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for West Africa**

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l'Ouest (MFWA)

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December 4, 2024.

The Special Prosecutor

Office of the Special Prosecutor

6 Haile Selassie Avenue, South Ridge

Accra

07 DEC 2024

Dear Sir,

**Subject: Petition seeking investigations into
Corruption and Corruption-related acts at the
National Service Authority**

We bring you warm compliments from the Media Foundation for West Africa (MFWA).

We are writing to formally petition your esteemed office to launch a full-scale investigation into a series of corruption and corruption-related activities within the National Service Authority (NSA).

This petition follows months of investigations by the MFWA's independent investigative journalism project (The Fourth Estate) into activities at the NSA, which have revealed a series of corruption-related activities perpetrated within the NSA that deprive the state of millions of cedis each year since 2018.

Based on evidence obtained during investigations (various pieces of evidence attached), we are appealing to you to launch full-scale investigations into the following specific acts, among others that you may consider necessary:

1. Creation and use of thousands of fake student index numbers that are assigned to supposed graduates from various tertiary institutions:

It has been found that each year since the 2018/2019 service year, thousands of fake student index numbers are created and assigned to non-existent students who are then supposedly enrolled in the scheme and posted to do national service. The institutions for which the bulk of such fake student index numbers are created and used for fake enrolment and postings, include the University of Education, Winneba (UEW); the University of Cape Coast (UCC); the University for Development Studies (UDS); Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST); Tamale Technical University; among others.

The table below provides samples of the tens of thousands of fake student index numbers that are created and used against some of the various tertiary institutions

NAME OF INSTITUTION	EXAMPLES OF THE 1000s FAKE STUDENT IDs CREATED AND USED
<p style="text-align: center;">University of Education, Winneba</p>	3907GHA/724361353/0
	UEW/2019/11
	VL09T/0009T/093
	UEW/2019/18
	BBS/ED/U/85
<p style="text-align: center;">University of Cape Coast</p>	BEP/NR/02/19/0220
	UCC/2020/945
	SS/TMG/14/01251
	WES/SCI/19/06081
	BEP/NR/02/19/028

	UCC/2018/206
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University for Development Studies	506/GHA-001956888-1
	UDSS/A0239/15
	EST/0104/0S
	7122153760

Valley View University	214SE0100E0304
	VVU/2018/613
University of Professional Studies	20141344
Tamale Technical University	ECL/0012/13
	24024603
	ECL/0183/13
	ECL/0185/13
	ECL/0189/13
KNUST	3916GHA/714448344/5
	3915GHA/714411631/0
	3917GHA/714495890/1
	3914GHA/715659078/8
Dambai College of Education	DTC/U/451/2019
	DTC/U/456/2019
	DTC/U/492/2019
	DTC/U/514/2019
	DTC/U/522/2019

A detailed excel file containing some of the thousands of fake index numbers is supplied in the attached pen drive. Also attached are samples of screenshots from the NSA portal that prove the enrolment and posting of supposed service personnel with the fake student index numbers.

2. Huge difference between figures announced to the public by the NSA and figures it presented to Parliament:

At the beginning of every service year, the NSA announces to the public through a press release, the total number of personnel eligible for deployment for the specific year. The announcements after the

NSA has collated the list of students/graduates directly submitted by accredited tertiary institutions onto the NSA portal.

But behind the scenes, tens of thousands of additional names are later added to the total eligible service personnel for the year through the creation and use of fake index numbers. The additional persons are assigned National Service numbers that designate them as persons who could not undertake national service in previous years and so could not have been part of the list of students directly submitted by the respective accredited tertiary institutions for the specific year.

The addition of the tens of thousands of extra persons is evident in a basic comparison between figures announced to the public by the NSA and figures presented to the Parliamentary Select Committee on Education in June 2024, which has been obtained by The Fourth Estate (soft copy of NSA Presentation to parliament's Committee attached).

As is evident from the figures in the table below, there is a significant padding of the figures that are announced to the public.

