




KETA YOUTH ASSOCIATION

Re-building and Re-branding Keta


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Your Ref.....

Our Ref...KP1/PM-011/26

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

PETITION FOR TRANSPARENCY, CONSULTATION, AND EQUITABLE DEVELOPMENT: SAFEGUARDING STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN KETA TOWNSHIP

The Executives and entire membership of the Keta Youth Association, together with concerned residents, Traditional leaders, community leaders, indigenes, youth, drivers, market traders, opinion leaders, and citizens of Keta Township within the Keta Municipality, respectfully submit this petition to formally express our grave concerns regarding recent decisions and public pronouncements surrounding major infrastructural and developmental projects affecting Keta Township.

This petition arises from growing public outrage, anger, uncertainty, and deep concern over the lack of transparency, stakeholder consultation, and meaningful community engagement on critical developmental matters affecting Keta Township, actions which are an affront to **Articles 240(2)(e) and Article 35(6)(d)** of the 1992 Constitution of the Republic of Ghana which mandates District Assemblies to exercise deliberative, legislative, and executive authority in the development and management of human settlements and the environment, while further requiring the State to deepen decentralisation by affording citizens every opportunity to actively participate in decision-making at all levels of national life.

These concerns and grievances, we believe, are not limited to Keta Central Township alone, but affect the entire enclave stretching from Vui through Dzelukope, Abutiakofe, Kedzikofe, Keta, Adzido, Vodza, Kedzi, Havedzi, and Horvi, as we firmly believe these developments would significantly benefit all these communities collectively. While we acknowledge the government's commitment to development across the municipality, we strongly maintain that such major projects must be guided by transparency, accountability, inclusivity, and public participation to ensure trust and sustainability. Accordingly, we raise the following **three (3)** key concerns:

1. DETERIORATING STATE OF ROADS NETWORKS WITHIN KETA CENTRAL TOWNSHIP

One major concern for residents of Keta Township is the deplorable condition of internal roads, many of which have remained in poor condition for decades. The deteriorating road network continues to affect transportation and mobility severely, disrupt commercial activities,

limit access to schools and businesses, reduce the operational efficiency of the Keta Main Market, and undermine the township's overall image and economic growth.

Interestingly, these inner roads in Keta Township span approximately ten (10) kilometres and have remained in a persistently poor condition for so many decades now, which becomes even more severe during rainy periods, creating significant difficulties for traders, drivers, residents, and visitors alike.

It is deeply disheartening that the roads within Keta Township, the Municipal Capital and home to some of the Municipality's major revenue-generating centres, including the main Market, GCB Bank, Keta-NMTC, Fort Prinzenstein, and the Ghana Revenue Authority (GRA), were not prioritised by the Municipal Assembly for inclusion in the Government's flagship "**Big Push**" project, with no indication whatsoever of any comprehensive rehabilitation plan for these critically important roads.

OUR PLEA

1. We respectfully appeal to the government and relevant authorities to urgently prioritise the rehabilitation and reconstruction of roads within Keta Township, particularly key stretches from Tamekloe Borme through Zion Street, Lagoon View Road, Library Street, Market Street, Amegashie-Afeku Street, Chapman Street, James-Ocloo Street, E.P. Lane, Fort Street, and the GCB link, among others, all covering approximately ten (10) kilometres.
2. Keta Township is a key tourism destination, hosting Fort Prinzenstein and several private beach resorts along the Volta coastline, which contribute significantly to the municipality's internally generated revenue. In this regard, we further request the urgent upgrading of roads connecting these key economic and tourism assets. In particular, principal routes linking the Keta Nursing and Midwifery Training College (NMTC), GCB Bank, residential areas, and major economic zones, such as roads around the market, should be prioritised to improve transportation efficiency, mobility, and overall commercial activity.

2. CONCERNS REGARDING THE REDEVELOPMENT OF THE KETA MAIN MARKET

During his campaign tour of the area, John Dramani Mahama announced at a rally held at the Dzelukofe Roman Catholic premises on Friday, 16th August, 2024, that the Keta Main Market would be transformed into a modern market facility. This assurance generated significant hope and high expectations among residents and traders across the municipality.

Even before that declaration, the redevelopment of the Keta Main Market formed part of the key infrastructural proposals presented by the Anlo Dukor Council to John Dramani Mahama earlier that day, alongside the Anloga Market project, where the Awoamefia appealed for both markets to be upgraded into modern commercial facilities.

