



**GHANA**



## ***National Disaster Management Organisation***

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### ***1. Legislation / Establishment :***

Act 517, of 11th September 1996 established the National Disaster Management Organisation to be “responsible for the management of areas affected by disasters and similar emergencies, for the rehabilitation of persons affected by disasters and to provide for related matters”

### ***2. Mission :***

“To manage disasters by co-ordinating the resources of Government institutions and developing the capacity of voluntary community – based organisations to respond to similar emergencies.”

The Organisation shall:

- prepare national disaster plans for preventing and mitigating the consequences of disasters;
- monitor, evaluate and update national disaster plans;
- ensure the establishment of adequate facilities, technical training and the institution of educational programmes to provide public awareness, warning systems and general preparedness for its staff and the general public;
- ensure that there are appropriate and adequate facilities for the provision of relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction; and
- perform any other functions that are incidental to the functions specified.
- harness material and human resources of communities to develop their potentials and strengths for development.

- mobilize and train the youth and the unemployed for the purpose of equipping them with the necessary technical know-how to enable them assist in managing disasters and also to enhance their potentials in economic activities.
- assist communities to understand and participate in government programmes and activities.
- sensitize communities to contribute towards the provision of social amenities.

### **3. Regulation and procedure :**

The National Security Council is the governing body of the Organisation. It is responsible for determining the policies of the Organisation. The Minister responsible for the Interior has the ministerial oversight responsibility over the Organisation.

The Council may appoint committees as it considers necessary and may assign them such functions of the Organisation as it may determine.

### **4. Organisation :**

The National Disaster Management Committee is referred to as "the National Committee":

- a) It is responsible for the implementation of national policies on disasters;
- b) ensure an effective flow of information on disasters between the national, regional and district capitals;
- c) in the event of any disaster, assess the extent of damage and the needs for the affected areas and report to the Council;
- d) co-ordinate regional and district disaster management plans and activities;
- e) identify, receive, manage and supervise relief items;
- f) investigate reports and analyse the nature of hazards, vulnerability and risk situations in particular areas and ensure the operational readiness of regional and district disaster management committees in those areas;
- g) collect and preserve data on disasters in the country;
- h) take steps to ensure the efficient training of organised personnel and other persons available for emergency or disaster duties;
- i) compute for the benefit of the Council the necessary requirements for the effective running of the Organisation each year;
- j) disseminate information to educate the public on:
  - human activities most likely to cause environmental disasters in the country;
  - the hazards and natural disasters which are likely to affect the various regions in the country;
  - action to be taken in the event of a disaster of whatever nature;
  - the control and relief measures most likely to be taken by the state and the necessity for everyone to cooperate with the authorities on these occasions.

The National Committee members are:

- the Minister responsible for the Interior who is the Chairman;
- a representative from each the following:
  - (i) Ministry of the Interior;
  - (ii) Ministry of Finance;
  - (iii) Ministry of Health;
  - (iv) Ministry of Employment and Social Welfare;
  - (v) Ministry for Information;
  - (vi) Ministry for Local Government and Rural Development;
  - (vii) Ministry of Defence;
  - (viii) Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology;
  - (ix) Ministry of Transport and Communications;
  - (x) National Development Planning Commission.
- the National Co-ordinator of the Organisation is the secretary to the National Committee.

The Regional Minister of the region where a disaster has occurred shall be a member of the National Committee for the duration of the disaster.

The Organisation has a National Co-ordinator who is appointed by the President in accordance with the advice of the Council given in consultation with the Public Services Commission. The National Co-ordinator is the chief executive of the Organisation and is responsible for the day to day management of the Organisation. For administrative purposes, he is responsible for the control of the employees of the Organisation.

The Organisation has Regional and District Co-ordinators.

The Regional Committee" is established in each region. It consists of the following members:

- the Regional Minister who is the Chairman;
- the Regional Information Officer;
- the Armed Forces Garrison Commander;
- the Regional Police Commander;
- the Regional Fire Officer;
- the Regional Director of Health Services;
- the Regional Director of Social Welfare.

The Regional Co-ordinator of the Organisation is secretary to the Regional Committee.

The District or Metropolitan Chief Executive of the affected district or metropolis shall be a member of the Regional Committee for the duration of the disaster.

The functions of the Regional Committee are:

- to prepare in respect of the region plans for the prevention of disasters and for mitigating the effects of any disasters;
- to co-ordinate district plans on the prevention of disasters and their mitigation submitted by the District Disaster Management Committee;
- to ensure the performance in the region of any function of the Organisation that the Council or the Co-ordinator may direct.

The Council establishes in each district a District Disaster Management Committee referred to as "the District Committee". It consists of:

- the District Chief Executive who is the Chairman;
- Member of Parliament of the affected constituency;
- the District Director of Health Service;
- the District Information Officer;
- a representative of the Garrison Commander of the Armed Forces;
- the District Police Commander;
- the District Fire Officer.

The District Assembly member from the affected electoral area shall be a member for the duration of the disaster.

The District Co-ordinator is the secretary to the District Committee.

The functions of the District Committee are to prepare plans for the district to prevent and mitigate disasters in its area of authority; maintain a close liaison with the Regional Committee in drawing up its plans; and perform in the district such functions of the Organisation as the Council or the Co-ordinator may direct.

The Regional and District Committees regulate the procedure of their meetings.

### ***5. The Technical Advisory Committees***

Technical Advisory Committees exist at the National and Regional levels.

