



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

#### **INVESTIGATE GALAMSEY ALLEGATIONS AGAINST FC CEO**

**Accra, 31<sup>st</sup> July, 2018.** Forest Watch Ghana observes with great concern recent allegations about involvement of CEO of the Forestry Commission, Mr. Kwadwo Owusu Afriyie, popularly known as Sir John, in illegal mining and subsequent developments.

One of the main national agencies involved in the fight against illegal surface mining is the Forestry Commission (FC), hence any allegation whether remote or direct, involving the CEO of the FC, the chief conservator of forests, casts a big slur on the integrity and credibility of the Forestry Commission.

We, therefore, welcome the news of the intention of the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources and the call by the FC to investigate this issue as a matter of public interest. The legitimacy of the investigation would depend on the public trust and credibility accorded to the investigation, hence the composition of the investigation team needs to be carefully considered.

For this reason, we call on the Hon. Minister of Lands and Natural Resources to involve independent actors and civil society in the investigation of these allegations. The findings of the investigation should then be made available to the general public. It is our expectation that the important role of the FC, and any other public regulatory agency on the environment and our natural resources, would not be undermined by allegations of this nature.

Signed

Samuel Mawutor

Coordinator