



PROMOTERS

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

Email: ghcagalamsey@gmail.com

Tel: +233244325864

For Immediate Release To All Media Agencies

Galamsey Fight Is Failing: The Coalition Demands Presidential Action

Accra, March 28, 2026– The Ghana Coalition Against Galamsey (GCAG) has carefully assessed the ongoing fight against illegal mining, including developments on the ground and pronouncements by the President and other government officials.

While the Coalition acknowledges that the anti-Galamsey effort began promisingly with some modest results, it notes with deep concern that meaningful impacts remain largely unachieved. The Coalition calls on President H.E. John Dramani Mahama to take immediate action to halt impunity among enforcement agencies and government representatives and address the poor compliance fuelling the nationwide impact of Galamsey.

Despite repeated government assurances, the Coalition observes with grave concern that the situation is worsening, threatening our water bodies, forest reserves, and the health and safety of the Ghanaian people.

To address the most pressing concerns, the Coalition urgently requests the following actions from the government to turn the tide against Galamsey:

1. Guarantee Greater Protection for Forests as Promised

The Coalition acknowledges President John Dramani Mahama's commendable revocation of L.I. 2462 but expresses deep concern that after one year in office, the state of Ghana's forests has worsened. When the President took office, **nearly 45 forest reserves** were impacted by illegal mining; that number has now risen to at **least 50 forests, with over 9,000 hectares** of area affected, which is very disappointing.

Despite government declarations that forests are 'red zones,' the Coalition observes no meaningful change. The Atewa Forest, crucial for biodiversity and water, faces unprecedented illegal mining and the risk of an 'Abrewa Ne Nkran'-type encroachment.

- **Adequately Resource the Forestry Commission:** The Coalition urgently calls on the President to resource the Forestry Commission with appropriate logistics and tools, and to invoke strong deterrent measures to protect all forests in Ghana.



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- **Act Swift to Save Atewa Forest, source of water for over 5 million Ghanaians:** Immediately launch an enforcement crackdown in the Atewa Forest.
- **Revoke EI 144:** Even more critical, Mr President, is the urgency to repeal EI 144 to give long-term protection to the Achimota Forest. Our petition for this has been before you since last year, and there is also a recent request from the Board of Forestry Commission asking for the same. Citizens expect you to act to save Achimota by revoking EI 144; however, the time is ticking.

2. Address Continuous water pollution and guarantee safe water for all citizens

Illegal miners continue to operate without consequences in our rivers, despite training so many people as blue water guards and with police in every district in this country.

- **Remove Chanfans from Water Bodies and Reverse River Diversions:** Every chanfan mining machine still sitting in a river is an act of state negligence. Every diverted river, including the Ankobra, Birim, Pra, Ofin, etc., is a crime against the people. These illegal miners, together with all equipment, must be removed immediately. Empower the District Police Commands to support NAIMOS and let them be accountable for their actions or inactions.
- **Publish Weekly Water Quality Statistics:** Citizens have the right to know what they are drinking. The government promised to and must publish weekly water quality data, including turbidity and heavy metal levels, in national newspapers. Ensure transparency and enable us to support the process.

3. Uphold Human Rights and Hold Corporate Entities Accountable for Rights Abuses

Under the National Action Plan for Business and Human Rights, informed by the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, the State has the duty to protect against human rights abuses by third parties, including private companies. The Ghana Coalition Against Galamsey (GCAG) therefore demands the following:

- **Protect Environmental Defenders:** Stop prosecuting and drop all charges against the Atronsu 5 environmental activists. The State must protect environmental defenders as human rights defenders. Persecuting citizens for peaceful advocacy while allowing companies and illegal miners to destroy water bodies and forests with impunity violates the State's duty to protect. Charges must be dropped immediately.
- **Justice for 13-year-old Pious Nketia Nkansah: Demand an immediate investigation into the murder of 13-year-old Pious Nketia Nkansah in Adelekezo and ensure all perpetrators, including any corporate actors or their agents, are brought to justice. Hold business enterprises operating in**



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or around Galamsey-affected areas fully accountable for human rights abuses linked to their operations or supply chains. The State must guarantee access to a remedy, with a thorough investigation and swift prosecution. Urgently prioritize the petition before CHRAJ to secure prompt and appropriate remedies and justice.