The Keta Main Market remains one of the municipality's most important economic assets and a key source of internally generated revenue for the Keta Municipal Assembly since 1864, serving traders from Keta, surrounding communities, the Volta Region, and beyond. Despite its historical and economic significance as one of the oldest markets in Southern Volta, it has not benefited from any major or comprehensive redevelopment for decades.

As a result, several structures within the market have deteriorated, posing serious safety risks to traders and the general public. The market continues to face severe infrastructural deficits, including poor drainage systems that disrupt trading activities during rainfall, inadequate sanitary and washroom facilities, weak security arrangements due to damaged gates and limited security personnel leading to frequent theft cases, and poor internal road networks that hinder commercial activity.

Upon assuming office, the leadership of the Keta Municipal Assembly announced the government's flagship "24-Hour Economy Market" project and assured the public that it would be sited by the Keta Main Market. This announcement was received with widespread excitement and renewed hope as a long-awaited response to the condition of the market, with traders and the youth expressing readiness to fully support its implementation. It therefore came as a shock to traders, residents, and stakeholders when the Assembly later decided to site the project at Abor without any meaningful public engagement, consultation, or prior explanation, an approach we consider deeply disrespectful to our traders, traditional authorities, indigenes, and the wider public.

Nonetheless, and in good faith, we really acknowledge Abor as one of the major towns within the municipality and respect the policy considerations that may have informed that decision. Consequently, the people of Keta Township, particularly the coastal communities, redirected their expectations toward the repeated assurances made by John Dramani Mahama, the Member of Parliament, and the Municipal Chief Executive regarding the upgrading of the Keta Main Market into a modern state-of-the-art market.

Against this backdrop, we express deep concern over the conflicting public communications regarding the proposed redevelopment. The Municipal Chief Executive announced efforts to secure approximately twenty-four million Ghana Cedis (GHS 24 million) through the District Performance Assessment Tool (DPAT), an announcement that was received with great excitement and renewed hope among traders and residents. However, the Member of Parliament for Keta Constituency, Kwame Dzudzorli Gakpey, later stated on another platform that the estimated cost of the project stands at approximately Twenty-One Million Ghana Cedis (GHS 21 million). Residents were subsequently informed at a town hall meeting in Vui that only about Nine Million Ghana Cedis (GHS 9 million) was available, an amount reportedly sufficient only for the renovation of a few shops around the market.

We wish to place on record that none of the leaders of the Keta Municipal Assembly, including the Municipal Chief Executive and the Member of Parliament, has directly engaged the market women and traders who operate within the Keta Main Market on these critical issues. Instead, such conflicting information is often heard through the media or at town hall meetings in other communities. We regard this approach as not only disrespectful to the traders but also indicative of neglect toward the market and its stakeholders.

These inconsistencies have created widespread uncertainty, frustration, anger and disappointment among traders and residents, who continue to anticipate a full-scale and transformative redevelopment of the Keta Main Market.

OUR PLEA

1. We respectfully call for a comprehensive public engagement on the proposed Keta Main Market redevelopment to clearly define its scope, costing, funding arrangements,

implementation phases, timelines, and long-term development vision, fulfilling Section 12 (3) and Section 40 of the Local Governance Act 2016 (963)

2. We strongly urge the Municipal Assembly to acknowledge that the reported Nine Million Ghana Cedis (GHS 9 million) available is clearly inadequate for the full-scale upgrade the Keta Market requires. We therefore insist that the Assembly quickly secure additional funding from other sources to ensure the complete financing of a holistic and sustainable redevelopment, rather than adopting a phased or piecemeal approach that risks delay, poor execution, or eventual abandonment. This position is informed by our past experiences in the municipality, particularly Keta Township, where key infrastructural projects have stalled or remained uncompleted due to inadequate funding.

