

Govt has failed in galamsey fight — NDC

From Isaac Yeboah,
TWIFO NEW DAMAN

THE government has failed in its fight against illegal mining, the opposition National Democratic Congress (NDC) has said.

It said the evidence on the ground pointed to a failure on the part of the government in protecting the environment.

The NDC stated this at a press conference it organised on the banks of River Pra at Twifo New Daman in the Twifo Hemang Lower Denkyira District in the Central Region on Sunday.

"We have invited you to this press conference at a rather unusual venue which symbolises our concerns about the effects that unbridled illegal mining is having on our water bodies, the ecology and general environment," the NDC's National Communication Officer, Mr Sammy Gyamfi, who addressed the press conference, said.

Failed

According to him, "The current state of affairs reflects the failure of President Akufo-Addo's fight against galamsey. In fact, that fight turned out to be a ruse to kick out legal small-scale miners and artisanal 'galamseyers'

and replace them with a new breed of marauding illegal miners.

Mr Gyamfi was of the view that the discourse about President's Akufo-Addo's failed fight against "galamsey" had more often than not become a mere media banter between the government on one hand and the opposition cum civil society on the other.

"Let me emphasise that this issue of 'galamsey' goes beyond the usual binary NPP/NDC debates in Accra. It is about our people, their health, water, forest resources and our survival as a nation," he stated.

Havoc

He explained that the havoc that illegal mining had rained on the country's environment was an affront to achieving the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal 6, 13, 14 and 15 which all talked about clean water, sanitation, climate action, conservation and sustainability of land, water and marine resources.

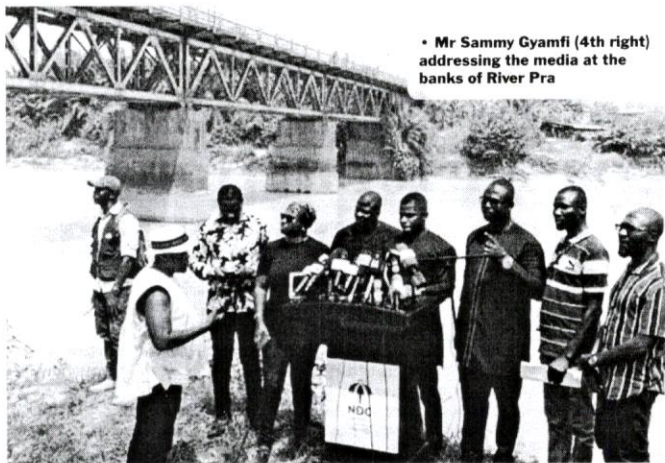
"It was an honour to all Ghanaians when our President and Prime Minister Erna Solberg of Norway were

in April 2017 made Co-Chairs of the UN's Eminent Group of SDG Advocates, a position President John Mahama had previously held.

"Subsequent to that appointment, in a speech delivered at the Accra International Conference Centre (AICC), specifically on July 10, 2017, our President boldly proclaimed that he was willing to put his Presidency on the line to fight 'galamsey'. He further

appealed to traditional rulers, the media and all stakeholders to support this fight.

"Sadly, President Akufo-Addo, who coincidentally is a Co-Chair of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Advocates, has failed to fulfil his solemn promise to the nation to fight the galamsey menace and protect our environment from further degradation," Mr Gyamfi explained.



• Mr Sammy Gyamfi (4th right) addressing the media at the banks of River Pra