community members on the governance framework for compensation assessment and payment. Using two resettlement communities within the Newmont Ahafo South mines catchment as a case study, data was gathered using 115 affected persons and 5 community representatives on the compensation negotiation committee through a mixture of interviews, questionnaires and focus group discussions. The results suggest that good governance was largely observed in the study areas albeit weakly implemented. The affected community members viewed the governance structures for compensation assessment as inadequate in supporting livelihood diversification and resilience of community members and protecting the interest of future generations. Resettlement of community members, who are rural farmers, into an urban space has increased their plights and cost of living without corresponding sources of survival. The study underscores the need for full commitment to the regulatory standards on land acquisition and compensation payment process by the mines and the relevant regulatory bodies. There is also the need to allow for more inclusiveness in the design of social support programmes and the use of mining royalties.

Compensation Governance Framework: the Perceptions of Community Members in Selected Mining Communities in Ahafo Region, Ghana (12456)
Benjamin Ajabuin (Canada), Joseph Kidido and Pascal Zini (Ghana)

FIG Working Week 2024

Your World, Our World: Resilient Environment and Sustainable Resource Management for all
Accra, Ghana, 19–24 May 2024