

FOREX RATES		
	BUYING c	SELLING c
US Dollar	9,000.00	9,300.00
Pound Sterling	16,100.00	16,500.00
Japanese Yen	70	90
Euro	10,750.00	10,900.00
CFA (Franc)	16.20	16.50
Rand	1,250.00	1,267.00

THE GHANAIAAN TIMES

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Your 'Times'
 Due to a major rehabilitation of our printing machine, we have had to suspend colour production.
 Please, bear with us as we take the necessary steps to give you better print.
 Management

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WACAM launches 'No Dirty Gold' campaign

From, G. Frank Asmah, Cape Coast

A LEGAL officer at the Accra-based Centre for Public Interest Law, Mr Augustine Niber, has stated that the rapid expansion of the country's mining sector has resulted in endless conflicts between communities living in and around mining concessions and mining companies.

He said such conflicts mainly revolved around land user rights, resistance to resettlement schemes, disagreements over the adequacy of compensation for houses, farms and crops affected by mining projects, pollution of communities' water sources and destruction of cultural sites.

Mr Niber was speaking on Mining and Community Rights at the launch of "No Dirty Gold" campaign at the University of Cape Coast last Wednesday organized by the Wassa Association of Communities Affected by Mining (WACAM). The launch was attended by lecturers, students and community leaders from areas affected by mining. WACAM also mounted an exhibition at the launch to showcase the impact of mining in selected communities.

Gold is regarded as a symbol of

love and purity and the objective of the "No Dirty Gold" campaign is to raise the awareness of gold consumers on the human rights abuses and the impact of mining on poor communities.

According to Mr Niber, "The conflict are partly caused by lack of clear legislative guidance on many issues relating to corporate mining operations in the country".

He said such conflicts and the

practices of mining companies with respect to the issues of compensation, resettlement or relocation, eviction of communities from mining concessions and environmental abuse after lead to the violation of the fundamental human rights of such communities.

Mr Niber stressed that "the systematic violations of the rights of communities living in and around mining concessions, is exacerbated

by the limited access such communities have to the judicial process for purposes of obtaining constitutional and legal reliefs."

He pointed out that "the mining communities have weak capacity in using the legal system to claim their rights when mining companies violate their rights because of poverty and the cumbersome legal processes."



Some students looking at the exhibits on display