ANNEX H-3

AKYEM AMANIE
(COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER)
HIV is transmitted mainly through:

1. Sexual Intercourse: Most people get HIV by having unprotected sexual intercourse (having sex without a condom) with an infected person.
   - Oral Sex: Oral sex which consists of all sexual activities that involve the use of the mouth, tongue to stimulate genitals has been found to spread the virus since spumes containing HIV could get into the blood stream of the recipient if there is a gum sore or ulcer. Oral sex is therefore not a safe practice.
   - Anal Sex: Anal sex is the insertion of the penis into the rectum and is either between two men or a man and a woman. This is one way through which the virus is spread. The risk of contracting the virus is very high due to the septic nature of the rectum and the vulnerability of its tissues. Anal sex causes the skin to break leading to sores and ulcers which facilitate easy entry of the virus.
   - Heterosexual Sex: It is a sexual behavior involving the insertion of the erect penis into the vagina and is the commonest mode of transfer of HIV/AIDS in Ghana. Heterosexual sex accounts for the highest percentage of the modes of transfer due to the fact, that the virus is found in seminal and vaginal fluids.

Masturbation: If a man inserts his finger into the vagina of a woman who is HIV positive, he could acquire the virus if there is a broken skin or sore on the finger. And if a woman rubs the penis of an infected person until the ejaculates, she could be infected if there is a broken skin or sore on the finger.

Mother to Child Transmission: A mother with HIV can pass the virus on to the baby during pregnancy, birth or through breast milk. The infection usually occurs during actual birth. Antiretroviral drugs and special medical treatment have been used successfully worldwide to prevent women from infecting their unborn children.

Blood Transfusion and Other Infected Sharps: The injection or transfusion of contaminated blood or blood products, skin grafts or organ transplants taken from someone who is infected is a mode of HIV transmission. It is worth noting that, the risk of HIV transfusion through infected blood products exceeds that of any other risk exposure. It is therefore advisable to receive blood at recognized health facility with appropriate equipment for screening to ensure blood safety. Used needles and syringes are sometimes soiled with minute amount of blood causing infected blood to be transfused directly into the blood stream. Using instruments which have been used on someone with HIV for ear piercing, tattoos or circumcision and have not been properly sterilized also pose a risk to us.

Ways in Which HIV is not Transmitted:

1. Physically Close
   - Living in the same room with an infected person.
   - Breathing the same air; coughs and sneezes
   - Working at the same place with an infected person
   - Playing together with an infected person
   - Touching
   - Shaking hands with an infected person
   - Hugging an infected person
   - Kissing on the cheeks, hands or forehead of an infected person

Sharing
   - Toilet seats
   - Towels
   - Washing together in the same basin
   - Swimming pools
   - Eating and drinking utensils
   - Communion cups
   - Working tools
   - Being bitten by:
     - Mosquito
     - Bed bugs
     - Other insects
     - Any other animal

So my dear reader, you now know the modes of HIV transmission and ways in which the virus is not transmitted. Please do not keep the message to yourself but educate others as well so that together we can reduce the menace of the disease.

In the next edition, Miss Tony will educate you on what AIDS is and the difference between HIV and AIDS so don’t miss your copy.
Another area that OICI have been busy with is the pilot Livelihood Restoration Program (LRP) with a number of people choosing to go back to farming and many others choosing to take the option of making secured investments. Finally, OICI have been busy with their many trainees organising an Exhibition programme which is planned for November for the trainees to showcase their stories which should be a great opportunity for us all to see the benefits that putting the training into practice can bring to the quality of life for our communities.

I would like to thank everyone for their patience through this period of uncertainty and your continuing support and willingness to use the time available to us to strengthen our relationship and to build trust through ongoing open and transparent engagement.

From Robin’s Desk (ESR Gen. Manager)

The year is marking past quickly and another Akym Amane is on the streets. A lot has happened over the last few months, some – such as the recent inauguration of the renovated school at Hwasekua and the new police station in New Abirem have been very public whilst others – such as the retirement of our CEO Wayne Murdy has been less publicized.

On the project side, we continue to make slow but steady progress towards achieving outcomes and targets. This will allow us to determine whether we can build a better project that will meet the needs of our many stakeholders – our shareholders, the government and our communities.

We have spoken before that one way to make the Project more attractive is to find more gold in the area and this year we have worked with key stakeholders and communities that we have developed strong partnerships with to find additional gold. The Sasya Project has now been added to the project list and is progressing well.

The crop compensation review process is continuing, with agreement reached on food and minor tree crops. OICI is planning to organize field days for these farmers in the various communities for on-hand demonstrations to enhance adoption of the technologies being demonstrated.

Kwasi Boateng, Social Investment Manager, Akym Project presented the cheques on behalf of management to the beneficiaries. He said that although the company’s core business is mining, Newmont is very much concerned about the development of the communities and the individuals in our area.

