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15 October 2026.

The Special Prosecutor

Office of the Special Prosecutor

Accra, Ghana.

Dear Special Prosecutor,

FORMAL PETITION FOR AN INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATION INTO SUSPECTED CORRUPTION, POSSIBLE ABUSE OF PUBLIC OFFICE, FINANCIAL IRREGULARITIES AND THE ALLEGED MISUSE OF INSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY IN THE 2026 FIFA WORLD CUP VISA FACILITATION ARRANGEMENTS INVOLVING THE NATIONAL SPORTS AUTHORITY, GHANA TOURISM AUTHORITY, MINISTRY OF SPORTS AND RECREATION, AND ASSOCIATED PRIVATE ENTITIES.

I submit this petition pursuant to sections 2(a), 2(b), 3(1)(b), 3(1)(c) and 3(1)(g) of the Office of the Special Prosecutor Act, 2017 (Act 959), which establish the mandate of the Office to investigate and prosecute alleged or suspected corruption and corruption-related offences, recover the proceeds of corruption and receive and investigate complaints concerning matters that involve or may involve corruption and corruption-related offences.

In invoking these statutory provisions, I respectfully request the Office to exercise its investigative mandate to examine the circumstances surrounding the 2026 FIFA World Cup visa facilitation arrangements involving the National Sports Authority, the Ghana Tourism Authority, the Ministry of Sports and Recreation, TRIBE Culture Fest, the Ghana Tourism Federation and any other persons or entities whose involvement may be established.

I seek an independent determination of whether the conduct disclosed by the relevant documents and financial records gives rise to reasonable grounds for investigating any suspected corruption, possible corruption-related offences, financial irregularities and the potential misuse of public office arising from visa facilitation arrangements associated with the 2026 FIFA World Cup within the jurisdiction of the Office, and for taking such further action as may be warranted by the evidence and applicable law.

I consider the circumstances surrounding these arrangements sufficiently serious to warrant the attention of your Office.

The documentary records available to me, together with the questions arising from the reported allocation of visa opportunities, the identification and certification of beneficiaries, the collection and handling of payments, and the apparent discrepancies in the verification of persons presented as institutional personnel, raise legitimate concerns about the exercise of public authority and the management of financial transactions connected with this undertaking.

My concern is not merely that questions have been raised about the administrative processes adopted by the institutions involved. It is that the available information presents issues requiring independent verification to determine whether public officers discharged their responsibilities lawfully, whether the relevant representations to foreign diplomatic missions were accurate, whether money collected in connection with the arrangements was properly accounted for, and whether any person exploited a public position or institutional relationship for an improper benefit.

I recognise the distinction between an administrative irregularity, a failure of internal controls and a criminal offence. I do not ask your Office to presume criminal liability on the basis of allegations alone. Rather, I request a thorough, impartial and evidence-based investigation to establish the facts, trace the relevant financial transactions, identify the persons responsible for the decisions taken and determine whether any conduct falls within the criminal jurisdiction of your Office.

The circumstances outlined below provide the basis for my petition.

1. THE PUBLIC INTEREST AND THE NEED FOR AN INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATION

The 2026 FIFA World Cup presented Ghana with an important opportunity to promote tourism, strengthen international engagement, support sporting development and showcase the country to the international community.

Arrangements undertaken in connection with such an event, particularly those involving public institutions and international visa facilitation, should be governed by transparency, accountability, accurate representations, proper financial controls and clearly defined institutional responsibilities.

Where substantial numbers of individuals are presented for visa consideration through public institutions, questions concerning their eligibility, institutional affiliation, selection and financial obligations cannot be treated as inconsequential administrative matters.

The same applies where applicants are reportedly charged substantial sums, where the status of individuals presented as institutional personnel becomes a matter of dispute, or where senior officers within an institution seek formal explanations concerning the allocation of opportunities and the utilisation of sponsorship proceeds.

I am concerned that, unless these matters are independently investigated, important questions about the exercise of public authority, the management of money and the possible involvement of private interests may remain unresolved.

The public interest requires more than general assurances. It requires an examination of the original documents, the underlying financial records, the decisions made by responsible officers and the explanations offered by the persons involved.

2. THE NSA–TRIBE ARRANGEMENT AND THE FINANCIAL FRAMEWORK

Documents available to me indicate that the National Sports Authority and TRIBE Culture Fest entered into a Memorandum of Understanding dated 2 June 2025. The arrangement reportedly provided for TRIBE to have exclusive access to specified NSA facilities in connection with the relevant event.

I have also examined information concerning supplementary arrangements dated 19 January 2026, which reportedly provided for charges of US$3,000 per person for United States visa facilitation and US$2,000 per person for Canadian visa facilitation.

These arrangements raise important questions concerning the scope of the services contemplated, the authority under which the financial terms were approved, the categories of persons intended to benefit, the parties responsible for supplying applicant information, and the manner in which payments were to be collected and accounted for.

