

Mr. R. Matenokay Tingban Minister of Mines & Energy Buzzie Quarter, Capitol Hill P.O. Box 10-9024 Monrovia, Liberia

November 25, 2025

Interview on Dredging in Liberia

Dear Mr. Minister:

Please accept my sincere compliments and congratulations on your appointment and subsequent confirmation as the Minister of Mines and Energy.

I am Emmanuel Sherman, a journalist working for The DayLight, an online environmental newspaper.

Minister Tingban, I am seeking an interview with you on your ministry's introduction of ocean sand mining and reintroduction of gold and diamond dredging in the new fees regime.

In October 2019, MME banned dredging for gold and diamonds within our borders. However, earlier this year, it added dredging, including for small-scale, to the new fee structure.

Experts said ocean sand mining leads to habitat destruction, biodiversity loss, and poses a threat to our blue economy, while dredging for gold and diamonds poisons waterways, among other things.

Sir, why was the fee introduced by the Ministry, and what safeguards does the Ministry have in place to protect Liberia's marine ecosystem? What is your opinion on ocean sand mining? Do you think it aligns with or violates Executive Order No. 143, which, among other things, calls for the protection of the environment?

Thank you in advance for your response as we strive to "love Liberia, think Liberia, and build Liberia."

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Respectfully

Emmanuel Sherman

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