



CASELY HAYFORD HALL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

University of Cape Coast

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Motto: Truth and Courage

PRESS RELEASE

THE GALAMSEY MENACE – A CALL FOR ACTION TO PROTECT OUR FUTURE

The Casely Hayford Alumni Hall Association expresses grave concern regarding the rampant illegal mining activities, commonly referred to as galamsey, which have left a devastating impact on Ghana's natural environment, particularly our water bodies and farmlands. This situation poses a serious threat to the health, livelihoods, and future of the entire nation, and we can no longer afford to turn a blind eye.

Our rivers, which once served as life-giving sources of clean water for communities and agriculture, have become heavily polluted. The long-term damage to agriculture, the environment, and human health is evident, with many citizens facing exposure to contaminated water and toxic substances. As an association that champions the protection of the environment and the sustainable development of our country, we stand firmly in solidarity with all other organizations and institutions calling for immediate and effective action to stop galamsey.

Urgent Actions Required:

1. Immediate Halt to All Illegal Mining Operations

We call on the government to impose a nationwide moratorium on all illegal and unregulated mining activities. A zero-tolerance policy must be adopted with immediate effect, allowing for comprehensive reforms and enhanced regulation of the mining sector.

2. Strict Enforcement of Environmental Protection Laws

Existing environmental laws and regulations must be enforced to safeguard our ecosystems and resources. All operators, both local and foreign, involved in destructive mining activities must be held accountable, and those violating these laws should face the full rigor of the law.

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3. Comprehensive National Strategy on Resource Management

A strategic framework must be established to ensure sustainable mining practices that prioritize the welfare of affected communities, the protection of water resources, and the rehabilitation of degraded lands. Such a plan must involve active collaboration with traditional authorities, local communities, and civil society.

4. Commitment from Presidential Candidates

As the 2024 elections approach, we call on all presidential aspirants to publicly commit to addressing the galamsey crisis as a top national priority. We demand clear and actionable plans from all political leaders to combat this menace, with measurable outcomes and timelines for restoring the environment.

Time for Accountability

The Casely Hayford Alumni Hall Association will closely observe the government's response to these pressing issues in the coming weeks. We encourage prompt and transparent action in addressing the galamsey problem and safeguarding our national resources. Should there be limited progress, we may consider further steps to raise awareness and support constructive dialogue, including peaceful demonstrations and engaging with both national and international platforms to encourage more effective leadership.

Conclusion

The fight against galamsey is a fight for the survival of future generations. Ghana cannot afford to lose its natural wealth and environmental integrity to the greed of a few individuals. The Casely Hayford Alumni Hall Association stands with all Ghanaians who demand an end to this destructive practice. We urge every citizen, organization, and institution to join this call to save our water bodies, farmlands, and ecosystems. Let us act now to preserve our nation's future.

Signed:

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Cc:

The President of Ghana

The Speaker of Parliament

The Chief Justice

Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology, and Innovation

All Presidential Aspirants

Civil Society Organizations

The Media

International Development Partners



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