The beneficiaries have expressed happiness for the programme and have promised to make judicious use of the opportunity.

Philomena Acheampong, a beneficiary, said that initially she was not convinced that Newmont will implement the Livelihood Restoration Programme, but the payment she has received bears testimony that Newmont has lived up to its promise.

The highest beneficiary received GH¢7,000.00 and the lowest beneficiary received GH¢1,050.00.

The break down of the payment will enable a farmer who received GH¢1,050.00 to use GH¢400.02 to get a land for farming and use the GH¢600.00 to procure agricultural inputs to restore his farm. The land input of GH¢600.02 goes to the landlord and the agricultural input is for both the landlord and his farmer depending on the share cropping arrangement between them. If the individual is a landlord and the farmer himself, he takes every benefit under the programme.

To ensure that beneficiaries use their payments wisely, a committee has been set up made up of a representative from the Birim North Chiefs Association (Chairman), two representatives from the group of beneficiaries, one each from Newmont Akym and OICI. The committee discusses with a beneficiary what he/she wants to do with the money before they proceed on the project.

Also a working committee comprising of OICI Agric officers and MOFA extension officers is on the ground to monitor the activities of the beneficiaries to ensure that they are on track in restoring their livelihoods.

Newmont holds HIV/AIDS Summit

The first ever Newmont HIV/AIDS Peer Educators summit has been held in Sunyani under the theme, “Peer Educators, We Share because we care”.

The three day programme which brought 35 Newmont Peer Educators drawn from the Acoma, Akym and Ahafo offices, was aimed at offering an opportunity for Peer Educators to exchange ideas, expertise, share experiences and encourage them to take their work on HIV/AIDS prevention.

In an address, the company’s Health Programmes Coordinator Maud Ofori-Nyamey emphasized the devastating effects HIV/AIDS could have on companies and urged the Peer Educators not to relent in their education.

According to her, HIV/AIDS affects productivity through absenteeism of workers as a result of AIDS related illness, loss of skilled labour, increasing training cost all off which have a negative impact on the business efficiency and profitability.

Mrs. Ofori-Nyamey therefore commended the efforts of management and Peer Educators for the strong foundation that has been laid by their commitment to the bring the workplace HIV/AIDS programme into Newmont operations to protect the workforce and local communities from HIV/AIDS.

Newmont HIV/AIDS Steering Committee, acknowledged the importance of the workplace HIV/AIDS programme and pledged management’s support for the programme.

In an address, Peer Educator Wifred Olsouk Sarkoeed, stressed the need for people to fight the virus than stigmatizing people living with the disease.

As part of the programme, the Peer Educators were trained in Basic First Aid by Mr. Damien Mulhearn, a Paramedic of SOS International.

There was presentation of certificates by Mrs. Joyce Kusi of ILO to Peer Educators for participating in HIV/AIDS Peer Education Workshop for mining stakeholders.

Special awards were also presented to deserving Peer Educators for their regular submission of monthly reports. Those who received the awards were Shirley Tony and Sally Ofosu-Yeboah of the Akyem Project, Justice Jeija, Francis Kordah and Edith Anang of Ahafo Project and Felix Larrey of Head Office in Accra.

Ahmed Osman said the bank is pursuing an education drive to inculcate the habit of saving and prudent investment among the people to promote wealth creation, economic growth and improve living standards through the provision of credit to customers and the communities in the catchment area. He noted that it is also the bank’s desire to make the bank one of the best rural banks in the Eastern Region and the country as a whole.

The Bank Manager revealed that the bank has performed its social responsibilities in diverse ways. The bank has instituted a Scholarship Scheme to benefit the wards of customers who qualify to enter Senior Secondary Schools and Junior Secondary Schools. It has also provided funds to help purchase electrical poles for Abodom and Praso Kuma communities the electrification projects, and funds for the Aloso Water project.

As part of the day’s inauguration programme, Newmont Akym Project hosted a reception and an exhibition for the dignitaries who were invited by the bank to grace the occasion. The exhibition provided the Akym Project the opportunity to interact with government representatives, business people, traditional authorities and the clergy and to showcase the consistent efforts being made to strengthen relationships and trust with stakeholders especially the communities.

The Newmont Akym team present included Robin Budden, General Manager Environment and Social Responsibility, Kwasi Boateng, Social Investment Manager, Felix Aphoh, Community Relations Superintendent and Odoro-Kwamefo Marfo, Principal Communication Officer.

Also in attendance were Dr. Chris Anderson, Regional Director of External Affairs, Newmont Ghana Gold Ltd and Ms Adiki Ofeloe Asylee Regional Communication Manager, Newmont Ghana Gold Ltd.

