

**PRESS RELEASE BY HON. ASSEMBLY MEMBERS OF THE
JAMAN SOUTH MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY ON THE RECENT
CLASH BETWEEN THE RESIDENTS OF JAPEKROM AND DROBO**

INTRODUCTION:

We the undersigned Hon. Assembly Members of the Jaman South Municipal Assembly, Drobo, wish to share our views on the recent clash between the residents of Japekrom and residents of Drobo on Wednesday, 17th October, 2018 that led to the death of three persons and the injury of some others, as well as damage to properties.

In the first place, we wish to state that, as Hon. Assembly Members and representatives of the people, we were deeply saddened by the news of the clash and the death of three irreplaceable lives. Life is precious, priceless and irreplaceable, therefore, as Hon. Assembly Members; we unequivocally condemn it as most unfortunate and morally unacceptable.

We wish to express our condolences to the bereaved families and pray that the Lord Almighty receives their souls. We also wish our brothers and sisters who sustained various degrees of injuries speedy recovery.

THE ROLE OF STAKEHOLDERS IN RESTORING PEACE IN THE MUNICIPALITY:

We also wish to use this opportunity to appeal to Nananom of the two Traditional Councils to humbly advise their subjects to remain calm and fully cooperate with the law enforcement agencies. We are also appealing to Nananom of the other Traditional Councils, Opinion Leaders, Hon. Assembly Members, Heads of Departments, Religious Leaders, Civil Society Organization and the General Public to use our good offices to fully cooperate and support the security forces to facilitate the process of ensuring and restoring peace in the Municipality. We believe strongly that, there cannot be any development in the Municipality without peace.

THE ALLEGED INVOLVEMENT OF THE MUNICIPAL CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND THE OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL CHIEF EXECUTIVE IN THE VIOLENCE:

We have been following the series of events in the aftermath of the incident. One issue which we think is very unfortunate, unfair, worrying and is suicidal for decentralization and democracy in our Municipality, is the Municipal Chief Executive, being implicated by some people and Nananom of Japekrom Traditional Council in the whole turmoil. This is evident in the series of press releases and conferences organized by the Japekrom Traditional Council.

In all such releases, he has been mentioned as the instigator or brain behind that unfortunate incident. In a press conference dated 19th October, 2018, the Municipal Chief Executive Hon. Alhaji Abuu was accused to have called for the withdrawal of the Police who were allegedly protecting people of Japekrom in their procession across the principal streets of Drobo to Japekrom, and that immediately the Municipal Chief Executive had done that, some residents of Drobo started shooting at the people in the procession.

In the same press release, the Japekrom Traditional Council alleged that the Municipal Chief Executive called the Police to his office to have a meeting with them.

Again, the Japekrom Traditional Council reported that, the Municipal Chief Executive was seen holding a pump action gun and firing same at the people of Japekrom which led to the death of three persons. This is absurd. The absurdity is that the Municipal Chief Executive who was reported to have been engaging the Police in a meeting could not be holding and firing gun shots at the same time or vice versa. Again, we are reliably informed and so are the Nananom of both Drobo and Japekrom Traditional Councils that, the issue that culminated into this unfortunate happening was brought before the Municipal Security Council (MUSEC) and letter later referred to the Regional Security Council (REGSEC). According to law and practice, if a Security issue is before the Regional Security Council, it is beyond the powers of the Municipal Chief Executive to effect changes and issue directives.

Again, Nananom of Japekrom Traditional Council mentioned categorically in a press conference dated 25th October, 2018 that, they do not want the Municipal Chief Executive; they could not stay with him on their land and could not work with him as their Municipal Chief Executive because he is a native of Drobo, and as a representative of Drobo Traditional Council and that the president, (His Excellency Nana Addo Dankwa Akuffo Addo) should remove him from office.

We believe that the MCE is the representative of the President in the Jaman South Municipality. The MCE's office was not created by the Drobo Traditional Council; neither was it the alter ego of any traditional council within the Municipality. The alleged alliance of the office of the MCE with the Drobo Traditional Council is intended only to cause divisiveness among the people in the Municipality. This, we consider to be unfortunate and would serve as bad precedence.

We know for a fact that, the causes of this unfortunate incident, both remote and immediate have their genesis in a land litigation between Drobo and Japekrom Traditional Councils that has been in existence for very long time even before Hon. Alhaji Abuu assumed office as Municipal Chief Executive, and should be treated purely as such. It is also on record that, Hon. Alhaji Abuu was born and bred in this Municipality and has spent almost all his life time in the Municipality. It is a matter that, he does not have any bad record and nobody can accuse him of any criminality.

