

NEWS RELEASE

GJA To Meet Kumasi Traditional Council Over Shutdown Of Kumasi-based Oyerepa FM

ACCRA, August 26, 2022 (GJA) – The Ghana Journalists Association (GJA) is making arrangements to meet the Kumasi Traditional Council on Monday, August 29, 2022, to address the decision by the traditional council to shut down Kumasi-based *Oyerepa FM*.

This is in line with the commitment of the GJA to explore all avenues, including dialogue, to resolve the matter.

Following the break of the news on the shutdown directed at *Oyerepa FM* by the Kumasi Traditional Council, the GJA quickly arranged to dispatch a delegation to Kumasi today, Friday, August 26, 2022, to meet with the traditional council and management of the radio station.

However, the delegation was advised to reschedule the mission to Monday, which is considered to be an appropriate time to meet the traditional council.

The GJA has been monitoring events in the past two days regarding the shutdown and is deeply concerned about the action of the Kumasi Traditional Council which has the tendency to erode the gains of the country's fledgling democracy.

At a meeting of the Kumasi Traditional Council and Managers of *Oyerepa FM*, the Acting President, Baffour Amankwatia VI (Bantamahene), directed the Kumasi-based broadcaster to cease operation until they have purged themselves, traditionally, of allowing the founder of the United Progressive Party (UPP), Akwasi Addai (aka Odike), to use their media platform to criticize chiefs in Asanteman.

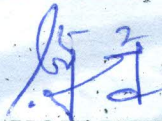
In compliance with the directive, *Oyerepa FM/TV* have suspended their operations as a show of remorse towards Nananom.

The GJA believes that although Nananom may have been disturbed by the comments made by Odike on *Oyerepa FM*, they could have used other means to address the matter than one that disturbs the nation's democracy and press freedom.

We wish to underline the fact that the media and chieftaincy have a critical role to play in national development, and rightly so, the 1992 Constitution has made elaborate provisions for the operations of the two institutions with the view to encouraging them to use their respective powers to promote national development.

However, the GJA is worried about recent developments in which traditional authorities are descending heavily on the media.

Whilst decrying such incidents, the GJA also admonishes media practitioners and institutions to exhibit high professional standards and be circumspect in the discharge of their duties, particularly in discussing the matter at stake.



**KOFI YEBOAH
(GENERAL SECRETARY)**