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ZEBILLA CONSTITUENCY



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**Immediate Release**

**STATEMENT ON THE ILLEGAL ENSKINMENT OF 'A SUPPOSED BAWKU  
NABA' (ALHAJI SEIDU ABAGRE) BY NAYIRI, NAA BOHAGU MAHAMI  
ABDULAI SHERIGA, THE OVERLORD OF MAMPRUGU**

As a former Member of Parliament for the Zebilla Constituency in the Kusaug Kingdom and a son of Kusaug, I am deeply concerned about the recent illegal enskinment of a "**supposed Chief for Bawku**" (Alhaji Seidu Abagre) by Nayiri Naa Bohagu Mahami Abdulai Sheriga, the overlord of Mamprugu Traditional Area. This is a flagrant violation of the rule of law that jeopardizes the peace and security of the entire Northeast and Upper East Regions.

It is important to note that the conflict over the Bawku chieftaincy dates back to the 1950s. The colonial government's Commission of Inquiry determined that Bawku is a Kusaug territory, and the government of the day issued a whitepaper declaring the Kusasis as the rightful owners of Bawku. In 1957, the Appeals Court also ruled that Bawku belonged to the Kusasis. The elevation of the first Kusasi Bawku Naba, Abugrago Asigri Azoka I, to the position of paramountcy in 1958 cemented the Kusasi claim to Bawku as the Kusaug Traditional Capital.

Furthermore, the dispute over the Bawku skin is not limited to Bawku, the Kusaug Traditional Capital. Other administrative districts within the Kusaug Traditional Area include Pusiga, Zebilla, Garu, Tempene, and Binduri, all of which are administered by Bawku, the Kusaug's supreme seat. The Bawku Naba's twenty-five Divisional Chiefs owe allegiance to him and none is Mamprusi. The attempt to impose a Mamprusi as Bawku Naba over such a territory is purely colonial.

The Kusasi claim to the Bawku chieftaincy was reaffirmed by the Supreme Court in 2003, with **Naba Asigri Abugrago Azoka II** as the gazetted Bawku Naba. In spite of this ruling, a few Mamprusis in Bawku have refused to accept the status quo, and

Nayiri's recent action on February 15th 2023 to enskin a Mamprusi as Bawku Naba is a clear violation of the rule of law and Kusaug sovereign traditions. This act is provoking the Kusaug and will be met with stiff opposition from the Kusaug people.

The Kusaug have long been known for their reverence for traditions and the rule of law. Nayiri's illegal enskinment of a supposed Chief of Bawku goes against everything the Kusaug Kingdom stands for. This action not only offends the Kusaug Kingdom's traditions and customs, but also undermines the authority of the National House of Chiefs, which recognized the current **Bawku Naba, His Royal Majesty Zugraana Asigri Abugrago Azoka II**, as the legitimate traditional authority of Kusaug; I therefore strongly condemn the Nayiri's actions and call on all stakeholders, particularly the National House of Chiefs, to work together to find a peaceful and lasting solution.

I also commend the government of the day for always being on the side of the law in the case of Bawku Skin, as well as the swift statement issued on February 15, 2023, in response to Nayiri's actions, and thus the directive for the arrest of **Alhaji Seidu Abagre**, the Imposter Chief. Indeed, the government's position has aided in de-escalating the tensions that arose on that day, which could have resulted in serious bloodshed in the Kusaug.

I urge the good people of Kusaug, particularly the youth, to remain calm and peaceful while the government and other key stakeholders work together to find a long-term solution to the crisis in Bawku, our traditional capital, and throughout the Kusaug Kingdom

I implore all Kusaug citizens to remain vigilant against any attempt to sow seeds of discord and division among us.

Finally, I commend the Bawku Naba, **His Royal Majesty Zugraana Asigri Abugrago Azorka II**, and the Kusaug Traditional Council for their efforts toward peace and harmony, and I urge us to remain steadfast in our commitment to upholding the Kingdom's sovereign values, customs, and traditions.



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