Also, as Hon. Assembly Members, we have known and worked with him for almost two years now and we know him to be one of the best Municipal Chief Executives not only in the Brong Ahafo Region but in the entire country. He is someone who does his work devoid of religious, tribal and even political sentiments. He is God fearing man who would hardly point a gun at his own people he has been mandated to serve.

THE NEED FOR JUSTICE:

We appeal to the Security intelligence and the investigative bodies to expedite action to investigate the causes of the turmoil and bring the culprits or any body found culpable as a result of disobedience, dereliction of work and lawlessness to face the full rigours of the law to serve as deterrence the public.

THE WAY FORWARD:

We wish to put it on record that, the Municipal Chief Executive as commander-in-chief and chairman of the Municipal Security Council (MUSEC) used his honourable office to ensure peace in the Municipality from Municipal Security Council (MUSEC) to the Regional Security Council (REGSEC). Again, it should be noted that, when Security issue is before the Regional Security Council, the Municipal Chief Executive has no power whatsoever to instruct the Security as being alleged.

We also wish to appeal humbly and respectfully to both Drobo and Japekrom Traditional Councils to treat their Traditional issues purely as traditional issue and should not in any way implicate or involve the Municipal Chief Executive and his office. We believe this will give the Municipal Chief Executive peace of mind to continue with his good work and serve the people of the Municipality.

We once again unequivocally say that, we are solidly behind our Municipal Chief Executive and wish to send a strong warning to those opportunists who would want to take undue advantage of the recent happenings to call for the removal of Hon. Alhaji Abuu from office, instead of supporting the call for restoring peace that, we as Hon. Assembly Members, are not ready to approve of any person or work with anybody apart from our current Municipal Chief Executive Hon. Alhaji Abuu.

CONCLUSION:

We wish to state that, the turmoil has not only damaged the reputation of the Municipality in the Region but Ghana at large.

Again, the curfew imposed on us has affected all aspect of our lives, being it economic, social, religious, educational, farming and so on. We must therefore co-operate and support the Security forces to facilitate the process of ensuring and restoring peace in the Municipality.

We should remember that, we are one people, one heritage with common destiny.

Long live Jaman South Municipality. Long live Ghana.

Thank you.

NAMES OF HON. ASSEMBLY MEMBERS

1. Hon. Adjeri Clement (P.M.) - ~~0243319092~~ - 0243319092
2. Hon. Ewabeng Clarence Yaw - ~~0200664627~~ - 0200664627
3. Hon. Daniel Pobbi - ~~_____~~
4. Hon. Kwang Stephen - ~~_____~~
5. Hon. Simon Berko - ~~_____~~
6. Hon. SIMON KONIMAN - ~~_____~~
7. Hon. Xsi Augustine Kwame - ~~_____~~
8. Hon. SAMPSON Kwaasi - ~~_____~~
9. Hon. Yeboah Eric - ~~_____~~
10. Hon. ASI-YOMAHIS - ~~_____~~
11. Hon. Abuu Athan - ~~_____~~
12. Oppong Martin - ~~_____~~
13. Barimah Tabin Anthony - ~~_____~~
14. Hwemeso Augustine - ~~_____~~
15. Patrick Atiah Kwarteng - ~~_____~~
16. Afrak Esther - ~~_____~~
17. Hon. Isaac Nketiah - ~~_____~~
18. Siata Watawi - ~~_____~~
19. Samuel Obeng Paleyi - ~~_____~~
- (20) Hon. Benne Yaw Enoch - ~~_____~~
21. Asare Bedako Ebenezer - ~~_____~~
22. Hon. Nketiah Emmanuel - ~~_____~~
23. Hon. Kusi Ransford - ~~_____~~
24. Hon. Opoku Agyeman Aiden - ~~_____~~
25. Hon. Mensah Daniel - ~~_____~~
26. Hon. Seth K. Donkey - ~~_____~~

- 27. Hon Charles Kyemeh Buobanu
- 28. Hon Addeh John Kofuwa ~~Addeh~~
- 29. HON. KYEREME KENNEDY (KONSIA)
- 30. HON. KOOSANO AMPENI SEBREN
- 31. HON. Yeboah Peter Achoker
- 32. Hon. Appiah Tammr Jones
- 33. Hon. Alex Kusi
- 34. Hon. Adde Samuel Komfo Dwenem
- 35. Hon. Sampson Nana Adjei Abirikasu
- 36. Hon. Appaaky Pius ZeZesa
- 37. Hon. Alexander Ferka Appointee
- 38. Hon Kwame K. Godfred Katakyaekrom
- 39. Hon. MKetia Samuel
- 40. Hon. Besako KYEREMEH
















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