

## PRESS STATEMENT

### DEMAND FOR CREDIBLE INVESTOR TO MANAGE THE BOGOSO-PRESTEA MINING LEASE

Members of the press, ladies and gentlemen, we thank you for honoring our invitation and for your continued role in informing the Ghanaian public. We have convened this press conference today to bring national attention to serious matters affecting the Bogoso–Prestea Mine, the livelihoods of our people, and the safety of communities within the mine's catchment area.

We, the catchment and host communities of the Bogoso–Prestea Mine, address the nation today to formally restate and amplify the grave concerns already contained in a number of Petitions submitted to the Minister of Lands and Natural Resources and **His Excellency the President of the Republic of Ghana** regarding the acquisition and operation of the Bogoso–Prestea Mining Leases by Heath Goldfields Limited. This engagement with the media is a continuation of our lawful appeal to the highest office of the land, informed by developments that strongly point to deceit, misrepresentation, and a fundamental lack of financial capacity on the part of the current mine operator (Heath Goldfields Limited).

The Bogoso–Prestea Mine is a strategic national asset and the economic lifeline of our communities. The mining leases were granted on the strength of assurances that Heath Goldfields Limited possessed strong financial backing, immediate access to capital over \$500 million, and the technical capacity to restart and sustainably operate the mine, particularly the Prestea Underground operations. The operation of the Prestea Underground Mine formed part of the basis for granting the leases to Heath Goldfields. Events following the issuance of the leases have clearly contradicted these representations.

From the perspective of the host communities, it is now evident that Heath Goldfields Limited lacks the financial capacity required to operate the Bogoso–Prestea Mining Leases, particularly the Prestea Underground Mine, which is highly capital-intensive yet possesses a long Life of Mine (LOM) that demands sustained and substantial investment to be operated safely and responsibly. Heath Goldfields commitments to fund underground dewatering, ventilation, equipment rehabilitation, and production ramp-up have not been met within the agreed timelines. This failure has compromised operational readiness of the Underground.



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In addition, critical processing plant components and underground infrastructure that were presented in the Heath Goldfields Strategic Mine Development Plan as ready for immediate procurement and installation have not materialized.

Key plant equipment and underground services remain outstanding. These were not aspirational statements; they were firm assurances used to secure regulatory approval. Their non-delivery confirms that the company's operational and financial readiness was materially misrepresented.

Of particular and urgent concern to our communities is the state of safety and environmental risk associated with the Tailings Storage Facility (TSF) currently in use. Active tailings deposition is taking place in a facility that is effectively full (No Freeboard). This presents a direct threat to downstream communities, including Dumasi and Bogoso and its environs, in the event of a tailings dam failure. The lack of financial capacity on the part of the operator has directly affected the ability of Contractors (Rockfield and ENAS) engaged to raise and stabilize the dam to perform effectively, resulting in delayed and inadequate work. This situation represents a serious environmental and public safety risk.

We are deeply concerned by Heath Goldfields Limited's intention to conduct blasting operations in areas where the open pit is in close proximity to an established township (i.e. Bondaye and Nakaba). Under the Ghana Minerals and Mining (Explosives) Regulations, a minimum exclusion distance of **500 metres** is required between blasting operations and occupied buildings. We call on all people to resist any unsafe blasting activity which exposes residents to unacceptable risk including fly rock, ground vibration, air blast, and structural damage. We encourage Heath Goldfields to concentrate their energies into operationalizing the Prestea Underground Mine.

We state clearly and without hesitation that the facts emerging from operations indicate that the government, Nananom, and the host communities were misled. Detailed financial projections, equipment schedules, and funding assurances as contained in Heath Goldfields Strategic Mine Development Plan were presented to regulators to obtain approval of the mining leases. Once those leases were secured, the commitments were not honored. This constitutes a breach of trust and raises serious questions about the integrity of the representations made during the acquisition process.

We are reliably informed of the 90-Days' notice issued on the 29<sup>th</sup> December 2025 effectively 1<sup>st</sup> January 2026 for Heath Goldfields to remedy breaches of the mining leases.



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Our stance as host communities is unequivocal. We do not oppose responsible mining, nor do we oppose responsible investors, whether local or foreign. What we firmly oppose are empty promises, misrepresentations, and financially incapable entities being entrusted with a strategic national asset. The consequences of such failures are not borne by companies alone, they fall squarely on the shoulders of government, Nananom, workers, and entire communities.

Our communities have endured repeated cycles of mine failure, job losses, and environmental neglect. We cannot afford another collapse. This press conference is therefore a call for truth, accountability, and urgent government action.

Respectfully Submitted.

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NDC Constituency Chairman

Ho. Shaibu Dimbie  
Assemblyman-Anfagya Nakaba

Messiah K.A Baidoo  
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