



24th May, 2022

**The Special Prosecutor
Office of the Special Prosecutor
No. 6 Haile Selassie Avenue
South Ridge, Accra**

Via Electronic Submittal:Info@osp.gov.gh

PETITION TO PROBE POSSIBLE ACQUISITION OF ALLEGED STATE LANDS BY KWADWO OWUSU AFRIYIE, FORMER CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, FORESTRY COMMISSION OF GHANA AND OTHERS

Dear Sir,

I write on behalf of Corruption Watch Ghana (hereinafter referred to as “Corruption Watch”) to petition the Special Prosecutor to investigate the alleged acquisition of several acres of alleged state lands situated in the Achimota Forest and Ramsar sites in Sakumono by three artificial persons namely Jakaypros Limited, Fasoh Limited, DML Limited, and two natural persons namely Charles Owusu, an officer of the Forestry Commission and Kwadwo Owusu Afriyie, popularly known as Sir John, now deceased, who served as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Forestry Commission from March 2017 until July 2020.

This petition is brought under Section 1, Subsection 3 of the Office of the Special Prosecutor Act, 2017 (Act 959) which mandates the Office of the Special Prosecutor to “investigate alleged or suspected cases of corruption or a corruption related offence involving public officers, Politically Exposed Persons...”. The deceased was a public officer and a Politically Exposed Person within the meaning of the Office of the Special Prosecutor Act, 2017 (Act 959), when he served as the CEO of the Forestry Commission and singularly or jointly allegedly acquired the said lands with other natural and artificial persons during the period he was the CEO of the said commission. One such person was Charles Owusu also a public officer and a Politically Exposed Person.

We also refer to Section 179C of the Criminal Offences Act, 1960 (Act 29) which makes it an offence for a person to use public office for profit. We note that the offence is committed by both the person who holds public office who dishonestly abuses the office for private profit or benefit, and other persons who collaborate with the public officer to so abuse the office. We also believe that other offences might have been committed under the Public Property Protection Act, 1977 (SMCD 140) if these allegations are determined to be true.

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The particulars of the alleged acquisition of the alleged state lands by the deceased were provided in the Last Will and Testament of Kwadwo Owusu Afriyie executed on 21st May, 2020 (attached to this petition as appendix 1) in which the said testator deposed he owns or jointly owns:

- A 5.541-acre land located in the Achimota Forest held in the name of Jakaypros Limited
- A 0.987-acre land located in the Achimota Forest held in the name of Fasoh Limited
- A piece of land located in the Achimota Forest jointly owned with one Charles Owusu
- A piece of land held in the name of DML Limited located in the Achimota forest
- A 5.07- acre land located at the Ramsar area in Sakumono, Greater Accra

Corruption Watch is petitioning the Office of the Special Prosecutor to investigate:

1. Whether the said lands were owned by the Republic of Ghana at the time of their alleged acquisition by Kwadwo Owusu Afriyie, Jakaypros Limited, Fasoh Limited, DML Limited and Charles Owusu.
2. The circumstances of the alleged acquisition
3. The Beneficial Owners of the companies implicated in this transaction and compliance with the reporting requirements of such persons where they are PEPs under ss. 13, 35 and 126 of the Companies Act 2019 (Act 992)
4. Who authorized the alleged sale or purchase of the lands?
5. Whether the interests in the lands have been registered?
6. Under what authority the person/s/ institution authorized the said sale or purchase?
7. Whether any amount of money was paid for the said lands and to whom?
8. Whether the PEP and public officers who own these properties have complied with the Code of Conduct for Public Officers under Chapter Four of the 1992 Constitution, particularly as it relates to Article 286 of the Constitution?
9. The propriety or otherwise of the said sale or purchase?
10. Whether other natural or artificial persons who are PEPs have also acquired lands illegally in the Achimota Forest and Ramsar site in Sakumono
11. Any other related matters

Corruption Watch Ghana is an initiative by the Ghana Center for Democratic Development (CDD-Ghana) and a coalition of anti-corruption civil society organizations including, Ghana Integrity Initiative (GII), Ghana Anti-Corruption Coalition (GACC), Africa Center for International Law and Accountability (ACILA) and Multimedia Platforms Joy FM and Adom FM as our main media partners.

Thank you in advance for your kind consideration and co-operation.

Yours faithfully,



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Encl: Appendix 1

