

PRESS CONFERENCE ORGANIZED BY CONCERNED YOUTHS AND FISHERMEN OF KETA

Date: Wednesday, 7th June 2023 at Keta Beach in the Keta Municipal Assembly of the Volta Region of Ghana.

INTRODUCTION

Friends in the media, our venerable fishermen in the Keta Municipal Assembly, Ladies and Gentlemen, first, we wish to thank you all for your quick response to our short notice for this very important Press Conference. You could recall that between 2019 and 2021, our footprints were all over Keta Municipal Assembly over series of press conferences and demonstrations over allegations of corruptions and abuse of power in the Keta Municipal Assembly under Hon. Godwin Yao Effah including some staff of the assembly.

In view of the above, we the citizens of Keta launched a vigorous campaign themed **“SAVE KETA NOW AGENDA”** and introduced

Hon. Emmanuel Gemegah to the public as the one who could help us resolve all issues in the Keta Municipality when appointed as the MCE. Friends in the media, Ladies and Gentlemen, it is sad to inform you that the appointment of Hon. Emmanuel Gemegah as MCE for Keta has not changed the story of Keta Municipal Assembly. In fact, we can testify that the previous leaders are even better than Hon. Emmanuel Gemegah.

PREMIX FUEL DEALINGS AND OTHER MATTERS.

Friends in the media, Ladies and Gentlemen, as part of the state's support to Artisanal fisheries in Ghana, the Government of Ghana has established National Premix Secretariat to supply premix fuel through the Oil Marketing Companies (OMC's) to be sold to artisanal fisherman throughout the four coastal-fishing administrative regions of the country. This also saw the establishment of Landing Beach Committees to deepen the decentralization of the premix fuel sales.

However, sale of consignments to fisher folks in the Keta Municipal Assembly (KeMA) of the Volta Region has been bedeviled with improprieties and lack of transparency and accountability and abuse of power by various MCEs and it is worst under the leadership of Hon. Emmanuel Gemegah.

It is obvious that in Ghana, fish and fisheries are integral parts of livelihood, culture, and heritage in all coastal-fishing communities and this makes important contributions to the socio-economic development and well-being of the people especially the people of Keta Municipal Assembly.

The sector is also estimated to approximately employ 6 million persons (value chain) in Ghana which transforms to 20% of the population.

Despite these enormous importance, the local fish resources and management are suffering the combined effects of weak governance, abuse of power, lack of transparency, heavy exploitation and, in some

cases, marine and ecosystems poor management practices which emanates from various reasons for this unacceptable situation at both official and practitioners' levels. But the primary reasons all boil down to a failure in fisheries governance and dialogue in Ghana.

Nevertheless, fish and fisheries are integral part of livelihood, culture, and heritage in the coastal fishing communities of the Keta Municipal Assembly, and it makes important contributions to the socioeconomics and well-being of my people.

Friends in the media, Ladies and Gentlemen, the Municipal Chief Executive (MCE) for Keta Municipal Assembly (KeMA), Hon. Emmanuel Gemegah has allotted himself and that of self-imposed premix fuel committee's autocratic powers on regular basis, including illegally denying fishermen from receiving taxpayers' subsidized premix fuel which is very critical for going to sea. Without premix fuel, ordinary fisher folk cannot enjoy their occupation, and this will expose them to loss of

livelihood, food insecurity, potential lawlessness, unrest, and conflicts in the communities.

We the concerned youths of the Keta Municipality who are mainly fishermen are therefore petitioning the Interim President of Ghana National Canoe Fishermen Council (GNCFC) to stop the MCE for Keta from his autocratic leadership towards the communities which is not only denying the people their due, but also, selfishly tarnishing the image of government of the day as well.

As part of the state's support to artisanal fisheries in the country, the Government of Ghana (GoG) established the National Premix Fuel Committee (NPFC) which is the apex structure having oversight responsibility over the National Premix Fuel Secretariat (NPFS) to equitably supply premix fuel through the Oil Marketing Companies (OMC's) to be sold to the artisanal fishermen in all communities in all the four coastal-fishing regions of the country.

However, equitable distributions and the sales of consignments to fisher folks in the coastal sector of the Volta Region has been thrown into

improprieties (i.e. unpredictability by authorities, lack of openness, transparency and accountability) by the MCE and his associates within the artisanal fishing industry.

