The Executive Director

Environmental Protection Agency

Accra, Ghana.

19th October, 2023

Dear Sir,

**REQUEST FOR INFORMATION PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 21(1)(f) OF THE 1992 CONSTITUTION OF GHANA AND SECTION 18 OF THE RIGHT TO INFORMATION ACT, 2019, (ACT 989)**

Respectfully, I write to your esteemed office as a citizen of Ghana, in line with Article 21(1)(f) of the 1992 Constitution and section 18 of the Right to Information Act, 2019 (ACT 989) to request for:

1. A copy of a letter dated, 18th June, 2018, with Reference No. CM/E/7069/2, signed by the Chief Programme Officer/Head of Mining, for and on behalf of the Ag. Executive Director of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and addressed to the Managing Director of Heritage Imperial Company Limited. According to that letter, the Agency has received a correspondence from the Forestry Commission granting the company a Forest Entry Permit to undertake exploration (prospecting) activities, and further notes that the permit will expire in December 2018.

2. A copy of a letter dated 17th December, 2018, with Reference No. CM/E/7069/9, signed by the Ag. Executive Director and addressed to the Managing Director of Heritage Imperial Company Limited in which the EPA indicated that it has taken note of the illegal mining activities of the company in the Apamprama Forest Reserve in the Ashanti Region.

3. A copy of a letter dated 22nd February, 2019, signed by the Chief Programme Officer/Head of Mining for and on behalf of the Ag. Executive Director of the EPA to the MD of Heritage Imperial Company Limited, stating that in the meeting held on 9th January, 2019, the Agency pointed out that the company was undertaking mining activities in the Apamprama Forest Reserve without an Environmental Permit contrary the provisions of the EPA Act, 1990 (Act 490) and Environmental Assessment Regulation, 1999 (LI 1652). The letter also stated that Heritage Imperial Company Limited admitted in the meeting of 9th January, 2019 that they were rather engaged in reclamation work without Environmental Permit and had moved equipment/machinery to the site when they had not even made an application for the necessary Environmental Permit.

4. Any other relevant report or document that relates to the activities of Heritage Imperial Company Limited in the Apamprama forest reserve in the Ashanti Region.

This request has become imperative in light of a legal opinion from Attorney-General and Ministry of Justice to the Ghana Police Service dated 12th September, 2023. The said legal opinion suggests that no evidence has been found by the State in support of allegations by the former Minister of Environment and former Chairman of the Inter-Ministerial Committee Against Illegal Mining, Prof. Frimpong Boateng, that Heritage Imperial Company Limited has been mining and/or operating illegally in the Apamprama forest reserve.

In line with my civic responsibilities as a citizen of Ghana and given the considerable public interest in this matter, I humbly request for the above information to enable me assist the Ghana Police Service and the Attorney-General to conduct thorough investigations into this matter.

Counting on your speedy response and cooperation.

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SAMMY GYAMFI ESQ.

Citizen of Ghana and Legal Practitioner