

**STATEMENT BY THE DIRECTOR GENERAL
OF NADMO, ERIC NANA AGYEMANG
PREMPEH ON GOVERNMENT RELIEF
EFFORTS AFTER AKOSOMBO DAM
SPILLAGE AT BATTOR, 27TH OCTOBER 2023.**

Hon. Minister and Deputy minister of state

Hon. District Chief Executive,

Hon. Member of Parliament,

Togbui oo, Mama ooo,

The media,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

From the outset, let me express my sympathies to the chiefs and people of all communities in Volta Region, Eastern Region and Greater Accra Region who have been adversely affected and displaced by the controlled spillage of water from the Akosombo dam, which was done because the integrity of the dam was threatened and posed a higher risk to lives and properties if it breaks.

I would also like to extend same to chiefs and people from of all communities in Savanna Region, Oti Region, Bono East Region, Volta Region, Eastern Region and Greater Accra Region who are displaced by floods caused by heavy rains and other climate disasters.

In the past few weeks, thousands of our brothers and sisters have no access to their homes, or livelihoods. Let me assure you, that you are not alone. The government through our esteemed organisation, NADMO and other agencies are working around the clock to ensure that you are safe, and to provide the necessary support so that you get back on your feet.

As mentioned earlier, the need for the controlled spillage at the Akosombo and Kpong Dams was due to a combination of factors, primarily driven by heavy rainfall and high-water inflows into the reservoirs. When it became evident that the volume of water entering the dam was high, raising the water levels to critical points with the risk of potential structural damage to the Akosombo Dam, VRA made the strategic decision to initiate controlled spill operations.

This proactive, data-driven approach aimed to release excess water systematically, preventing catastrophic overflow and minimizing the adverse impacts on downstream communities, while protecting the integrity

of the Akosombo and Kpong Dams, thereby protecting lives.

Actions taken by NADMO to manage the spill.

In order to manage the controlled spill at the Akosombo and Kpong Dams in 2023, a series of well-coordinated actions were undertaken by VRA in collaboration with NADMO and the potentially affected Districts. Prior to the decision to spill, NADMO collaborated with the VRA to conduct a simulation of their Emergency Preparedness Plan (EPP) dubbed “Exercise Da Wo Ho So 2023” to help ensure that all relevant stakeholders were prepared for a flood-related event. The exercise tested the emergency response procedures and capabilities of relevant stakeholders, and lessons from the exercise were noted to improve coordination, preparedness and response.

The VRA’s EPP has a comprehensive communication protocol to keep the public and other relevant stakeholders informed and educated about the spill and the potential risks.

NADMO actively engaged with VRA and all the nine (9) District Assemblies downstream the Akosombo

Dam to enhance community resilience through education and awareness campaigns.

A rapid assessment was conducted by high-level delegations of NADMO and VRA to have a firsthand information and provide immediate assistance. The VRA, in collaboration with NADMO, launched comprehensive relief efforts, which included the distribution of essential supplies and relief items to affected communities.

Furthermore, extensive community education and awareness campaigns were conducted to inform residents about safety protocols and actions they should take to minimize risks. The Municipal/District Assemblies are actively engaged with the affected communities to facilitate their relocation to higher grounds, ensuring their safety throughout the prolonged spill operation. The combined efforts of VRA, NADMO, and various stakeholders aimed to alleviate the hardships faced by affected communities and reinforce their resilience in the face of natural disasters.

Also, a team from the 48 Engineers Regiment of the Ghana Army were deployed to help in response and

rescue operations. About 12 men were deployed with 4 aluminum boats and 2 tracks in North Tongu.

The Ghana navy also a 22-man team with some boats to also assist in response efforts.

The Ghana Navy Patrol team were also deployed at Asuogyaman and Sogakope to patrol, monitor and also undertake any evacuation that may arise.

The VRA and NADMO provided Water Tankers to the affected district to aid in potable water supply to those in safe havens and affected communities.

Vehicles, buses and pick-ups were provided by VRA to assists in the evacuation of people to the various safe havens and to the people who wants to relocate to their families.

