

PRESS STATEMENT FROM THE TENDAAMA OF JIRAPA IN CONSULTATION WITH THE
PARAMOUNT CHIEF OF JIRAPA, NAA DINAA DONGLABONG GANAA III

Fellow sons and daughters of Jirapa, we extend our warmest greetings to you all. As custodians of our land and traditions, we remain committed to fostering unity, development, and progress in our beloved town. It is in this spirit that we address you today.

Recently, after broad consultations and in the best interest of Jirapa, we, the Tendaama of Jirapa, in consultation with the Paramount Chief, Naa Dinaa Donglabong Ganaa III, granted the Naayiri Park—our historic public durbar ground—to the Jirapa Municipal Assembly and by extension SOCO, for upgrading into a modern and befitting durbar ground. In line with our customs, libation was poured, and the sod was cut to mark the official commencement of work.

However, despite our collective enthusiasm, the project faced unexplained delays. Upon enquiry, we learned that some individuals had been issuing threats to the contractor and workers in an attempt to frustrate the project. Determined to witness the truth, we made ourselves available on the scheduled commencement day, and to our delight, the contractor arrived, and the youth of Jirapa, in an admirable display of support, voluntarily dug the foundation—proof that both the traditional leaders and the youth are eager for development.

To our dismay, we have since been informed that two individuals, Titus Kuumuulo Yelpoe (a.k.a Doosoglaa) and Joseph Dapilah (a.k.a Kangdel), along with their cohorts, have secured an injunction from the Jirapa District Court to halt the project, claiming ownership of the land. Their actions stand in direct opposition to the collective will of Jirapa and the undeniable benefits this project brings to our people.

As peace-loving and law-abiding leaders, we have chosen not to engage in needless confrontation but to pursue a path that ensures Jirapa continues to develop. In consultation with the Jirapa Municipal Assembly, we have temporarily relocated the project to an alternative site to prevent further delays. However, let no one mistake our patience for weakness—this move is not an admission of any wrongdoing on our part, nor does it validate the baseless claims of those standing against development. Rather, it is a testament to our unwavering commitment to peace and progress. We will be back to

update you on the use of the Naayiri Park. In the meantime, children and the youth should feel free to use the park for their usual play and football activities.

We understand the frustration and disappointment this has caused, especially among the youth, who have demonstrated great enthusiasm for this project. However, we urge all well-meaning sons and daughters of Jirapa to remain calm and not take the law into their own hands. Jirapa is a land of peace, order, and progress, and we will not allow the selfish interests of a few to tarnish our image or discourage future investors and developers.

Let history be our judge. The actions of Doosoglaa and his associates will be remembered as a betrayal of development, while our resolve to move Jirapa forward will stand the test of time. We are confident that posterity will vindicate us, and those who stand in the way of progress will ultimately be exposed by the course of history.

We call on all well-meaning Jirbaalee to stand firm, remain united, and continue supporting our collective vision for development. We will not be deterred, and Jirapa will rise above this temporary setback.

Thank you.

SIGNED:

1. Tenpuo Dakpaa (Zokyiye Tendaana)
2. Zuntaraa Baburoma (Tampoe Tendaana)
3. Zingbenne Dangyi (Kyobareyiri Tendaana)
4. Emilio Furivuo Mwingyillee (Wuoyiri Tendaana)
5. Kyelekuu Languon (Vevere Tendaana)
6. Nuobe Kumasi (Konkuo Tendaana)
7. Boniface Dentel (Da-uri Tendaana)

The Tendaama of Jirapa

In Consultation with the Paramount Chief of Jirapa, Naa Dinaa Donglabong Ganaa III