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Internet Society (ISOC) Ghana Chapter Commends Government for Upholding Internet Access During National Tragedy

Accra, Ghana, August 13, 2025 - The Internet Society (ISOC) Ghana Chapter extends its deep condolences to the government of Ghana, on the solemn occasion of the helicopter crash that claimed the lives of Dr. Edward Omane Boamah, Defence Minister, Dr. Ibrahim Murtala Muhammed Minister for Environment, Science, Technology, and Innovation, Alhaji Muniru Mohammed Acting Deputy National Security Coordinator, Samuel Aboagye former parliamentary candidate, and Samuel Aboagye NDC Vice-Chairman, Samuel Sarpong.

Also killed in the accident were Squadron Leader Peter Bafemi Anala, Flying Officer Manin Twum-Ampadu, and Sergeant Ernest Addo Mensah.

The eight were on their way to an event focused on tackling illegal mining and promoting responsible mining practices.

The Ghana Chapter commends, particularly the Minister for Communication, Digital Technology and Innovations, for its judicious decision not to shut down the Internet in the wake of the recent helicopter tragedy, acknowledging the immense pressure faced by the government to prevent the spread of graphic content of the accident scene.

The Internet Society Ghana Chapter respects the choice proffered by Hon. Sam George when he featured on Joy FM's "Super Morning Show" on Tuesday, August 12, 2025, to explore collaborative solutions over a total Internet shutdown.

As recounted, shutting down the Internet, while seemingly a quick fix, may have far-reaching negative consequences for the Ghanaian economy and its citizens. The Ghana Chapter would like to highlight the following critical consequences during an Internet Shutdown:

- **Economic Disruption:** Internet shutdowns may paralyse businesses that rely on online transactions, digital marketing, and communication. This disruption may lead to significant financial losses and hinder economic productivity.
- **Financial Services:** Ghana's burgeoning financial technology (fintech) sector may be severely affected. Mobile money services, online banking, and digital payment lifelines for millions of Ghanaians may come to a halt, disrupting commerce and personal finances.
- **Investor Confidence:** Ghana's digital economy depends on stability and trust in the Internet. Any shutdown may affect investor confidence, stalling innovation, and reversing progress in our digital transformation agenda.
- **Loss of Essential Information:** During a crisis, the Internet is a vital tool for disseminating accurate and timely information. A shutdown may cut off citizens from official news, emergency services, and communication with loved ones, potentially creating more panic and confusion.

The Internet Society Ghana Chapter applauds the government's approach of working with telecommunication companies and technology platforms to find a more effective solution, as a shutdown will not augur well for the country. The collaborative effort to send mass text messages urging people not to share sensitive videos demonstrated a commitment to preserving the country's digital economy.

This action sets a positive precedent, reinforcing the principle that a free and open Internet is essential for economic growth, public safety, and national development. We encourage the government to continue to engage with stakeholders in the digital community to develop robust and responsible policies that protect citizens without compromising Internet freedom.

About the Internet Society Ghana Chapter

The Internet Society Ghana Chapter is a non-profit organisation dedicated to ensuring the open development, evolution, and use of the Internet for the benefit of all people in Ghana. We work to promote policies, standards, and technologies that keep the internet open, accessible, and secure. We stand ready to support efforts that promote responsible internet use, digital literacy, and the protection of human rights online.

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