

Press Statement

**For Immediate Release
To all Media Agencies**

THE IMPUNITY OF ILLEGALLY DIVERTING THE BIRIM RIVER MUST BE ADDRESSED

Accra. Monday 18th August 2025. We, the undersigned, wish to express our profound outrage at the attempted illegal diversion of the sacred Birim River at Apapam by a mining operation. The irresponsible act, occurring even as the nation mourns the loss of 8 patriots dying in the line of duty regarding efforts to rid Ghana of irresponsible and illegal mining activities, represents an unconscionable assault on Ghana's natural heritage and blatant infringement of regulations regulating the utilisation of natural resources in Ghana.

Our profound outrage stems from the recent discovery that a mining entity, identified as belonging to Mr. Emmanuel Gamah and operating from Kwabeng, actively excavated trenches and constructed a diversion channel aimed at redirecting the sacred Birim River within its bed at Apapam. This activity targeted the river precisely where it exits the ecologically critical Atewa Forest Reserve. Swift public alerts and intervention led to the current suspension of this unauthorized operation.

In direct response, Officers from the Water Resources Commission (WRC), the Minerals Commission, and the National Intelligence Bureau (NIB) urgently visited the site. During this inspection, the NIB picked up an on-site security operative for questioning. The sad reality of the development further saw the miner, bulldozing directly through a vital three-year-old ecological restoration site, causing severe degradation and destroying native tree species, including Mahogany, Emire, and Ofram.

As necessary due diligence and follow-up to this development, we demand the following:

- 1. The Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), WRC, and Minerals Commission must move beyond suspension. Apprehend Mr. Emmanuel Gamah and all involved. Prosecute them to the fullest extent of the law for illegal mining, environmental destruction, and cultural desecration.**
- 2. The perpetrator must be compelled to cover up all trenches and fully restore the destroyed planted site.**
- 3. Authorities must investigate any potential complicity at any level, including the mining company and all leaders involved.**

We cannot build a sustainable future with this kind of escalating destruction of all our life-supporting systems, like rivers and forests, as exhibited by this egregious action.

We must see a dedicated and committed turning point in the efforts to address the impunity of miners encroaching on our rivers and forest bodies. We believe this is possible, and we expect the government and the traditional authorities to act decisively to prevent this growing impunity in the Akyem Abuakwa Traditional Area.

END

Signed

A Rocha Ghana
Ghana Coalition Against Galamsey
Concerned Citizens of Atewa Landscape

Contacts

Daryl Bosu
Deputy National Director, A Rocha Ghana
Tel: 0202555727

Ken Ashigbey
Convener, Ghana Coalition Against Galamsey
Tel: 0244315864