

Communiqué

The Emergency Medicine Society of Ghana (EMSOG) is compelled to address a recent public scrutiny and ‘prosecution’ by the Minister of Health on the Head of Department of The Accident and Emergency department of Tamale Teaching Hospital, regarding a mortality at the unit. EMSOG regrets the circumstances leading to the death of the said patient and wishes to extend our sincere condolences to the bereaved family.

While we appreciate the Minister’s commitment to improving healthcare delivery in Ghana, we are concerned about the manner in which this issue was handled.

EMSOG’s main concerns stems from:

- 1. Lack of Audit:** We take issue with the fact that no audit as yet has been conducted to verify the claims made against the emergency medicine practitioners. This lack of due diligence undermines the principles of fairness and justice and subjects the medical professionals unduly to the ‘court of public opinion’
- 2. Public Scrutiny without Evidence:** The Minister’s public comments have led to unwarranted scrutiny and reputational damage to dedicated healthcare professionals who have been working tirelessly under challenging systemic conditions to save lives. We believe that public officials should exercise caution in their comments to avoid unjustly tarnishing the reputation of these professionals.
- 3. Impact on Morale:** The current approach is demotivating for healthcare workers who are already operating under challenging conditions. It is essential to recognize the hard work and dedication of these professionals.

Recommendations:

- 1. Conduct a Thorough Audit:** EMSOG urges the Ministry of Health and the management of TTH to conduct a comprehensive audit to verify the claims and identify areas for improvement. This will ensure that any actions taken are evidence-based and fair.
- 2. Engagement with Stakeholders:** The Ministry should engage in constructive dialogue with the Emergency Medicine Society of Ghana and other relevant stakeholders to address concerns and develop sustainable solutions to emergency care challenges in the country.
- 3. Support Healthcare Workers:** We call for measures to support and motivate healthcare workers, rather than subjecting them to undue stress and public scrutiny.

The Emergency Medicine Society of Ghana remains committed to collaborating with the Ministry of Health to improve emergency care in Ghana. We believe that a collaborative and evidence-based approach will yield better outcomes for patients and healthcare professionals alike.



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