We further urge the authorities to adopt a full-scale modern redevelopment plan that reflects the market's economic importance and historical status as the municipality's principal revenue-generating hub as a Municipal Capital. Accordingly, we outline the required infrastructural upgrades for the Keta Main Market as follows:

1. Expansion of the market to meet anticipated demand from the proposed Keta Port project;
2. Rehabilitation and tarring of roads around the market enclave;
3. Development and extension of a car park to accommodate increased vehicular activity;
4. Construction of an efficient and sustainable drainage system;
5. Paving and tarring of market grounds to improve usability;
6. Provision of additional sheds, office spaces, and warehouse facilities;
7. Conversion of existing shops in and around the market into modern storey stalls;
8. Provision of adequate washrooms and sanitary facilities for traders and visitors;
9. Establishment of a clinic or pharmacy to support the health needs of traders and users;
10. Construction of a crèche facility for nursing mothers engaged in trading activities.
11. Rehabilitation of butcher houses, cold stores, and the livestock market

3. CONCERNS REGARDING THE RELOCATION OF THE PROPOSED UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH AND ALLIED SCIENCES SCHOOL OF PHARMACY FOR KETA

We have noted with grave concern recent public statements by the Honourable Municipal Chief Executive for Keta, Mr Wisdom Seade, and the Member of Parliament, Mr Kwame Dzudzorli Gakpey, indicating that the Municipal Assembly is seeking some fifty (50) acres of land at Abor or Anlo-Afiadenyigba for the proposed University of Health and Allied Sciences School of Pharmacy campus.

This announcement has triggered widespread public concern and dissatisfaction not only within Keta Central Township but across the entire Keta coastal urban enclave, as the longstanding expectation has been that the proposed satellite campus would be established in Keta Central, particularly on the reclaimed lands near the Keta Nursing and Midwifery Training College. We wish to place the following on record:

- Point Four under Theme One (Tertiary Education) of the 2016 National Democratic Congress (NDC) Manifesto, particularly on page 13, clearly stated plans to establish the school at Keta: “...And a new permanent campus for the University of Health and Allied Sciences (UHAS) in the Volta Region and initiated preparatory works for its School of Pharmacy at Keta.”

- Pages 16 and 17 of the “Green Book” published by the NDC Government in 2016 also reaffirmed government intentions regarding the project: *“New Schools, including a School of Pharmacy, will commence in the next academic year,” in Keta*
- Point 24 under the Quality Health Care Delivery section of the 2024 NDC Manifesto (Abridged), page 45, further states: *“Complete the establishment of additional campuses of the University of Health and Allied Sciences in Keta and Battor.”*
- During the 2024 campaign period, John Dramani Mahama reiterated across the Volta Region that the proposed satellite campus would be established in Keta.
- On Friday, August 16, 2024, the Awoamefia of Anlo State, Togbi Sri III, presented a development proposal to John Dramani Mahama during his visit to the Palace, highlighting key infrastructural needs, including the establishment of the UHAS School of Pharmacy in Keta Central.
- Several media publications and reports have highlighted this development, including a report by Modernghana.Com on October 6, 2025, which captured Mr Haruna Iddrisu announcing government plans to establish the UHAS School of Pharmacy and School of Biomedical Engineering in Keta within the Keta Municipality.
- According to Section 3 of the UHAS Statutes, provision is reportedly made for the university to operate campuses at Hohoe and other locations, possibly Keta and Battor.
- Since 2014, students from the UHAS main campus at Ho have used structures situated on the reclaimed land area in Keta as study centres and accommodation during internship and clinical programmes at the Keta Government Hospital.
- During a courtesy call by the Volta Regional House of Chiefs on John Dramani Mahama at the Jubilee House in July 2025, the President reiterated the government’s commitment to establishing additional campuses of the University of Health and Allied Sciences in Keta.
- Mr James Gunu, the Volta Regional Minister, on Saturday, November 1st, 2025, during the 63rd Anlo Hogbetsotso Festival durbar at Anloga, reiterated that “The UHAS of Pharmacy project in Keta will soon commence,” alongside other key development projects in the area.

Despite all the foregoing evidence and public pronouncements, we are deeply alarmed by suggestions that the project may be relocated outside Keta Township.

While we acknowledge the complexities surrounding land administration and ownership issues in the area, we firmly reject any attempt to use alleged encroachment, sale, or allocation of portions of the designated land to justify relocating this critical institution away from Keta Township.

