

225mw windmill to be established

From Ken Afedzi,
Ayitepa

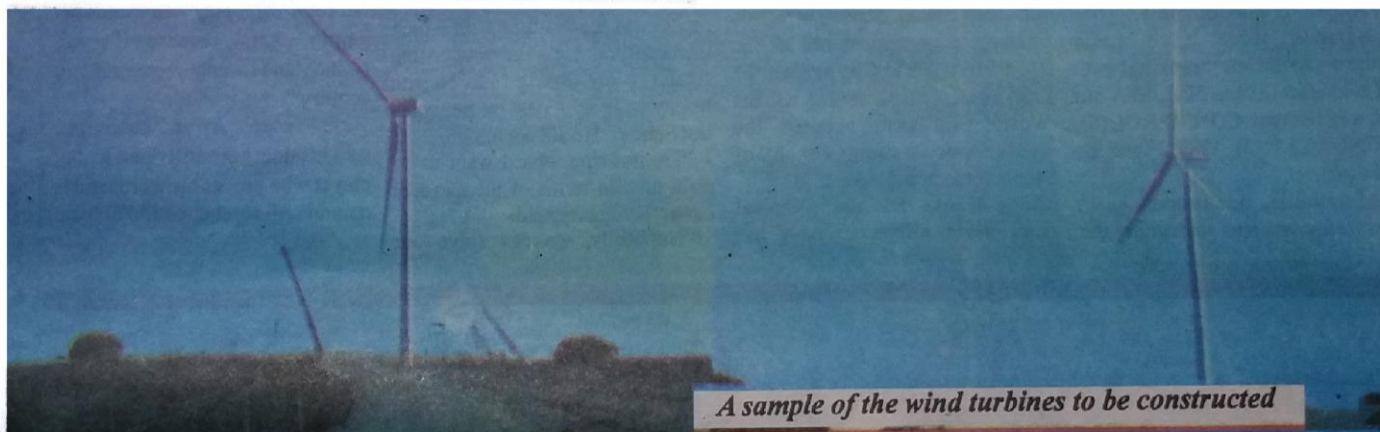
A WINDMILL project to generate 225 megawatts electricity to augment Ghana's power demand is to be constructed this year at Ayitepa, in the Ningo-Prampram District of the Greater Accra Region.

The first of its kind in Ghana, the Upwind Ayitepa Limited, a 525 million dollar wind technology project to help address Ghana's crippling energy situation is expected to be completed by the end of 2016.

Dr. Christoph Kapp, Chief Executive Officer and founder of NEK Group AG, a Swiss engineering company embarking on the project in partnership with Mainstream Renewable Power Limited, Ireland, disclosed these at a stakeholders meeting between Upwind Ayitepa Limited and the traditional leaders of Ayitepa.

The project is a wind technology covering 20,000 acres of land with 75 installed wind turbines of 460 feet high and rotor blades of 215 feet wide and a production of three megawatts power per turbine.

Dr. Kapp said the wind farm would be located on agricultural land a distance of 500 m from houses to contain the aerodynamic roar of the rotor blades and the mechanical noise of the



A sample of the wind turbines to be constructed

generator.

He said farming could be done all around the turbines except on the maintenance platform adding that the project would not have any negative impact on farming, "neither on crops nor on animals".

Dr. Kapp further revealed that yield losses that would occur during the construction of the wind farm and farming

land losses due to new structures like roads would be compensated for.

On how the turbines worked, the Ningo-Prampram District Engineer, John Tsikor, said the project was situated at a strategic area of Ayitepa with enough wind to turn the turbine blades which would spin a shaft connecting a generator to produce electricity while a transformer converts it to high

voltage and transmitted via powergrid.

Mr. Chris Mathews, head of new business, Mainstream Renewable Power, said best practices would be put in place to respect the values of the communities and also identify appropriate benefits for them.

He said the project would increase socio-economic development and promote access to the local economy as

well as assist and accelerate the sustainability of local enterprises adding that jobs would be created for both skilled and unskilled persons at the construction and the operation stages.

Alhaji S.A Rhack Nartey, the District Chief Executive of the area, said his outfit would liaise with them to find solution to the energy crisis bedeviling the country.