



# TARKWA NSUAEM MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY



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## PRESS STATEMENT

Good morning, ladies and gentlemen from the Media;

Investigative journalism has contributed massively to the democratic practice of Ghana, especially in the area of unearthing social ills that could have gone unnoticed. While I have loved and followed investigative reports with much interest, I have also learned that the right to freedom of speech and press is granted to all citizens to seek redress and communicate their opinion on issues of National interest.

There is no doubt in my mind that the call to end Galamsey goes beyond my party's policy and the sole responsibility of the government to the collective burden of the people and the leadership of Tarkwa-Nsuaem Municipality. I therefore, deemed an investigative piece on what has perpetuated our long-fought battle to end the Galamsey menace and save our river bodies, restore the natural environment, and protection of life, not only of interest but valuable to me winning this great fight for posterity of my Municipality, the Government and Mother Ghana. It was therefore, shocking, if not disappointing, that a renowned investigative journalist and media house of great reputation and respect could peddle unsubstantiated and unverified evidence gathered through subterfuge and questionable to meddle my person and the good office with a menace I have fought very hard with my whole being.

Perhaps, the journalistic principles of fairness, balance, truth, objectivity, and accuracy requires that a newsworthy event be covered in a professional manner where all sides and parties are given equal opportunities to get represented in the story. I am surprised these basic journalistic principles were grossly sidelined in the report.

I have invited you here today to express my opinion and disclaimer following the publication of the allegations from Mr. Nathaniel Dekyi.

My attention has been drawn to a story published on Monday, 10<sup>th</sup> October, 2022, by Joy FM and other media stations as well as social media platforms in which Mr. Nathaniel Dekyi, a self-imposed Nana Nyowah Panyin IV of Dompim Pepesa in the Tarkwa-Nsuaem Municipality of the Western Region alleges that, I have been deeply involved in the Galamsey activities within the Dompim community, together with the Hon. Western Regional Minister, and the Deputy Minister for Lands and Natural Resources who is also the Member of Parliament for the Tarkwa-Nsuaem Constituency.

This groundless allegation without any bit of prove is very unfortunate, baseless, untrue and a strategically planed effort from a vowed resentful rival hiding behind chieftaincy, and taking undue political advantage of the Galamsey menace which has become a national concern to cast a slur on my image, hard earned reputation and bringing the name of Tarkwa-Nsuaem Municipal Assembly into disrepute.

During my recent community visitations in the 3rd quarter of this year, I reiterated my commitment and call on the Youth, Unit Committee Members, the Hon. Assembly Members, and the Traditional Authorities to get actively involved in the fight against the Galamsey canker, especially on our river bodies.

As Chairman of the Municipal Security Council (MUSEC), I have had several engagements between MUSEC and other major stakeholders in the fight against the Galamsey menace to collectively identify better and alternative ways of engaging in the battle, especially to rescue our dying river bodies.

In addition, I also commissioned a River Ban Galamsey Task Force (BGTF) to flush out activities of recalcitrant illegal miners operating on river bodies in the Municipality. Excavators were seen burnt or seized in the process, and some people arrested, whilst Chanfang Machines were set ablaze. Several bitter comments, insults and curses were rained on me, but the national call to end the devastating effects of illegal mining activities and salvage our depleting natural heritage has remained my core concern and I will continue to fight without fear of such baseless attacks until the battle is won.

I therefore, debunk these malicious allegations and call on the general public to treat it with the needed contempt it deserves. I challenge the self-acclaimed Nana of Dompim-Pepesa, peddling the allegation to back it up with evidence. This kind of unpatriotic allegations and reports have the probability of scaring many of those out there prepared and willing to get involved in the fight against the menace, for fear of vilifications and vindictiveness.

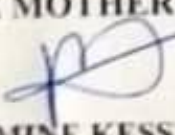
I also admonish the media to be very circumspect in their reportage and cross-check facts before publications, especially when the report has the tendency of damaging the reputation of others.

Let me end by informing the public and my teeming supporters that my lawyers are taking the necessary steps on this matter. Please be assured that I will come clean at the end of the day.

**LONG LIVE TARKWA-NSUAEM!**

**LONG LIVE MOTHER GHANA!!**

Thank you



**HON. BENJAMINE KESSIE  
MUNICIPAL CHIEF EXECUTIVE  
TARKWA-NSUAEM MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY**

**Municipal Chief Executive  
Tarkwa-Nsuaem Muni Assembly  
Tarkwa**

CC:  
ALL MEDIA HOUSES