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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A CRY FOR OUR BIRIM RIVER AND OUR PEOPLE: THE TIME TO END GALAMSEY IN ABUAKWA SOUTH IS NOW

By Hon Dr Kingsley Agyemang, Member of Parliament for Abuakwa South

For months now, I have watched with deep sorrow as the soul of Abuakwa South bleeds. The Ghana Water Company Limited has, for over three months, been unable to operate the Kyebi Water Treatment Plant that supplies potable water to Kyebi and the entire Municipality. The Birim River, once the pride and lifeline of our people, has turned into a thick sludge of poison. Its turbidity now stands at 64,000 NTU, a level so dangerously high that the water is untreatable and unsafe for human use.

This grim reality means that thousands of my constituents have been left without clean water for over three months. And when water is life, the absence of it is the absence of life itself. Abuakwa South, the land of our birth and hope, now gasps for breath because a few individuals have chosen greed over the collective good.

What breaks my heart even more is that many of those involved in these illegal mining activities are foreigners from neighbouring countries. Their actions are not only destroying our natural environment but also undermining the peace, safety, and moral fabric of our society. We are witnessing a surge in crime, drug abuse, and general social instability, consequences that threaten the very foundations of our community.

The impact of galamsey goes beyond our rivers. It is poisoning our farms, crippling cocoa production, weakening our health systems, and robbing our children of their education. When our rivers are dead, our farms unproductive, and our schools empty, we lose not only our livelihood but also our future.

As the Member of Parliament for Abuakwa South, I cannot remain silent while our people suffer and our land perishes. I am therefore making a passionate appeal to all the relevant institutions within the Criminal Justice value chain, including the Police, the Prosecution Service, the Judiciary, and the Environmental Protection Agencies, to act decisively and without fear or favour. The law must bite, and it must bite hard. Those who profit from the destruction of our environment, whether local or foreign, must be made to face the full rigours of the law.

I wish to commend the Abuakwa South Municipal Assembly and the security agencies for their recent bold actions to clamp down on illegal mining operations. However, I urge that this not become another nine-day wonder. The measure of true success will not be in press briefings or temporary raids, but in the restoration of clean water, the return of our farmlands, and the rejuvenation of our communities.

I call upon all traditional leaders, youth groups, opinion leaders, churches, and citizens of good conscience to join hands in this fight. This is not a political battle. It is a moral and existential one. We are fighting for our survival, for our children, and for generations yet unborn.

The Birim River must live again. For without water, there is no life, and without life, there is no future.

Signed

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