

# GHANA ASSOCIATION OF MEDICAL LABORATORY SCIENTISTS

IN CASE OF REPLY THE NUMBER AND  
DATE OF THIS LETTER SHOULD BE QUOTED

Our Ref...GAMLS/NS/PR/10/23

Your Ref.....



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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, October 19, 2023

### **AKOSOMBO/ Kpong DAM SPILLAGE: A PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY THREAT**

The Ghana Association of Medical Laboratory Scientists (GAMLS) expresses deep concern over the recent spillage at the Akosombo and Kpong Dams, which has had significant implications for public health and safety in the Volta region and Ghana at large.

The spillage has resulted in the contamination of water sources, posing a serious threat to the health and well-being of communities residing along the Volta River. The spillage has affected greatly school activities, healthcare, and other economic activities of the flood-stricken communities.

As Medical Laboratory Scientists, we understand the potential health risks associated with exposure to contaminated water and the contamination of food sources, including the spread of waterborne diseases.

GAMLS urges relevant authorities including the Ministry of Health to take immediate steps to address the public health implications of the spillage. This includes conducting thorough water quality assessments to determine the extent of contamination and implementing appropriate measures to ensure the safety of drinking water sources for affected communities.

Furthermore, we call on the government and relevant agencies to provide necessary support and resources to healthcare facilities in the affected areas. This includes ensuring the availability of medical supplies, diagnostic tools, and trained personnel to effectively manage any potential health crises that may arise as a result of the spillage.

GAMLS also emphasizes the importance of public awareness and education regarding the potential health risks associated with the spillage. We urge the government and relevant agencies to engage in comprehensive public health campaigns to inform communities about the necessary precautions to take and the signs and symptoms of waterborne diseases.

As Medical Laboratory Scientists, we are committed to supporting efforts to mitigate the health impacts of the spillage. We stand ready to collaborate with the government, healthcare institutions, and other stakeholders to provide expertise and assistance in water quality monitoring, disease surveillance, and public health interventions.

It is crucial that lessons are learned from this incident to prevent similar occurrences in future and to protect the health and well-being of our communities.

We call on government to declare a state of emergency in the affected region.

By declaring a state of emergency, the government can mobilize resources, coordinate efforts, and allocate funds to effectively respond to the crisis. This would enable the prompt implementation of emergency measures, including the provision of clean drinking water, medical supplies, and support for agriculture and fishing industries.

Signed:

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