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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**GOLDBOD REJECTS FALSE CLAIM THAT CEO ENDORSED ILLEGAL MINING;
COMMENCES CONSULTATION ON ASM FORMALISATION AND FINANCING
SUPPORT PROGRAM**

The Ghana Gold Board ("GoldBod") has taken notice of a selectively edited video circulating on social media which seeks to create the false impression that its Chief Executive Officer, Sammy Gyamfi, endorsed or gave approval for illegal mining in Ghana.

This attempt is false and fundamentally misrepresents the substance and context of the CEO's remarks.

The video is an edited excerpt from an engagement with artisanal and small-scale miners in March 2026. Critically, the version being circulated removes the context in which the CEO explained Government's policy objective of identifying and documenting mining operators and transitioning eligible informal operators into a lawful, regulated and environmentally responsible mining regime.

Government's policy is not to legitimize illegal mining. It is to end illegality by transitioning eligible operators into a formal system where they can be licensed, regulated, monitored and held accountable for their environmental and operational conduct.

This approach is consistent with the policy position repeatedly articulated by the GoldBod. There is therefore a fundamental difference between permitting illegal mining and creating a pathway through which eligible informal or unlicensed miners can be regularized and brought into compliance with the law. The CEO's remarks concerned the latter.

At the 2026 Mining in Motion Summit, Sammy Gyamfi reiterated the GoldBod's position that mining regulation must be firm, practical and inclusive, and that regulation must go beyond policing miners to formalising operations, building capacity and creating opportunities through compliance.

It is this philosophy that underpins the GoldBod's planned **ASM Formalization and Financing Support Program (FFSP)**, being pursued in collaboration with the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources, the University of Mines and Technology, and Mineral Income Investment Fund (MIFF) with technical support from Rand Refinery SA. The program is intended to support ASM through formalisation and financing, while

increasing production, mineral revenues and jobs and reducing operational costs and addressing environmental degradation.

The GoldBod has commenced stakeholder engagements with key industry stakeholders, including relevant government agencies, small-scale miners' associations, civil society organizations, among others, on the proposed ASM FFSP. These engagements are intended to foster broad-based consultation, incorporate stakeholder perspectives, and ensure that the Policy is inclusive, responsive to industry needs, and sustainable in its implementation, ahead of its planned rollout in 2027.

The GoldBod is also partnering with the Ghana Geological Survey Authority (GGSA) to conduct geological studies of mineralized areas. Geological investigations are currently ongoing at Funi in the Upper West Region and Bensere in the Ashanti Region, with the aim of supporting the responsible expansion of Ghana's mining base and eliminating '*lottery mining*' which often degrades the environment.

These interventions are central to the GoldBod's approach: formalize operations, improve geological certainty, support access to finance and modern mining practices, strengthen accountability and make responsible compliance and environmental responsibility a viable alternative to illegality.

The GoldBod's position on irresponsible and environmentally destructive mining is equally unequivocal. It has publicly supported action against illegal mining practices that destroy water bodies and forest reserves and has consistently maintained that such practices must be curtailed.

That commitment is backed by concrete action. The GoldBod has been supporting NAIMOS and is investing in responsible sourcing and traceability, land reclamation and water remediation. It is funding the reclamation of 50 hectares of degraded land in the Tano Nimiri Forest Reserve, supporting the rehabilitation of water treatment plants affected by irresponsible mining, and procuring a track-and-trace system to strengthen accountability and responsible sourcing.

These are not the actions or policies of an institution that endorses illegal mining.

The GoldBod therefore rejects the attempt to use a selectively edited video to turn a policy of transitioning eligible miners from illegality into regulated and responsible mining into an endorsement of illegality.

The full context and the GoldBod's consistent public record are clear: illegal and irresponsible mining must end. Where operators can lawfully be transitioned into the formal economy, the sustainable solution is to regularize, regulate and hold them accountable, rather than leave them operating outside the reach of the State.

The GoldBod remains committed to promoting responsible mining, environmental protection, effective regulation, the formalization of the artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM) and the sustainable transformation of Ghana's mineral wealth into national prosperity. This commitment aligns with the statutory mandate of the GoldBod under Section 3(1)(f) of the Ghana Gold Board Act, 2025 (Act 1140) which mandates the GoldBod to promote the formalization of the small-scale mining industry through supply chain sustainability among others.

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