A. At the national level there are seven (7) Technical Advisory Committees for the following Disaster/hazard types.

- (i) Geological: (Earthquakes, Landslides, and Tsunamis)
- (ii) Hydrometeorological: (Floods, Windstorm, and Drought)
- (iii) Pest and Insect Infestations: (Anthrax, Large Grain Borer, Army Worms, African Swine Fever)
- (iv) Disease Epidemics: (Cholera, Cerebrospinal Meningitis, Yellow Fever)
- (v) Man-Made: (Wars, Conflicts, Lake/Boat Accident, Oil Spillage, Aviation Accidents)
- (vi) Radiological: (Nuclear and Radiological Accidents)
- (vii) Fire and Lighting: (Wild/Bush/Forest Fires, Domestic/Industrial Fires, Lighting)

The eighth National Technical Advisory Committee is on Relief and Reconstruction for all emergencies or disaster types.

B. At the Regional level there are two main Technical Advisory Committees for:

- (i) Natural Disasters/Hazard
- (ii) Man-Made Disasters/Hazards

Membership of the Technical Advisory Committees are drawn from Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies; the Universities and Research Institutions, Coalition of the NGO's, Individuals of proven expertise from both the public and private institutions.

#### **6. Staff :**

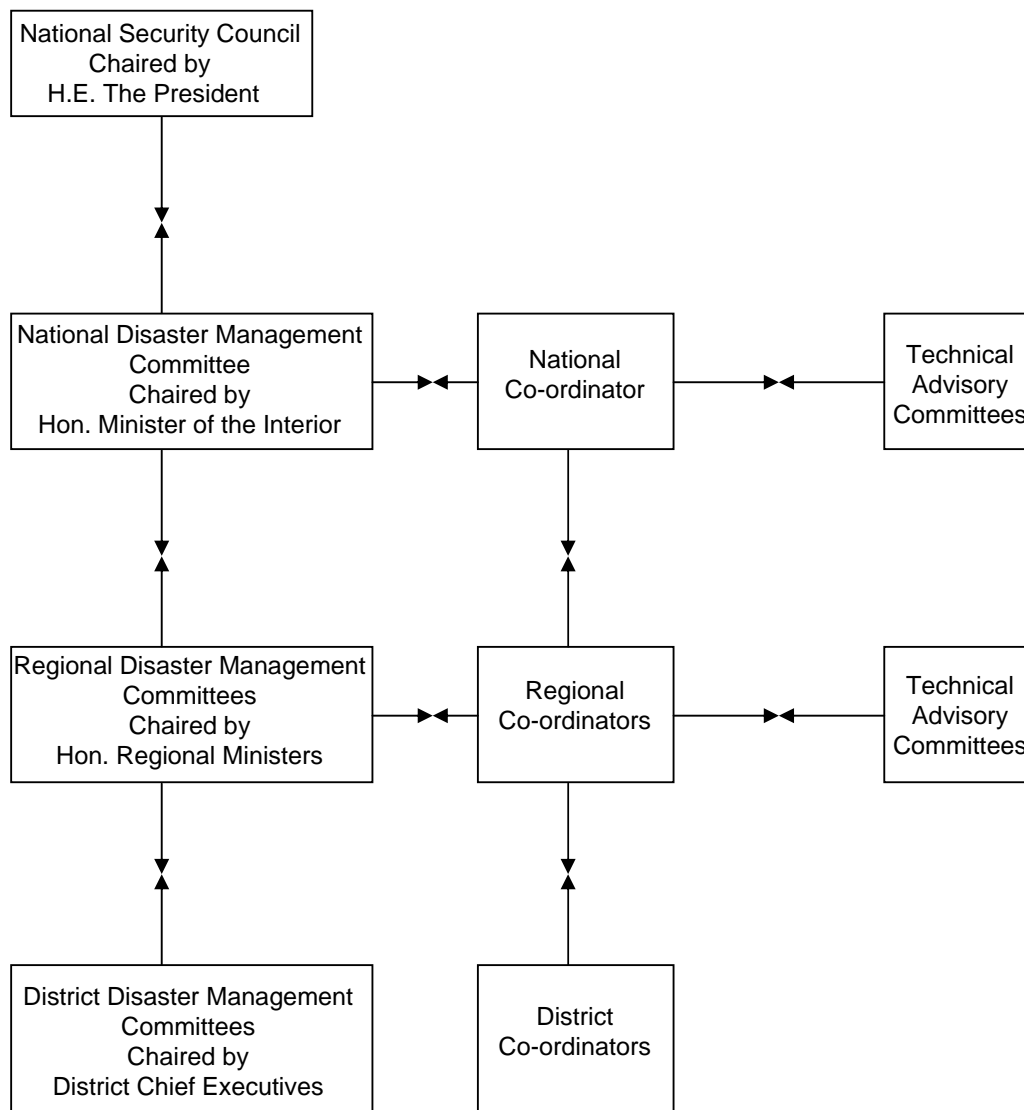
The Organisation consists of:

- professionals, experts, consultants, officers and employees of public institutions and non-governmental organisations;
- any person who has attained the age of sixteen years or more and is resident in Ghana may volunteer to register as a member of the Organisation;

#### **7. Finances :**

The funds of the Organisation are provided by Parliament and by way of grants, donations and gifts.

## Organizational Chart of National Disaster Management Organization



## **Honorable George Isaac AMOO**

**National Co-ordinator**

