

PRESS RELEASE

Call for a Temporary Ban on Small Scale (Gold) Mining (Galamsey) in Ghana by The Apostolic Fathers of Ghana

The Apostolic Fathers of Ghana, comprising mostly the pioneering leaders of the Charismatic movement in Ghana, have noted with deep concern the alarming escalation of illegal gold mining, commonly known as **Galamsey**, which has ravaged our nation. This illegal activity not only threatens our environment but also undermines the livelihoods and health of countless Ghanaians, especially those in rural areas who rely on the land and water for survival.

Extensive research has revealed that **Galamsey** has resulted in the pollution of rivers and streams, deforestation, and the destruction of farmlands. This has not only made drinking water unsafe but has also rendered fertile lands unusable for farming. The consequences are far-reaching and, if left unchecked, will lead to environmental disaster, food insecurity, and health crises across our beloved nation.

We, **The Apostolic Fathers of Ghana**, are calling on all politicians, traditional leaders, and foreign nationals involved in this illegal mining practice to immediately stop these harmful activities. We urge you to embrace the long-term interests of the nation and future generations, rather than pursuing short-term personal gains.

At the same time, we strongly condemn those in positions of influence who have turned a blind eye to this grave issue, driven by selfish interests and personal gain. We urge such individuals to reflect on their actions and consider the long-term consequences their inaction will have on the environment and the people they are meant to serve. Ghana cannot afford to let greed eclipse the well-being of its citizens.

Our love for Ghana compels us to act. The beauty and prosperity of our nation are rooted in the land that God has blessed us with, and it is our collective responsibility to protect it. We must show love for our country and our fellow citizens by safeguarding the land that sustains us. If we truly love Ghana, we will not destroy it for selfish gain. Illegal mining is destroying what God has entrusted to us, and this violation must stop if we are to preserve the blessings of this nation for future generations.

The Word of God reminds us of our responsibility as stewards of His creation: **"The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it" (Psalm 24:1)**. This scripture underscores the sacredness of the land that God has given us to protect and nurture. **"The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it" (Genesis 2:15)**, a mandate that calls for us to tend the environment, not to exploit it recklessly for personal gain.

We are calling for a temporary ban on all forms of small scale mining activities in the country while we look for a permanent solution to this menace.

Moreover, we invite the moral leaders of our nation — clergy and all who hold positions of spiritual or moral authority — to rise and decry this environmental catastrophe. Let your voices be heard, echoing the urgency to preserve God's creation and stand against the forces

that seek to destroy it. **"Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves; ensure justice for those being crushed" (Proverbs 31:8).**

We also call on institutions such as the **Water Resources Commission** and the **Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)** to enforce stricter regulations and ensure that the **Minerals and Mining Act, 2006 (Act 703)** is upheld. It is essential that these bodies fulfill their mandate of protecting our natural resources and holding accountable those who engage in illegal mining activities.

In addition, **civil society organizations (CSOs), environmental groups,** and other **stakeholders** must intensify their advocacy efforts. As defenders of the marginalized and the voiceless, CSOs must continue to hold accountable those responsible for this destruction, while educating and mobilizing communities to protect their environment.

We commend the media, especially the bold and courageous journalists and individuals who have risked their lives to expose the devastating truth of **Galamsey**. These brave men and women have been our eyes and ears, shedding light on a crisis that some in power have chosen to ignore. Their work is invaluable to the survival of our environment and the future of our nation.

Let us come together as one nation to end this destructive practice and restore our land. We call for immediate action and policies from the government to permanently halt **Galamsey** operations and ensure sustainable mining practices that respect the environment and the people of Ghana.

As God's Word warns us, **"Woe to those who plan iniquity, to those who plot evil on their beds! At morning's light, they carry it out because it is in their power to do it" (Micah 2:1).** It is time for all to repent and turn from these destructive ways.

Together, we can protect our land and ensure that Ghana's resources are preserved for generations to come.


Signed: **His Eminence Archbishop Nicholas Duncan-Williams**
On behalf of the underlisted

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| Archbishop Nicholas Duncan-Williams | - | Action Chapel International (Prayer Cathedral) |
| Archbishop Charles Agyinasare | - | Perez Chapel International |
| Bishop Dag Heward-Mills | - | United Denominations (Lighthouse Group of Churches) |
| Apostle-General Sam Korankye-Ankrah | - | Royalhouse Chapel |
| Bishop N.A. Tackie-Yarboi | - | Victory Bible Church International |
| Rev. Eastwood Anaba | - | Fountain Gate Chapel (Eastwood Anaba Ministries) |
| Rev. Dr. Robert Ampiah-Kwofie | - | Global Revival Ministries |
| Rev. Steve Mensah | - | Charismatic Evangelistic Ministry |
| Bishop Gordon Kisseih | - | Life International Church |
| Bishop Victor Osei | - | Family Chapel International |
| Bishop Dr. Oppong Adu-Gyamfi | - | International Charismatic Church |
| Bishop Dr. Samuel N. Mensah | - | Full Gospel Church International |
| Rev. Dr. Ebenezer Markwei | - | Living Streams International |
| Rev. Dr. Lawrence Tetteh | - | Worldwide Miracle Outreach |
| Rev. Dr. Isaac Quaye | - | Word of Life Miracle Centre |
| Rt. Rev. Dr. Anyani Boadum | - | Jesus Generation Ministries |
| Rev. Dr. Seth Ablorh | - | Manna Mission Church |

Rev. Bob Asare
Bishop Dr. Gideon Titi-Ofei

- Faith Alive Chapel International
- Pleasant Place Church