



COASTAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

P. O. Box CT 9081, Cantonments - Accra
GA-143-7447



July 29, 2021

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RE: **'FORMER JOMORO MP EXPOSED BY CODA, PROSECUTE HIM' - NDC TO GOVT**

The attention of the Management of the Coastal Development Authority (CODA) has been drawn to a publication, which has gone viral on traditional and social media, by online portal Ghanaweb of Tuesday, 27 July 2021 with the title, **"Former Jomoro MP exposed by CODA, prosecute him' - NDC to govt"**.

According to Ghanaweb, the said publication was a report on a media address organised by the National Democratic Congress (NDC) at Elubo and addressed by the Jomoro NDC communications officer, Patrick Ellonu.

While we appreciate the writers and stakeholders behind the publication for showing some interest in the implementation of the Infrastructure for Poverty Eradication Programme (IPEP) in the Jomoro constituency, we equally want to set the records straight on other issues alleged in the address which was reproduced in full by the online portal.

Mr Ellonu, in his address, made the following allegations;

1. That former MP for Jomoro constituency Hon. Paul Essien was engaged as a contractor by the erstwhile Ministry of Special Development Initiatives (MSDI), then mother ministry of CODA, to construct projects in Jomoro constituency.
2. That the former MP was paid to execute the said awarded projects.
3. That the former MP failed to execute the said projects for which he is alleged to have received payment.
4. That the former MP deceitfully wrote to MSDI to inform the then Ministry that two of the said projects, a rural market in Tikobo and a rural market in Elubo had been completed.
5. That the former MP requested the MSDI to come to Jomoro constituency and commission the two completed market projects.

6. That the two projects are currently not completed.
7. That the former MP should be prosecuted for allegedly misappropriating funds for the projects as contractor, due to his failure to complete them.

It is gratifying to note that the NDC rightly acknowledged that numerous projects are being undertaken in the Jomoro constituency with funding from the Government of Ghana under IPEP.

However, for the avoidance of doubt, we wish to clarify some of the issues brought forth in the address for the benefit of all our stakeholders.

- A. In 2019, MSDI awarded a contract for the construction of a 72 shed market in Jomoro constituency as part of a number of rural market projects initiated by the then Ministry.
- B. Subsequently, then MP, Hon Paul Essien appealed to MSDI for the awarded market project to be split into smaller projects to be constructed in at least two communities in the Jomoro constituency.
- C. The Ministry considered the appeal of the MP and re-awarded the construction of a 48 shed rural market at Tikobo and a 48 shed rural market at Elubo to the contractor, CGM Company Limited.
- D. In 2020, the consultant for the projects informed the Ministry that the contractor had completed the projects and were ready to be handed over to the communities.
- E. Based on the information from the consultant, the Ministry wrote to the MCE of Jomoro Municipal Assembly on November 30, 2020 to notify the MCE of the completion of the projects and requested the MCE to commission same for use by the beneficiary communities.
- F. For the record, the two completed projects have not been commissioned.
- G. The photo shown by the NDC is not a photo of any of the two projects. Photos of the two completed projects are attached to this statement in the appendix for correction of that wrong impression.
- H. It must be stated emphatically that the former MP did not receive any payment in respect of the two completed projects.
- I. Indeed, the former MP was not engaged as a contractor or agent to act on behalf of the Ministry to execute the two completed projects.
- J. The allegations of payments to the MP can only be borne of ignorance about the funding mechanism of IPEP as there is no mobilization under the terms of contract and hence impossible for the contractor or any other

person to have received any payment in advance of commencement of the projects.

Based on the foregoing, it is apparent that the allegations made by the NDC are groundless and untenable.

Specifically, the allusions to CODA's involvement in the selection and completion of the two projects are spurious.

- i. The claim that CODA awarded the projects in question is false.
- ii. The claim that "a letter from the Ministry of Special Development Initiatives dated 30 November, 2020, instructing the MCE to commission **CODA** completed rural markets in Tikobo and Elubo..." is false.
- iii. The claim that CODA has awarded contracts to the former MP is false.

The Authority remains focused on initiating interventions aimed at accelerating the economic and social development of the 109 constituencies in the six regions that make up the coastal development zone.

Selection and implementation of projects are done through an inclusive stakeholder engagement and participatory needs assessment. To that end, we entreat all stakeholders continue to work in harmony for the benefit of their communities, constituencies and the nation at large.

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COASTAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**

Pictures of Completed Market at Tikobo in Jomoro Constituency



Pictures of Completed Market at Tikobo in Jomoro Constituency



Pictures of Completed Market at Elubo in Jomoro Constituency



Pictures of Completed Market at Elubo in Jomoro Constituency



Pictures of Completed Market at Elubo in Jomoro Constituency

