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Our Ref:

Date:

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June 7, 2021

PRESS RELEASE

The Ghana Medical Association (GMA) has noted with disappointment the total disregard for COVID-19 protocols during the final funeral rites of the former Chief Executive Officer of the Forestry Commission of Ghana, Lawyer Kwadwo Owusu Afriyie aka Sir John.

This mass gathering of people with complete disregard for physical distancing and limited use of face masks occurred in the wake of a caution by the World Health Organization (WHO) to some African countries to prepare for what appears to be a new surge in COVID-19 cases in Africa. The GMA was therefore shocked to observe that a nation like ours struggling to vaccinate its population will permit such a potential super spreader event to take place and be attended by top government functionaries including HE the President and the Vice President of the Republic. The memories of the catastrophic consequences of the surge in COVID-19 cases in January-February 2021

including that of the many lives lost and the pressure our healthcare system came under during that surge is fresh on our minds. We should not forget that that surge was occasioned by similar mass gatherings associated with the political activities and Christmas festivities in November /December 2020.

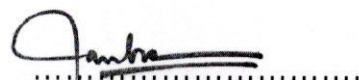
The GMA condemns such activities that violate our protocols and has the tendency to reverse all gains made in our fight against COVID-19. We call on the law enforcement agencies to investigate and deal with the organizers of this and any similar events to serve as a deterrent to others who intend to endanger the public health of our nation. We call on the Inspector General of Police (IGP) to act without fear or favor in this regard.

The general public is encouraged to continue to abide by all the COVID-19 protocols and refrain from such mass gatherings and activities that endangers our collective survival.

The GMA wishes to reiterate that COVID-19 is still real and a present threat to our country and calls on all to adhere to the preventive protocols for the safety of all.



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Dr. Frank Ankobea
President, GMA



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