



Center for Democratic Development  
Accra, Ghana  
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## News release

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### Ghanaians decry 'galamsey,' favour government providing alternative livelihood support

A majority of Ghanaians support the government's efforts to clamp down on illegal small-scale mining, popularly known as "galamsey," a recent Afrobarometer survey indicates.

The survey also shows that Ghanaians overwhelmingly favour the government's proposed initiatives to develop alternative livelihoods for those affected by the clampdown.

Rejection of "galamsey" and approval of the government's handling of the fight against it are particularly strong among better-educated Ghanaians and among residents of the Central, Brong Ahafo, and Ashanti regions. Opposition to small-scale mining is weakest in the Upper East, Northern, and Upper West regions.

Public opinion fortifies the government's assertive new fight against "galamsey" and its devastating effects on the country's water bodies, farmlands, and livelihoods. The campaign is already credited with sparking the recovery of some hitherto heavily polluted water bodies.

#### Key findings

- Three-fourths (74%) of Ghanaians say no citizen should be permitted to engage in illegal small-scale mining or "galamsey" for any reason.
- Eight out of 10 Ghanaians (81%) approve of the government's performance in clamping down on illegal small-scale mining.
- Eight out of 10 Ghanaians (80%) approve – including 52% who "strongly approve" – of the idea that the government should be responsible for providing alternative livelihoods for former "galamseymen."

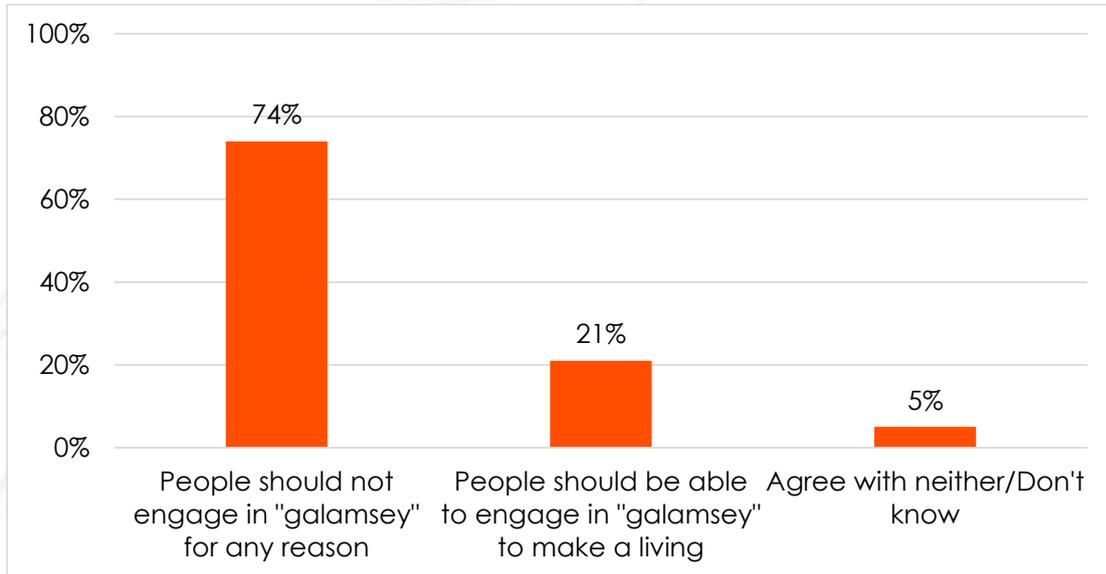
#### Afrobarometer

Afrobarometer is a pan-African, non-partisan research network that conducts public attitude surveys on democracy, governance, economic conditions, and related issues across more than 35 countries in Africa. Six rounds of surveys were conducted between 1999 and 2015, and Round 7 surveys (2016/2018) are currently underway. Afrobarometer conducts face-to-face interviews in the language of the respondent's choice with nationally representative samples.

