

## Minesafe International Digital Conference 2020; COVID-19 – Impact and Learning

*Presenting Author: Francis Kwame Ghunney; - Managing Director – Mining Tools Ghana (Pvt) Ltd.*

### **TOPIC: SAFETY IN THE GHANAIAN MINING INDUSTRY**

The Covid-19 coronavirus, outbreak which was declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization (WHO) brought in its wake a myriad of issues challenging the very survival models of businesses, industries and societies in general, with respect to economics, safety, health and security. The global mining industry, traditionally known for high-level pro-active safety consciousness and emergency preparedness, was caught unprepared on the outbreak of 2019 Novel Coronavirus (SAR-Cov-2), and the disease of COVID-19.

The mining industry in Ghana has not been left out of the consequential, unprecedented humanitarian, safety, health and security crisis, with the attendant medical pandemic and potential economic disruptions that resulted from the outbreak.

The Ghana Chamber of Mines and its individual operating companies, collectively and individually leveraging on their traditionally robust, disciplined, and resilient 'Emergency Response Preparedness' (ERP) protocols, as well as keeping to institutionalized guidance from the international institutions, such the WHO, and government's responses. The industry also adopted to lay down protocols and regulations to quickly restrict, isolate and contact trace people identified or rightly suspected to have been infected, and stepped-up plans to protect the health, safety and security of their employees, contractors, businesses and the general citizenry in their catchment or host communities.

The producing member companies of the industry made voluntary contributions towards the procurement of essential medical equipment for the Ghana Health Services, and allied institutions such as the **Noguchi Medical Research Institute**, the **Kumasi Centre for Collaborative Research into Tropical Medicine (KCCR)**, the **National Public Health Laboratory of the Korle-Bu Teaching Hospital** etc.

This presentation will explore the incidence of Covid-19 in Ghana, its spread to the mining environment, and the impact on health, safety and security, the interventions, and supports offered by the industry membership to help control the spread, as well as keeping operations on going. The presentation will also try to profess solutions to the regulatory, institutional and industry related gaps necessary to bridge the gaps to engender business continuity and resilience.