

FC CONDEMS THE UNLAWFUL LOCKING OF 3 DISTRICT OFFICES IN THE ASHANTI REGION

29th July, 2025 - The Forestry Commission (FC) has learnt with grave concern, the forcible closure of its District Offices at Bekwai, Nkawie and Offinso on Monday, 28th July 2025, by a group of about twenty (20) masked, heavily-armed men who claim to be operatives of the National Security.

The Commission condemns, in the strongest possible terms, this blatant act of intimidation and interference with Public Service. The intruders, who fitted their own padlocks on the metal gates of the offices and left with the keys, had no lawful authority to disrupt the work of the Commission and endanger the lives of its staff and clients. Their conduct is an affront to the rule of law and to the constitutional mandate of the Forestry Commission.

We note the statement by the Ashanti Regional National Security Coordinator, Captain (Rtd.) Kwame Jabari, in interviews with some media outlets (***3news and Asaase Radio***), dissociating his outfit from the incident and describing the perpetrators as imposters. According to him, they have not sanctioned any operation targeting the Forestry Commission.

The Commission appreciates this clarification and expects full cooperation from all legitimate security agencies to bring the culprits to book.

The Commission respectfully calls on appropriate authorities to:

- Launch a swift and impartial investigation into the unlawful lockdown of some District offices in the Ashanti Region on 28 July 2025,
- Identify, arrest and prosecute all individuals involved in the illegal lock-down, and

- Determine any links between the incident and the recent arrest of illegal miners by FC Rapid Response Teams in the Oda Forest Reserve.

Given the highly threatened environment in which FC staff work and live in the various districts, the Commission requests the Ghana Police Service to deploy uniformed officers to safeguard all FC offices and checkpoints in the Ashanti Region with immediate effect. Management has instructed District Managers to cooperate fully with the Police and to keep detailed incidents log.

The Forestry Commission also wants to assure our staff that their offices and work environment are safe and they should carry out their duties without any fear.

The Forestry Commission remains committed to protecting Ghana's forest and Wildlife resources and combating illegal mining (galamsey), in support of Governments agenda to restore degraded areas. We urge our dedicated staff and all stakeholders to remain calm and vigilant while management works with the Police and other state security institutions to restore normal operations. The public is encouraged to report any suspicious activity around any FC office to the nearest police station or call the FC hotlines below;

+233 (0) 302 401210 / +233 (0) 302 401227 / +233 (0) 302 401216

Issued by:

**The Corporate Affairs & Media Relations Unit,
Forestry Commission, Accra.**

Email: info@fcghana.org

Website: www.fcghana.org

Twitter: Forestry Commission GH

Facebook: Forestry Comm Ghana

Instagram: [the_forestry_commission](https://www.instagram.com/the_forestry_commission)