**Prof. Frimpong Boateng’s Atewa Statement**

*“People who are against mining bauxite in Atewa are the same people who are actively engaged in galamsey in Atewa―destroying the water bodies―Brim and all the water bodies.*

*So when it suits them when they have international collaborators people from the west talking about environmental things, they join them and so on but they themselves as at now, there is no bauxite mining going on but the Atewa range is a polluted area.*

*They are encroaching on the forest, the Brim is polluted to the extent that we have to train 61 people, people who are swimmers from Akwatia area, train them at Asutuare, give them military training, used our scarce resources to buy boats with outboard motors for them so that they can patrol the Brim river and adjoining river so that these things don’t happen.*

*….why because people are doing illegal mining in Atewa and we know that some of them are saying we should not do bauxite there. I am not saying that is what is going to happen but trust me, with the…..of Atewa―five rivers taking their origin from there…whatever we do there will be sustainable. We cannot destroy the water bodies that are meant for the people especially those in Acccra. So, let us not engage in double standards. If we say we are going to protect it, then let’s protect it even from illegal farming.”*