The exhibition materials included posters showing the mining process and environmental control measures, background information about Akym project including fact sheets on Newmont, the 2005 Public Hearing document; past and present copies of Akym Amane, Photo Albums of stakeholder and Social Investment programmes, and documentaries and slide show pictures of some of the recent stakeholder engagement programmes, OICI programmes and other social investment programmes.
Lastly fifty out of seventy applicants have been selected by the District Head Office of the Ghana Police Service at Ot male as potential Community Protection Assistants after going through a screening exercise. They are waiting to commence training at the Police Depot in Koforidua.

Again, the Coordinator lamented that the Youth Employment Programme in the District has not been totally smooth sailing. The programme has confronted several challenges such as human, logistical and financial resources to manage the programme.

“Some of these challenges are hampering the smooth administration and implementation of the programme in the District”, Mr. Danso lamented.

Seven communities are currently benefiting under the sanitation and waste management module and an additional three are in the offering to receive assistance. Twenty six persons (24 riders, 1 mechanic and a supervisor) have been engaged for the management and supervision of these communities. Logistics such as Tricycles fitted with waste containers, uniforms, hand gloves, brooms etc have been supplied by Zoomlion Ghana Limited to facilitate waste management in the selected communities.

Under the NYEP, the Birim North District has been zoned into ten sanitation zones and accordingly, ten youths have been appointed and will be assigned to each zone as Sanitation Guards.

A new Police Station inaugurated in New Abirem

Newmont in collaboration with the Birim North District Assembly has fully equipped and inaugurated a New Police Station in New Abirem. The collaboration to build the police station is a testament of how conscious effort toward company and local government partnership can work in the creation of wealth in the District.

The building of the Police Station itself started with the people and completed with them. The initiative thought on the security of the area which was affirmed by the Regional Security Co-ordinator’s decision to build a police station therefore came into reality as a result of widely shared consensus of the need for the police station which came up strongly in several of our public participation efforts.

Inaugurating the project, the Eastern Regional Minister, Mr. Kwadwo Afram Asiedu thanked Mr. Newmont for responding to its social responsibility by assisting the Birim North District with the Police Station. He expressed the hope that the company in the near future will provide residential facilities for the policemen who will man the Station.

Acknowledging the presence of Newmont as having boosted the economy of the area, the Regional Minister asked the people to always remember to appreciate and to extend any assistance to the company.

The Deputy Eastern Regional Police Commander, ACP David Ampah Benning who represented the Inspector General of Police, praised Newmont and the District Assembly for building the Police Station and appealed to the people to cooperate with the Police to curb crime in the area.

Akyem in collaboration with the Opportunities Farm assistance loan (FAL). The bank also provides money transfer services through Apex, “Efie ne fie” and Western Union. The bank also participates in government social security programs, including contributory social security schemes such as MOWAC, Agric Producers Council (APC) and Farmers Assistance loan (FAL). The bank offers mobile money transfer services, both internal and external such as Apex link, “Elle ne Tie” and Western Union.

To provide quality, quick and efficient services to its customers, the bank has computerised operations at its Head Office in Akuapem and the New Abirem branch.

In an interview with Akyem Amanie, Mohammed Ahmed Osman, Manager of the bank said that it is the collective desire of the Board of Directors, management and staff of the bank to pursue good corporate goals to manage or resolve and lead their people in undertaking beneficial developmental projects in their communities.

The 58 newly elected assembly members and the heads of departments were taken through various modules such as Team Building, Decision Making Process, Communication and Information Dissemination. The rest of the topics included Lobbying and Networking Skills, Conflict Management Skills, Community Mobilization and Proposal Writing Skills. With the support of the National Commission for Civic Education (NCCE), Akyem Amanie, participants were also taken through the role they play in the decentralized governance model. In an interview with Akyem Amanie, the District Coordinator Director of the District, Vincent Ackoem stated that the topics covered during the workshop are appropriate and very relevant to the capacity requirements of the Heads of Department and Assembly members.

He noted that with the training, Assembly members will be able to gauge the need for and implement effective and beneficial programmes, projects and policies. Further, they will be able to prioritize these policies, allocate resources and lead their people in undertaking beneficial developmental projects in their communities.

The training workshop was organized with the necessary skills to be able to perform their constitutionally mandated roles and responsibilities effectively and efficiently. It was also meant to promote participatory democracy so that they will lead and direct the people towards achieving their socio-economic development and sustainable growth. All of these will help to strengthen the communities, enhance their absorptive capacity and empower them to work together for their sustainable development.

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**What the Communities are saying about Newmont**

**MRS. HILDA KESSE (SEAMSTRESS) NEW ABIREM:** I like the presence of Newmont in the community. Before Newmont came, there were no any hopes and development projects were at a slow pace but now things have improved.

