



GHANA METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY

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17TH OCTOBER, 2023

TO ALL MEDIA HOUSES

AKOSOMBO DAM SPILLAGE

The Ghana Meteorological Agency (the Agency) has noted with concern a series of interviews granted by the Public Relations Officer of the Volta River Authority (the Authority), Mr. Samuel Fletcher to the media suggesting that the Agency misled the Authority in the matter of the recent spillage of the Akosombo Dam. This assertion has also been reproduced on several other reputable news and online portals; generating wide commentaries across the political and social divide.

We wish to put on record that the comment by the PRO of the VRA is false, unfortunate and a sharp deviation from the existing relationship between the Agency and the Authority.

The Ghana Meteorological Agency Act, 2004 (Act 682) mandates GMet to among other things “provide meteorological information, advisories and warnings for the management of energy and water resources to mitigate the socio-economic impacts of disasters such as flood.”

In line with this, GMet has an existing service agreement with the Volta River Authority and provides the following services:

- a. Weather Summary and Outlook (including Daily ITB position, Moisture Depth and Sea Surface Temperature – at agreed periodic intervals) provided to VRA **WEEKLY**
- b. Seasonal Weather Outlook at the beginning of the Year. This Outlook is the Forecast of the anticipated Weather situation of the Year. This service is provided **QUARTERLY** covering the Southern, Sahel and Savannah Regions.
- c. Observed rainfall amount (data) and distribution across the country; provided on **10-DAY** basis.

These services are provided to the Authority regularly and updated through the dissemination channels platforms approved by the agreement.

On **March 3rd, 2023** GMet released its first seasonal forecast for southern Ghana for the year 2023 and in this release, the Agency warned of **flash flooding**. This information was shared with all our stakeholders including the VRA in a Press briefing at the Headquarters of the Agency and also made public through the Agency's website [www.meteo.gov.gh](https://www.meteo.gov.gh/gmet/seasonal-rainfall-forecast-for-the-major-rainy-seasons-march-may-mam-and-april-june-amj-2023/) and social media platforms. [Link <https://www.meteo.gov.gh/gmet/seasonal-rainfall-forecast-for-the-major-rainy-seasons-march-may-mam-and-april-june-amj-2023/>]

Again, on **5th May, 2023**, GMet issued the seasonal forecast for the Northern Sector. The forecast advised that the country should expect above-average rainfall, below-average rainfall and normal rains distributed across the country. **On the white Volta in the Northeastern part of the country, GMet forecasted above-average rainfall which was expected to bring rains into the Volta basin.** This forecast was again shared with all stakeholders and through the Agency's website and social media handles. [Link <https://www.meteo.gov.gh/gmet/seasonal-forecast-for-the-northern-sector-and-update-for-southern-ghana-june-aug-jja-and-july-sept-jas-for-the-country-2023/>]

On **18th August, 2023** the Ghana Meteorological Agency released the forecast for the Minor rainy Season for the Southern Sector of Ghana. This was captured on the front page of the Daily Graphic with the headline, **“EXPECT MORE RAINS”**. [Link <https://www.meteo.gov.gh/gmet/2023-minor-rainfall-seasonal-forecast-september-october-november-son/>]



In addition to all of the above, GMet issues Daily Weather Forecast (Morning, afternoon and Evening), Midweek Outlook, Weekend Outlook and Advisories to provide weather update to the public and all stakeholders.

While we sympathize with the unfortunate situation of the Dam spillage, we wish to clarify that the Ghana Meteorological Agency cannot be faulted or alleged to have misled the VRA in this matter. The evidence available points to the fact that at all material times and in all advisories issued to the public, the Agency forecasted above-normal rains this year.

We appreciate the clarification provided by the Deputy Chief Executive Officer of the Authority, Operations and Engineering – emphasizing the over sixty (60) year relationship between the Agency and the Authority. (<https://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/business/VRA-denies-blaming-Ghana-Meteorological-Agency-for-flooding-situation-1863080>)

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