Friends in the media, Ladies and Gentlemen, Hon. Gemegah since February 2022 till date, has abused his powers as the MCE of KeMA to illegally obtain forty (40) jerricans (yellow gallons) of premix fuel (1000 liters) on **each** premix fuel consignment from a total of nine (9) Fishing Landing Beach Committee (LBCs) across the KeMA (i.e. from Horvi, Kedzi, Vodza, Adzido, Kedzikope, Abutiakope, Dzelukope, Nukpesekope and Tettekope). Any fishing landing beach committee that refuses to comply with his directive is put into the bad books of the MCE and is made to suffer unwarranted consequences.

Vodza and Adzido as a major fishing community in the municipality, has been unfairly and arbitrarily blacklisted by the MCE, and since June 2022 has not received a single drop of the essential item because they have refused to abide by the illegal request of the MCE. Vodza, and Adzido explained that the communities are host of more canoes of

which as many are motorized which use pre-mix fuel – and for which their monthly consignment is not enough thereby forcing the resident fishermen to seek premix fuel from other sources at expensive costs; and the MCE will have none of it and is unfairly and illegally punishing the community for insisting on their right as law-abiding citizens. The community has however since January 2022, has received only two (2) consignments in February and May respectively.

Friends in the media, Ladies and Gentlemen, in April 2022, one premix fuel consignment meant for Nukpesekope Landing Beach Committee was diverted to another location. The diverted premix fuel consignment was arrested together with the driver of the vehicle including one GEOFFREY JAMES OCLOO, the secretary to Nukpesekope landing beach committee, who is always found in the official vehicle of the MCE for Keta. This matter became a national issue that brought the Fisheries Minister to Keta to sell the premix fuel to the fishermen herself and our brother and the hard-working assembly member for Anlo Afiadenyigba Dziehe Ablame Electoral Area, Hon. Gilbert Korbla Keklie took the

matter to EOCO for investigation and prosecution. The Police in Keta are also not doing anything about the case since they arrested GEOFFREY JAMES OCLOO. Is GEOFFREY JAMES OCLOO above the laws of Ghana because he is close to the MCE for Keta? Is this the SAVE KETA AGENDA we worked for? Because of all these developments, Nukpesekope and Vui – Tettekope are being denied premix fuel consignments. Godwin Lumor, the Secretary Vui – Tettekope Landing Beach Committee was also sacked by Hon. Gemegah just because he demanded for transparency and accountability.

IN JANUARY 2022, HON. EMMANUEL GEMEGAH CALLED A MEETING FOR THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE WHERE THE CHARGING OF THE UNAPPROVED PREMIX FUEL SALES FEES WAS DISCUSSED AND AGREED ON.

SN	NAME	POSITION	CONTACT	COMMUNITIES
1.	EKPE HONU SALLAH	CHIEF FISHERMAN	0243567268	VUI-TETTEKOPE
2	SETH KEDEY	CHIEF FISHERMAN	0246607439	DZELUKOPE
3	YAOVI GADA	CHIEF FISHERMAN	0247899828	ABUTIAKOPE
4	MICHAEL BUMEGBE	CHIEF FISHERMAN	0242253994	KEDZIKOPE
5	PAPAGAH KEVEWO	CHIEF FISHERMAN	0543898226	HORVI
6	RICHMOND K. JIAGGE	CHIEF FISHERMAN	0242541527	ADZIDO
7	BRIGHT CIDI-OCLOO	SECRETARY		DZELUKOPE
8	AMBROSE KPODO	SECRETARY		ABUTIAKOPE
9	POMARY VINCENT	SECRETARY		KEDZIKOPE
10	BRIGHT ADIKA	SECRETARY		ADZIDO
11	FAMOUS BODZA	SECRETARY		VODZA
12	ENOCH BABANAWO	SECRETARY		KEDZI
13	MICHAEL KPORTIE	SECRETARY		HORVI
14	GEOFFREY JAMES OCLOO	SECRETARY		NUKPESEKOPE

Friends in the media, Ladies and Gentlemen, the above meeting had brought the following developments.

The National Premix Fuel Secretariat has released new premix fuel prices, and effective Saturday April 16, 2023, the new prices are as followed; Price Per Litre is GHC5.07p, Price Per Gallon is GHC22.82p and OMC amounting to GHC65,880.00 With the above Release, fishermen are to purchase a yellow gallon ($7 \times 22.82 = \text{GHC } 159.74\text{p}$) but fishers are actually buying same at GHC210.00 instead of the approved Ghc 159.74p. Therefore, by simple calculation, GHC210 multiplied by 420 yellow gallons amounted to GHC88,200.00 and OMC's amount is GHC65,880.00. The above implies that $\text{GHC}88,200.00 - 65,880.00$ will give you $\text{GHC}22,320.00$ as a profit margin.

