



Army steps up war against galamsey

BY TIMES REPORTER

THE Ghana Armed Forces (GAF) has stepped up its fight against illegal mining leading to the destruction of more than 340 makeshift accommodations and mining equipment.

In an operation dubbed “Riverine” to augment Operation Vanguard, the joint task force against illegal mining, the equipment, including chafans, water pumping machines, motor cycles and tri-cycles were confiscated after some illegal miners especially at Dokokiyina around the Bui Dam, deserted them.

Started on Tuesday, February 6, 2018, the operation aims to halt the activities of recalcitrant illegal miners who had returned to major water bodies in Eastern Western, Ashanti, Central and Brong Ahafo regions.

A statement signed by Colonel E. Aggrey-Quashie, Director Public Relations of GAF yesterday, said the operation was being undertaken in rivers including River Birim, River Ankobra, River Offin and the Bui dam.

It said currently, personnel from the Ghana Navy, Army Engineers and units within the five regions



• Chafan machine being used for

were conducting simultaneous and robust military operations in conjunction with Operation Vanguard personnel.

This, it said was aimed to

destroy all floating mining equipment and flush out the illegal miners in order to halt the ongoing pollution of rivers and water bodies to sustain the gains made

by Operation Vanguard.

“Though over 1,000 illegal miners have been arrested and their equipment seized by Operation Vanguard, GAF deems it necessary

to step up the Riverine operations in order to maintain the improved security situation and curb the menace by the illegal miners,” the statement said.