

THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
FLAGSTAFF HOUSE
GHANA - ACCRA

Dear Mr President,

Received by:
Dorothy N. Sakye
Dorothy N. Sakye
16/07/25
Jubilee House
16/07/25

**PETITION TO REQUEST THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INDEPENDENT
COMMISSION OF INQUIRY TO INVESTIGATE ACTIVITIES OF
VIOLENCE AND BRUTALITIES DURING THE JULY 11 2025 ABLEKUMA
NORTH PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION RERUN IN THE INTEREST OF
THE PUBLIC PURSUANT TO CHAPTER TWENTY THREE,
SPECIFICALLY ARTICLE 278 (1)(A) OF CONSTITUTION, 1992.**

I. INTRODUCTION

A. INVOKING THE MANDATE OF THE PRESIDENT

1. Article 278 (1) of constitution, 1992 provides that, the constitutional mandate of the President under chapter twenty three to set up a commission of inquiry can be invoked at the pleasure of President or upon the advise of the council of state or at the request of Parliament to investigate certain matters of public interest.
2. In furtherance of the above, Justice Azu Crabbe in the case of Gbededemah V. Awoonor- Williams described a commission of Inquiry as an "agency of the President". He reiterated the position of Article 278(1) of the 1992 constitution and stated that, the President "by his own initiative when deemed necessary" can establish a commission of inquiry where a matter is in the interest of the public.

B. CAPACITY AND PETITIONER

1. Public interest has been defined by Article 295 of the 1992 constitution to include "any right or advantage which enures or is intended to enure to the benefit generally of the whole of the people of Ghana."
2. The Ghanaian courts have explained public interest in several cases to mean matters or issues that are of public concern.
3. This petition borders on the fundamental human rights of citizens, injustice, abuse of power and unfair treatment meted out to citizens of this Republic.
4. The President of the Republic is under a constitutional obligation by virtue of his oath of office and the constitution of the Republic, 1992 to preserve, protect and defend the constitution which condemns injustice, abuse of power, human rights abuses and unfair treatment.
5. The President is also under a legal obligation to do right to all manner of persons irrespective of political affiliation, race, gender, tribe or religion.
6. Therefore, so far as this petition borders on the fundamental human rights, injustice and unfair treatment meted out to citizens at a public election, it ought to be of interest to the President and must satisfy his pleasure to warrant the establishment of a commission of inquiry.
7. Commissions of Inquiry are temporary or interim bodies set up by the President of the Republic backed by a Constitutional Instrument (CI) in accordance with Article 278(1) of the 1992 Constitution, giving it the mandate to inquire into any matter of public interest.
8. The CI, inter alia, gives the Commission the legitimate powers, terms of reference and High Court status of its existence and findings - with all the incidents attached thereto such as enforcement, appeal and estoppels. A commission of inquiry remains one of the legally recognized institutions of

administrative justice directly placed under the Executive branch of Government.

9. In the case of *The Republic Vs Charles Wereko – Brobbey & Kwadwo Okyere Mpiani*, the court noted that, commissions of inquiry are set up where
 - a. where a matter threatens national security or stability or is likely to bring about tribal conflicts;
 - b. where serious allegation of corruption or misconduct are made against a public officer;
 - c. where a matter cannot be adequately dealt with before the court.
10. The last time a commission of inquiry was set up to investigate election related violence was on February 6, 2019 when the Vice President, Dr Mahamadu Bawumia (as he then was) with the consent of the President, Nana Akufo Addo, set up a commission of inquiry to investigate the violence which occurred during the by – election in the Ayawaso West Wuogon Constituency
11. The objective of the Commission of Inquiry set up in paragraph 10 was to make a full, faithful and impartial enquiry into the circumstances of, and establish the facts leading to, the events and associated violence during the Ayawaso West Wuogon by-election; to identify any person responsible for or who has been involved in the events, the associated violence and injuries; to enquire into any matter which it considers incidental or reasonably related to the causes of the events and the associated violence and injuries.
12. It is important to note that, following the submission of the Commission's report and the issuance of a Government White Paper, the Vigilantism and Related Offences Act, 2019 (Act 999) was passed.
13. However, six years after the Ayawaso West Wuogon Commission of Inquiry, electoral violence continues to be a scar on our democracy. It is unfortunate that, over three decades of practicing democracy Ghana cannot hold violence free elections therefore the petitioner deems it necessary to bring to the notice of the President activities of violence which in the opinion of the petitioner is of considerable significance and weight to satisfy the pleasure of the President

to warrant the establishment of a Commission of Inquiry under article 278(1)(a) of the 1992 constitution to enable the President understand the causes of electoral violence and solution to end same.

