

September 13, 2021

THE DIRECTOR GENERAL,
CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS DEPARTMENT,
GHANA POLICE SERVICE,
HEADQUARTERS, ACCRA.

Dear sir,

**PETITION TO ARREST AND PROSECUTE RICHARD TAKYI-MENSAH AND TWO HEADTEACHERS
OVER SCHOOL FEEDING FRAUD**

I, David Forthgill Bentil, a native of Egyaa in the Central Region and a teacher at Anomabo Anglican Basic School in the Mfantseman Municipal of the Central Region, write in my capacity as a citizen of the Republic of Ghana, to petition your office to arrest and prosecute **Mr. Richard Takyi-Mensah**, Central Regional Secretary of the New Patriotic Party (NPP), **Mr. Ebo Afful**, Headteacher of Ekurabadze M/A Basic School and **Mr. Kofi Acquah**, the Headteacher of Tayido M/A Basic School. Both schools are located in the Mfantseman Municipal of the Central Region.

My petition is grounded on a news item published by **The Hawk** newspaper on Tuesday, May 4, 2021 with a caption **“Uncovering Sch. Feeding Contract Fraud Schemes (pt1) • 22 ghost- schools receiving pay without cooking • Differences between Caterer’s name and E-zwich account • GHS964,530 wrongly paid to Caterers.”** The same story was also published on the website of the same newspaper (www.thehawknewspaper.com). Subsequently, Mr. Charles McCarthy, the Editor of the newspaper granted an interview to Cape Coast based **Kastle 90.3 Fm** during their flagship afternoon political talk show known as **“Me Man Ho Dɔ”** on Wednesday, May 5, 2021 to confirm the said publication and told listeners about the detailed work his investigative team had done to uncover the fraud at Ghana School Feeding Programme (GSFP) as was reported by the newspaper. The newspaper alleged that the Central Regional Secretary of the governing New Patriotic Party, Richard Takyi-Mensah had received an amount of **Ninety-Nine Thousand, One Hundred and Twenty Ghana Cedis (Gh¢99,120.00)** as payment for allegedly cooking for **472 pupils of Ekurabadze M/A Basic School and Tayido M/A Basic School**. The said amount, according to the newspaper, was paid to Mr. Takyi-Mensah through **E-zwich** account number **1677900-4**.

As a good citizen of the Republic of Ghana who believes in the solemn call made by H. E. Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo on January 7, 2017 for us to be **“citizens, not spectators”** and being an indigene and a teacher in the area in question (Anomabo Circuit), I took interest in the publication and commenced my own investigations into the story at Ekurabadze and Tayido M/A

Basic Schools. Upon my painstaking investigations, it is proven that both schools have never been on the Ghana School Feeding Programme (GSFP) since its inception. I spoke to some teachers and pupils of both schools. I also spoke to some residents of Ekurabadze and Tayido who confirmed that, their wards have never enjoyed any kind of feeding programme since the School Feeding Programme was introduced. Several attempts made at getting the Headteachers of both schools to comment on the matter proved futile as each of them rather in a strange manner, met me with aggression each time I tried to engage them on the matter. The conduct of the two Headteachers came to me as an indication of their likely complicity in the alleged fraud.

It is important to state that the newspaper report indicted other persons who are involved in the alleged massive fraud at the GSFP. However, I have elected to focus on schools within the Anomabo Circuit due to my proximity to the two schools in the Mfantseman Municipal of the Central Region.

From the foregoing, it is clear to me that there is a sound basis for full scale investigations into the said publication of **The Hawk** newspaper. **I am consequently, by this petition, calling on your office to arrest, institute full scale investigations and prosecute where necessary, Mr. Richard Takyi-Mensah (NPP Central Regional Secretary), Mr. Ebo Afful (Headteacher of Ekurabadze M/A Basic School) and Mr. Kofi Acquah (Headteacher of Tayido M/A Basic School) for their roles in the alleged fraud which has cost the Nation and her poor taxpayers, a whopping Ninety-Nine Thousand, One Hundred and Twenty Ghana Cedis (Gh¢99,120.00).** I am also calling for full scale investigations into the activities of all government officials and other persons mentioned in the newspaper report in a bid to help rid the system of avoidable corruption and the looting of the public purse.

Please find enclosed document: a copy of the newspaper publication for your information and swift action.

Petition humbly submitted.

Yours faithfully,



DAVID FORTHGILL BENTIL

0241618306

**Cc: The Inspector General of Police (I.G.P),
Accra, Ghana**