



9 February 2026

Dr Dominic Ayine, MP
Hon Attorney-General & Minister for Justice
Office of the Attorney-General & Ministry of Justice
Accra, Ghana

Mahama Ayariga, MP
Hon Majority Leader & Leader of Government Business
Parliament House
Accra, Ghana

Osahen Alexander Kwamina Afenyo-Markin, MP
Hon Minority Leader
Parliament House
Accra, Ghana

Dear Hon Gentlemen,

Renewed Call to Criminalise Intra-Party Vote Buying – Follow-Up to OccupyGhana's 2023 Letter

We write to respectfully draw your attention to the letter submitted on 9 October 2023 by OccupyGhana to your office, in which we called for the criminalisation of intra-party vote buying in Ghana's political processes (copy attached).

As we observed in that correspondence (and as is now unmistakably evident), the increasing normalisation of vote buying within internal party elections poses a grave and growing threat to democratic accountability, political integrity and equal participation. While national elections are governed by clear legal prohibitions against electoral corruption, the continued absence of explicit criminal sanctions for vote buying in intra-party contests has created a significant loophole that steadily undermines the credibility of our democratic system from within.

Intra-party elections are not peripheral political activities; they are decisive mechanisms through which candidates for public office are selected. When these processes are distorted by financial inducements and material incentives, merit, competence and genuine representation are displaced by monetary influence. This entrenches corruption at its earliest stages, compromises leadership selection and inevitably erodes public trust in democratic institutions and political authority.

Our letter of 9 October 2023 made a clear case for urgent legislative and prosecutorial intervention to address this gap. We now respectfully but firmly urge your office to give renewed and serious consideration to this call, including the initiation of legislative reforms and policy measures that would expressly define and criminalise vote buying in intra-party elections, supported by effective sanctions and credible enforcement mechanisms.

We further submit that any such amendment should explicitly place these offences within the remit of the Office of the Special Prosecutor rather than the Office of the Attorney-General. Vote buying in intra-party elections constitutes corruption and an abuse of public trust, matters that fall squarely within the statutory mandate of the OSP. Given the inherently political nature of these offences, prosecution by an independent body is essential to avoid real or perceived conflicts of interest and to reinforce public confidence in the impartial enforcement of electoral laws. Moreover, the OSP's specialised focus and expertise in corruption-related offences position it to ensure more rigorous investigation, consistent enforcement, and a meaningful deterrent against electoral corruption.

Taking these steps would signal a firm and unequivocal commitment to democratic integrity, political accountability, and the rule of law. It would also make clear that corruption, whether occurring at the national stage or within the internal processes that feed into it, has no place in Ghana's constitutional democracy.

We would be grateful to be informed of the steps, if any, your office has taken or proposes to take in response to this proposal, and of how concerned citizens and civil society organisations may constructively support efforts toward effective and lasting reform.

Yours in the service of God and Country,


OccupyGhana

cc

Rt Hon Alban Bagbin
Speaker
Parliament House
Accra

Bernard Ahiavor, MP
Hon First Deputy Speaker
Parliament House
Accra

Andrew Asiamah Amoako, MP
Hon Second Deputy Speaker
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Justice Srem Sai
Hon Deputy Attorney-General & Minister of Justice
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Kweku Ricketts-Hagan, MP
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