

PETITION SUBMITTED BY THE YOUTH AND PEOPLE OF WINNEBA TO THE MINERALS COMMISSION THROUGH THE EFFUTU MUNICIPAL COORDINATING DIRECTOR TO REGISTER OUR DISGUST, AND PROTEST AGAINST THE GRANTING OF ANY FORM OF LICENCE, AND OR CONCESSION, TO GREEN METAL RESOURCES LTD, AND OR ANY OTHER INDIVIDUAL, OR COMPANY OR GROUP OF COMPANIES FOR THE PURPOSES OF MINING IN THE GLOBALLY RECOGNISED AND PROTECTED WINNEBA/POMADZE RAMSAR SITE WHICH ALSO SERVES AS THE WINNEBA ABOAKYER HUNTING GROUNDS.

We the people of Winneba, by this demonstration, and its attendant petition, are registering our displeasure, disgust and protest against the granting of lease, permit, or any form of concession to the Green Metal Resources Ltd, or to any other company, for the purposes of mining in, or anywhere near, the Winneba Aboakyer Hunting grounds, or any part of the globally protected and recognized Winneba/Pomadze Ramsar site, and any part of Muni Lagoon which are shared between the people of Effutu and Gomoa traditional areas.

There have been a number of attempts at carrying out mining activities in the Aboakyer Hunting Grounds/Ramsar site. In the year 2007, the Caribbean Atlantic Holding Gh Ltd, applied to the Minerals Commission for a mining concession in the areas under discussions. This was vehemently opposed by the people of Winneba.

Again, in the year 2012, another company, Obotan Resources Ltd, applied to engage in the same mining activities in the same protected areas. They too were vehemently opposed by the people of Winneba. In the year 2016, Merlink Resources also sought to mine in the area, but again faced severe opposition. Last year, 2022, the Green Metal Resources, were published as having been under consideration for mining concession in the same area, but faced fierce opposition from the chiefs and people of Effutu.

It is therefore surprising, and disgusting, that the same Green Metal Resources who were rejected by the people, have come back again to mine in the sacred Ramsar site of the people of Effutu.

We wish to register our firm support for, and affirm, the press conference held by our two traditional councils, Effutu and Ajumako, at which they rejected and said NO to the concessions granted Green Metal Resources, and further endorse all of the points raised by the two traditional councils, a copy of which is attached to this petition.

We would like to further state that the people of Winneba derive more perpetual benefits from the celebrations of the Aboakyer festival, than any anticipated mining of lithium in our protected areas. There cannot be any Aboakyer festival without the annual hunting of the deer in the forest. The destruction of the forest would mean a sad end to the celebration of the Aboakyer festival. This would bring untold economic, social, cultural and spiritual consequences on the people of Winneba.

We state that the Aboakyer festival is our heritage which was handed over to our fathers since time immemorial. Our fathers in turn handed the festival to us with all its hereditaments. The Ramsar site (the hunting grounds) is one of those hereditaments, and we intend protecting it with pride and passion. It is our cultural heritage, part of our spiritual being, and we vehemently protest any person or group of persons who attempt to desecrate the sanctity of this sacred forest and its associated Lagoon.

We further state that we cannot, and shall not, cede the celebration of Aboakyer to any form of socio-economic considerations.

We therefore add our voice to our two traditional authorities, that any person or group of persons, or company, that would fail to stay away from the Aboakyer hunting grounds, would face perpetual and unending consequences.

For and on behalf of the demonstrators;

James Kofi Annan

(Effutu NDC Parliamentary candidate/Opinion leader)