We further place on record that concerns have been raised regarding portions of the reclaimed lands, which are understood to be part of ongoing legal proceedings before a court of competent jurisdiction. In this regard, we respectfully urge the Municipal Chief Executive, Wisdom Seade, to collaborate with the appropriate authorities to ensure strict adherence to due legal processes and to facilitate the resolution of any verified issues relating to alleged encroachment or allocation of land originally designated for the project. Where necessary, appropriate steps should be taken to remove such encroachments to enable the swift commencement of works, rather than allowing these issues to be used as justification for relocating the project.

It is also important to note that the said parcel of land was duly registered in 2016 in the name of the University of Health and Allied Sciences. The land currently bears visible physical demarcations, including boundary pillars displaying the registration details (**UHAS-KETA/SGVC318/16**) and a signpost indicating the name of the institution, clearly affirming its designated purpose.

We respectfully submit that the proposed allocation of fifty (50) acres appears unrealistic and excessive for a satellite campus, especially given the land constraints within Keta Township.

OUR PLEA

1. We strongly call on the Keta Municipal Assembly and all relevant authorities to immediately engage stakeholders and the people of Keta Township in a transparent and accountable process regarding the siting, planning, and development of the proposed institution, while also publicly disclosing the project's architectural and development plans, the justification for the required fifty (50) acres of land, and the precise scope of the project, including whether it is a full campus or a satellite campus.
2. If the Assembly maintains that fifty (50) acres is necessary and that Keta remains the rightful location for the project as intended by H.E. John Dramani Mahama, and without giving room to the conspiracies or speculations currently circulating, then the appropriate course of action is meaningful engagement with the people of Keta to secure additional land, rather than relocating the project without consultation or clear explanation, an approach we consider disrespectful to our chiefs, indigenes, youth, and the entire public and violation of **Article 240 (2)(e) of the 1992 Constitution**
3. Alternatively, and in view of the foregoing, we urge the Assembly and relevant authorities to engage all private developers currently undertaking projects on the reclaimed lands to pursue proper consultation, negotiation, and mutually beneficial arrangements in the broader interest of the municipality.

Although Keta faces numerous infrastructural, educational, health, and sanitation challenges, these three concerns remain the most critical at this time and therefore demand urgent attention.

CONCLUSION AND RESOLUTIONS

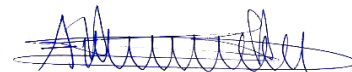
In conclusion, while we acknowledge ongoing development efforts in Keta Township and the broader municipality, we firmly maintain that the issues raised herein are firmly grounded in the public interest and supported by the constitutional framework of Ghana.

Articles 35(6)(d) and 240(2)(e) of the 1992 Constitution require meaningful citizen participation in decision-making and mandate District Assemblies to exercise their development functions in a transparent, consultative, and accountable manner. Accordingly, any process that excludes adequate stakeholder engagement falls short of these constitutional requirements. We accordingly urge the relevant authorities to treat these concerns with urgency by immediately convening inclusive and transparent engagement with all stakeholders.

1. We call on the leadership of the Assembly, including the Municipal Chief Executive and the Member of Parliament, through the Assemblymember for Keta Central, to urgently convene a broad stakeholder engagement in Keta Township, involving traditional leaders, elders, market traders, drivers, and the youth, to deliberate and arrive at mutually acceptable solutions to the concerns outlined above. The community stands ready and committed to constructive dialogue in the spirit of constitutionalism, accountability, and equitable development for the transformation of Keta Township.

2. We strongly urge that all necessary steps be taken to address concerns surrounding any relocation of the University of Health and Allied Sciences School of Pharmacy campus. We further appeal that every effort be made to ensure the project remains within Keta Township, as originally communicated by the Central Government and understood by the people for over a decade.
3. We further call for the immediate initiation of processes toward the full-scale redevelopment of the Keta Main Market into a modern commercial facility befitting its historical status and economic importance.
4. We strongly urge that urgent and immediate attention be given to the full rehabilitation of Keta Township roads, with concrete works commencing without further delay.
5. We respectfully state that should a stakeholder engagement not be convened within twenty-one (21) days of this petition, the community shall, in accordance with Article 21(1)(d) of the 1992 Constitution and the Public Order Act, 1994 (Act 491), proceed to embark on a lawful and peaceful demonstration, together with any subsequent lawful and necessary actions as part of our constitutionally guaranteed means of civic expression.

Thank You



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Hon. James Gunu
The Volta Regional Minister
Ho

Cc: -
Mr Gabriel Dzikunu
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