

1. Abusuapanin Akwasi Amo
2. Opanin Robert Ahenkan
Both of House No. Plot 22 Block V
Asamankama, Offinso.

21st October 2024

**THE MINISTER
CHIEFTAINCY AND RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS
MINISTRY OF CHIEFTAINCY AND RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS
ACCRA**

Dear Sir,

PETITION – UNREASONABLE/DELIBERATE DELAY IN ADJUDICATION OF OFFINSO CHIEFTAINCY CASE PENDING BEFORE THE JUDICIAL COMMITTEE OF THE ASHANTI REGIONAL HOUSE OF CHIEFS

We are the Petitioners in the Offinso Chieftaincy case pending before the Ashanti Regional House of Chiefs. In the interest of Rule of Law, Good Governance and Justice, we hereby forward to you the instant Petition for your urgent consideration and remedial action.

The instant Petition is premised on the grounds stated as follows:

1. That on the 3rd day of November 2023, we presented a Petition to the Ashanti Regional House of Chiefs to initiate a Chieftaincy suit regarding the Offinso Paramount Stool.
2. That when the Offinso Paramount Stool became vacant upon the demise of its Occupant Nana Wiafe Akenten III, the Queenmother of Offinso Nana Ama Serwaa Nyarko nominated Dr. Kofi Koduah Sarpong, a royal to succeed him. The nominee of the Queenmother was accepted by all the Kingmakers. However, upon Petitions by some royals of the Offinso Stool to the Asantehene regarding the eligibility of the said nominee, a five (5) member Committee was set up to determine the eligibility of the said nominee.

Consequently, the said Committee found the nominee of the Queenmother of Offinso eligible to ascend to the Offinso paramount stool and submitted its finding to the Asanteman Council.

At the plenary of the Asanteman Council held on 20th October 2022 the Committee's verdict received overwhelming endorsement by a vote of 21 to 5.


3. That the Kingmakers of Offinso Paramount Stool without justification took steps to re-elect one Nana Kwaku Amoako Poku whilst the said Dr. Kofi Koduah Sarpong was awaiting to be carried through a further customary installation process, hence a Chieftaincy Petition was forwarded to the Ashanti Regional House of Chiefs for filing.

4. That in breach of his statutory duty as a Civil Servant supervising a statutory office, the Registrar of the Ashanti Regional House of Chiefs wilfully and without just cause failed to file the said Petition until he was compelled by an Order of Mandamus by the High Court, Kumasi to do so.
5. That the unexplained dereliction of duty by the Registrar of the House regarding the filing of the said Petition resulted in a punitive cost of Ten Thousand Ghana Cedis (GH\$ 10,000.00) awarded against the House in favour of the Petitioners therein by the High Court, Kumasi.
6. That pursuant to the Order of Mandamus granted by the High Court, Kumasi, our Petition was filed on the 31st day of January 2024.
7. That the said Petition which could have been filed within one (1) hour took almost three (3) months before it could be filed by a statutory office.
8. That whilst the Petition is pending, we have noticed that one Nana Kwaku Amoako Poku, who has not been nominated by the Queenmother of Offinso to occupy the Offinso Paramount Stool as required by custom and law, now claims to be the Chief of Offinso and styles himself to the public as Nana Dwamena Akenten II.
9. That upon the advice of our Lawyers, we applied to join the said Nana Kwaku Amoako Poku to the suit, as Respondent.
10. That for no reason(s) the hearing of the said Joinder Application has suffered long adjournments on four (4) occasions which connotes the House's deliberate refusal to hear and determine our pending Application or the Petition.
11. That we are advised by our Lawyers and verily believe same to be true that the Judicial Committee of the Ashanti Regional House of Chiefs is an institution of the State of Ghana, and the members of the Judicial Committee of the House sit on cases as public officers.
12. That the conduct of the Judicial Committee of the Ashanti Regional House of Chiefs aforesaid regarding the hearing of the Offinso Chieftaincy case is an affront to democracy, rule of law and smacks of very bad spectacle of injustice in a democratic country.
13. That since the suit under reference is solely cognisable by the Judicial Committee of the Ashanti Regional House of Chiefs, any deliberate action to obstruct expeditious trial will foster violence as the only option to the supporters of the Petition before the House.
14. That we beseech you to prevail upon the Ashanti Regional House of Chiefs to exercise its judicial function in accordance with its mandate as prescribed by law, otherwise, the House and the Ministry of Chieftaincy and Religious Affairs will take the highest blame if violence erupts as a result of the conduct of the Judicial Committee of the House regarding the deliberate delays in determining the aforesaid Chieftaincy Petition as elaborated supra.
15. That out of good conscience; framers of the Constitution of Ghana; and posterity will not forgive the Ashanti Regional House of Chiefs and for that matter your Ministry if a human life is lost owing to violence which may erupt due to the inaction of the House which is suspected to be driven and endorsed by an unseen hand.
16. That we pray your office to ensure that the Judicial Committee of the Ashanti Regional House of Chiefs stands alive to its judicial duties regarding the Offinso Chieftaincy case.

The President of the Republic of Ghana, relevant state agencies, the Diplomatic Corps, local and International media are by copies of the instant Petition being informed to take note of the development at the Judicial Committee of the Ashanti Regional House of Chiefs relative to the pending of Offinso Chieftaincy case and be guided accordingly.

Thank you.

Yours faithfully,


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ABUSUAPANIN AKWASI AMO (1st PETITIONER)
(TEL. NO.: ~~0246-345838~~)

0243626087
.....
OPANIN ROBERT AHENKAN (2nd PETITIONER)
(TEL. NO.: ~~REDACTED~~)

Cc:

1. H.E The President Republic of Ghana, Jubilee House, Accra.
2. H.E The Vice President Republic of Ghana, Jubilee House, Accra.
3. Rt. Hon Speaker of Parliament, Parliament House, Accra.
4. Her Ladyship, The Chief Justice, Accra.
5. The Chairman Council of State, Accra
6. The Dean, Diplomatic Corps, Accra
7. The President National House of Chiefs, Kumasi.
8. His Majesty, The President Ashanti Regional House of Chiefs Kumasi.
9. Head of Civil Service, Office of the Head of Civil Service, Accra.
10. H.E The Ambassador, Embassy of United States of America, Accra.
11. H.E The High Commissioner, British High Commission, Accra.
12. H.E The Ambassador, Germany Embassy, Accra.
13. H.E The Ambassador, Netherlands Embassy, Accra.

14. H.E The High Commissioner, Canadian High Commission, Accra.
15. H.E The High Commissioner, South Africa High Commission, Accra.
16. The Head, EU Delegation, Accra.
17. Resident Coordinator, United Nations Office, Accra.
18. The Chairman, National Peace Council, Accra.
19. The National Chief Imam, Office of the Chief Imam, Accra.
20. The Chairman, Catholic Bishops Conference of Ghana, Accra.
21. The Chairman, Christian Council of Ghana, Accra.
22. The Chairman, Pentecostals Council, Accra.
23. Inspector General of Police Ghana Police Service, Accra.
24. The Chief of Defence Staff, Ghana Armed Forces, Accra
25. Hon Minister, Ashanti Regional Coordinating Council, Kumasi.
26. The Regional Commander, Ghana Police Service, Ashanti North Police Command, Mampong-Ashanti.
27. The Media ✓