



12th JANUARY 2026

**OFFICIAL PUBLIC COMMUNIQUÉ
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC AND ALL MEDIA HOUSES**

**THE NZEMA CIVIL SOCIETY AND YOUTH GROUPS
COLLABORATIVELY DISTANCE THEMSELVES FROM THE PETITION REGARDING THE NON-
OPERATIONAL STATUS OF THE PETROLEUM HUB PROJECT IN JOMORO**

1. Coalition of Concerned Nzema People (CCNP) and its affiliates youth groups: Nzema Maanle Unity & Development Federation, Jomoro Youth Association, Nzemas Association in The Diaspora (NAD), Gwira Youth Development Association, Axim Youth Alliance, Jomoro Youth Movement, Gwiraland Youth Association, etc., operate as registered non-profit entities under the Companies Act of Ghana, ensuring that all activities regarding the Petroleum Hub and other projects adhere to lawful and transparent processes.
2. The Coalition, along with its Nzema youth groups, reaffirms its strong respect for all traditional and local governance authorities within Nzema Maanle. We are dedicated to fostering the dignity and welfare of marginalised individuals and are committed to protecting the collective interests of the Nzema people through constructive dialogue and cooperation.
3. The Coalition and its allied groups are publicly distancing themselves from the petition concerning the Petroleum Hub Project. We clarify that this petition was neither authorised nor endorsed by CCNP or its affiliates. We encourage open and accurate discussions around this topic, emphasising the need for unity among stakeholders.
4. The group known as “The Concern Youth of Nzema,” led by Kabutey Jonas, whether registered or not registered, lacks the locus or full authority to present themselves as representative of the entire Nzema youth or affected communities. We therefore categorically state that the said officer, who is a social welfare worker working with the Ellembele District Assembly, is not an indigene, non-member of the affected communities and doesn’t hold an allodial land title or one pole farm land in the enclaves and therefore cannot represent their interests and any unified recognised Nzema youth body.
5. In light of the foregoing, the Coalition and its affiliated bodies formally and unequivocally distance themselves from the petition in question and from all present and future activities associated with it. The Coalition bears no responsibility whatsoever for the content of the petition, the conduct of its promoters, or any subsequent actions, representations, or engagements undertaken in connection with it.
6. Nzema land ownership is based on established family/clan rights, under the guidance of recognised ancestral traditional authorities. It is vital that all decisions related to land and development actively involve these rightful stakeholders, ensuring that their voices are heard and respected.
7. We acknowledge and support the Presidential directive issued on 31st July 2025, affirming our long-standing positions, which provides a framework for addressing matters related to the Petroleum Hub Project. We look forward to the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources and


PHDC implementing this directive effectively which include, but not limited to: equity in land use, participation for affected communities, fair employment opportunities for local people, generational compensation for permanent loss of ancestral lands, reduction of the proposed acquisition area from 20,513 acres to 5,000 acres, and renegotiation with rightful allodial landowners in accordance with customary law, statutory law, and Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC).


8. We invite all stakeholders, including government agencies, community leaders, and local organisations, to engage in meaningful dialogue surrounding the Petroleum Hub Project. Our collective aim should be to ensure that development initiatives reflect the interests and rights of the Nzema people while safeguarding our cultural heritage and environmental integrity.
9. The Coalition reaffirms its commitment to working collaboratively with all relevant parties. We believe that through cooperation and mutual respect, we can create an inclusive framework that benefits our communities and affirms our rights as rightful landowners. It is paramount that our voices are integrated into decisions that directly impact our lives and futures.
10. To ensure that commitments made by relevant authorities are met, the Coalition has established mechanisms for monitoring the implementation of the Presidential directive and other agreements related to the Petroleum Hub Project. We will hold parties accountable for their actions and demand that our rights as landowners and stakeholders are respected at every stage of the process.
11. We strongly advocate for sustainable and environmentally responsible development practices that prioritise the health of our land and resources. From now on, any developments in the entire Nzema area must contribute positively to local economies while preserving our natural heritage for future generations.
12. We welcome partnerships with NGOs, civil society organisations, and international bodies interested in supporting our efforts to safeguard the rights of the Nzema people. Together, we can promote responsible and equitable development that benefits our communities and Ghana as a whole while respecting our cultural values.
13. In closing, the Coalition stands firm in our position, advocating for our rights and the welfare of our communities. We encourage open dialogue and constructive engagement as we navigate the complexities of the Petroleum Hub and other planned projects together. Let us move forward in unity, prioritising the well-being of all Nzema citizens.
14. We will continue to monitor developments closely and remain vigilant in protecting our rights and interests. Thank you for your understanding and collaboration. We appreciate the continued support of our community members and allies.


The journey toward mutual respect and understanding in the context of the Petroleum Hub Project is ongoing, and we remain resolute in our mission. We will continue to strive for a future where the voices of the Nzema people are at the forefront of any developmental agenda.

Thank you for your attention and your commitment to preserving the rights and dignity of the Nzema communities. Together, we can make a meaningful difference.

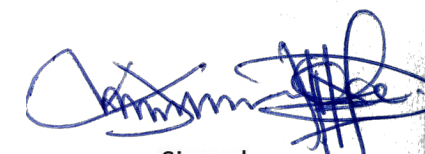
**Issued and jointly signed by
Coalition and Civil Society Affiliated Nzema Youth Groups or Organisations.**



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