14. The petitioner is a citizen of this Republic who works and lives in the country.

C. PARTICULARS OF THE PETITION

1. During the general election held in the Republic of Ghana in or about December 7, 2024, the Ghana Police Service and the Armed Forces established a National Election Security Taskforce (NESTF) to support the effort to ensure smooth and transparent conduct of the said elections. This was extremely important and necessary for safeguarding the integrity of the elections as well as the democratic values of free, fair and transparent elections.
2. This effort was also necessary to provide citizens of the Republic of Ghana including voters with security during the conduct of the elections.
3. The Ablekuma North rerun was aimed at resolving a months-long electoral dispute and restoring representation to a constituency that remained without a Member of Parliament since December 2024.
4. The Electoral Commission proceeded to collate results from 59 of the 62 polling stations, leaving three unresolved. This prompted further legal battles.
5. In January 2025, the High Court in Accra issued a ruling directing the EC to complete the collation and declare results. However, citing missing endorsements and irregularities in 19 polling stations, the EC later announced plans for a rerun on those areas to ensure electoral integrity and transparency.
6. This suggests that, the Ablekuma North parliamentary rerun was not an entirely new election but to address the shortcomings of the December 7 2024 general elections after disagreement arose between the New Patriotic

Party and the National Democratic Congress over the authenticity of pink sheets and the collation process.

7. On the day of the rerun, the scenes at St Peter's Society Methodist Church Polling Station and other polling stations were deeply alarming. A coordinated attack by unidentified "Macho men" disrupted the rerun, forcing panic among voters and electoral personnel. Interestingly, the police watched on helplessly.

ASSAULT ON HON HAWA KOOMSON [VIDEO ATTACHED AND MARKED HAWA KOOMSON]

8. The assault on former Member of Parliament and Minister of State Hon Mavis Hawa Koomson, captured in disturbing video footage, where she was stomped was egregious.
9. Madam Hawa Koomson despite having accreditation to monitor the elections on behalf of the NPP candidate was attacked and assaulted by over 20 unidentified macho men at the St Peter's Society Odorkor Methodist Church polling station.

ASSAULT ON JOY NEWS JOURNALIST SALLY MARTEY [VIDEO ATTACHED AND MARKED SALLY MARTEY]

10. JoyNews Digital Journalist Sally Martey was assaulted by an attacker believed to be part of a group of well - coordinated thugs who stormed the polling station, disrupting the voting process.
11. The man, wearing a cloth that partially concealed his face, turned deliberately toward Sally as she walked near the St Peter's Society Methodist Church Polling Station, approached her from behind and launched a vicious and unprovoked attack, slapping her and shoving her forcefully.

ASSAULT ON AMANSAN TV (ATV) JOURNALIST VIDA WIAFE [VIDEO ATTACHED AND MARKED VIDA WIAFE]

12. A reporter at Accra based television station, Amansan TV (ATV), Vida Wiafe was also assaulted while covering the parliamentary rerun.

13. In a statement issued on July 11, 2025 by Amansan TV [marked exhibit A] the station said "We have learned with deep concern the during the course of her assignment, Vida was physically assaulted with Pepper Spray by security personnel, leading to her collapse at the scene"

ASSAULT ON KWABENA AGYEKUM BANAHE NE [VIDEO ATTACHED AND MARKED KWABENA AGYEKUM BANAHE NE]

14. Agyekum Banahene was slapped by a police officer as he attempted to access the inner perimeter of the voting Centre for election coverage.
15. The incident occurred at the Church of Pentecost, North Odorkor Polling Station 2.
16. According to the GHONE Journalist, the police officer singled him out without any provocation.

