

**MEDIA BRIEFING BY THE MINISTER FOR LANDS AND
NATURAL RESOURCES, HON. SAMUEL A. JINAPOR, MP,
ON THE 2023 EDITION OF THE GREEN GHANA DAY, HELD
AT THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE MINISTRY OF LANDS
AND NATURAL RESOURCES, ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26,
2023**

Hon. Deputy Ministers;

Chief Director;

Chief Executive of Forestry Commission;

Chairpersons and Members of the various Committees of the Green
Ghana Day;

Our Friends from the Media;

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen;

Good morning!

On behalf of the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources, I want to thank you all for responding positively to our invitation to join us for this short Press Briefing.

The purpose of our gathering here, this morning, is to update you, and the good people of Ghana, on this year's edition of the Green Ghana Day.

But, first of all, let me use your medium, to once again, on behalf of the President of the Republic, H.E. Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, thank you, and all Ghanaians, as well as all residents of Ghana, for your cooperation and continuous support since the Green Ghana Project was launched in 2021, as part of Government's aggressive afforestation and reforestation programme to restore our degraded landscapes.

On the maiden edition, we targeted five million (5,000,000) trees. With your support, over seven million (7,000,000) trees were planted. Last year, we raised our ambition and targeted at least, twenty million (20,000,000) trees. Again, you supported us, and over twenty-four million (24,000,000) trees were planted; bringing the total planted trees over the years to in excess of thirty-one million (31,000,000) trees.

So far, field Assessment Report shows that, on the average, we have seventy-two percent (72%) survival rate last year as compared to eighty-one (81%) in 2021. While adequate measures were put in place to ensure the survival of all trees planted, a number of external factors account for the survival rate, including rainfall patterns, wildfires and soil fertility. Nonetheless, the survival rate shows that we still have some twenty-three million (23,000,000) trees to nurture.

It is for this reason that this year, we have revised our target downwards to ten million (10,000,000) trees. This will give us space to devote some resources and attention to the trees planted over the last two years, while not losing momentum on our quest to restore our degraded landscape. It is the expectation of the Government that, this year, we will receive the usual massive support to build upon the successes achieved in 2021 and 2022.

We have, also, decide to organise this year's Green Ghana Day, under the theme "**Our Forests, Our Health,**" to signify the importance of forests in our lives, and to remind us of the many health and related benefits we derive from forests.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, I am, therefore, pleased to announce that the 2023 Edition of the Green Ghana Day will be held on **Friday, June 9, 2023** under the theme '**Our Forests, Our Health.**' The official launch of the Green Ghana Day will be done by the Asantehene, Otumfuo Osei Tutu II, at the Great Hall of the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), Kumasi, in the next Month, May 2023.

We are urging you, our friends from the media, to carry the message across, and mobilise our country in support of this noble project.

Let me use this opportunity to appeal to all Ghanaians and residents of Ghana, our revered chiefs and queen-mothers, religious and faith-based organisations, Ministers, Parliamentarians, Judges, public servants, civil servants, Doctors, Teachers, Lawyers, Nurses, private sector organisations, Civil Society Organisations, students, Members of the Diplomatic Corps, Development Partners, and all persons living in Ghana, to support the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources to make this year's Green Ghana Day a success.

As we did last year, we have compartments for adoption by private institutions, and we will brand these compartments with their names and logos. And as always, seedlings will be made available here at the Ministry, the District Offices of the Forestry Commission, and at various designated locations, for collection on the Green Ghana Day. Detailed schedule of the seedling distribution and pick-up points will be published in due course.

Distinguished Guests Ladies, and Gentlemen, trees play a crucial role in our survival and the survival of planet earth. The statement that "**when the last tree dies, the last man dies,**" still holds true today. Let us, therefore, all join hands together, and Green Ghana on **Friday, June 9, 2023, the Green Ghana Day.**

I thank you for your attention. And enjoy the rest of the day.