

Name and Shame Corrupt Officers Involved in the Smuggling of Fertilizers - Agric Minister Urges Security Forces



The Minister of Food and Agriculture, Hon. Dr. Owusu Afriyie Akoto, has tasked security agencies and MMDCEs not to shield any individuals or groups engaged in the smuggling of fertiliser across the nation's borders to the neighbouring countries.

Hon. Dr. Owusu Afriyie says the Ministry is resolved to stump out saboteurs and criminals engaged in the smuggling of the produce, irrespective of their political affiliation.

The Minister has further cautioned that any company/supplier implicated in the illegal act will also have their contracts revoked by the Ministry.

Hon. Dr. Owusu Afriyie Akoto gave the warning at Tamale when he met with heads of security agencies, MMDCEs and fertilizer suppliers in the northern regions.

According to him, the time has come for government to take bold steps to weed out miscreants and nation wreckers who are bent on pursuing their individual selfish interest at the expense of the entire nation.

"I am charging you not to shield any individual irrespective of his or her political affiliation. We cannot allow few people to profit illegally at the expense of our poor farmers" He said.

The Minister observed that government's resolve to improve the condition of farmers in the country through the supply of subsidised seeds and fertilisers would be severely hampered if the perennial act of fertilizer smuggling is not nipped in the bud.

He therefore implored the security heads drawn from the Police, Customs, Prisons and the Military to collaborate effectively in tackling the unfortunate act.

Under the Planting for Food and Jobs programme, the government supplies fertilizers to registered farmers at highly subsidized prices.

This is done through a coupon system operated by the District Agriculture Offices across the country.

However, there have been reports of alleged fertiliser smuggling to some neighbouring countries.