



# MINORITY CAUCUS

## PARLIAMENT OF GHANA

Parliament House – Accra (Ghana)

11<sup>th</sup> July, 2025

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**RE: STATEMENT ON INCIDENTS OF LAWLESSNESS AT ABLEKUMA NORTH**

Further to our earlier statement issued a while ago, we reiterate that the violent disruption of today's parliamentary rerun election in Ablekuma North represents the most serious assault on Ghana's democracy since the return to constitutional rule. The coordinated attacks on political figures, party agents, and journalists, followed by the shameful celebration of this violence by senior government officials, marks a dangerous turning point that demands immediate and decisive action.

This is not merely about electoral misconduct—this is about whether Ghana will tolerate the systematic destruction of democratic norms by those entrusted with protecting them. The events of today, and the government's response to them, will determine whether we continue as a democratic nation or descend into the chaos of state-sanctioned political violence.

**The Violence That Shook Our Democracy**

At St. Peter's Society Methodist Church polling station in Odorkor this morning, a coordinated group of individuals arrived with vehicles and motorbikes to unleash brutal attacks on participants in the democratic process. Hon Mavis Hawa Koomson, former Member of Parliament, was subjected to physical assault and degrading treatment that no Ghanaian should ever endure. Our NPP parliamentary candidate, Nana Akua Owusu Afriyie, sustained facial injuries requiring medical attention. Also attacked were Darkoa Newman, former MP for Okaikwei South, and a female party agent, while voters and electoral officials fled in terror.

The violence was not confined to one location. At the Awoshie DVLA polling station, NDC thugs dressed in brown uniforms deliberately posed as security personnel in a calculated attempt to deceive voters and officials. When apprehended by police and asked for identification, they could provide none—exposing their fraudulent impersonation of state security forces.

At Asiedu Gyedu Memorial School 1 polling station, NDC thugs engaged in direct confrontations with police officers, creating a tense and chaotic environment that endangered voters and electoral officials. The brazenness of these attacks on law enforcement demonstrates a complete breakdown of respect for state authority.

Another shocking incident was the targeted assault on Chris Lloyd Nii Kwei Asamoah, Deputy National Organiser of the New Patriotic Party, by NDC thugs. This attack on a senior party official reveals the systematic nature of today's violence—these were not random acts but coordinated attacks on NPP leadership and democratic institutions.

These were not spontaneous outbursts—they were calculated acts of electoral terrorism carried out with military-like precision across multiple polling stations. The coordination, timing, and systematic targeting of NPP officials reveal a disturbing pattern of organized violence that threatens the very foundation of Ghana's democracy.

### **Shameful Justification of Violence by Senior Government Officials**

The most disturbing aspect of today's violence is not just the brutality itself, but the deliberate endorsement and celebration of these attacks by senior government officials. For example, Dr. Hanna Louisa Bissiw, National Women's Organiser of the NDC and CEO of the Minerals Development Fund, provided perhaps the most damaging response with her statement that "violence begets violence" and her suggestion that the brutal attacks were somehow justified.

Even more shocking is the Facebook post by Malik Basintale, Acting Chief Executive Officer of the Youth Employment Agency (YEA) and Deputy National Communications Officer of the NDC, who apparently celebrated the man who attacked Hon Mavis Hawa Koomson with the disturbing declaration: "From today, I name him the Flying python. He shall be incharge of the 5k Airforce!" This grotesque celebration of violence against a former Member of Parliament represents a new low in Ghana's political discourse.

Both officials hold senior positions in President Mahama's government, and their inflammatory rhetoric actively undermines Ghana's democratic institutions. Their words embolden further lawlessness and signal to potential perpetrators that violence will be excused, justified, and even celebrated by the governing party. Such statements from public officials charged with upholding the rule of law are fundamentally incompatible with democratic governance and constitute a direct threat to Ghana's constitutional order.

### **Police Service Failure and Allegations of Complicity**

The Ghana Police Service's response raises serious questions about their preparedness and commitment to protecting our electoral process. Security personnel were overwhelmed by the perpetrators, failing to prevent these attacks on political figures, party agents, and journalists. More concerning are allegations surrounding Chief Superintendent Lumor Frederick Senanu and his potential role in facilitating these disruptions.

These allegations, if substantiated, would represent a grave breach of public trust and professional duty. The Police Service must demonstrate that they are capable of maintaining law and order during electoral processes, or their failure will continue to undermine public confidence in Ghana's security institutions.

## **Assault on Press Freedom**

The targeting of journalists during today's events represents a particularly grave assault on press freedom. A JoyNews reporter was physically assaulted, while GHOne TV journalist Agyekum Banahene was attacked by a police officer at the Church of Pentecost, North Odorkor Polling Station 2. These attacks on media practitioners are fundamentally incompatible with democratic governance.

