

Pres directs release of GH¢300m

...for floods relief, mitigation efforts

BY JULIUS YAO PETETSI

PRESIDENT John Dramani Mahama has directed the Minister for Finance to release, with immediate effect, GH¢300 million from the Contingency Fund to support urgent flood relief and mitigation efforts.

The directive forms part of government's response to the flooding of parts of Accra and other communities in the southern sector following hours of unusually heavy rainfall.

A statement signed by the Minister for Government Communications, Mr Felix Kwakye Ofori, explained that GH¢150 million of the amount would be used to support immediate relief efforts for affected persons and communities.

The remaining GH¢150 million, the statement said, would be channelled into flood mitigation measures aimed at reducing the recurrence of such incidents.

The statement further indicated that the President had directed the deployment of personnel from the Ghana Armed Forces and the Ghana Police Service to collaborate with the

National Disaster Management Organisation (NADMO) and other emergency services in ongoing rescue and relief operations.

The directive follows Monday's heavy downpour, which disrupted movement across the capital and left homes, roads and businesses submerged after recording about 140 millimetres of rainfall.

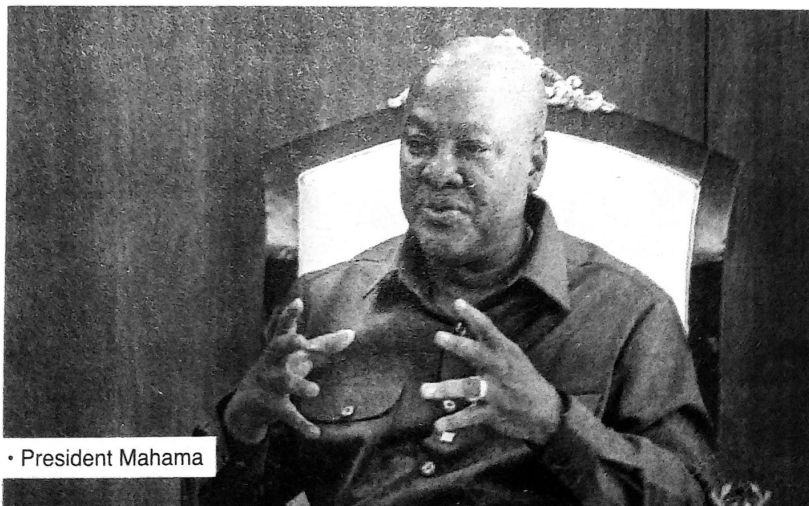
According to reports by the BBC, at least 13 people lost their lives, while 470 others were rescued, citing the Ghana National Fire Service.

In a post on his X account, President Mahama described the rainfall as devastating and extended his condolences to affected families.

He noted that the volume of rainfall far exceeded last year's highest single-day record of about 56 millimetres, attributing the increase to the effects of climate change.

Meanwhile, the Ghana Meteorological Agency has warned that more rainfall is expected in parts of southern Ghana in the coming days.

The Agency advised the public to avoid sheltering under trees, stay away from exposed electrical wires, and refrain from walking or driving through floodwaters.



• President Mahama