Our investigations however, revealed that out of the profit margin accruing, the Hon. Emmanuel Gemegah's shares of the profit is $\text{GHC}15,600.00$ and $\text{GHC}6,720.00$ which is the balance of the profit margin, the community's share is deducted from it. (53% of the amount which is $\text{GHC } 1,100$).

GHC5,620 is now shared among Landing Beach Committee members. GHC15,600.00 profit margin per any Landing Beach Committee that receives fuel consignment cannot be accounted by Hon. Emmanuel Gemegah meanwhile he is the one receiving the money. Where is the money?

SOME FEW HAPPENINGS IN THE KETA MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY ITSELF:

Friends in the media, Ladies and Gentlemen, under the leadership of Hon. Emmanuel Gemegah, the Keta Reclaimed Lands are in the hands of people who are not the real beneficiaries of the lands meanwhile Hon. Gemegah promised the people of Keta to retrieve all the reclaimed lands allocated to people illegally.

In April 2023, EOCO is also investigating Keta Municipal Assembly with regards to the Commercial Hostel Construction at Keta. Why should this be happening under the leadership of Hon. Gemegah?

Before Hon. Emmanuel Gemegah was appointed MCE for Keta, there were some issues about Keta PWD Yard project where the assembly

members took up the matter and finally agreed on GHC750, 000.00 as the cost for the project. Hon. Gemegah led his Executive Committee and reviewed the cost to GHC882, 687.35.

Illegal sand winning at the beaches of Keta is still ongoing under the watch of Hon. Gemegah and he looks on unconcerned.

Friends in the media, Ladies and Gentlemen, we the concerned youth of Keta are calling on our chiefs, other stakeholders including the President of Republic of Ghana to take some remedial actions against Hon. Emmanuel Gemegah and his associates to save Keta from collapsing. We are calling on all the members of the Landing Beach Committees to resign immediately. Hon. Emmanuel Gemegah must refund all illegal monies he collected in course of premix fuel sales to the fishermen. Hon. Emmanuel Gemegah must render public accounts to all the nine (9) fishing communities on the whereabouts of the **53% proceeds** from premix fuel sales meant for the fishing communities. Keta Municipal Assembly must survive

LONG LIVE CONCERNED YOUTHS OF KETA!

LONG LIVE KETA MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY!!

LONG LIVE ANLOLAND!!!

LONG LIVE VOLTA REGION!!!!

LONG LIVE GHANA!!!!!!

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Friends in the media, Ladies and Gentlemen, the table below shows the PREMIX FUEL CONSIGNMENTS TO THE MUNICIPALITY, KETA for the period under review for your attention.

SN	DATE	COMM	CONSIGNMENT T 13,500 LTRS		SELLING PRICE (GAL)	ACTUAL -L PREMIUM -X (GAL)		ALLOCATION TO MCE	COMMUNITY SHARE (53%)	OMCs FEES
1	27/3/23	HORVI	13500 LTRS	420	210.00		88,200.00		1,100.00 GHC	65,880.00
2		KEDZI	13500 LTRS	420			100,800.00		1,100.00 GHC	
3		KEDZI	13500 LTRS	420			88,200.00		1,100.00 GHC	
4		KEDZI	13500 LTRS	420			88,200.00		1,100.00 GHC	
5	09/3/23	VODZA	13500 LTRS	420			88,200.00		1,100.00 GHC	67,635.00
6	27/03/23	VODZA	13500 LTRS	420			88,200.00		1,100.00 GHC	64.889.1p
7	19/4/23	ADZIDO	13500 LTRS	420			88,200.00		1,100.00 GHC	
8	22/4/23	KEDZIKOPE	13500 LTRS	420			88,200.00		1,100.00 GHC	
9	28/3/23	ABUTIAKOPE	13500 LTRS	420			88,200.00		1,100.00 GHC	
10	12/3/23	DZELUKOPE	13500 LTRS	420			88,200.00		1,100.00 GHC	
11	18/4/23	DZELUKOPE	13500 LTRS	420			88,200.00		1,100.00 GHC	
12	19/5/23	DZELUKOPE	13500 LTRS	420			88,200.00		1,100.00 GHC	