I consider it necessary to establish whether the amounts specified in the relevant documents correspond with the amounts actually demanded from applicants, the amounts received by the respective parties, the fees paid to the relevant diplomatic missions and any sums retained by intermediaries.

I further request that your Office establish whether the arrangements were implemented in accordance with their stated terms and whether any person obtained an improper financial or other benefit through the use of the institutional relationships created by them.

The existence of a contract or memorandum of understanding does not, by itself, establish wrongdoing. However, neither does the existence of a contractual arrangement remove the need to investigate credible indications of possible corruption, financial impropriety or the misuse of public office.

The relevant agreements, invoices, payment records, correspondence and supporting documents should therefore be examined together to establish the actual nature and operation of the arrangement.

3. THE NSA'S REPRESENTATIONS CONCERNING PERSONNEL AND BENEFICIARIES

The documentary trail raises further concerns about the identification, verification and certification of persons presented as NSA personnel or persons associated with the relevant event.

On 28 January 2026, correspondence from the NSA's Chief Operating Officer, Yaw Gyamfi Kusi Awere, reportedly transmitted a list containing 22 proposed personnel.

On 18 March 2026, the NSA reportedly wrote to the United States Embassy certifying Ralph Egyir Quainoo, Belinda Tsey, Francis Frimpong Agyemang and Beryl Joycelyn Baabe Duut as bona fide NSA World Cup Fun Fest/TRIBE staff.

I understand that the Embassy's Fraud Prevention Unit subsequently requested employment letters in connection with its verification process.

I consider it important to establish the precise basis upon which these individuals were certified, the records relied upon by the NSA, the respective roles attributed to them and whether the representations made to the Embassy accurately reflected their employment or institutional status.

The investigation should also establish who prepared the relevant correspondence, who authorised its transmission, who supplied the underlying information and whether the officers responsible undertook the necessary verification before making official representations.

My concern extends beyond the four individuals named above. The relevant records should be examined to establish whether similar representations were made concerning other applicants and whether the information supplied in each case was accurate.

Where a public institution certifies an individual as its employee, volunteer, official or authorised event personnel, such certification carries institutional significance. It is therefore essential to establish that the representation was supported by appropriate records and made by an officer acting within the scope of their authority.

I respectfully request that your Office determine whether any information supplied to the Embassy was knowingly false, materially misleading or otherwise connected with conduct that may constitute an offence under applicable law.

I emphasise that the request for investigation does not amount to a finding that any named individual has committed an offence. The issue is whether the relevant representations were accurate and whether any person knowingly participated in improper conduct.

4. THE SUBSEQUENT SUBMISSION OF LISTS AND THE VERIFICATION OF 102 NAMES.

Further correspondence reportedly shows that the process continued through subsequent submissions and institutional communications.

On 28 May 2026, the Ministry of Sports and Recreation reportedly issued a correspondence to the United States Embassy referring to 90 persons described as NSA volunteers or event coordinators.

A subsequent list dated 8 June 2026 reportedly contained 102 names was resubmitted to the Canadian Embassy with roles created for them.

According to the information available to me, only 15 of those individuals could be verified as NSA personnel through the records examined, while the remaining 87 could not be verified through those records.

I consider this discrepancy sufficiently significant to warrant independent examination.

I acknowledge that the inability to verify an individual through a particular set of records does not automatically establish that the individual was fictitious, ineligible or improperly included. Nevertheless, where a list of 102 individuals is submitted in connection with a process

involving public institutions and foreign diplomatic missions, it is reasonable to require a clear explanation of the status, eligibility and institutional affiliation of every person included.

I therefore request that your Office obtain the original list, the records used to compile it, the employment and engagement records of the individuals concerned, and all correspondence explaining their inclusion.

The investigation should establish whether the persons were NSA employees, volunteers, event coordinators, private-sector personnel or individuals falling into another category; who made those classifications; and whether the information communicated to the Embassy accurately described their circumstances.

It should further establish whether any officer knowingly authorised the inclusion of individuals whose status had not been verified, whether any financial benefit was associated with their inclusion, and whether any person used the institutional process to secure visa consideration for individuals who did not meet the stated eligibility criteria.

These are matters that should be resolved through records, testimony and independent verification rather than speculation.

5. THE ROLE OF THE MINISTRY OF SPORTS AND RECREATION

The Ministry of Sports and Recreation's involvement also requires examination, particularly in relation to the correspondence issued on 28 May 2026 and the subsequent processing of the beneficiary lists.

I request that your Office establish the precise role played by the Ministry, the information available to the responsible officers at each stage, the extent of the Ministry's verification of the persons concerned, and the basis upon which the relevant correspondence was issued.

