

BOLGATANGA GIRLS SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL PARENTS AND TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

POST OFFICE BOX 60

BOLGATANGA

UPPER EAST REGION



BANKERS: ADB-BOLGA

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STATEMENT ON THE ALLEGED DEFILEMENT OF A STUDENT OF BOLGATANGA GIRLS SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL.

The Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) of Bolgatanga Girls Senior High School (BOGISS) has followed, with deep concern, recent developments and media reports relating to the alleged defilement of a student of the school, reportedly involving two security personnel attached to the institution. The PTA wishes to place on record its position on this matter, and to speak directly to parents, guardians, and the wider public.

1. ON THE ALLEGED DEFILEMENT OF OUR STUDENT

The PTA condemns, in the strongest possible terms, the alleged defilement of a student of this school. No child entrusted to the care of BOGISS should ever suffer any form of sexual abuse, exploitation, or harm, and we consider the allegations extremely disturbing. We commend the swift arrest of the two suspects by the Ghana Police Service and their interdiction by the Ghana Education Service (GES), and we call for full, transparent, and expeditious investigations, with the harshest sanctions applied to anyone found culpable under the law.

The PTA further calls on GES, the Department of Social Welfare, and relevant child-protection agencies to ensure that the affected student receives the counselling, medical care, and protection she needs, and that her welfare, dignity, and educational future are safeguarded throughout the process. Any decision affecting her status as a student should be guided first and foremost by her best interests, in line with standard child-protection practice.

2. ON MEDIA REPORTING OF THE INCIDENT

While the PTA fully supports the right of the media to report on this matter and holds that public scrutiny of how the safety of our children is handled is legitimate and necessary, we are concerned that some accounts in circulation have gone beyond the established facts and have, in places,

presented an unbalanced picture of how the school's management and the GES hierarchy have responded. The PTA urges all media houses and commentators to report responsibly, to distinguish clearly between confirmed facts and allegation, and to avoid speculation that could prejudice ongoing investigations, further traumatise the affected student, or unfairly impugn the integrity of school authorities who have acted, and continue to act, on this matter.

The PTA will continue to engage GES, school management and all stake holders to obtain accurate, timely information, and will keep parents and guardians informed through proper channels, rather than through unverified reports.

3. REASSURANCE TO PARENTS AND GUARDIANS

The PTA wishes to reassure all parents and guardians that the safety and wellbeing of every student remains our foremost priority. We are engaging school management and the GES to review and strengthen safeguarding measures at BOGISS, including the vetting and supervision of all security and support staff, restrictions on unsupervised access to students, clear reporting channels for students to raise concerns, and periodic safety audits of the school environment.

The PTA will not relent in holding all stakeholders accountable to ensure that every child at BOGISS learns, boards, and grows in an environment that is safe, secure, and protective of her dignity. We encourage parents, guardians, and students with any concerns to report them promptly to school management, the PTA executive, or the appropriate authorities.

Thank You

signed

Bishop Professor Albert Luguterah

PTA Chairman

signed

Stanley Akamiri Abopaam

PTA Secretary