Year	Figures announced by NSA to public as eligible persons for national service for the year	Figures presented to Parliamentary Committee as personnel deployed for the year	Difference	Difference in Percentage
2017/2018	91,871	88,939	2,932	-3%
2018/2019	85,708	135,603	49,895	58%
2019/2020	77,962	114,036	36,074	46%
2020/2021	86,078	125,050	38,972	45%

2021/2022	81,081	110,324	29,243	36%
2022/2023	115,240	179,309	64,069	56%
2023/2024	122,275	182,142	59,867	49%

Source: Press Releases by NSA announcing eligible figures of personnel to be deployed and NSA figures presented to Parliamentary Committee as personnel deployed.

It is true that there will be persons who may have defaulted in doing national service in previous years and may enroll after the announcement of eligible figures for the year. But in the same vein, it is also true that not all those announced as eligible for national service by the NSA in a particular year will enroll for the service in the same year.

As evident in the 2017/2018 service year, for example, the authority announced that 91,871 personnel were eligible to be enrolled in the scheme. The data presented to Parliamentary Committee for the same year shows that in the end, 88,939 personnel were deployed, indicating that 2,932 of the eligible personnel did not enroll in the scheme that year. Persons familiar with the NSA say this ought to be the usual pattern for each year. But in all the subsequent years, the number announced as eligible for service was exceeded by tens of thousands.

3. Enrolment and posting of over-aged persons

Datasets obtained by The Fourth Estate from the NSA database show a curious pattern of persons whose dates of birth indicate that they could not have been genuinely enrolled for national service. There are persons whose dates of birth in the NSA database indicate they are in their 90s, 80s and 70s and yet have been supposedly enrolled for service

The following are just a few of several examples of overaged persons whom the NSA data indicate undertook national service in the 2022/2023 service year:

- One Nimatu Salifu is said to have graduated from the University for Development Studies (Bachelor of Arts in Integrated

Development Studies). Her date of birth is January 1, 1931. She was posted to a school called Kpiyagi D/A Primary School in the Nandom District in the Upper West Region for national service in 2022. This means that at the time she was posted, she was 93 years old.

- Ruth Abdulai's date of birth is indicated as October 7, 1932. She is said to have graduated with Bachelor of Development Studies from UDS. She was posted to Adakura Primary School in Bolgatanga in the Upper East Region for her national service in 2022. This means that at the time she was posted, she was 92 years old.
- Mahamadu Ali, born on January 1, 1942, graduated with Bachelor of Development Studies from UDS, according to the NSA data. He was posted to Anyinabrim Anglican Primary School, Sefwi Wiaso Municipal in the Western North Region in 2022. This means that at the time he was posted, he was 80 years old, even though per the records on the NSA dashboard he indicates his age as 82 years. Below is a screenshot of Mahamadu Ali's record on the NSA platform.

Personnel

My NSS Number

Enter NSS Number NSSGPR6287322

1 of Personnel

UPLOADED PHOTO



in National ID: yrs (Date
th:)

Submitted Age: 82yrs (Date of
Birth: 1942-01-01)

ACCEPTED MEANS OF IDENTIFICATION

Please upload a picture of your Ghana Card, Biometric Verif



Personnel Details

NSS Number NSSGPR6287322
Full Name MAHAMADU ALI
NAME ON NATIONAL ID
Institution UNIVERSITY FOR DEVELOPMENT STUDIES
Course Of Study BACHELOR IN INTEGRATED
DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

Current Place of Posting

ANYINABRAN ANGLICAN PRIMARY - HEAD
OFFICE SETSWANWOTO MUNICIPAL, WETTEREV
NORTH

Service Class e Subverted

4. Use of ineligible and fake ID cards for enrolment

According to the NSA, from 2022, the only eligible card that could be used for the required online enrolment for national service is the Ghana Card. This is said to be mandatory and part of the measures for dealing with ghost names. Indeed, it is claimed that the NSA's digital portal will automatically reject any other card apart from the Ghana card for which the system could authenticate by linking up with the database of the National Identification Authority.