ASSAULT OF CHRIS LLOYD NII KWEI ASAMOAH [VIDEO ATTACHED AND MARKED CHRIS LLYOD]

17. Chris Lloyd, Deputy National organizer of the NPP was attacked at the same polling station where Hon Hawa Koomson was attacked.
18. A video from the ground captured the attack and brutal assault on Chris Lloyd by some men perceived to be sympathizers of the ruling National Democratic Congress.
19. Chris Lloyd could be seen trying to escape as the men were hitting him. He was floored by a heavy blow he did not see coming.
20. While on the ground, the men could be seen kicking and punching him and when he managed to get up on his feet, there was still no escape for him.

21. Attached to this petition is a pen drive containing the relevant evidence in support of my request for an investigation into the incidents of violence at Ablekuma North.

D. RELIEFS SOUGHT

1. Establishment of a commission of inquiry to investigate;
 - i. Violations of fundamental rights and freedoms of the persons mentioned in this petition
 - ii. The unfair treatment meted out to the said persons
 - iii. The injustice caused to them
 - iv. The abuse of power clearly exhibited by the Ghana Police Service in the incident involving the GHONE Journalist and Amansan TV journalist
 - v. Investigate why the National election task force established in 2024 did not deploy officers to ensure law and order on the day of the rerun since the rerun was part of election 2024.
2. The petitioner demands that the investigation identify the role played by the Minister for the interior in terms of instructions and orders in relation to the conduct resulting in this petition, and the lack of leadership or proper oversight to prevent, stop or respond in a manner to curb the violations that have occurred.
3. The petitioner also demands compensation for the victims that the President or commission of inquiry may deem appropriate

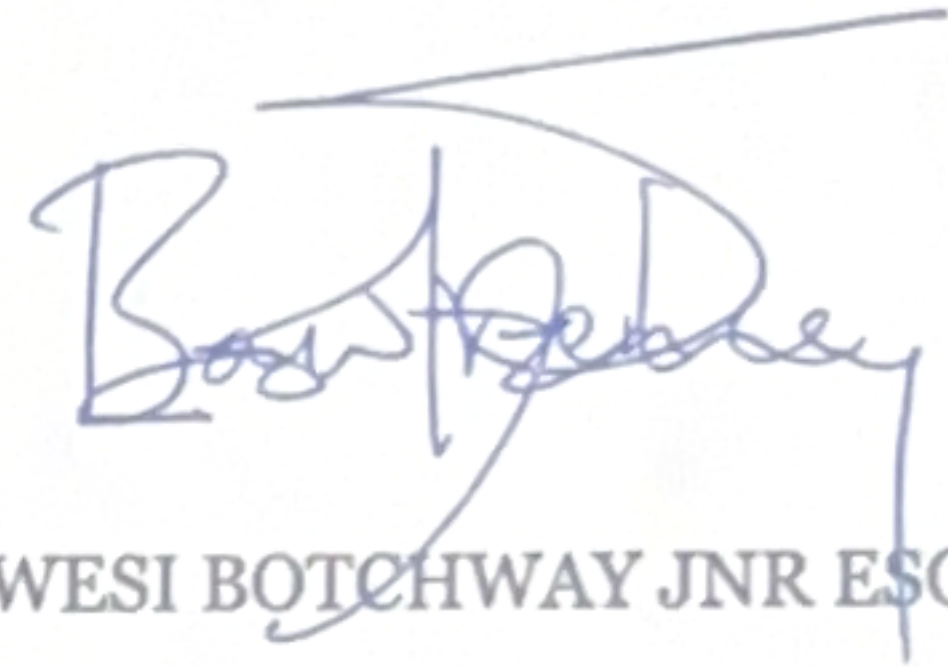
E. CONCLUSION

The petitioner herein brings this matter before the President for his consideration based on President's legal mandate to establish a commission of inquiry to enquire into the matters espoused.

It is the belief of the petitioner that, these matters are of significant national interest and therefore ought to satisfy the pleasure of the President to warrant the

establishment of a commission of inquiry in accordance with chapter twenty three of the 1992 constitution.

DATED AT ACCRA THIS 15th DAY OF JULY, 2025



LAWRENCE KWESI BOTCHWAY JNR ESQ

PETITIONER

AND FOR SERVICE ON THE

1. COUNCIL OF STATE

GHANA – ACCRA

2. THE SPEAKER OF PARLIAMENT

PARLIAMENT HOUSE

GHANA - ACCRA