



REPUBLIC OF GHANA

**MINISTRY
OF
ROADS AND
HIGHWAYS**

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

30th March 2023

RESPONSE TO JOINT STATEMENT ISSUED BY MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT FOR AFRAM PLAINS NORTH AND SOUTH ON THE CONSTRUCTION OF ADAWSO- EKYI AMANFROM- DONKORKROM ROADS

The attention of the Ministry of Roads and Highways (MRH) has been drawn to a joint statement apparently issued and signed by the Members of Parliament for Afram Plains North and South, Hon. Betty Nana Efua Krosbi Mensah and Hon. Joseph Appiah Boateng respectively and titled "***President Akufo Addo Diverts 98 Million Dollars of Road Funds meant for the Construction of Adawso- Ekyi Amanfrom- Donkorkrom Roads to His Stronghold***".

The Ministry wishes to state that the joint statement is misleading and that the Members of Parliament could have easily sought the necessary clarification from the Ministry.

The Ministry wishes to respond to the statement as follows:

1. In September 2021, the Minister for Roads and Highways and the Minister for Finance submitted a joint Memorandum to Parliament for the approval of Commercial and Credit Facility Agreements for the Design and Construction of Adawso – Ekyi Amanfrom Bridge and Associated Roads. Funding was to be arranged and structured by Deutsche Bank AG of Germany.
2. The project consisted of two (2) contracts namely:
 - a) Construction of Bunso Adawso and Specified Approach Roads to the Adawso Bridge (104km) ("the Road Contract"). This comprises Takorowatwen – Ekyi Amanfrom Road (22km), Adawso - Kwahu Tafo Road (20km), Kwahu Tafo - Miaso Road (29km), Miaso - Begoro Road (26km) and Begoro - Obuoho Road (7km); and

- b) Design and Construction of Adawso Bridge (“the Bridge Contract”). This comprises the construction of approximately 3.6km of a 2-lane bridge, including service lanes and a walkway to connect Adawso and Ekyi Amanfrom in the Eastern Region and the construction of a new toll plaza.
3. It was expected that the two components of the project, with a total cost of €350million, will be executed concurrently and be completed in thirty (30) months subject to the successful completion of the financing arrangement.
 4. Further, the road contract was tied to the bridge contract to realise the full benefit of the project.
 5. Following the approval by Parliament of the two (2) projects and the financing arrangements, Government has continued to diligently pursue the funding for the project.
 6. It is in light of this that Government allocated about US\$98 million under the US\$750 million African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank) Loan as a contribution to the road contract component after one of the financiers declined to participate in the financial arrangement.
 7. It is important to state that due to the current debt restructuring exercise, Government has not been able to conclude the arrangement of the financing for the project.
 8. This has informed Government’s prudent decision to apply the allocation under the Afreximbank facility to the equally important Accra-Kumasi corridor.
 9. The re-allocation will be applied to specifically the Apedwa to Ejisu section of the Accra – Kumasi Road. This stretch goes through major towns such as Osino, Anyinam, Enyiresi, Nkawkaw and Konongo in the Eastern and Ashanti Regions. It is common knowledge that sections of the road within these towns are usually marked with heavy traffic congestion causing a lot of delays, accidents, pedestrian-related crashes and increased travel time.
 10. As part of the Ministry’s programme of dualizing the Accra-Kumasi Road, the following four (4) by-passes, with a total length of about 40.40km, are to be constructed to improve travel time and safety along the Accra-Kumasi corridor.
 - a) Osino By-pass (11.6km)
 - b) Anyinam By-pass (6.1km)
 - c) Enyiresi By-pass (9.1km)
 - d) Konongo By-pass (13.6km)
 11. Eight (8) different contracts have been signed with indigenous local Contractors for all the by-passes, which will be a three-lane dual carriageway with adequate drainage structures and interchanges.
 12. It is therefore disturbing for the Members of Parliament to suggest that the decision to suspend the project is “*purely politically motivated*” and intended to

“deprive the people of Afram plains of their share of the national cake and also worsen their living conditions as a result of the deplorable state of the roads”.

13. Indeed, Government recognizes that the project areas have great potential to contribute significantly to the well-being of its inhabitants and food security in Ghana since they produce much of Ghana’s crop yields even though there is limited access to the rest of the country by the Volta Lake with the ferry as the only means of transport.
14. It is important to stress that Government is currently undertaking a number of road projects to improve the state of roads in the Afram Plains area. We provide below some of the contracts currently ongoing along the project road and the Afram Plains:
 - (a) Reconstruction of Begoro Abuoso – Mpaem (including Kwahu Tafo – Adawso) – (38km) in the Fanteakwa North/Kwahu East Districts.
 - (b) Reconstruction of Begoro – Feyiase (20km)
 - (c) Reconstruction of Ankomah to Kwahu Tafo Road (10km) in the Kwahu East District.
 - (d) Spot Improvement and Routine Maintenance Works totalling 329km in the Fanteakwa North District and Afram Plains area.
15. From the above, it is obvious that the Ministry, and for that matter Government, is committed to ensuring that all parts of the country get their fair share of the national cake in terms of road construction. The allegation by the Honourable Members against the Ministry of bias cannot, therefore, be accurate.
16. We state emphatically that the decision by Government is not “purely politically motivated” and is not informed by any “stronghold” considerations. The Ministry is simply committed to providing the necessary road infrastructure for the socio-economic development of the country.
17. The Ministry wishes to assure the good people of the Afram Plains area, including the Honorable Members for the Afram Plains, and the general public that the decision taken is in the interest of the general welfare of the people of Ghana. However, Government is committed to addressing their road network challenges and encourages all to cooperate with the Ministry as we strive to improve upon the national road network.

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**Issued by
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