

Declare national emergency on galamsey

• Prof. Adei to President Akufo-Addo

By Emmanuel Ebo Hawkson

A FORMER Chairman of the National Development Planning Commission (NDPC), Professor Stephen Adei, has urged President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, to declare a national emergency on illegal mining, popularly known as galamsey.

Such a move, he said, would give the President emergency powers to decisively deal with the menace, which he described as "a gargantuan environmental degradation."

"Galamsey is a major reflection of political, traditional and security leadership failure in this country," he said.

Prof. Adei was speaking at the 25th anniversary lecture of the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Authority (DVLA) in Accra yesterday.

Total destruction

The former Rector of the Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration (GIMPA) and former Chairman of the Ghana Revenue Authority Board, said galamsey and its incidental destruction of forests, farmlands, water bodies and

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• Dr Eric Nkansah — Director-General, Ghana Education Service

Basic schools reopen Tuesday

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Consumer Protection Bill needs urgent attention — Agency

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Pay GH¢ 150,000 to 6 election violence victims — Court

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VOLTA LAKE LEVEL AT THE AKOSOMBO DAM

CURRENT YEAR (2024)

- Water level as at 04/09/24: 263.70ft (80.376m)
- Water level as at 03/09/24: 263.70ft (80.376m)
- Change in level: 0.00ft (0.000m)

LAST YEAR (2023)

- Water level as at 04/09/23: 270.00ft (82.296m)
- Water level as at 03/09/23: 269.80ft (82.235m)
- Change in level: 0.20ft rise (0.061m)



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Fight against Galamsey on River Pra: 4 Arrested, changfan machines, boats destroyed

From Shirley Asiedu-Addo,
CAPE COAST

FOUR persons were arrested in an exercise by the Twifo Atti Mokwa District Assembly in the Central Region in collaboration with its police command and the National Disaster Management Organisation (NADMO) to clamp down on illegal mining activities on the River Pra at Twifo Praso last Tuesday.

The team, led by the police and the District Chief Executive, Robert Agyemang Nyantakyi, burnt five changfan machines, five boats and seized other mining equipment being used by illegal miners on the River Pra.

Impact

This was in response to the devastating effects of their activities on the River Pra and the environment.

Last week, a two-and-a-half-year-old twins, a boy and a girl, tragically lost their lives after falling into an abandoned galamsey pit full of water.

The incident occurred at Mokwa, a



One of the equipment set ablaze

farming community near Twifo Praso.

The incident, according to residents, was one of several in recent years caused by uncovered galamsey pits in the district.

The impact of the illegal mining activities on the river had also negatively affected the activities of the

Ghana Water Company Limited (GWCL) in the Central Region.

The GWCL, in a statement to the media, said the pollution of the Pra River, especially at the catchment area at the water intake points, was at its barest minimum.

It said about 60 per cent of the

catchment capacity was silted as a result of illegal mining activities, compromising water quality.

"We are currently recording an average turbidity of 14,000 NTU instead of 2000 NTU designed for adequate treatment," it stated.

It further indicated that the company's plant at Sekyere Hemang was producing only 1.650 million gallons of water a day which was a quarter of its installed capacity, causing severe inconvenience to customers around Cape Coast, Elmina and other surrounding communities.

The newly built bridge which is yet to be commissioned is already being impacted negatively by the activities of illegal miners who are now mining close to the base of the bridge.

Mr Agyemang said while the assembly was committed to the fight, it was constrained by inadequate logistics.

He said adequate boats, divers and life jackets were needed if the fight against the menace was to make any meaningful impact on the activities of the galamsayers.

He called for logistical support to sustain the fight and the support of residents in the communities to support their effort.

The Twifo Atti Morkwa District NADMO Coordinator, Richmond Addai Marfo, stated that the fight had become challenging considering that the illegal miners operated at night.

He said the devastation and the impact on the environment and the health of residents were enormous, and called on all communities experiencing illegal mining activities to join in the fight.

Invest in jewellery for future gains — PMMC

By Edmund Smith-Asante

INVESTING in gold jewellery could be beneficial to the buyer, as its value appreciates over time, the Managing Director of the Precious Minerals Marketing Company (PMMC), Nana Akwasi Awuah, has stated.

He has, therefore, urged all to buy pieces of jewellery for use and keeps so as to reap the benefits when their value appreciates.

"We want to encourage everyone - mothers, fathers, men, women, young men, young women, that please, invest in gold jewellery and you will be very happy, 10, 15 to 20 years down the line that what you bought today at GH¢5,000 will turn out to be about GH¢50,000," he said.

New shop

Mr Awuah made this assertion when he opened the PMMC's latest and second largest shop outlet in the country, at the Marina Shopping Mall, off the Spintex Road in Accra last Tuesday.

It has on display trinkets, necklaces, rings, pendants, ear rings and other forms of jewellery made from gold (white, yellow, rose), diamonds, precious stones, and other minerals.

It also has an executive lounge where clients, including tourists who would be there for longer periods to transact business, would be attended to.

The new shop brings to seven, the outlets of the PMMC across the country. The others are the headquarters (Diamond House) at Tudu in



Nana Akwasi Awuah (middle), Managing Director, PMMC, cutting the ribbon to open the shop, while other officials of PMMC look on

Accra; Osu; Tema; East Legon in Accra; Adum, Jubilee Mall and Prempeh I International Airport in Kumasi.

Cutting the tape to open the shop, Mr Awuah said: "I am 100 per cent positive that his shop will do as well as all the other shops that we have opened so far in the country. One thing that we have also done to improve our jewellery is that we have invested in technology."

He said the PMMC had invested in 3D laser printing machines that could create all forms of sophisticated designs, mentioning that it was the company that crafted the Maze in Parliament and so it was capable of producing amazing designs.

Explaining the rationale behind opening of

the new shop, Mr Awuah said "Looking at the way the company was growing and the kind of brand that we wanted to build for the company, it had become imperative to move locations, so in our quest to identify a new location we found this place."

"Here is strategic for so many reasons. Everybody knows the kind of human traffic at Spintex and having a shop on the Spintex Road is strategic in terms of customer base and serving this part of the Greater Accra Region so that customers do not have to travel all the way to Accra or East Legon for our services."

For everyone

Showing the PMMC MD round, the Deputy

Managing Director in Charge of Administration, Ms Josephine Agyekum-Wallace, said there was jewellery as low as 2.5 or lower grams "because we don't want it to look like everyone must be a rich person to buy gold jewellery. Every average person can afford it."

She said they could also produce customised jewellery for customers including that for royalty, using 18 karat gold and above when requested, and did lay out, where customers could pay in instalments for three months to procure jewellery.

"We are also encouraging corporate sales that organisations do collateral for their employees if they want to buy and they will be deducted at source and sent to us, and we can also send our wares to them if they want to buy from us," she added.

She said the jewellery shop also did buy back, where they could take back jewellery from a customer and remould it.

PMMC

PMMC, which was established in 1963 as Ghana Diamond Marketing Board charged with the sole responsibility of the purchase and marketing of Ghana's diamonds, and was in 1965 incorporated as a State-Owned Enterprise (SOE), now operates as the government's assayer with the sole mandate of assaying all gold that leaves the country.

The jewellery production is also a subsidiary of the company which has since the year 2000 been converted into a limited liability company.