

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE ON THE REPORT OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL ON THE
PREPAREDNESS OF NADMO TO MANAGE DISASTER IN GHANA

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The above Performance Audit Report was laid in the House on 8th June, 2009 in accordance with article 187 of the 1992 Constitution and the Standing Orders of the House.

This audit report was referred to the Public Accounts Committee in accordance with Standing Order 165 for examination and report.

In examining this report, the Committee met with Hon. Kwasi Apea-Kubi, Deputy Minister for Interior, the NADMO National Coordinator, Mr. Kofi Portuphy, and a technical team from the Ministry of Interior and Ghana Audit Service.

2.0 REASON FOR THE AUDIT

NADMO was established to manage disasters and other emergencies in the country. In carrying out its functions however, the general public perceives NADMO not to be up to the task and is seen as existing only to distribute relief items.

The audit was to assess NADMO's preparedness to manage disasters in the country.

3.0 AUDIT FINDINGS, OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 LACK OF EFFECTIVE SYSTEMS IN PLACE

The Auditor-General was concerned with the absence of effective systems at NADMO. In particular, the Report mentioned that there was:-

1. no disaster management plans/hazard maps to discharge the functions of NADMO,
2. an ineffective warning/information dissemination system,
3. ineffective monitoring and evaluation of systems,
4. inaccurate data on the incidence of disasters, and
5. poor collaboration among key institutions and agencies.

Management informed the Committee that since the Report was published, a lot had been done to position NADMO to deliver on its mandate. The composition of the Regional and District management Committees have been improved and made active. The Regional Ministers and Assemblies are playing their roles as required by the law. The private sector has been roped in to assist in disaster management.

The organization was also taking the needed steps to inaugurate the rest of the bodies necessary for the effective functioning of NADMO including the National Disaster Committee to be chaired by the Interior Minister.

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The National Coordinator also informed the Committee that the Organization had improved upon its collaboration and coordination with other key Agencies to ensure the effective management of disaster in the country.

NADMO is seeking ways to engage agencies such as the MMDAs and the Regional Coordinating Councils to respond to disasters. Communities in and around disaster areas are being trained on disaster awareness and their management.

Observations and recommendations

The Committee urges management to continue with its efforts to ensure that disasters are well managed. Management and the Disaster Management Committees should include key stakeholders from private sector and media in emergency response planning. The warning/communication systems should be kept operational through periodic rehearsals. Further, radio, television announcements and mobile vans should be done before the onset of rains or bushfires.

3.2 STAFFING CHALLENGES

NADMO did not have the required staff to perform its functions. It was also observed that existing staff were not properly trained.

Management informed the Committee that it was difficult for NADMO to attract competent personnel as a result of poor remuneration. Those employed unfortunately were not well equipped. This has adversely affected the operations of the organization.

To address this problem, management has lined up a number of training programs to equip the staff. Further, there are structured on the job training programmes in the regional offices for the field staff.

On the issue of poor remuneration, management was of the view that with the implementation of the single spine salary structure, the inequality would be addressed. This would motivate the staff and attract other competent personnel to the Organization.

Observations and Recommendations

The Committee was worried about the perception that NADMO is considered an institution to provide social services to politicians and religious organizations. There is also the impression that the outfit was formed to provide jobs for a ruling party's sympathizers.

To address this perception, the Committee reiterates the Auditor-General's recommendation that management should:

- a. develop a structure showing job qualification and entry requirements on which applicants could be interviewed and employed
- b. ensure that less experienced officers having lower qualifications work under experienced ones with the requisite qualifications
- c. ensure that employees with direct technical and operational responsibilities during disasters are individuals with emergency or crisis management knowledge, training and experience.
- d. A conscious effort should be made by governments to de-politicize the organization and allow NADMO to win the confidence of the Ghanaian public.

3.3 LACK OF LOGISTICS

NADMO has insufficient and inappropriate relief items at the regional and district warehouses. It had office accommodation challenges and lacked tools and operating equipment.

Management confirmed the situation and informed the Committee that NADMO currently had only 1% of the logistics it needs to manage disasters in the country.

The National Coordinator informed the Committee that the organization was seeking support from the UN Disaster Fund for an amount of US\$7.5 million to procure logistics.

Observations and recommendations

The Committee was surprised to know that NADMO had only 1% of the required logistics to operate. This meant that in the event of any major catastrophe, lots of lives could be lost. If disasters are to be well managed, the state must invest in NADMO.

The Committee urges the Government to make adequate funds available to NADMO to ensure that it was properly positioned to combat disasters in the country.

4.0 CONCLUSION

The Committee was concerned that NADMO reacts more to disasters rather than being proactive. The organization does not have the capacity to respond to large-scale disasters.

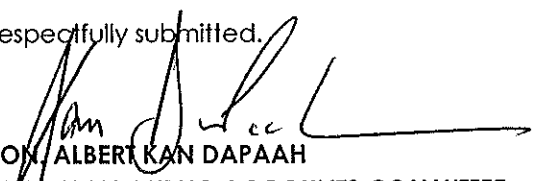
Indeed, the Committee wondered whether successive Governments and NADMO are aware of the enormity of the responsibilities of NADMO in this age of widespread disasters worldwide.

The Committee strongly recommends for the adoption of the House that in view of the crucial importance of the role of NADMO, the House directs the Cabinet and Government to make adequate resource allocation to NADMO to ensure that it has the capacity to be fully functional

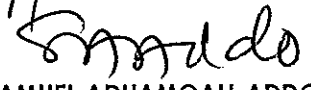
Disaster preparedness is very crucial particularly in this era of climate change where the weather is unpredictable. There is the need for urgent action to assist NADMO to address its teething problems to enable it play a meaningful role in saving lives and property during disasters.

The Committee recommends to the House to adopt its report on the Performance Audit Report of the Auditor-General on the preparedness of NADMO to manage disaster in Ghana with the Committee's recommendations.

Respectfully submitted,



HON. ALBERT KAN DAPAAH
CHAIRMAN, PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE



SAMUEL ADUAMOAH-ADDO
FOR CLERK TO THE COMMITTEE

11 July 2011