



MINORITY CAUCUS

PARLIAMENT OF GHANA

Parliament House – Accra (Ghana)

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STATEMENT BY THE MINORITY IN PARLIAMENT ON THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF GHANA'S ANTI-GALAMSEY CAMPAIGN AND THE NEED FOR AN INSTITUTIONALIZED FIGHT AGAINST GALAMSEY

The Red Sunday

The Minority on the Parliament Select Committee on Lands and Natural Resources warmly welcome the decision by the Presbyterian Church of Ghana to launch its nationwide anti-galamsey campaign. We commend the Church for adding its influential voice to the growing national call for urgent action against illegal mining. The decision of one of Ghana's most respected religious institutions to dedicate a "Red Sunday" campaign to the fight against galamsey is a clear indication of the depth of concern across the country about the worsening state of our environment and water bodies.

As a responsible opposition party, we remind Ghanaians that the current government rode to power largely on the back of strong promises to end galamsey through its Reset Agenda. Yet, in less than two (2) years, the menace persists and, by many accounts, has become even more widespread and destructive. This should concern every Ghanaian, regardless of political affiliation.

The fight against galamsey must however not be reduced to partisan point-scoring. We from the Minority believe that a key step in arresting and sustainably containing galamsey is to deliberately remove it from partisan politics and treat it as a strictly national enforcement and governance issue. It is also evident that, at various points, the galamsey enterprise has been enabled, protected, or sustained by individuals within politically exposed circles and other influential actors. This reality further underscores the need for stronger institutions, stricter enforcement, and systems that are insulated from political interference.

The destruction of our rivers, forests and farmlands is a national crisis that demands a united national response. We therefore welcome the intervention of the Presbyterian Church and call on all faith-based organizations, civil society groups, traditional leaders, the media and concerned citizens to join this collective effort. The growing involvement of religious bodies underscores the urgency of the situation and the need for renewed national commitment.

Beyond Operation Vanguard, GALAMSTOP and NAIMOS

Importantly, the success of the fight against galamsey will depend not only on public advocacy but also on strong, enduring and apolitical institutions. Over the years, successive governments have introduced anti-galamsey interventions under different names; Operation Vanguard, GalamStop and now NAIMOS. While these initiatives have

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reflected varying levels of commitment, the mere rebranding of enforcement structures is not enough to address a problem of this magnitude.

What Ghana needs is a sustainable institutional framework that transcends political administrations. In this regard, NAIMOS should be formalised and given structure through the necessary Legislative Instruments (L.I), which clearly define its mandate, powers, structure, accountability mechanisms, and operational independence. Such legal backing would help shield the fight against illegal mining from political interference, ensure continuity across governments and establish a more credible and permanent national response to the galamsey menace.



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