



WACAM
P. O. BOX 558, TARKWA **PHONE 233 362 20137**
BOX CO 1200, TEMA **PHONE 233 22 200585**
EMAIL: **KOWUS75@YAHOO.COM**
WEBSITE: **WWW.WACAMGHANA.COM**

Friday, 18 July 2008

**THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY,
ACCRA.**

**JOINT STATEMENT OF WACAM AND CONCERNED FARMERS ASSOCIATION
OF TEBEREBIE ON THE SEEPAGE FROM CYANIDE CONTAINMENT OF
ANGLOGOLD ASHANTI IDUAPRIEM MINE**

There had been complaints from communities in Teberebie, Adisakrom, Nkwantakrom, etc. on the contamination of streams in the area. The communities had complained to the Environmental Protection Agency in the past on the suspicion that there had been cyanide contamination of their streams. The communities wrote to EPA office in Tarkwa last year and copied the Executive Director of EPA for an explanation to the suspected pollution of water bodies. Later, EPA officials, in the company of community members inspected the containment dam.

Despite these complaints, the communities have not received reports on the causes of the pollution of their rivers. Attempts were even made to push the blame of the pollution of the streams which caused the death of fishes on chemical fishing.

About a month ago, the communities had signs of chemical pollution of the streams and they conducted their own investigations which revealed the seepage of cyanide effluent from the cyanide containment facility of AngloGold Ashanti Iduapriem Mine. Upon the complaint by community members, AngloGold Ashanti Iduapriem mine officials have not provided any information to the communities about the seepage although the company is aware that many people depend on the streams.

The seepage affected River Bromensu which flows into River Anwonabe and finally ends up in River Bonsa. The River Bonsa is the main source of potable water for the Tarkwa area.

WACAM and the communities are of the opinion that the cyanide containment facility of AngloGold Ashanti Iduapriem mine has serious structural problems and thus calls on the EPA to close down the cyanide containment facility of the mine and to investigate the effects of the regular seepage into the river bodies.

The fact that the company did not inform the communities of the cyanide seepage constitutes an environmental crime with serious health implications for the people who depend on the rivers.

We further demand that the company conducts a health screening of all members of the community in order to identify those who have suffered any adverse health impacts from using the contaminated water.

We demand that a report of the investigation into this and other seepages in the past be made public.

Signed:

DANIEL OWUSU-KORANTENG
(Executive Director, WACAM)

EMELIA AMOATENG
(Chairperson, Concerned Farmers Association)