However, The Fourth Estate found thousands of supposedly enrolled and posted service personnel who used different ID cards (and sometimes no cards at all) for enrolment.

Cards found to have been used for enrolment include student ID cards, National Fire Service ID cards, staff ID cards of private companies, and provisional voters ID cards, among others. See samples below and in the electronic file on the flash drive attached to this petition.

Below are screenshots of a few examples where fake ID cards or ineligible ID cards were used for enrollment.

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📄

Specify NSS Number

Enter NSS Number NSSGPR8487822

Detail of Personnel

UPLOADED PHOTO



Age on National ID: yrs (Date of Birth:)

Submitted Age: 34yrs (Date of Birth: 1990-07-06)

SUBMITTED MEANS OF IDENTIFICATION

ID Type Provided: PLEASE UPLOAD A PICTURE OF YOUR GHANA CARD, BIOMETRIC VERIFI



#	Personnel Details	Current Place of Posting	Status
1	NSS Number : NSSGPR8487822 Full Name: IDDRISU FATIMATA NAME ON NATIONAL ID: Institution: KWAME NKRUMAH UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY Course Of Study: BACHELOR OF SCIENCE	GATASURUKU D/A PRIMARY SCHOOL, HEAD OFFICE, KPANDAI DISTRICT, NORTHERN Service Class #: Subvented	Personnel Posted - ID verification



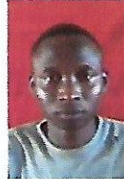
Specify NSS Number

Enter NSS Number NSSGPR8487722



Detail of Personnel

UPLOADED PHOTO

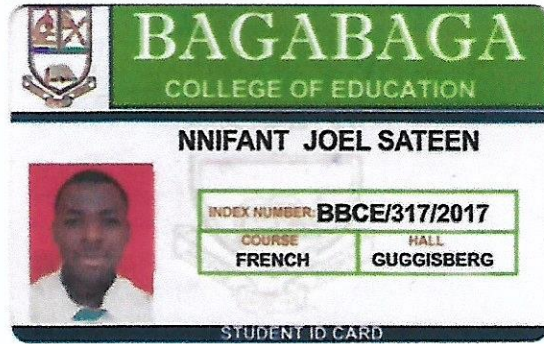


Age on National ID: yrs (Date of Birth:)

Submitted Age: 34yrs (Date of Birth: 1990-11-26)

SUBMITTED MEANS OF IDENTIFICATION

ID Type Provided: PLEASE UPLOAD A PICTURE OF YOUR GHANA CARD, BIOMETRIC VERIFI



#	Personnel Details	Current Place of Posting	Status
1	<p>NSS Number :NSSGPR8487722 Full Name: IDDRISU ZAKARIA NAME ON NATIONAL ID: Institution: KWAME NKRUMAH UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY Course Of Study:BACHELOR OF SCIENCE</p>	<p>SAKOGU SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL, HEAD OFFICE,EAST MAMPRUSI DISTRICT, NORTH EAST Service Class #: Subvented</p>	<p>Personnel Posted - ID verification</p>

Specify NSS Number

Enter NSS Number NSSGPR7075322



Detail of Personnel

UPLOADED PHOTO



LIVE PHOTO



GHANA CARD PHOTO



Date taken: Dec 08, 2022 11:39 AM

Age on National ID: yrs (Date of Birth:)

Submitted Age: 42yrs (Date of Birth: 1982-12-21)

SUBMITTED MEANS OF IDENTIFICATION

ID Type Provided: PLEASE UPLOAD A PICTURE OF YOUR GHANA CARD, BIOMETRIC VERIFY



BOAH ALMATHU
NSS Number
NSSGPR7075322



Valid until October 2023

Issued by the Board of the National Service Scheme

If Board please return to the nearest National Service Office, or a Police Station.

