

Multi-billion Bauxite Refinery For Ghana

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By Henrietta Abayie

A CANADIAN bauxite giant, Alcan Bauxite and Alumina, will establish a multi-billion refinery at Sekondi in the Western Region to add value to Ghana's Bauxite. The project is geared toward improving the employment situation in the area.

Jacynthe Cote, President and Chief Executive Officer of the company disclosed this when she paid a courtesy call on President Kufuor at the Castle, Osu.

President Kufuor welcomed the news and expressed the hope that it would provide employment for the youth. He said Alcan had been working in the country for over 60 years and was involved in bauxite extraction at Awaso in the Western Region. This activity, he said, had added value to the nation's bauxite. "We now know the company is not only into refining, but also in the mining sector."

The President called for a partnership that would enhance the development of a better relationship between Ghana and the company. Ms Cote said the site for the project and finances were available and stressed that Alcan was about to strike. She however declined to specify the actual date for the commencement of the project. "The industry is good and Ghana has quality mineral resources. The world is going to be in dire need of aluminum," she said. For over 60years,

Alcan, according to Ms Cote, had operated and enjoyed its partnership with Ghana in the extraction of bauxite. She commended the government for its perseverance in pursuing all available avenues to enhance the development of Ghana. "We congratulate you on your recent discovery of oil in Ghana which is good news for Ghana and Africa as a whole," she added.

In another development, the Executive Chairman of ICB Global Financial Holdings, the mother company of International Commercial Bank (ICB), Mr Tun Daim Zainnuddin, yesterday commended

Government and the people of Ghana for the discovery of oil in the country when he paid a courtesy call on the President at the Castle, Osu.

President Kufuor noted that Ghana was committed to understudying other countries that were able to explore its natural resources and use it more holistically towards national development. "Ghana wants the oil discovery to be a blessing to the people as we explore for more development projects."

Submitted by Evo Alexandre