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PRESS STATEMENT

GUTA CALLS ON THE GOVERNMENT TO VIEW THE RECENT NUMEROUS PUBLIC OUTCRY ON THE EFFECTS OF "GALAMSAY" AS A TOTAL PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR IMMEDIATE DECISIVE ACTION TO END THE MENACE

The National Executive and, indeed, the entire membership of the Ghana Union of Traders' Associations (GUTA) wishes to add its voice to the call on the government by Organized Labour and other civil society organizations for the immediate ban on illegal mining in the country.

As a union of traders in the country with interest in driving economic development and sustainability in Ghana, we feel it a duty as well as a shared responsibility to also ensure that the natural resources of the country are judiciously used and preserved for future generations to also benefit.

From the recent discourse that has taken over the media landscape, it is a very clear indication that enough is enough for "Galamsay" in this country. Although small scale mining has been going on for decades, it is now apparently clear that the country has come to a tipping point. The influx of foreign entities, especially, the Chinese with their heavy machinery have degraded the sector for the worse.

We are of the strong view that if nothing is done urgently about the situation, the country may not be able to recover from the devastating effect of illegal mining.

In this regard, GUTA calls on the President of the Republic to declare a state of emergency on the matter as soon as possible to ensure that every resource is given the needed attention and direct the fight for complete eradication of the scourge.

It is our fervent hope that the President would heed to the numerous calls and act decisively to end the menace before his tenure of office ends which would be a great legacy for him.

Signed

Dr. Joseph Obeng

President