

PRESS CONFERENCE BY THE NEW PATRIOTIC PARTY (NPP)

**ON THE CONVICTION OF THE ASHANTI REGIONAL CHAIRMAN, MR. BERNARD
ANTWI BOASIAKO (CHAIRMAN WONTUMI)**

Monday, 20th July 2026

Fellow Ghanaians,

Members of the media,

Distinguished Patriots,

Good afternoon.

The New Patriotic Party has become aware of the judgment delivered today by the High Court in the case involving our Ashanti Regional Chairman, Mr. Bernard Antwi-Boasiako, popularly known as Chairman Wontumi.

We address you today with profound disappointment, but also with an unwavering commitment to the rule of law, constitutional democracy, and the pursuit of justice.

While we respect the authority of our courts, respect for the judiciary does not require silence in the face of a judgment that is fundamentally flawed. Our Constitution guarantees every citizen the right to disagree with judicial decisions and to seek redress through the appellate process. That is precisely what we intend to do.

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is our considered view that Chairman Wontumi has been convicted in circumstances where there was no evidence at all to support a conviction in respect of the offence for which he has been convicted. It was never

disputed that Chairman Wontumi lawfully acquired his Mineral concession. That fact was established and accepted before the Court.

The central question was whether that concession had been assigned or transferred in violation of the law. It is our respectful view that no evidence was adduced before the Court establishing any such assignment or transfer of mineral rights by Chairman Wontumi. The prosecution could not produce any evidence to show that Wontumi had assigned his Mineral right.

Instead, the conviction rested on assumptions and inferences which in our view, could not amount to **proof beyond reasonable doubt**.

That is why we firmly believe that this conviction is a travesty of justice and has to be overturned on appeal.

Fellow Ghanaians,

Equally disturbing is the broader context within which this prosecution has taken place.

A troubling pattern is emerging in our country—a pattern where the Government appears eager to shield its own while relentlessly pursuing perceived political opponents who have done no wrong.

Today, the John Mahama led NDC Government may seek to celebrate this conviction as evidence of its commitment to the fight against illegal mining where there is evidence of Galamsey on a large scale engaged in and supervised by leading members of John Mahama's government.

We reject that narrative entirely.

They think that, the conviction of Chairman Wontumi will be the trophy to appease the Ghanaian people for such failure.

This is no trophy.

The Ghanaian people cannot fail to notice that while political opponents who have done no wrong are being aggressively prosecuted, questions remain unanswered regarding individuals associated with his Party and Government who have themselves been publicly linked to illegal mining activities.

Indeed, the President himself has acknowledged that persons in his administration are involved in Galamsey.

What concrete action has followed those admissions?

Who are those members of the President's Party that are engaged in Galamsey and of which the President knows of.

What has become of the petition submitted to the Economic and Organised Crime Office (EOCO) seeking an investigation into allegations concerning Mr. Joseph Yamin the NDC National Organiser and Abanga Yakubu Vice Chairman of the NDC?

What has happened to Hon. Mohammed Yakubu NDC MP for Ahafo Ano South and his DCE who were sacked from a Chief's Palace after they alleged that he was heavily involved in Galamsey in their traditional area.

What happened to the NDC MP for Aowin Hon. Oscar Ofori Larbi who was accused by the chiefs and people of Aowin as well as Ghana Coalition against Galamasey for engaging in Galamsey?

Why has the nation not witnessed the same level of urgency and determination in those matters?

Justice cannot be selective.

The fight against illegal mining cannot become credible only when it targets political opponents in respect of whom evidence of wrongdoing does not exist, while overlooking allegations involving others, especially from the President's own Party.

Ladies and gentlemen,

We also wish to state that Ghana faces challenges far greater than political persecution.

At a time when our nation is grappling with growing security threats, the devastating impact of illegal mining on our cocoa farmers and farming communities and the areas owned by the farmers, the Government's inadequate response to recent flooding across the country, and the increasing menace of terrorism within the sub-region, Ghanaians expect leadership that demonstrates urgency, competence, and an unwavering commitment to protecting lives, livelihoods, and national security.

No Government should attempt to divert public attention from those pressing national concerns through selective prosecutions designed to create the appearance of success.

Finally, let me assure all members of the New Patriotic Party and the good people of Ghana that Chairman Wontumi is not alone. There is no justification for the judgment since the judge obviously ignored clear evidence exonerating Wontumi

The Party stands firmly with him.

Our legal team has already commenced the necessary steps to challenge this judgment through the appellate process. The NPP considers Wontumi a **POLITICAL PRISONER.**

May God bless our homeland Ghana and make our nation great and strong.

Thank you.

JUSTIN KODUA FRIMPONG, ESQ.
GENERAL SECRETARY
NEW PATRIOTIC PARTY