Boah Almathu

Executive Director
National Service Scheme

P.O. Box 4720, Ministries Accra DM
Block One/Accra
Reg. Chamber/Reg. Council
Fountain Kemp, Accra
Tel: 0202 232405





Specify NSS Number

Enter NSS Number NSSGPR2879522



Detail of Personnel

PHOTO ON NATIONAL ID



Age on National ID: 42yrs (Date of Birth: 1982-06-17)

UPLOADED PHOTO



Submitted Age: 42yrs (Date of Birth: 1982-06-17)

SUBMITTED MEANS OF IDENTIFICATION

ID Type Provided: PLEASE UPLOAD A PICTURE OF YOUR GHANA CARD, BIOMETRIC VERIFI

Passport ID



Personnel Details

NSS Number: NSSGPR2879522
Full Name: ALHASSAN BINTU
NAME ON NATIONAL ID: ALHASSAN BINTU
Institution: CENTRAL UNIVERSITY
Course Of Study: BBA ACCOUNTING

Current Place of Posting

MEME EP PRIMARY SCHOOL, HEAD
OFFICE, KPANDAI DISTRICT, NORTHERN
Service Class #: Subvented

Status

Personnel Posted - Awaiting Acceptance By User Agency



Specify NSS Number

Enter NSS Number NSSGPR5043722

Detail of Personnel

PHOTO ON NATIONAL ID



UPLOADED PHOTO



LIVE PHOTO



GHANA CARD PHOTO



Date taken: Dec 19, 2022 01:12 PM

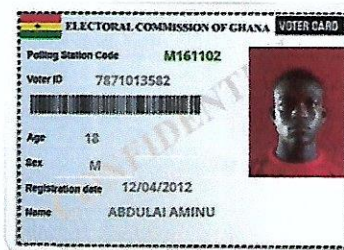
Age on National ID: 2024yrs (Date of Birth: 0000-00-00)

Submitted Age: 34yrs (Date of Birth: 1990-07-01)

SUBMITTED MEANS OF IDENTIFICATION

ID Type Provided: PLEASE UPLOAD A PICTURE OF YOUR GHANA CARD, BIOMETRIC VERIFI

Voter's ID Card



ABDULAI AMINU
NSS Number
NSSGPR5043722

Valid until October 2023

Issued by the Board of the National Service Scheme
If found genuine returns to the nearest National Service Office or a Police Station.

Signature
Executive Director
National Service Scheme

P.O. Box 5733, Mankwasa, Accra
Blank, Ghana
Reg. Coordinating Council
Education, Employment, Youth
Tel: 0302 224695


Search for Personnel

Specify NSS Number

Enter NSS Number NSSGPR6247322


Detail of Personnel

UPLOADED PHOTO



Age on National ID: yrs (Date of Birth:) Submitted Age: 44yrs (Date of Birth: 1980-08-07)

SUBMITTED MEANS OF IDENTIFICATION
ID Type Provided: PLEASE UPLOAD A PICTURE OF YOUR GHANA CARD, BIOMETRIC VERIFI



#	Personnel Details	Current Place of Posting	Status
1	<p>NSS Number: NSSGPR6247322</p> <p>Full Name: ALHASSAN SALAMATU</p> <p>NAME ON NATIONAL ID:</p> <p>Institution: UNIVERSITY OF CAPE COAST</p> <p>Course Of Study: BED PSYCHOLOGY AND FOUNDATIONS OF EDUCATION</p>	<p>EREMON DAZUURI R/C BASIC SCHOOL, HEAD OFFICE, LAWRA DISTRICT, UPPER WEST</p> <p>Service Class #: Subvented</p>	<p>Personnel Posted - ID verification</p>

Additional evidence of this nature is contained in the attached flash drive.

5. Use of one ineligible ID card for multiple enrolment of different persons with different bio-data

In several instances, we find single and the same ID card being used to enroll multiple people with different names, different dates of birth.

