

All communications should be addressed to the Director General:
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WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY (WARMA)

PRESS STATEMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

24TH DECEMBER 2021

WARMA CONCERNED WITH ALARMING LEVELS OF ILLEGAL DRILLING

The Water Resources Management Authority (WARMA) is deeply concerned with the alarming reports of numerous illegal drilling activities conducted in various parts of the country. These illicit drilling activities are being perpetrated by unregistered drilling companies contrary to the Water Resources Management Act. The Authority is aware that these unscrupulous drillers have continued taking advantage of the general public by providing shoddy and sub-standard works contrary to the stipulations and conditions of the WARMA drilling license. The Authority has been receiving numerous complaints from the public surrounding issues of poorly cased and collapsing boreholes as well as inconsistent to unclear quoting or payment systems by some drillers.

In the recently held 2021 high-level Drillers Meeting, WARMA did emphasize the need for all drilling companies to adhere to drilling licence conditions, failure to which suspension and/or cancellation of licence shall be instituted against those found wanting.

We further want to remind all registered drilling companies that renewal of drilling licence for 2022 is due and closes on 31st December 2021. We want to state here that operating without a licence is a serious offence and will attract stiffer penalties. The law is clear and must be followed decisively in order to bring sanity to the provision of safe and clean drinking water to all. The parameters that government put in place as conditions for registration, are meant to protect members of the public and registered drillers alike. We want to remain consistent on the need for drilling companies to be clear in the manner they quote for their services from the onset of the business transaction. Our emphasis is that the clarity in business transaction between the two parties must be derived from a professionally conducted geophysical investigations prior to drilling.

The Authority further wants to alert members of the public that it is part of their responsibility to engage a qualified hydrogeologist to conduct geophysical investigations prior to drilling. The hydrogeologist will determine three (3) key parameters namely where to drill, depth of drilling and the geological formation of the area, among others. These parameters are the major determining factors on the nature of a borehole that the driller must drill. They will determine materials to be used during the drilling process, and finally the geophysical investigation will determine the approximate total cost of sinking a successful borehole. It is therefore important for the public to know that engaging a professionally qualified hydrogeologist to conduct these site investigations is very critical to making them understand the whole process even before drilling works are conducted.

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We must hasten to mention here that lack of proper geophysical information by the client is often the source of all manner of conflicts between the drillers and members of the public. Further we want to call upon all those wishing to drill a borehole to consult WARMA on the legality of particular drilling companies and to equally be guided on the procedures and processes involved before drilling a borehole. Equally, the public must be reminded that as of 1st January 2022, registration of existing domestic boreholes and application to drill new domestic boreholes with WARMA will be free.

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