Press freedom is a cornerstone of Ghana's democracy, and journalists must be allowed to perform their constitutional duties without fear of intimidation or violence. The systematic targeting of journalists alongside political figures suggests a coordinated effort to silence those who would document and report on electoral irregularities.

## **A Pattern of Electoral Violence**

Today's violence is part of a disturbing pattern that began with the chaos of 7<sup>th</sup> December, 2024. The NDC has systematically weaponized violence, turning our electoral process into a battlefield where democratic norms are trampled underfoot. This pattern must end before it destroys the democratic gains Ghana has made since 1992.

The International Community has watched Ghana with admiration as we built a stable democracy in West Africa. Today's events threaten to unravel that reputation and undermine the hard-won trust in our democratic institutions.

## **Presidential Leadership: A Test of Character and Commitment**

President John Mahama now faces the defining moment of his second presidency. His response to today's violence and the shameful conduct of his senior officials will determine whether his administration stands with Ghana's democratic values or tolerates the violent tactics that threaten our constitutional order.

The President cannot remain silent while members of his government celebrate violence against opposition figures. Dr. Hanna Bissiw and Malik Basintale have disqualified themselves from holding public office through their inflammatory and violence-endorsing statements. Their continued presence in government sends a dangerous message that the Mahama administration condones political violence.

President Mahama must choose: does he stand with Ghana's democratic institutions, or does he stand with officials who celebrate attacks on former Members of Parliament? His decision will define his legacy and determine whether Ghana continues on the path of democratic governance or slides toward the normalization of political violence.

The International Community is watching. Ghana's development partners are watching. Most importantly, the Ghanaian people are watching to see whether their President will defend democracy or protect those who attack it.

### **Our Non-Negotiable Demands**

The Minority demands the following immediate actions within the next 72 hours:

**Immediate Dismissal of Violence-Endorsing Officials:** President Mahama must immediately dismiss Dr. Hanna Louisa Bissiw from her position as CEO of the Minerals Development Fund and Malik Basintale from his role as Acting CEO of the Youth Employment Agency. Their celebration and justification of violence against opposition figures disqualifies them from holding any public office. This dismissal must happen within 48 hours to demonstrate that the government does not condone political violence.

**Prosecution of All Perpetrators:** All individuals involved in today's violence must be arrested and prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. The police must provide daily updates on their investigation and arrests. There can be no impunity for those who attack our democratic process.

**Comprehensive Police Investigation:** The Ghana Police Service must conduct a thorough investigation into their security failures, including the alleged role of Chief Superintendent Lumor Frederick Senanu. Any officers found to be complicit in today's violence must face immediate dismissal and criminal prosecution.

**Presidential Condemnation:** President Mahama must publicly condemn today's violence within 24 hours and personally apologize to Hon Mavis Hawa Koomson, Nana Akua Afriyie and all victims of today's attacks. His statement must be unequivocal and without any qualification or justification for the violence.

### **A Call to All Ghanaians**

To the people of Ablekuma North: do not allow these acts of intimidation to silence your voice. Your vote is your power, and you must exercise it without fear. Ghana's democracy depends on your courage to stand up to those who would steal your constitutional rights through violence.

To Civil Society Organizations, the Ghana Journalists Association, and all defenders of democracy: join us in demanding accountability for these heinous acts. The time for silence is over. Ghana's democratic future hangs in the balance, and we must act decisively to protect it.

### **The Minority's Firm Commitment to Democracy**

The Minority Caucus will not accept this descent into political barbarism. We will use every constitutional tool at our disposal to hold this government accountable and ensure that justice is served.

We will not rest until Ghana's democracy is secure from those who would destroy it through violence and intimidation. We will monitor every action and inaction of this government, and we will hold them accountable to the Ghanaian people for their response to this crisis.

The International Community must also take note of these developments. Ghana's status as a beacon of democracy in West Africa hangs in the balance. We call on our development partners, the African Union, ECOWAS to closely monitor the Mahama administration's response to this crisis and take appropriate action if democratic norms continue to be violated.

We call on all Ghanaians to reject violence in all its forms and recommit to the democratic values that have made our nation a beacon of hope in West Africa. Together, we must ensure that Ghana's democracy remains strong, peaceful, and secure for generations to come.

Ghana stands at a crossroads. We can choose the path of democratic governance, where violence is condemned and those who perpetrate it are held accountable, or we can choose the path of political chaos, where government officials celebrate attacks on opposition figures and violence becomes the norm.

The Minority has made its choice. We stand firmly with democracy, with the rule of law, and with the constitutional order that has served our nation well. We will defend these principles with unwavering determination until justice prevails and democratic governance is restored.

President Mahama, the choice is yours. History will judge you by the decision you make in the next 48 hours. Choose wisely, for the future of Ghana's democracy depends on it.

May God bless Ghana and guide us toward a peaceful and democratic future.

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**Signed**

**OSAHEN ALEXANDER KWAMENA AFENYO-MARKIN**  
**MINORITY LEADER**