

Galamsey-Project

Practical Solutions to Solving Galamsey

1. Declare a state of emergency across all regions.

This would include deploying military men for a shoot and kill exercise for illegal miners found flouting the directive by the President. This is to send a message across. If chiefs can insist on curfews that are adhered to by their town's folks with various punishments for those who flout the directive, The President can equally do same.

Burning the residences of illegal miners, seizing/burning their machines, declaring a state of emergency are all good but these are only short-term fixes. To completely eradicate this canker, we must move from solutions-thinking to systems-thinking. We must tackle the root cause of the issue.

We must put a sustainable system in place to ensure that, in the next 4 to 5 years, the topic of Galamsey would be history.

These are some systems that can be put in place:

2. Population Health Management

Under the Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty Programme (LEAP) budgeted for in the 2025 budget:

- Health checkups such as blood and urine tests especially for children and pregnant women should be conducted across the regions, especially in communities most exposed to the Galamsey-Affected Rivers like River Pra (Pra-Twifo and Daboase) where heavy human activity is recorded.

- A health registry should be set up for exposed individuals to monitor symptoms as a result of the toxic pollutants and manage their effects.

- Awareness should be created in the communities on the effects of exposure to these toxic pollutants. The communities should then be encouraged to boil water before use and harvest rainwater while the government works on alternative sources of water for the communities.

- People should also be encouraged to eat foods rich in iron, calcium and vitamin c.

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- The assembly men can undertake projects where they set up a single point of use of water for their communities. These central points would have water filtration units that filter water to a large extent before being used.
- Another source of water such as deep boreholes can be created in the exposed communities. This is where international NGOs come in. Particularly, the Beast Philanthropy. They have been involved in improving water access across certain countries in Africa. Fortunately, he hasn't yet done so in Ghana. See [here](#)

3. Restoration of Rivers

Rivers have natural healing capabilities to some extent. If the rate of pollutant input into are rivers are halted, these pollutants can settle.

Measures such as dredging, which involves desilting riverbeds can be put in place to desilt areas of the rivers near human activity.

Protective barriers should also be built around rivers to stall human activity as these rivers recover.

4. Convert Mining Pits into Economic Hubs

- Mining Pits should immediately be filled and regraded to prevent breeding sites and death traps from springing up.
- These pits can become a source of economic benefit through phytoremediation, a process whereby plants such as sunflowers which are good absorbers of these heavy metals (arsenic, lead, chromium) can be planted on the land.
- Not only would they absorb these metals, but Sunflowers also have high economic value which can create jobs for these illegal miners under the Agriculture for Economic Transformation Agenda in the 2025 budget. Oil for cooking and Animal Feed can be derived from Sunflowers.
- Through the District Assembly Common Fund under the 2025 budget, the district assemblies can be collaborated with to run Green Rehab Centres where young people are given an allowance for planting trees (and sunflowers). This would help the young people who are forced to be involved in galamsey to make money to attend school, part ways confidently.

5. Transform Illegal Miners into Nation Builders

It is alleged that, illegal miners can make up to GHS1500 in a day. It is evident that the main root cause of galamsey is unemployment/poverty. To break these people away from the activity completely, some ways of giving these people ownership and life support must be

explored. These people are equally citizens of the state entitled to good welfare from the government.

- Under the 2025 budget, one of the key goals of the government is to raise foreign exchange for the country by refining gold locally before export through Ghana GoldBod. Some of these illegal miners already possess the hard skills to get this done. With a little training they can be relevant to the achievement of this goal.

The government can reward illegal miners who turn themselves in, with such an opportunity.

- These miners can also be trained in masonry etc through the National Apprenticeship Programme and used as laborers and Site assistants for governmental infrastructural projects such as the Big Push and Ghana Road Maintenance under the 2025 budget.

- They can also be retrained into Agricultural hands men under the Agriculture for Economic Transformation Agenda. Certain percentage of earnings can be allotted to them for ownership

These opportunities would be reserved for those who turn themselves in and are Ghanaian nationals.

I believe that if these measures are strategically implemented, in 4 to 5 years, Galamsey would be history.