6. Issues of identity theft

We identified the use of internet images for enrolling non-existent or ineligible persons. Reverse image search results revealed that pictures sourced online were either used to register non-existent candidates or inserted into questionable national ID cards and fake student ID cards for enrollment. See an example below of a Kenyan Human Resource practitioner:

Specify NSS Number

Enter NSS Number

Q

Detail of Personnel

UPLOADED PHOTO

Age on National ID: yrs (Date of Birth:)

Submitted Age: 74yrs (Date of Birth: 1950-01-01)

SUBMITTED MEANS OF IDENTIFICATION

ID Type Provided: PLEASE UPLOAD A PICTURE OF YOUR GHANA CARD, BIOMETRIC VERIFI

	Personnel Details	Current Place of Posting	Status
1	<p>NSS Number : NSSGPR7855522</p> <p>Full Name: KWAME DONKOR</p> <p>NAME ON NATIONAL ID:</p> <p>Institution: UNIVERSITY FOR DEVELOPMENT STUDIES</p> <p>Course Of Study: BACHELOR OF ARTS</p>	<p>KANSOOGO BASIC SCHOOL, HEAD OFFICE, BAWKU WEST DISTRICT, UPPER EAST</p> <p>Service Class #: Subvented</p>	<p>Personnel Posted - ID verification</p>

BUSINESS & FUTURE OF WORK

Emmanuel Mutio

Human Resource Manager at i3
Technologies



7. The Marketplace scheme

This is a scheme that is used to enroll service personnel on hire purchase programmes. It is used to enroll thousands of the fake service personnel. On several occasions, genuine service personnel who have not purchased any items have their allowances deducted for payment of items they have not purchased under the scheme.

Attached to this is a list of vendors who have been registered by the NSA for the marketplace scheme.

8. Enrolment and posting of thousands of supposed service personnel from unaccredited institutions

Thousands of supposed National Service Persons are enrolled from unaccredited institutions such as Gbanwah Arabic College of Education and Mamprugu Islamic College of Education both in the North East Region.

9. Forensic audit of the NSA's Informatic Technology (IT) system

Our investigations show that there have been desperate attempt or delete data of personnel on the NSA portal since our investigations commenced. We, therefore, appeal to you to conduct a forensic system of the IT system of the NSA to track patterns of deletions, amendments and any other alterations in the system.

List of Companies for Market Place Vendors

1. LATEX FOAM RUBBER PRODUCTS LIMITED
2. SIMS TECHNOLOGIES LIMITED
3. BLOCKS OF LIFE CONSULT
4. ASHANTI FOAM FACTORY LIMITED
5. STINDICATED CAPITAL LIMITED
6. OPTION BUY LIMITED
7. SILSONA VENTLIRES
8. APPLIANCE EXPERT LIMITED
9. ALFARITA VENTURES
10. NYANSAPO COMPANY LIMITED
11. BRAINWAVE PREMIUM VENTURES
12. AL-FAYDA ENTERPRISE
13. TRONICS HUB LIMITED

14. CHOHEC ENTERPRISE
15. ADIKANFO HOTEL LIMITED
16. UTRACK COMPANY LTD
17. FRANLISA ENTERPRISE
18. INPATH TECHNOLOGIES

10. Payment of Service Personnel

We request you to conduct an audit of payment of service personnel through Ghana Interbank Payment and Settlement Systems Limited (GhIPSS) from 2018/2019 to 2023/2024 service years.

Attached to the petition are pieces of evidence in electronic formats which we believe will aid your investigations.

We trust in the independence and integrity of your office to act decisively on this matter to protect the public purse and restore trust in the NSA.

For further clarifications, we can be contacted through the following details:

Seth J. Bokpe

Tel: 0208001238

Email: seth@mfw.org

Kwaku Krobea Asante

Tel: 0249484528

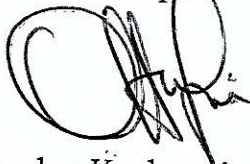
Email: kwaku@mfw.org

In anticipation of your favourable response, please accept the assurances of our highest regards.

Yours sincerely,



Seth J. Bokpe



Kwaku Krobea Asante