

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRESS STATEMENT: GHANA COALITION AGAINST GALAMSEY URGES THE NATIONAL HOUSE OF CHIEFS TO CLARIFY STANCE AMIDST ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS AND ALLEGATIONS OF COMPLICITY

Accra, Monday, September 23rd 2024: The Ghana Coalition against Galamsey, with a sense of pressing urgency, has noted with utter disappointment the position of the National House of Chiefs conveyed through its president, purporting to reject any ban on all forms of mining. The Coalition further notes the House of Chiefs' notable silence and its belated position, now published.

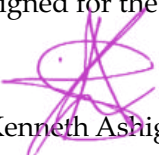
Should this statement be correctly understood the way it is relayed, the Coalition notes that the National House of Chiefs has regrettably reinforced and incentivised the rampant and wanton destruction of Ghana's environment and the commonwealth bequeathed to us by our forebears. The seemingly rather shocking endorsement of illegal mining is particularly worrisome considering the constitutional mandate entrusted the body to act as custodians of the customary resources of the various communities led by its members. In this regard, the Coalition especially calls to mind the contradictory posture of the House contained in its earlier statement dated the 6th day of February 2024 (a copy enclosed) and that of today!

The Coalition is not unaware that some chiefs have been complicit in the ongoing poisoning of water bodies and destruction of farmlands in the name of galamsey. The House of Chiefs' seeming opportunistic posture places this body on the wrong side of history as Ghana fights for its very life.

We accordingly call on the National House of Chiefs to clarify its position on the specific question of galamsey. As custodians of the customary resources of the various communities, the House has a crucial role to play in protecting these resources from the ravages of illegal mining. We urge them to join more forcefully the forces of opposition to the menace that threatens the very lives of their subjects and those of posterity. We believe that with the right actions, a positive change is not only possible but inevitable.

END

Signed for the Ghana Coalition Against Galamsey



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PROMOTERS

Media, Organised Labour, Religious Bodies, Youth Groups, Research and Academia,
Pressure Groups, Civil Society, Professional Bodies, Traditional Leaders, Business Groups.



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About the Ghana Coalition Against Galamsey

The Ghana Coalition Against Galamsey (GCAG) comprises coalitions and a network of organisations from 10 blocks: the Media, Labour, Religious Groups, Youth Groups, Research and academia, Pressure Groups, CSOs, Professional Bodies, Traditional Leaders, and Business bodies.

The Coalition is a common platform for all 'Against Galamsey Groups' (AGG) to harmonise advocacy and social action interventions in the fight against galamsey. We believe that only through unity and collective action can we effectively combat this issue.

The focus of the campaign against illegal mining activities is not limited to gold exploitation, but includes all mining offences committed under the Minerals and Mining Act, 2006 (Act 703) based on the premise that the 1992 Constitution of the Republic of Ghana, states that any mining activity that takes place without ratification by Parliament is illegal

PROMOTERS

Media, Organised Labour, Religious Bodies, Youth Groups, Research and Academia,
Pressure Groups, Civil Society, Professional Bodies, Traditional Leaders, Business Groups.

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NATIONAL HOUSE OF CHIEFS



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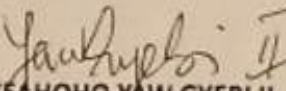
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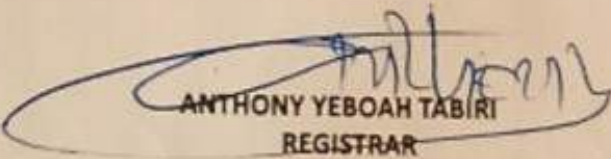
6th FEBRUARY 2024

COMMUNIQUE ISSUED BY THE NATIONAL HOUSE OF CHIEFS AT THE END OF A ROUND TABLE DIALOGUE WITH THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY AND ITS LIAISON GROUP ON ILLEGAL MINING ACTIVITIES HELD ON THURSDAY 25TH JANUARY, 2024 AT THE CONFERENCE HALL OF THE HOUSE IN KUMASI.

We, the members of the National House of Chiefs, hereinafter referred to as Nananom, held a dialogue meeting with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and its related Agencies on Thursday 25th January, 2024 on illegal mining activities and hereby issue the following communique

1. That members of the House resolved to select Sefwi Anhwiaso Traditional Area in the Western North Region and Gwira Traditional Area in the Western Region to be used as a case study to roll out the decisions arrived at during the meeting in respect of environmental degradation arising out of illegal mining.
2. That the members further resolved that there should be the adoption of the concept naming and shaming of MMDAs and Traditional Areas on illegal mining (AKOBEN PRINCIPLE).
3. That members decided that the proposed amendment to the EPA Act should strengthen the power of the National House of Chiefs in the relevant laws. Additionally traditional authorities must be made members on Boards of the respective regulatory institutions.
4. That members further resolved that the proposed amendment to the EPA Act should empower Nananom to form a task force to enable them fight the illegal mining menace effectively.
5. That members proposed that there must be an establishment of a special court to prosecute offenders of illegal mining and logging expeditiously.
6. That members finally proposed up to the end of March, 2024 to have engagement with political parties on the inclusion of the eradication of all illegal mining activities in their various manifestoes.


OGYEAHOHO YAW GYEBI II
PRESIDENT


ANTHONY YEBOAH TABIRI
REGISTRAR