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THE MURDER OF ISHMAEL MENSAH ABDALLAH: A CALL TO DEAL WITH THE GROWING QUEST FOR QUICK WEALTH IN GHANA

We, the members of the Ghana Catholic Bishops' Conference (GCBC), woke up to the bizarre and shocking news of the alleged murder of Ishmael Mensah Abdallah by two teenagers during the peak of the Easter celebrations.

This sad and gruesome incident, which took place at a suburb in Kasoa in the Central Region, exposes us as a people and as a nation, and calls for the need for an urgent intervention to avert further occurrences in the future.

We live in a country where wealth is celebrated and elevated above everything, where the rich are worshipped without questioning the source of their wealth, where good leadership qualities are equated to donations, where individuals believe they have to make money by hook or by crook, where the end justifies the means, etc. The horrid action of these teenagers should serve as a wake-up call for us to find out what has gone wrong with us as individuals, as a people, as a nation and why we are where we are today. Perhaps, we have lost our moral compass as individuals, a people and a nation.

As we dialogue to have answers to the question 'what has gone wrong with us?', it is important for us to see these developments as a national security threat and act speedily to deal with this threat. We, therefore, call on all major stakeholders, especially the Regulators of our media space, to clamp down on activities of these fraudulent spiritualists, mallams, pastors and others who through their audio-visual content continue to propagate evils and their 'get-rich-quick' activities on our television stations and social media platforms.

It is sad to hear that the decision of these teenagers was to kidnap their victim for a ransom and then present the victim to a spiritualist for rituals, thoughts derived from watching some of the audio-visual content on television with the promise to make people wealthy within a short period of time.

It is time for us to begin to chart a new path for ourselves as individuals, as a people and as a nation, if we intend to build a country with people who appreciate the need for hard work, honesty, values, integrity and the desire for genuine acquisition of wealth as opposed to the current situation of thirsting for quick wealth by hook or by crook.

As we look forward to a possible solution to our current situation, we commend the soul of the young Ishmael Mensah Abdallah to the mercy of God and pray for consolation for the parents and the entire family and for divine guidance on these and many other misguided teenagers in our modern world.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Most Rev. Philip Naameh".

MOST REV. PHILIP NAAMEH
METROPOLITAN ARCHBISHOP OF TAMALE &
PRESIDENT, GHANA CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE

Thursday, April 8, 2021