

## New mining campaign launched

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**A NEW campaign against destructive mining practices and human rights abuses in mining producing countries has been launched at the University of Cape Coast in the Central Region.**

The campaign, dubbed, "No Dirty Gold", is an initiative of Oxfam, America and Earthworks Action and is being spearheaded by the Wassa Association of Communities Affected by Mining (WACAM), a Ghanaian NGO in Ghana. Other West African countries will also commit mining firms to protect the environment.

The campaign which takes the form of advocacy, workshops, trips to mining sites and

communities among others, urges manufacturers and retailers to ensure that gold used in the production of jewellery, electronic and other products was not produced at the expense of communities, workers and the environment.

It will also raise the awareness of gold consumers on the impact of mining on poor communities.

Launching the campaign, the Executive Director of WACAM, Mr Daniel Owusu-Koranteng, cautioned the current method of surface mining in the country.

He said surface mining was inherently unsustainable and that problems associated with it would manifest when the jungle boom was over.

Mr Owusu-Koranteng said the generous incentives being

offered to mining firms had attracted companies such as Newmont, AngloGold and Goldfields to the country.

He cautioned, however, that, the country's drive for accelerated development should not centre on the effectiveness of attracting mining investment.

He said the nation should be concerned about how mining fits into the sustainable development goals of the country.

The Assembly member for Sansu Electoral Area in Obuasi, Mr Benjamin Annan, stressed the need for the acquisition of skills and support to residents of mining communities to critically assess the impact and benefits of mining.

He said mining communities had not benefited from mining but rather suffered from pollution.