

PRESS RELEASE

Forestry Commission Sets the Record Straight on Anti-Illegal Mining Efforts

The Forestry Commission (FC) has noted with concern recent media statements that undermine the significant achievements made through the collaborative efforts of the Ministries of Lands and Natural Resources (MLNR) and Defence in combating illegal mining in forest reserves.

The FC wishes to clarify the current situation, particularly regarding nine (9) forest reserves previously classified as “no-go” zones due to armed gangs blocking access and preventing Forest Officers from performing their duties. Over the past three weeks, with military support, the FC has successfully cleared these armed groups and illegal miners from seven (7) of the nine reserves. Follow-up operations have also led to the arrest of several illegal miners, who have been handed over to the police for prosecution.

During these operations, the following items were seized:

- 55 excavators
- 3 bulldozers
- 3 pick-up trucks
- 4 pump-action rifles
- 11 motorbikes
- Other mining equipment

Additionally, 71 individuals engaged in illegal mining within forest reserves have been arrested. These operations were conducted in the Ashanti, Western North, and Western Regions.

These accomplishments, achieved within a short timeframe, reflect the significant effort and resources invested in this fight. The FC and MLNR acknowledge that the battle against illegal mining is ongoing, but it is crucial to state that these achievements confirm the progress being made as steps toward ultimately winning the fight against these illegal activities.

The FC remains vigilant and is closely monitoring illegal mining hotspots to address emerging issues promptly. We assure the good people of Ghana, whose lands and forests have been entrusted to our care, that the FC and MLNR are fully committed to working with all stakeholders to ensure this fight is won.

Together, we will protect our forests and natural resources for future generations.

SIGNED

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