It is important to distinguish between the actions of the NSA, the Ministry and any private facilitator. Each institution should be required to account for its own decisions, representations and responsibilities.

The investigation should establish whether the Ministry relied upon information supplied by the NSA, whether it independently verified that information, and whether any warning signs or discrepancies were brought to the attention of the responsible officers.

I also request an examination of whether the Ministry maintained appropriate oversight of the arrangements and whether any officer knowingly facilitated, approved or transmitted inaccurate information.

If the evidence establishes that a public officer acted dishonestly, abused a position of authority or participated in conduct connected with a corruption-related offence, the appropriate legal consequences should follow.

6. THE GHANA TOURISM AUTHORITY: ALLOCATION OF VISA OPPORTUNITIES AND SPONSORSHIP PROCEEDS

I am equally concerned about the reported arrangements involving the Ghana Tourism Authority and the allocation of World Cup-related visa opportunities.

Information available to me indicates that the GTA's Chief Executive Officer, Maame Efua Houadjeto, was associated with an allocation of 400 United States slots and 800 Canadian slots.

Given the scale of these reported allocations, I consider it necessary to establish the origin and purpose of the allocations, the criteria used to select beneficiaries, the officials responsible for approving the lists and the financial arrangements connected with the initiative.

I request that your Office investigate the following matters:

1. The documentary basis for the allocation of the 400 United States and 800 Canadian slots.

2. The criteria used to determine eligibility and the persons or committees responsible for the selection of beneficiaries.

3. The number of individuals selected, the applications actually submitted, the outcomes of those applications and the records supporting the reported allocations.

4. The categories of beneficiaries, including genuine GTA personnel, tourism-sector professionals, industry participants and individuals selected under other arrangements.

5. The contracts, invoices, payments, sponsorship proceeds and expenditure associated with the initiative.

6. The identity of all persons and entities that collected, received, transferred or retained money in connection with the arrangements.

7. Whether any public officer, intermediary or associated private individual obtained an improper financial or other benefit.

My concern is reinforced by information that, in July 2026, 14 regional directors of the GTA petitioned the Chief Executive Officer seeking information about the allocation of the 400 World Cup slots and the utilisation of sponsorship proceeds.

The significance of this development is that questions about the allocation of opportunities and the use of associated funds were reportedly raised by senior officers within the institution itself.

I do not suggest that the regional directors' petition establishes criminal wrongdoing. However, it raises questions about the adequacy of internal accountability mechanisms, the availability of relevant financial information and the explanations provided by management.

I request that your Office obtain the original petition, any response issued by management, the allocation records, the relevant financial statements and supporting vouchers, and any internal audit or management reports addressing the matter.

The investigation should determine whether the allocation and financial arrangements were properly authorised, whether the relevant records provide a complete account of the money involved, and whether any transactions warrant further criminal investigation.

7. GHATOF: REPORTED COLLECTION OF PAYMENTS AND THE SELECTION OF BENEFICIARIES

I further request an investigation into the reported arrangements involving the Ghana Tourism Federation.

Information available to me indicates that an allocation initially described as four slots was subsequently expanded to 20. I have also received information that individuals were charged approximately GH₵2,250 each in connection with the expanded allocation.

I understand that allegations have been made that the relevant visa fees were not paid to the Embassy and that the amounts collected were not refunded.

These allegations require independent verification. I request that your Office obtain the relevant receipts, bank records, payment instructions, correspondence, applicant statements and any records showing whether visa fees were paid, whether refunds were made and how the money was ultimately applied.

I have also received information that the president of GHATOF raised concerns about the inclusion of persons alleged not to be genuine affiliates or staff of the GTA.

Further information concerns a list of 50 individuals associated with the process, including approximately 30 persons described as members of an Ahwele or Ashawele dancing group. Their identities, institutional affiliations, eligibility and basis for inclusion require verification.

I request that your Office establish who selected the beneficiaries, who approved the relevant lists, what criteria were applied, who collected the associated payments and whether any person knowingly misrepresented the status or affiliation of any beneficiary.

I also request that the investigation establish whether the reported charges were properly disclosed to applicants, whether the services for which money was collected were provided, and whether any funds remain unaccounted for.

If the evidence establishes that any person collected money under false pretences, dishonestly retained funds, misused public office or participated in another offence within your jurisdiction, I respectfully request that the appropriate action be taken in accordance with the law.

8. THE FINANCIAL TRAIL AND THE POSSIBILITY OF IMPROPER BENEFITS

A central concern running through these matters is the need to establish the complete financial trail.

The reported visa facilitation charges, payments allegedly collected from applicants, GTA sponsorship proceeds and other expenditure associated with the arrangements should not be examined in isolation.

I request that your Office reconstruct the financial transactions from their point of origin to their final destination.

This should include identifying the persons who initiated the transactions, the accounts through which funds passed, the stated purposes of the payments, the services actually provided, the amounts paid to diplomatic missions and any sums retained by the institutions or intermediaries involved.