The Ghana Health Service (GHS) directed the various District Health Directorates (DHD) to assign some health personnel to the various safe havens and some affected communities to attend to their health needs. To avert any possible outbreak of diseases such cholera, diarrhea, skin diseases etc, mobile clinics were set up in all the safe haven.

- Preposition of relief items in North Tongu, Central Tongu, South Tongu and Ada East.
- Wrote to all districts downstream to Volta Dam to intensify sensitization and education in the spillage and also organize District Disaster Management Committee (DDMC) meeting in the preparation for the fallouts from the spillage on the **9th September, 2023**.
- All updates on the spillage from the Disaster platforms of the Nine (9) districts downstream the volta dam.
- On the **12th September, 2023** when we started recording displaced persons, the Director-General (DG) my two deputies and the Greater Accra and Volta Regional Directors visited some of the affected areas especially **Mepe, Adidome and Ada**.
- On the 14th September, 2023, a team from Headquarters of National Disaster Management Organisation (NADMO) led by the Deputy Director General (DDG)-Technical and the 48 Engineers Regiment of the Ghana Army move to Mepe and other communities to support in the response efforts.

- Relief administration started almost immediately victims were being moved to safe havens.
- Rapid Assessment was carried out and issues of mobile toilets, water and sanitation, electricity's etc. were immediately dealt with by NADMO and the VRA.

The National Emergency Operation Center (NEOC) was quickly set up at the North Tongu District Assembly to coordinates response efforts in all 8 districts where affected persons were recorded. So far, the EOC has been able to co-ordinate response operations, gather information from the incident scene and safe havens. The EOC plays a critical role in every phase of emergency management, from being the hub for all coordination during an incident to facilitating and directing recovery. It manages resource mobilization, allocation and distribution including tracking.

- All first response agencies, Fire Service, Police, Ambulance Service, Army almost immediately got into action of rescuing victims and moving them safe havens and the other relatives in the communities.

- Poly-tanks were provided in the safe havens. NADMO, VRA and the GNFS deployed their water tanker to provide water to all safe havens and to some communities.
- With the assistance of the VRA, a contractor was secured to immediately create an access road from Bator to St. Kizito in Mepe. The road is almost 5.76km.

Visits to incident scene.

The president, vice president, chief of staff, members of the inter-ministerial committee, the regional ministers of volta and eastern region, service commanders of the various security agencies, etc. paid visits to some of the affected communities and the displaced persons.

The way forward

Continuous relief administration through the relief administration committee of all stakeholders and District Disaster management committee

Decontamination as the water recedes.

Clearing of debris

Fumigation of communities

Working closely with all stakeholders on how to reopen schools for academic work.

Assessment of the structural integrity of houses and infrastructure in the affected communities.

Sustainable livelihood assisted programs.

More support from corporate organizations, individuals, philanthropist, private sector, Donors needed etc.

Support to Other flood victims in the Country.

As I mentioned, earlier, other communities in some six (6) regions were affected by floods resulting from heavy rains upstream and in the affected communities. NADMO has since led delegations to some respective communities in Bono East, Savanna and Oti Region for on ground assessment and distribution of relief items. To this end I on behalf of government delivered some relief items to the Regional Coordinating Councils in these regions and also engaged stakeholders, including Chief in the affected regions.

NADMO was able to provide relief items to other districts that were heavily flooded. These districts are

South and North Dayi, Kpando, Afadjato, Keta and Ketu in the Volta Region. West Gonja, Central Gonja and Salaga in the Savanna region. Karachi East, West and Nchumuru, Biakoye and Nkwanta North in the Oti region. Pru East and West, Sene East and West, Atebubu Amantin, Kintampo North and Techiman in the Bono East region.

In Conclusion NADMO will continue to carry out its mandate of coordinating all response efforts to manage disasters because when it strikes it doesn't know tribe, political affiliation, or religion, so let unite and support our brothers and sisters who have been affected by this flooding situation as a result of the harsh realities of climate change.

Thank You.