

PRESS STATEMENT

**For Immediate Release
To All Media Agencies**

PACT: POLITICAL PARTY FLAGBEARER COMMITMENT TO END IRRESPONSIBLE AND ILLEGAL MINING IN GHANA

Accra, 5th December, The Ghana Coalition Against Galamsey (GCAG) is resolute in its mission to combat the galamsey crisis that threatens Ghana's environmental, economic, and public health. Illegal mining continues to destroy water bodies, devastate forest reserves, and undermine livelihoods.

As we may all recall, on **11th September 2024**, GCAG, Organized Labour, UTAG and several faith-based institutions, CSOs and citizens issued several statements highlighting critical demands to address the galamsey menace. Key of these demands are:

- Declaring a State of Emergency to halt illegal mining.
- Complete cessation of mining activities in forest reserves and water bodies.
- Evacuation of mining equipment and strict enforcement of the law.

Despite these urgent calls, the government's response was limited to a commitment to repeal LI 2462, which permitted mining in protected forest reserves. While this step was welcomed by the public, it falls far short of addressing the broader demands. To date, core issues remain unresolved, and with Ghana's future at stake, decisive and comprehensive action is more critical than ever.

THE NEED FOR THE PACT

Another critical demand from Organized Labour aimed at ensuring the long-term commitment of future governments to ending galamsey was the call for all political party flagbearers and independent candidates to sign a PACT. This pact symbolizes a unified commitment to eradicating galamsey and restoring Ghana's waterbodies, forest reserves, and environmental heritage for future generations.

By signing the pact, Presidential Candidates affirm their political will and showcase decisive leadership in addressing a crisis with profound consequences for Ghana's environment, economy, and public health. This pact reflects the spirit of responsibility and national interest, positioning signatories as champions in the fight against galamsey. It aims to inspire a new social contract with the people of Ghana, fostering collective action and environmental stewardship for future generations. Grounded in collaboration among political leaders, civil society, traditional authorities, faith leaders, and local communities, this pact sets a powerful standard of accountability and leadership, shaping a legacy of environmental protection.

Among other provisions, the pact includes commitments to:

- Denounce galamsey for its destructive impact on the environment, health, and well-being of Ghanaians, including future generations.
- Demand cessation of all galamsey activities by those involved and their associates.
- Enforce the law rigorously, ensuring perpetrators face justice regardless of their political or social standing.
- Develop policies to eliminate galamsey in the short, medium, and long term, with a commitment to act decisively if elected to office.

The signing of the pact will be witnessed by representatives from GCAG, organized labour, traditional leaders, professional bodies, religious groups, and youth organizations. Signed agreements will be shared with all stakeholders, ensuring transparency and accountability.

The galamsey crisis is an existential threat to every Ghanaian and while agreeing that we have failed the present, we cannot fail the future and that is why bold and decisive actions are needed, particularly our political leaders who present as the major factor in addressing galamsey in Ghana.

List of Parties that Signed

1. John Dramani Mahama - National Democratic Congress (NDC)
2. Alan John Kwadwo Kyerematen - Movement for Change
3. Mahamudu Bawumia - New Patriotic Party (NPP)
4. George Twum-Barima-Adu - Independent Presidential Candidate
5. Kofi Akpaloo - Liberal Party of Ghana (LPG)
6. Hassan Ayariga - All People's Congress (APC)