4. Demonstrate Rule of Law in the Fight Against Galamsey

The government must demonstrate clear results from the enforcement of Section 99 of the Minerals and Mining Act, which outlines offences and penalties for illegal mining. Impunity must end.

5. Accountability Issues in the Fight Against Galamsey

- **Pause Issuance of Small-Scale Mining Licenses:** All issuances of small-scale mining licenses must be paused until robust monitoring and enforcement protocols are established.
- **Accountability for DCEs and MCEs:** The President promised that the fight against Galamsey would be a key performance indicator for district officials. Yet not a single DCE or MCE has faced consequences. Name them! Sanction them! Remove them! We were promised feedback on investigations regarding the DCE of Amansie Central. What is the status, and what is the state's action on the infraction observed?
- **EOCO Investigation?** The Attorney General ordered an investigation into two NDC-affiliated individuals and promised a public report. Silence. Release the report or admit the investigation was a sham.
- **Political Involvement:** The President himself admits he knows "his people" are involved in Galamsey. Stop hiding behind vague admissions. What are your actions to address the impunity within your government? Name the names. Arrest the powerful. No one is above the law.
- **Professor Frimpong-Boateng Report:** This report names politically exposed persons linked to Galamsey. Years later, zero prosecutions. The public demands: release the full report and begin immediate criminal investigations.
- **Deportation of Foreigners:** Deportation is not justice. It is a loophole for impunity. The Hon. Minister of Lands and Natural Resources has already called for prosecution under Ghanaian law. Enforce it. Stop the illegal practice of deporting foreign criminals.
- **Use of Cyanide:** Illegal miners are using cyanide, a weapon of mass destruction, against our water bodies and citizens. The government has said nothing. We demand: a public action plan and an immediate crackdown on cyanide use.



**GHANA COALITION
AGAINST GALAMSEY**

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- **NAIMOS Resourcing:** We admit NAIMOS is doing well, but it can do better and turn the tide in the fight against Galamsey if adequately resourced. Release their allocation to them and allow them to work without any political interference. Only two of the twenty-one promised permanent alternative livelihood sites are operational. Release the funds immediately. Deploy to all twenty-one locations.

As at this very moment, miners operate with impunity at Dunkwa Offin, Mankranso, Kunso, Kyebi, Konongon-Odumase, and they should be arrested and stopped immediately.

The Coalition urges the President to personally oversee and drive the resolution of these longstanding issues. We call on him to publicly commit to clear, time-bound actions that will restore accountability and signal genuine political will to save our environment.

Signed for the Ghana Coalition Against Galamsey

Kenneth Ashigbey

Convenor

GCAG

024 431 5864

Awula Serwah

Member

GCAG

020 181 1702

Senyo Hosi

Member

GCAG

024 422 4108

Daryl Bosu

Member

GCAG

0202555727

- Media Coalition Against Galamsey
- OneGhana Movement
- Ghana CSOs Platform On SDGs
- BRACE
- Kasa Initiative Ghana Stakeholder Engagement Forum
- A Rocha Ghana
- EcoConscious Citizens
- Nature and Development Foundation
- Jema Anti Galamsey Advocacy (JACA)
- Gen. Transport, Petroleum & Chemical Workers Union
- Peasant Farmers Associations
- Ghana Institution of Engineering - GhIE
- Institution of Engineering and Technology, Ghana
- Graduate Students Association of Ghana
- New Media Association of Ghana
- Ghana Institute of Architects
- Institute of Public Relations
- Ghana Institute of Foresters



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- Africa Centre for Energy Policy
- Chamber of Agribusiness Ghana
- Research Scientists Association – GAEC
- University Teachers Association of Ghana - UTAG
- Other Ghanaian Citizens of Repute
- Ghana Environmental Advocacy Group