

# GOMOA WEST DISTRICT ASSEMBLY



REPUBLIC OF GHANA

Our Ref: GWDA/  
Your Ref:.....



District Administration  
P.O. Box 39  
Apam

11<sup>th</sup> March, 2021

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## STATEMENT ON THE DROWNING INCIDENT AT APAM LANDING BEACH IN THE GOMOA WEST DISTRICT

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The Gomoa West District Assembly acting through the District Security Council (DISEC) wishes to update the general public on the incident of drowning at Apam Landing Beach which has been widely reported by Mainstream media as well as the social media throughout the week;

1. That on Sunday, March 7, 2021 at about 4.30 pm, some teenagers of the District got drowned at Apam landing beach;
2. That the estimated number of children involved is between 15 and 20;
3. That two (2) of the victims were rescued on the same day, sent to St. Luke Catholic Hospital for treatment and subsequently discharged on the following day;
4. That 13 dead bodies were retrieved from the sea along these coastal communities in Gomoa West District: Gomoa Abrekum, Gomoa Mankoadze and Apam;
5. That the ages of the retrieved bodies are within the range of 13 and 17. Two of them are females and 11 are males;
6. Two (2) of the victims were residents of Gomoa Ankamu (Apam Junction) and 11 were residents of Apam;
7. That government has engaged all necessary stakeholders (Chiefs and Elders of Apam, the Chief fisherman and his team of managers at the landing beach, Ghana Tourism Authority, Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture, Regional Coordinating Council, elders of the bereaved families, St. Luke Catholic Hospital, Member of Parliament for Gomoa West, Ghana Police Service, National Disaster Management Organization, Ghana National Fire Service, Ghana Immigration Service, the media and others);
8. That the arrangement for the burial service is scheduled for Tuesday March 16, 2021, at exactly 10am at St. Luke Catholic Hospital, Apam, and a mass burial will follow immediately;

9. That the President of the Republic of Ghana, H.E. Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, through the Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture, Hon. Mavis Hawa Koomson (MP), in the company of the Central Regional Minister Designate, Hon. Mrs. Justina Marigold Assan, donated Thirty-Six Thousand Ghana Cedis (GHC36,000.00) to the Chiefs and elders of Apam and the bereaved families. This was done when the President delivered his message of commiseration to the bereaved families through the Minister for fisheries.

*NB:*

- a. the public is hereby informed that the venue for the burial service will be a restricted area.*
  - b. the families will be restricted to a specific number to avoid overcrowding – This is specifically to ensure adherence to Covid 19 protocols*
  - c. access to the place of burial service by the media will be strictly by invitation - This is again to avoid overcrowding and adhere to the Covid 19 protocols.*
- ❖ *We also wish to bring to the attention of the general public that the incident took place at a landing beach patronized on daily basis by fisherfolks and not a beach resort as is being speculated by a sections of the media. The District Security Council (DISEC) is working to ensure a greater partnership with Chief fishermen and their team of managers of the six (6) coastal communities within the District to form Local task force at the various Landing beaches to ensure security during daily activities. DISEC will also intensify the already existing sensitization program along the coast. We want to commend the united effort of the people of Apam in these trying times. We ask for calmness to prevail even as the security agencies conduct their investigation to unravel the circumstances surrounding the incident.*

Thank you.

**- SIGNED -  
HON. BISMARCK BAISIE NKUM  
DISTRICT CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

To

**ALL MEDIA HOUSES**