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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Local Companies in Mining Services (LOCOMS), representing indigenous contractors and service providers operating within the Bogoso–Prestea mining enclave, wishes to express its unequivocal support for Heath Goldfields Limited (HGL) as the current operator of the Bogoso–Prestea Mine.

We have taken note of recent calls by certain groups advocating for the termination of Heath Goldfields Limited operating mandate. As stakeholders directly engaged in the day-to-day operations of the mine, we consider it important to present a balanced and factual perspective based on our lived experience. LOCOMS categorically rejects claims that Heath Goldfields has failed to live up to expectations. While we acknowledge that the mine is currently in a rebuilding and stabilization phase following a prolonged period of inactivity, the progress made within a relatively short time demonstrates clear commitment, direction, and intent.

Our position is informed by our experience under previous operators, where local contractors faced significant challenges, including prolonged non-payment for services rendered, limited opportunities for local participation, and operational instability that negatively impacted livelihoods. We do not wish to return to such conditions, and we caution against actions that may disrupt the current trajectory of recovery and progress.

Since assuming responsibility for the mine, Heath Goldfields has demonstrated a strong commitment to engaging local contractors. The company has made part payments toward outstanding debts owed to LOCOMS, where full settlement is ongoing and has put in place structured and transparent payment arrangements that are being honored. This approach reflects a level of accountability and partnership that provides confidence to local businesses and communities.

Through our collective activities, LOCOMS members have directly and indirectly created employment opportunities for a significant number of people within the host communities. These livelihoods are closely tied to the continued operation and stability of the mine. Any disruption to the current operating framework poses a real risk to these jobs and to the broader local economy that depends on mining-related services.

We therefore express our full confidence in Heath Goldfields Limited and its leadership, and we believe the company has credible plans to redevelop the mine in a sustainable and responsible manner. However, achieving this requires time, financial strengthening, and a stable operating environment.

We respectfully call on host communities, government, and the general public to support the company's efforts and to prioritize constructive engagement over actions that may undermine long-term benefits.

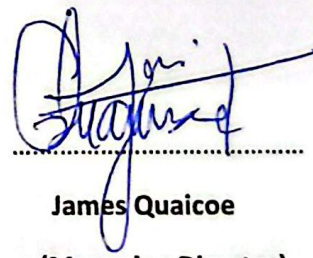
As local contractors whose businesses and employees depend on the success of this mine, we stand firmly behind Heath Goldfields and urge all stakeholders to work collaboratively to ensure that the Bogoso–Prestea Mine fulfills its potential as a driver of employment, economic growth, and sustainable development.

Issued by:

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