

UPDATES ON ILLEGAL MINING

MEDIA ENCOUNTER



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Communications Directorate
Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources
Accra - Ghana

Key Achievements

- We established the **National Anti-Illegal Mining Operations Secretariat (NAIMOS)** as the central operational command centre coordinating the national fight against illegal mining and its associated environmental degradation. The IGP's Anti-Galamsey task force was recalled because they were to liaise with NAIMOS, so we have a centralised and coordinated course of action, but that was not being done
 - **440 excavators** seized – at various police stations, district offices, and some at military bases (those seized by NAIMOS)
 - **Over 1,400 arrests** made, with suspects awaiting prosecution (sits with the Attorney General)
 - **Over 300 Chanfans** confiscated and destroyed by the Blue Water Guards. 980 have been recruited, trained, and deployed so far – manning the major bodies in the Western and Savannah regions
 - **900 water pumps** seized from illegal mining sites have been handed over to the Ministry of Agriculture for disbursement to farmers.
 - **9 previously ‘no-go’ forest reserves reposessed** from armed thugs protecting illegal miners. Although the Jimira Forest Reserve and the Anwia Futu section of the Offin Shelterbelt have been re-invaded by illegal miners. The military is working with NAIMOS to repossess the forest reserves and establish a permanent presence to support the Forest Guards.
- **Excavator tracking is steadily underway.** So far, we have registered 1,015 earth-moving and mining equipment, and 647 have been fitted with tracking devices. There are over 600 more yet to be equipped with tracking devices.
- **Review of the Minerals and Mining Act 2006 (Act 703)** and the **Minerals and Mining Policy (2014)** through extensive stakeholder engagements is almost done. The team is compiling all the inputs to share with the Minister for his final view before it goes to Parliament

This review aims to ensure Ghana fully harnesses the benefits of its mineral wealth, promoting equity, sustainability, and shared prosperity for all, especially communities directly impacted by mining.

- **L.I.2462 revocation** is underway. Hon Buah has written to the A-G to commence the process of the revocation. Since the inception of this government, no company has been granted a license to mine in the forest reserves.
- A comprehensive audit of the Licensing Regime has been completed, leading to the revocation of fraudulently acquired licences. 55 small-scale mining licences have been revoked, and an additional 900 licences face possible

revocation. Minerals Commission is yet to finalise its bit of the cleanup exercise; once that is done, there will be the official announcement of all revoked small-scale licenses

This audit exercise will be extended to large-scale mining companies to ensure full sanity and compliance with the country's mining laws.

- Rolled out the **Responsible Cooperative Mining and Skills Development Programme (rCOMSDEP)** – the team has visited about 30 communities, engaging them, explaining the policy framework to get them started. Regions visited so far – **Western, Central, Ashanti, Savanna, Upper West, Upper East.** District/Constituency – **Ellembelle, Tarkwa Nsuaem, Prestea Huni-Valley, Upper Denkyira East, Asante Akyem North, Bole, Wa East, Builsa North, and Talensi.** To make the process seamless and hassle-free for communities, mobile licensing teams are being deployed to assist with the registration of these cooperatives in the coming weeks.