



**NATIONAL SEED TRADE ASSOCIATION OF GHANA**

**ASSOCIATION NATIONALE POUR LE COMMERCE SEMANCIER DU GHANA**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**ILLEGAL MINING ('GALAMSEY') A THREAT TO GHANA'S FOOD SECURITY AND NATIONAL SECURITY**

The National Seed Trade Association of Ghana (NaSTAG) expresses serious concern over the devastating impact of illegal mining, commonly known as 'galamsey', on Ghana's environment and agricultural sector. The uncontrolled pollution of precious water bodies and destruction of farmlands have led to troubling levels of deforestation, land degradation, biodiversity loss and water contamination across the country.

Our greatest concern is the potential threat to seed production and overall agricultural productivity in Ghana. This issue is not just a distant worry; it directly affects our nation's food security and economic stability. Ghana currently faces a seed production deficit of approximately 50%, a situation that will only deteriorate if the 'galamsey' crisis is not addressed with urgency and resolve.

The National Seed Trade Association of Ghana stands united with all concerned Ghanaians, Civil Society Organizations, and respected traditional leaders in calling for a total ban on all illegal mining activities and a declaration of a state of emergency. We earnestly advocate for an immediate cessation of destructive practices, followed by a comprehensive assessment of the environmental damage. This will guide our efforts to reclaim and restore the affected lands, ensuring the future of our agriculture and the well-being of our nation.

It is time for decisive action. For the sake of our food and nutrition security, our environment, and the prosperity of Ghana, we urge our leaders to listen, act, and restore hope for a sustainable future.

Signed

Amos Rutherford Azinu, PhD

**President, National Seed Trade Association of Ghana (NaSTAG)**

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