The Afrobarometer team in Ghana, led by the Ghana Center for Democratic Development (CDD-Ghana), interviewed 2,400 adult Ghanaians between September 9 and 25, 2017. A sample of this size yields results with a margin of error of +/-2% at a 95% confidence level. Previous surveys have been conducted in Ghana in 1999, 2002, 2005, 2008, 2012, and 2014.

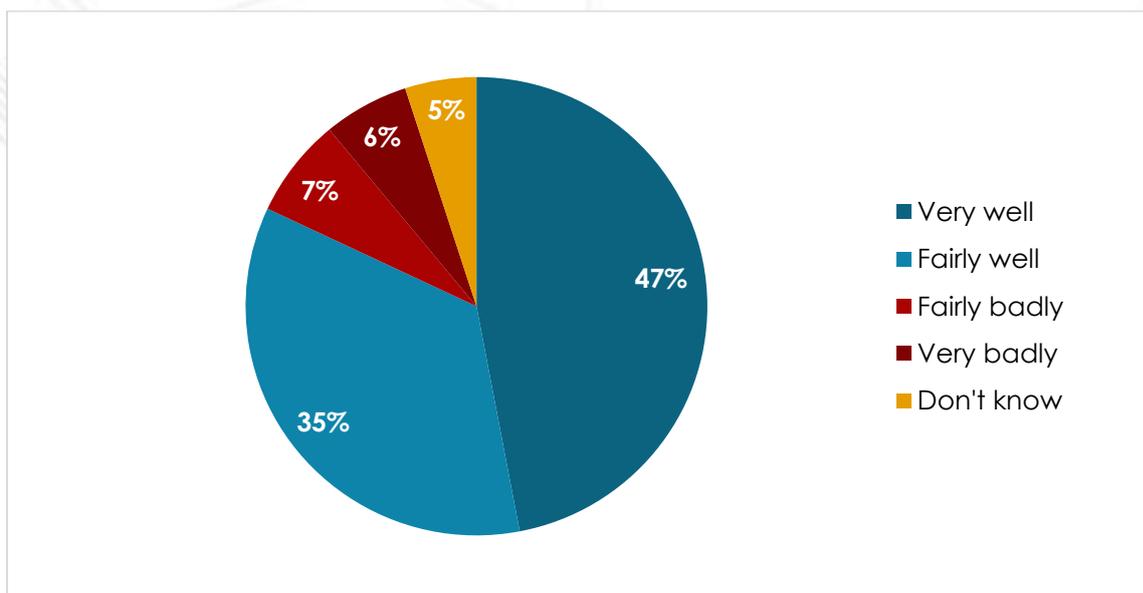
#### Charts

**Figure 1: Should people be allowed to eke out a living through 'galamsey'? | Ghana | 2017**



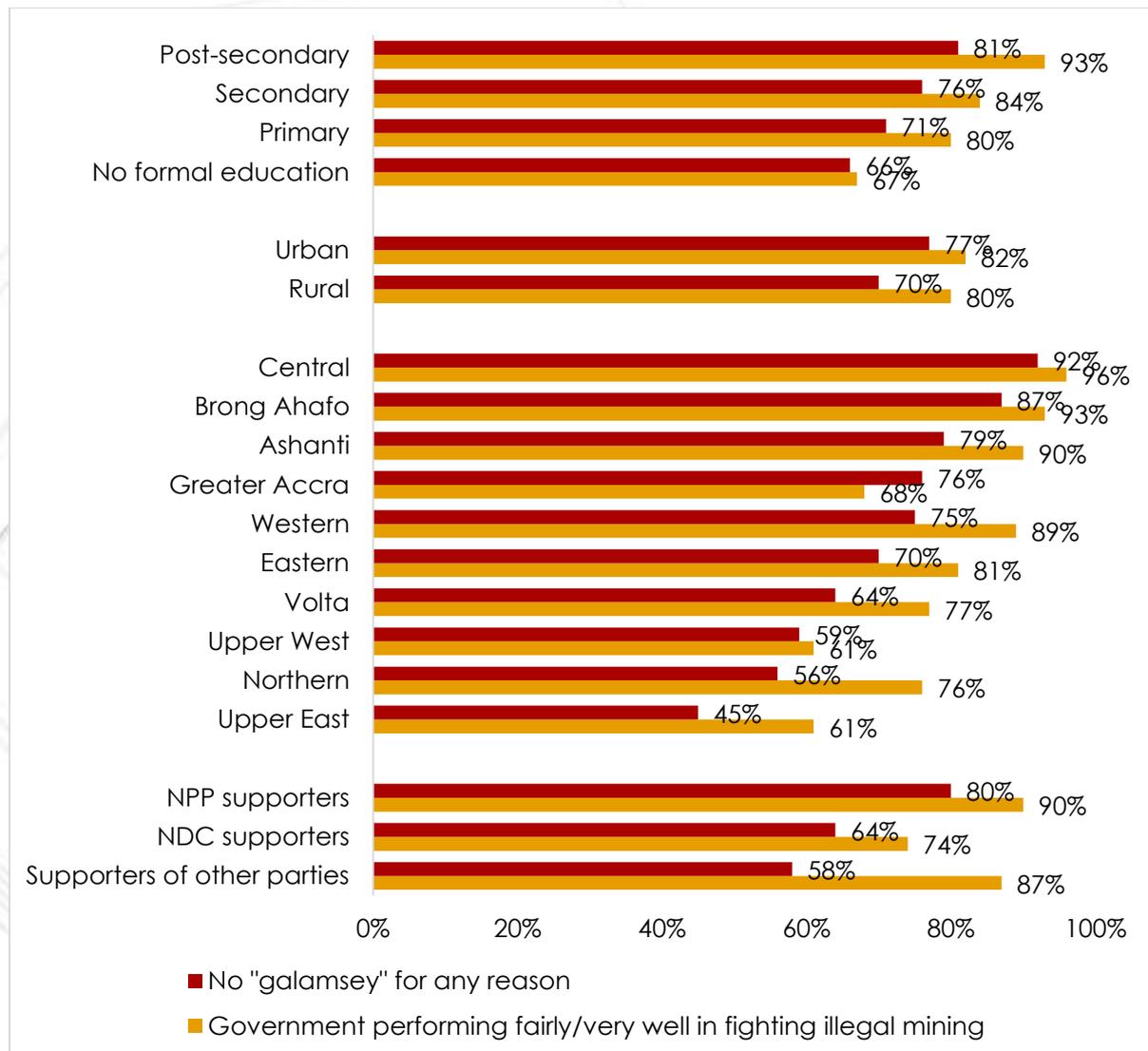
**Respondents were asked:** Which of the following statements is closest to your view?  
 Statement 1: Even though illegal small-scale mining or "galamsey" is prohibited by law, citizens should be able to engage in it to eke a living.  
 Statement 2: Illegal small-scale mining or "galamsey" is prohibited by the law, and citizens should not engage in it for any reason.  
 (% who "agree" or "strongly agree" with each statement)

**Figure 2: Government performance in curbing illegal small-scale mining | Ghana | 2017**



**Respondents were asked:** How well or badly would you say the current government is handling the following matters, or haven't you heard enough to say: Fighting illegal mining or "galamsey"?

**Figure 3: Views on illegal small-scale mining or 'galamsey' | by socio-demographic group | Ghana | 2017**



**Respondents were asked:**

- Which of the following statements is closest to your view?  
 Statement 1: Even though illegal small-scale mining or "galamsey" is prohibited by law, citizens should be able to engage in it to eke a living.  
 Statement 2: Illegal small-scale mining or "galamsey" is prohibited by the law, and citizens should not engage in it for any reason.  
 (% who "agree" or "strongly agree" with each statement)
- How well or badly would you say the current government is handling the following matters, or haven't you heard enough to say: Fighting illegal mining or "galamsey"? (% who say "fairly well" or "very well")

**For more information, please contact:**

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