



PRESS RELEASE

GOVERNMENT SYMPATHIZES WITH FLOOD VICTIMS AND REAFFIRMS COMMITMENT TO ADDRESSING PERENNIAL FLOODING

For Immediate Release

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1. Following recent bouts of heavy rain in Accra and parts of the country, the Ministry has been closely monitoring the situation and remains deeply concerned about the impact of widespread flooding, especially in low-lying and flood-prone areas, causing damage to homes, businesses, public infrastructure, and disrupting economic and social activities.
2. On behalf of His Excellency the President and the Government of Ghana, I extend my deepest sympathy to all individuals, families, and communities affected by the recent flooding incidents in Accra and several parts of the country following the heavy rains recorded over the past few days.
3. To those who have lost valuable possessions, homes, livelihoods, and personal property, we recognize the emotional, social, and economic toll these events have imposed on families and communities and wish to assure that government remains committed to supporting recovery efforts.
4. The recent floods once again underscore the urgent need for collective action to address the longstanding challenge of flooding in our cities and communities. While climate change and the increasing intensity of rainfall continue to place enormous pressure on urban infrastructure, human activities remain a significant contributor to the severity of flooding across the country.
5. As H.E. the President, John Dramani Mahama rightly observed at a recent town hall meeting in London, Ghana's flooding challenge is largely exacerbated by indiscipline in human

settlement and environmental management. The President noted that the indiscriminate disposal of waste into drains and watercourses, the unauthorized construction of buildings on waterways and wetlands, and the failure to comply with planning regulations continue to obstruct the natural flow of water and increase the risk of flooding.

6. These observations reflect a reality that confronts many communities across the country. Encroachment on water retention areas, poor drainage maintenance, unregulated developments, and inadequate enforcement of planning and sanitation by-laws have collectively worsened the impact of seasonal rains, particularly in rapidly urbanizing areas such as Accra.
7. Government therefore wishes to emphasize that our cities do not lack laws or engineering expertise; what it lacks is the collective discipline and will of all key stakeholders to enforce laws that already exist. Addressing the flooding menace requires a shared responsibility between public institutions, local authorities, traditional leaders and all citizens. Sustainable solutions can only be achieved when communities actively support efforts to protect waterways, maintain environmental sanitation, and comply with land-use regulations.
8. In response to the current situation, the Ministry, through the Ghana Hydrological Authority, in collaboration with the National Disaster Management Organization (NADMO), Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies, the security services, and other relevant agencies, have activated a series of immediate interventions and emergency response measures in affected areas.
9. These include the deployment of emergency response teams to affected communities, provision of relief items to displaced households, assessment of damaged infrastructure, and intensified desilting and drainage maintenance activities in critical flood-prone areas.
10. The Ministry is also undertaking ongoing measures aimed at reducing flood risks across the country. These include accelerated drainage improvement projects including the desilting and clearing of major drains, channels and culverts, rehabilitation and expansion of stormwater infrastructure, enforcement of development controls, removal of structures obstructing waterways, strengthening collaboration among relevant agencies, and enhancing early warning and emergency preparedness systems.
11. Over the long term, the Ministry, through the relevant institutions, commits to implementing a comprehensive and sustainable flood management strategy. This will include major investments in drainage infrastructure, integrated urban planning, protection and restoration of wetlands and natural water retention areas, implementation of early flood warning systems, stricter enforcement of planning and environmental regulations, and the development of resilient communities capable of adapting to the impacts of climate change.

12. On behalf of the Government, we wish to assure the public that the Ministry will continue to work closely with all stakeholders to address the root causes of flooding and build safer, more resilient cities and communities for present and future generations.
13. We urge all citizens to support these efforts by keeping drains free from waste, avoiding construction on waterways, and adhering to environmental and planning regulations.
14. Together, we can overcome the challenge of perennial flooding and safeguard lives, livelihoods, and national development.

END

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TO ALL MEDIA HOUSES