**KOFI DENKYIRA (FARMER) NEW ABIREM:** A few years ago I did not want to hear the name of Newmont because of how "bad" some people painted it. I have now known that about ninety percent of the said stories are not true. I agree that Newmont should operate in the community. Newmont has committed itself to helping the communities with development projects like road construction, construction of public place of convenience, provision of water, construction of a Police Station, a hospital and the provision of education.

**OPPONG ASANTE - NEW ABIREM/AFOSU SHS:** Newmont is one of the largest mining companies in the world. It established the Newmont mine in Akyem in about two and a half years. Newmont is the owners of the gold mine in Akyem. The mine is mainly used to process gold, and the construction is responsible to the structures in the area.

**FRANCIS ESSUMAN, BOYS PREFECT - NEW ABIREM/AFOSU SHS:** Newmont has come to this area because of their good vision and support for the education. They have brought some life into the community. They have also helped the communities a lot. The company has undertaken countless developmental activities in the project communities.

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**What the school kids are saying about Newmont**

**SAMUEL MARFO (TRADER) MAMANSO:** Newmont should replant trees to replace those that will be lost. I also learnt the company will reclaim the land which will be lost due to mining activities. I am of the view that Newmont should be given the permit since the mineral in the land cannot be there forever and will be very beneficial when mined.

**PATIENCE ALIMO - OLD ABIREM ANGLICAN JHS:** Newmont as a company operating in the area has provided the youth with some career opportunities in the mining sector.

The theatre troupe they have helped to set up will go a long way to help nurture the talents of these young ones.

However, I think they can do more by organizing inter-school quizzes, debates and talks to help better the results of the Basic Education Certificate Examination (BECE) results in the area.

**COME TO THE CURTAIN DOWN, THE COMPANY WILL SERVE AS A STEPPING STONE FOR DEVELOPMENT IF IT IS GIVEN THE SOLE RIGHT TO OPERATE. I HOWEVER ADVISE THAT NEWMONT SHOULD PAY FAIR AND ADEQUATE COMPENSATION FOR THEIR LAND.**

**ALL DAYS NOT EQUAL**

- MILL:
  - A compound used in reducing the size of a blasted and crushed gold bearing rock.
- REEF:
  - A layered ore vein or horizon within other rock units.
- SMELTING:
  - The process of extracting metal from the ore or concentrates through melting.
- SLAG:
  - Waste material obtained from the smelting process.
- TAILINGS:
  - The material that is left over from processing of ore and which has no commercial value at that time but may be reprocessed depending on high gold price and improved technology.

**What the Communities are saying about Newmont**

**KWA BENA APPAU (FARMER) HWEAKWA:** Some of the benefits of Newmont’s presence in Akyem are the provision of education and the promotion of agriculture by providing machinery, fertilizers, pesticides, etc. Also, the company has invested a lot of money in the area to help the farmers.

**All days are not equal**

- ALL DAYS NOT EQUAL:
  - All days are not equal.
  - Everyday and its call.
  - By the day and by the night.
  - For the left and for the right!
  - That’s how we run our day.

**Children’s Corner on Poems**

**What the Communities are saying about Newmont**

**ERINSETIA OSEI (FARMER) NTONANG:** I am very happy that Newmont has come to this area. It is my hope that when the company starts operations in Akyem, most of the youth in the area will get jobs and also bring development to the area. I also think the project will bring opportunities to trading activities. Also community members will have money and send their children to school for a better future life.

**JOSEPH TWEENBOH (FARMER) NTONANG:** I am happy that this company has not yet started the project but have already been able to organize meetings for farmers, youth groups and the communities as a whole to brief them about how their work is going on. Also they ask us to report any problems that we have with the project and they have solutions for us. This has brought mutual understanding between farmers and the company.

**SAMUEL MARFO (TRADER) MAMANSO:** Newmont has brought some changes in the community. They have renovated our school which is a positive step as far as Education is concerned.

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The company has helped the communities a lot. The company has undertaken countless developmental activities in the project communities.

- It has promoted the communities in areas such as education, economic and amelioration in social conditions. This move has forged an inseparable relationship between the company and the inhabitants.
- In education, it has supported some schools in the community by renovating old and fragile structures thereby creating an amiable atmosphere for schooling.
- For the economic sector, it has engineered the springing up of job opportunities for the youth in the project area. The youth in particular hold the company in high esteem for being able to employ them. This satisfies the saying that, “a good dog deserves a good bone.”

On the other hand, some citizens are suffering indirectly from the existence of the mine. Many farmers have been displaced from their lands and are facing difficulties in their livelihoods.

To draw the curtain down, the company will serve as a stepping stone for development if it is given the sole right to operate. I however advise that the company should extend their wings to the New Abirem/Abosu Secondary School to help equip the science laboratories with the requisite equipment to enhance teaching and learning.

**ALL DAYS NOT EQUAL**

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  - A compound used in reducing the size of a blasted and crushed gold bearing rock.
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  - A layered ore vein or horizon within other rock units.
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