

Operation stop galamsey now!

THE information from the tour of the Minister of Lands recently to areas under the scourge of galamsey painted a sad picture of the state of water bodies and the forest cover in the country. The fact that 80 acres of the virgin forest have been destroyed and 250 mining machines, commonly called 'shanfans' seized shows a dire situation.

The activities of these elusive illegal miners require that all armed forces are called in to fight the threat. The navy, air force and army must be resourced to mount 24/7 surveillances in illegal mining areas.

With helicopters and parachutes, air force personnel from the Takoradi and Accra Air Force base, as well as the Second Infantry

brigade could play complementary roles in the detection of illegal miners at their hideouts.

The Western Naval Command, based at Sekondi-Takoradi, should be resourced and deployed in patrolling the Pra River from Beposo up north to Twifo Praso and beyond with boats, while the Eastern Naval

Command in Tema can be deployed on the Ankobra and Tano rivers, as well as the Inchaban water works.

Indeed, areas with illegal mining could be zoned and put under the command of one of the security bases located across the country.

Decentralising anti-galamsey operations would bring efficiency and accountability to help achieve results.

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