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Tel. No. 665077 , 663951 Ext. 267



REPUBLIC OF GHANA

OFFICE OF THE JUDICIAL SECRETARY

P. O. Box 119

Accra, Ghana



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PRESS RELEASE

Following the investigative work done by “tigereyepi”, certain disconcerting acts of corruption and graft have been captured as having occurred within the Judiciary of Ghana. While the prevalence of corruption has always been brought to the attention of the Judicial Council in the past, these revelations have deepened the fears and concerns of the Council and emboldened its resolve and determination to fight and uproot the canker.

Past efforts and collaborative initiatives have led to the institution of anti-corruption policies including publications and sensitization of lawyers, Judges and litigants on the dangers of bribery and corruption to the administration of justice. These past efforts have resulted in the dismissal of some Judges and Magistrates in recent years.

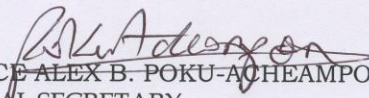
CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS

- The Hon. Lady Chief Justice on August 31st received two petitions from “tigereyepi” dated same. One was in respect of 12 High Court Judges and the other was in respect of 22 Circuit Court Judges and Magistrates.
- The petition on the Superior Court Judges was addressed to the President of the Republic of Ghana, His Excellency President John Dramani Mahama through the Chief Justice in accordance with Article 146 of the Constitution requesting him to initiate impeachment proceedings against the named Judges.
- The Chief Justice on 1st September forwarded same to the President who has since replied directing her to follow due process and bring the matter to its logical conclusion.

- Her Ladyship the Chief Justice has started the process of determining whether there is a prima facie case against each of the 12 High Court Judges.
- The petition for the removal from office of the 22 Circuit Court Judges and Magistrates was directed to the Chief Justice to deal with, under Article 151 of the Constitution.
- An Emergency Judicial Council meeting was held on 2nd September, 2015 to discuss the matter and the following decisions and measures were taken.
 1. A Disciplinary Committee of the Judicial Council was constituted to investigate the petition against the 22 Judges and Magistrates. It is a five-member Committee chaired by a Justice of the Supreme Court.
 2. On September 7, 2015, the 22 Circuit Judges and Magistrates were served with letters stating the allegations against them and were asked to submit their responses by September 9, 2015.
 3. The Judicial Council further decided that upon receipt of their responses the 22 individuals should be suspended until the final determination of the matter.
 4. On receipt of their responses, the 22 Judges and Magistrates have accordingly been suspended with effect from Thursday, September 10, 2015.
 5. The Committee commences hearing of the petition in respect of the 22 Judges and Magistrates from Thursday, 10th September, 2015.
 6. The Judicial Council has also instituted the necessary investigative processes to identify, for further disciplinary actions, other court officials who may have collaborated in these alleged acts of grave misconduct.

The Judicial Council would like to assure the general public that the outcome of these processes would be made fully public and no one will be spared appropriate sanctions where culpability is established.

The Council fully reckons that the perception or actuality of corruption in the Judiciary undermines confidence in the institution and cannot be tolerated to continue in any shape or form, hence the need to act with utmost dispatch.


JUSTICE ALEX B. POKU-ACHEAMPONG
JUDICIAL SECRETARY