



GHANA MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

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DEVELOPMENTS AT TAMALE TEACHING HOSPITAL

The Ghana Medical Association (GMA) has taken notice of the very disturbing developments at the Tamale Teaching Hospital (TTH).

The GMA strongly condemns the unfortunate treatment of the doctors at the Emergency unit of the Hospital during the visit by the Minister of Health and the Member of Parliament (MP) for Tamale North and subsequent dismissal of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Hospital.

The manner in which the dismissal was carried out is an affront to due process and abuse of power by the Hon. Minister of Health. The GMA stands in solidarity with our colleagues in the wake of these injustices being perpetuated.

The ill-informed media audit of the death of the patient raises serious issues of breach of patient confidentiality, exposes the facility to medico-legal risks and prejudices the issue even before the matter is duly investigated. Indeed, the doctors have already been tried in the court of public opinion.

The head of the Emergency Unit, has already received threats and cyber bullying putting him and other staff at risk of physical harm and psychological trauma.

These acts, if continued, have the tendency of demoralizing committed workers and reducing public confidence in the health system.

While the Association recognizes concerns raised by relatives of the patient and the Minister and MP, there exists clearly laid down processes and procedures to resolve concerns or grievances rather than these circuses of public engagement which often only whips up public sentiments without addressing the underlying issues or providing any lasting solutions.

The Ghana Medical Association therefore demands an unqualified apology from the Minister of Health and the Member of Parliament for Tamale North for the unwarranted attack on the staff involved.

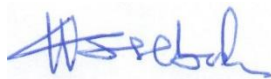
The GMA calls on the hospital to ensure due process is followed to ascertain the true facts about the grievances of the affected family and find lasting solutions to the issues.

We also call on the management of the facility to ensure the safety of the staff involved and provide the necessary psychological support to them.

The GMA is committed to dispassionately discussing the lingering systemic issues in the health sector and finding lasting and holistic solutions rather than public blaming of doctors and other health workers for issues that go beyond their control.

It is worthwhile noting that doctors and other health workers work in trying circumstances with limited resources often times using their meager personal resources to deliver care.

The GMA is closely monitoring the situation in the facility and for that matter all other facilities and will advise our members appropriately in due course.



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