

## ***INCREMENT IN THE PRICE OF COCOA***

The Government of Ghana has increased the producer price of Cocoa from GH¢950.00 per tonne to GH¢1,200.00 per tonne. The new price which takes effect from February 21, this year is a means to help curb the problem of smuggling of cocoa to other countries and also to ensure better standard of living of the cocoa farmers.

.Hon. Prof. George Gyan- Baffour, Deputy Minister of Finance and Economic Planning, who announced the new price of cocoa, assured farmers of Government's commitment to implementing policies that will impact positively on their lives as well as the lives ordinary Ghanaian.

He said since this Government assumed office, the cocoa industry has witnessed massive improvements. This is due to the effective structures put in place such as remunerative of producer prices and payment of bonuses, effective disease and pest control exercise, improvement in the agronomic practices, increased valued addition to cocoa and introduction of new and innovative methods of cocoa farming.

Hon. Prof. Gyan -Baffour assured farmers of Government's continued support and pleaded with them to discontinue the practice of cocoa smuggling across the western and eastern borders.

Mr. Isaac Osei, the Chief Executive of Ghana Cocoa Board on his part, explained the rationale behind the upward adjustment which he said is Government's measure to ensure that the country realizes maximum output and earnings from cocoa .

The Chief Cocoa Farmer, on behalf of all the cocoa farmers in Ghana, assured the Government of their readiness to campaign against cocoa smuggling in the country.

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