Christian News | 14 November 2026 | English article

Ghana Catholic Bishops Demand State of Emergency on Illegal Mining Galamsey in Closing Plenary Communique

A true story of faith under pressure. Read the first half below, then continue online.

KEY SPIRITUAL TAKEAWAY

"Are not producing the desired, promised and expected end of the menace."

(Transliterated from the original Hindi.)

They had gathered only to pray. When prayer itself becomes the target, faith is proved not by words but by staying.

The Story - Part One

The Ghana Catholic Bishops' Conference has asked President John Dramani Mahama to declare a targeted state of emergency in the areas worst affected by illegal mining, known locally as galamsey. The demand came in the communique issued on Friday 13 November 2026 at St Paul Cathedral, Konongo-Mampong, at the close of the bishops' annual Plenary Assembly. The bishops said the government's interventions so far "are not producing the desired, promised and expected end of the menace."

That sentence is the sharpest thing the bishops have said about galamsey in years. It does not accuse the government of doing nothing. It says something harder to answer: that what has been done has not worked, and that the time for ordinary measures has passed.

Ghana Catholic Bishops Galamsey State Of Emergency

Galamsey is the local name for illegal and irresponsible mining, and it has scarred farmland, forests and water sources across Ghana for years. The bishops are not asking for a nationwide emergency. They want a targeted one, declared in the places where the damage is worst, where the pits are deepest and the destruction hardest to reverse.

The word "targeted" matters. It is a call for emergency powers aimed at the worst-hit areas, not a blanket crackdown on the whole country - a word chosen carefully, and a measure of how seriously they take the crisis.

The demand was the headline of a communique that covered far more than mining. But galamsey came first in the reporting, and for good reason. It is the issue on which the bishops judged the government's record most bluntly, and the one on which they asked for the strongest remedy available.

Ghana Bishops Communique November 2026 Jamasi

The communique closed an assembly that ran from 3 to 14 November at the Divine Providence Pastoral Centre in Jamasi, in the Ashanti Region. The bishops gathered under the theme "Communion, Participation and Mission: Preparing the Catholic Church in Ghana for Her 150th Anniversary in 2030." The document was signed by the conference president, Bishop Matthew Kwasi Gyamfi of Sunyani.

The Turning Point - What Happens Next

The story reaches a life-changing moment that changes everything -- and what seemed like the end is only the middle. Two reports disagree on the numbers, and one question is left unanswered: will the CCTV footage ever come out? Read the full story to find out what happens next.

PERSONAL REFLECTION & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When gathering to pray carries a real cost, what keeps a community coming together anyway -- and what would keep you coming?

2. The pastor's sister shielded him with her own body and fainted under the blows. What does costly, self-giving love look like in your own family or church?

3. When justice is delayed and a complaint is withdrawn under threat, how do believers hold on to truth without giving in to fear -- or to hatred?

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