

Land Grabbing in the Oil and Gas Regions of Ghana– Emerging Problems and Challenges

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Key words: Land Ownership, Land- grabbing, Land- compensation, Oil and Gas Development, Jomoro Regions, Coconut Plantation

SUMMARY

LAND GRABBING IN THE OIL AND GAS REGIONS OF GHANA– EMERGING PROBLEMS AND CHALLENGES (By Kwesi, E. A. A., Amegadoe Humfrey and others; University of Mines and Technology, Tarkwa, Ghana) Abstract The oil and gas companies and other related private firms as well as individuals are said to be grabbing large tracts of land in the coastal regions of the Jomoro District of Ghana, where the deposits are found. One of the emerging and potentially difficult problems to deal with involves compensation issues which if not properly handled can cause recurring socio-economic problems that in turn can retard the development of the oil and gas industry. Land compensation (for what a piece of land is being used for before the onset of a new project on it) is an important problem in all land-based developments. Even air-based and water-based projects have some impacts on land and thus involve compensation issues. These regions in Jomoro are mostly farming communities whose indigenes have little or no employable skills to be engaged in the oil and gas development projects in the area. They have long depended on their farm-lands for survival and as the main source of economic resources for themselves and their future progeny. These people expect adequate compensations that cover their future economic securities and not only payments for the present crops or uses of the land. This paper discusses the potential land acquisition and compensation problems that can develop in the oil and gas regions of the Jomoro District, and ways of dealing with them effectively. It also highlights the importance of geo-information technology and the role of surveyors in solving such problems. Key Words: Land Ownership, Land- grabbing, Land- compensation, Oil and Gas Development, Jomoro Regions, Coconut Plantation