

Some of the top politicians, traditional leaders, and individuals involved in galamsey and illegal mining in Ghana, according to a Google search engine, during the John Kofi Agyekum Kufuor presidency from 2000 to 2008?

Who are some of the top politicians, traditional leaders, and individuals involved in galamsey and illegal mining in Ghana, according to a Google search engine, during the John Kofi Agyekum Kufuor presidency from 2000 to 2008?



“
We’re **deceiving ourselves**
with **galamsey** fight if
politicians behind it aren’t
arrested.
—

ASANTEHENE, OTUMFUO OSEI TUTU II SAYS.

Highlights

Traditional Leaders
Political Figures
Political Influence and Protection

Content

During the presidency of John Kofi Agyekum Kufuor (2000–2008), the issue of galamsey (illegal mining) in Ghana involved a complex web of politicians, traditional leaders, and business figures. Although specific individuals are rarely named in official reports, various groups were implicated in facilitating or enabling illegal mining activities.

1. Traditional Leaders: Chiefs in mining regions were often complicit in galamsey activities. For instance, Sabronum Gyaasehene Nana Awua Gyau Atuomi, along with two other chiefs in the Ashanti Region, were destooled for their involvement in buying gold directly from illegal miners and encouraging the continuation of galamsey operations despite environmental damage [[Modern Ghana](#)] [[Modern Ghana](#)]. The other leaders include the Sabronum Akyeamehene and Baamuhene.

2. Political Figures: Although the direct involvement of high-profile politicians was not always explicitly reported, several MPs and political figures were indirectly implicated through their failure to enforce anti-galamsey laws or by offering protection to illegal miners. Galamsey became a politically charged issue, with some politicians using it to gain votes in mining regions [[Adomonline.com](#)].

3. Business Elites: Wealthy business people owning mining concessions often operated outside the legal framework, benefiting from the weak enforcement of mining regulations. Many of these individuals had connections with local politicians or chiefs, allowing them to continue their operations without facing repercussions [[Modern Ghana](#)].

4. Partisan Politics: During election campaigns, politicians from both major political parties (NPP and NDC) often took sympathetic stances toward illegal miners to gain support in mining communities. For instance, opposition figures in the NDC, while out of power during Kufuor's tenure, were known to leverage the galamsey issue as a point of critique against the government [[ESID](#)].

5. Indirect Involvement: Some members of parliament (MPs) and ministers had ties with galamsey operators, either through local chiefs or business elites who profited from the illegal mining operations. These political figures were often accu

6. Political Allegiances and Galamsey Protection: MPs and ministers from both major political parties, the New Patriotic Party (NPP) and the National Democratic Congress (NDC), were often accused of providing protection or turning a blind eye to illegal mining activities. This was particularly true in mining regions where votes were at stake. It has been widely reported that political actors shielded galamsey operators in exchange for political and financial support [[ESID](#)] [[Modern Ghana](#)].

7. Local Government Officials and MPs: Several MPs from regions affected by illegal mining, particularly those from the Ashanti, Eastern, and Western regions, were implicated in allowing galamsey to thrive. Some MPs were reportedly involved in providing cover for miners or influencing local authorities not to interfere with illegal mining operations [[Modern Ghana](#)].

8. Weak Law Enforcement: The weak enforcement of anti-galamsey laws during this period was largely blamed on political interference. Local MPs, ministers, and other political figures were accused of undermining the efforts of law enforcement agencies to crack down on illegal mining [[ESID](#)] [[Modern Ghana](#)].

9. **Lack of Formal Prosecutions:** Many political figures who were implicated in galamsey activities were never formally charged or convicted. While there were reports of political interference and protection offered to galamsey operators, the lack of formal investigations meant that these names remained speculative.

10. **Cultural and Institutional Barriers:** The political and cultural environment often protected MPs and ministers from public exposure, especially in cases where traditional leaders were involved alongside political actors.

These actors contributed to the persistence of galamsey during Kufuor's presidency, undermining efforts to regulate small-scale mining and protect the environment.