



GHANA MINEWORKERS' UNION (TUC) GHANA

Office of the General Secretary, Hall of Trade Unions

P. O. Box 701, Accra - Ghana.

Email: gmwu_gtuc@yahoo.co.uk Tel/Fax: 0302-66 55 63

PRESS STATEMENT

22ND October 2026

GHANA MINEWORKERS' UNION POSITION ON THE GOVERNMENT FURTHER DIRECTIVES ON CONTRACT MINING

The Ghana Mineworkers' Union (GMWU) has sighted a press release circulating in the public domain, captioned “*Government Issues Further Policy Directive on Contract Mining,*” and dated 21st October 2026.

The Union is particularly concerned about the claims by the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources that the Ministry “has been undertaking extensive consultation with the leadership of the Union” on what it refers to Government further Directives on Contract Mining.

The GMWU wishes to state, unequivocally, that this claim by the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources in its press release of *October 21, 2026 is factually inaccurate.*

As you may recall, the GMWU petitioned the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources on 20th August 2026 after publicly raising its disagreement and frustrations with the Local Content Policy especially on contract mining and the *myriad of challenges* it posed to mine workers in this country which include but not limited to *exploitation, abuse, casualization of labour, and the erosion of hard-won protections that workers have fought for over decades and will inevitably push most mineworkers into the working poverty syndrome.*

As part of our petition, we called on Government to suspend its directive and initiate a *genuinely inclusive, transparent, and good-faith stakeholder engagement process that places workers at the centre of policy considerations.*

Astonishingly, it has been over two (2) months and despite repeated reminders to the Ministry and by extension the Government, no practical and visible steps have been taken to meet with the Union or consult on a mutually beneficial solution to the myriad of concerns raised by the Union and its over 15,000 members.

It is therefore both misleading and unfortunate for the Ministry to suggest that extensive consultations have taken place when no such consultations had occurred as of the date of its press release. The Union consequently rejects this assertion and calls on the Ministry to correct the record.

ALL COMMUNICATIONS SHOULD
BE ADDRESSED TO THE
GENERAL SECRETARY

Website: www.gmwu.org

The Ghana Mineworkers' Union wishes to reiterate that we are not opposed to responsible participation of Ghanaian businesses in the mining sector just like most of their multinational counterparts have consistently done. We are strongly opposed to any policy or practice that transfers wealth from workers to contractors, weakens social protection, undermines decent work and violates workers' rights. Local content must create decent and sustainable jobs and provide opportunities for all Ghanaians. It cannot become a vehicle for exploitation to enrich a few contractors at the expense of the workers who risk and sweat day and night in the bowls of the earth to produce the wealth. We cannot build a prosperous mining industry by impoverishing the very workers whose labour produces its wealth.

The GMWU wishes to restate that as at **21st October 2026** when the Ministry of Lands & Natural Resources published its Press Release, ***absolutely no consultation had taken place between the Ministry and the GMWU***. The claim therefore that it has engaged extensively with the Union's Leadership is ***not factual and ought to be disregarded***.

In a related development, the GMWU has also sighted some media engagements involving the Minerals Commission and by extension the Government and other stakeholders on matters relating to contract mining / local content and workers conditions of service.

The GMWU wishes to remind the Minerals Commission and by extension Government that whilst there is attempt to protect the welfare of mine workers, it must note that many of the worker-related issues are matters that fall within the framework of Collective bargaining and regulated by the Labour Act 2003 (Act 651) and must therefore be cautious in its unilateral approach.

The Ghana Mineworkers' Union remains committed to working with other stakeholders to develop the industry and protect the interest of all stakeholders including workers.

The GMWU's position remains clear: local content must promote national development while safeguarding workers' rights, dignity, and livelihoods.

Issued by:

The Ghana Mineworkers Union, GMWU of TUC-Ghana.

Tel: 0505720060