

**The News Editor**

Dear Sir/ Madam,

**PRESS RELEASE – PUFFER FISH**

The attention of the Food and Drugs Authority (FDA) has been drawn to the death of five (5) persons and several others who have been hospitalized after allegedly consuming a fish known as Puffer Fish in Alavanyo in the Volta Region.

The Puffer Fish also known as blowfish or the toadfish, '*gede*' or '*poponawoe*' in Ewe, are the second most poisonous creatures on the planet. There are about One Hundred and Twenty (120) known species of puffer fish and all of them contain tetrodotoxin, a substance that makes them foul tasting and poisonous. There is enough poison in one puffer fish to kill thirty (30) adult humans.

Despite the toxins in the puffer fish, its meat is considered a delicacy among some tribes and races such as Korea and Japan. In Japan, the meat of the puffer fish is a delicacy called "fugu" and can only be prepared by highly trained and licensed Chefs who know that one bad cut means almost certain death for a customer. In fact, many such deaths occur annually.

In Ghana, the Puffer Fish is known to fishermen and fishmongers as a highly poisonous fish which has the ability to kill if not prepared well.

**The FDA would like to state that, investigations are ongoing and the Kpando Municipal Assembly is collaborating with the Department of Fisheries under the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture, the Food and Drugs Authority, the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA), NADMO and the Municipal Health Directorate as well as the Chief Fisherman, the Kpando Market Queens and the Security Agencies to establish the facts of the matter and to ensure the protection of public health and safety.**

**Additionally, the Kpando Municipal Assembly together with its collaborators is organizing a two day sensitization programme for the people of the Kpando Municipality from the 18<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> August, 2017, to educate them on the nature and characteristics of the Puffer Fish.**

**Furthermore, the general public is advised to contact the Department of Fisheries under the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture for further information or clarification.**

The FDA appreciates the fact that increased consumer awareness of food safety issues has raised concerns regarding the authenticity of some foods on the Ghanaian market. We are committed to address your concerns regarding the safety, quality and efficacy of food, orthodox medicines, herbal medicines, cosmetics, household chemicals and medical devices on the Ghanaian market.

You can visit our office or contact us with your complaints on

- 0800151000 (Toll free on Vodafone and Airtel only)
- 0299802932 or 0299802933 (Hotline)
- 4015 (SMS short code)
- 0206973065 ( Call and WhatsApp)
- Facebook (Food and Drugs Authority-GH)
- Twitter (@ GH\_FDA)

Signed

Head of Communications and Public Education  
For: Chief Executive Officer

