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GUTA PRESS RELEASE:.....

GUTA'S RESPONDS TO THE IRRESPONSIBLE STATEMENTS BY THE FIRST DEPUTY SPERKER OF PARLIAMENT, JOSPEH OSEI OWUSU

We have listened to and read the unguarded statements made by no mean a person than the First Deputy Speaker of Parliament of the Republic of Ghana and demand immediate retraction and unqualified apology to GUTA and all members of the business community.

We condemn in no uncertain term the statements, and the sheer arrogance and complete ignorance exhibited on the genuine inputs GUTA made on those three taxes he mentioned.

It could be recalled that in his interview with a Kumasi based Oyerepa TV , he mentioned that GUTA is over exploiting Ghanaians and has no moral right to complain over tax hikes .

He went further to accuse members of GUTA of dishonesty, implying that traders are thieves, and also insisted that they are ripping off Ghanaian consumer. "They are always talking about taxes and yet they are over exploiting Ghanaians and I'm saying this without fear ", he added.

GUTA wants this First Deputy Speaker to know and understand the following:

- That GUTA is a union of patriotic and honest members of the Ghanaian business community.

- That members of GUTA are equal stake holders in the scheme of affairs of the nation and have been collaborating with governments to fashion out policies for the country for the benefit of all Ghanaians.
- That GUTA collaborates with Ghana Revenue Authority (GRA) and leads joint task education campaign that enhances revenue mobilization.
- That as equal stake holder in the economy, GUTA has every right to voice out its concerns on all national issues, especially, when it comes to the national economy.
- That he should also know the authority vested in him is by the people of Ghana and, therefore, he cannot impose his will on any Ghanaian, let alone members of the business community who constitute the economy of Ghana.
- That most members of the trading community are more intelligent, educated, knowledgeable and resourceful than him but for the privilege he has, he should have known better and be mindful of his utterances and speak with decorum in order not to subject himself to public ridicule and insults.
- That majority of Ghanaian traders honour their tax obligations.
- That will it be fair for anyone to refer to him and say that he has exploited the DVLA and made huge dishonest gains when he was the head of the DVLA?
- That his assertion that traders are the cause of high prices of goods in the markets is not only infantile but also diabolical. GUTA, therefore challenges the First Deputy Speaker to produce the list of all taxes imposed by the government at the port and beyond including all fees and charges, as well as charges for utilities [electricity and water], fuel taxes as well; for all Ghanaians to know who is exploiting the consumer.
- That it is true there has been several allegations of under invoicing and over invoicing at the port, and likewise, there has been series of bribery allegations against parliament in some of which he, the First Deputy Speaker is even at the center of the alleged scandal. Can one, therefore, be right to call parliament as a corrupt institution and describe its members as thieves?

Respect is reciprocal, just as action and reaction are the same but opposite. Therefore, the unbecoming behavior of this First Deputy Speaker is unfortunately dragging the honorable house of parliament to disrepute, and needs to be called to order.

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