Where payments were made to private entities, the investigation should establish the contractual basis for those payments and whether the amounts were properly authorised.

Where money was collected from applicants but the corresponding services were allegedly not provided, the investigation should establish what happened to the funds and whether any person incurred a legal obligation to refund them.

I further request that your Office examine whether any public officer or associated individual received a commission, fee, gift, payment or other benefit connected with the allocation of opportunities, the certification of personnel or the facilitation of visa applications.

I recognise that a payment made under a contract is not inherently improper. The relevant question is whether the payment was lawful, properly authorised and genuinely connected with the services for which it was made, or whether it formed part of a dishonest or corrupt arrangement.

9. POTENTIAL OFFENCES AND THE NEED FOR LEGAL DETERMINATION

The circumstances outlined above raise questions that may warrant examination under the applicable criminal and anti-corruption laws.

I respectfully request that your Office consider whether the evidence discloses any offence involving the corrupt use of public office for private profit, dishonest handling of money, false representations, the diversion or misapplication of public resources, or other conduct falling within its statutory mandate.

Section 179C of the Criminal Offences Act, 1960 (Act 29), concerning the use of public office for profit, is among the provisions that may merit examination where the evidence supports the necessary legal elements.

I do not suggest that the mere existence of an administrative irregularity establishes a criminal offence. The applicable statutory elements, the conduct of each individual, the relevant knowledge and intention, and the admissible evidence must be independently assessed.

My request is that the Office apply the appropriate legal tests to the evidence and determine whether any individual or entity should be investigated or prosecuted.

Where a matter falls outside the Office's jurisdiction, I respectfully request that it be referred to the appropriate institution in accordance with applicable law.

10. SPECIFIC RELIEFS SOUGHT

In view of the foregoing, I respectfully request that the Office of the Special Prosecutor:

a. Register this petition as a formal complaint and assess the allegations and supporting documents to determine the appropriate investigative steps.

b. Initiate an independent investigation into the visa facilitation arrangements involving the NSA, GTA, Ministry of Sports and Recreation, TRIBE Culture Fest, GHATOF and any other persons or entities whose involvement may be established.

c. Obtain and preserve the relevant documentary evidence, including memoranda of understanding, supplementary agreements, invoices, correspondence, beneficiary lists, employment records, financial statements, receipts and internal approvals.

d. Trace the relevant financial transactions by examining available accounting records, payment instructions, bank records and other financial documents in accordance with the law.

e. Verify the identity, institutional status and eligibility of the persons presented as public-sector personnel, volunteers, event coordinators or other beneficiaries.

f. Investigate the circumstances in which the beneficiary lists were prepared, approved and transmitted, including the basis for the certifications issued to foreign diplomatic missions.

g. Examine the allocation of the GTA's reported 400 United States and 800 Canadian slots, together with the related expenditure, sponsorship proceeds and internal accountability records.

h. Investigate the reported payments associated with the GHATOF allocation, including the allegations concerning unpaid visa fees, unrefunded amounts and the selection of beneficiaries.

i. Interview the relevant public officers, institutional heads, private intermediaries and affected applicants to establish the facts and identify individual responsibility.

j. Examine whether any public officer or associated individual obtained an improper benefit through the exercise of public authority or participation in the arrangements.

k. Take appropriate lawful steps to preserve suspected proceeds of crime or facilitate their recovery, where the relevant statutory requirements are satisfied.

l. Initiate prosecution or take other appropriate legal action where the evidence establishes sufficient grounds within the Office's mandate.

m. Inform me of the registration and progress of this petition, subject to applicable confidentiality and investigative restrictions.

11. CONCLUSION

I submit this petition because I consider the issues raised to be matters of significant public interest requiring independent investigation.

The questions concern the exercise of public authority, the allocation of opportunities, the accuracy of official representations, the verification of beneficiaries and the handling of money in connection with a major international sporting event.

If the arrangements were properly authorised and implemented, an independent investigation should help establish that fact. If the evidence instead reveals corruption, dishonesty, abuse of office or other unlawful conduct, the responsible persons should be held accountable in accordance with the law.

I am prepared to provide the documentary records and additional information in my possession to assist your Office in establishing the facts.

I respectfully urge the Office to treat this petition with the seriousness it deserves and to take the appropriate steps to establish the financial trail, identify the persons responsible for the relevant decisions and determine whether any criminal offences have been committed.

The integrity of public institutions depends upon the willingness to subject the exercise of public authority to independent scrutiny. No public officer or private intermediary should be presumed guilty without evidence; equally, no credible allegation of corruption should be dismissed without proper examination.

I trust that your Office will give this petition the necessary consideration.

Yours Sincerely,

Hon. Vincent Ekow Assafuah Esq

MP, Old Tafo Constituency.