

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

6TH MAY 2026

CALL FOR RESIGNATION OR DISMISSAL OF HON. LINDA A. OCLOO OVER
DISPARAGING COMMENTS ABOUT NORTHERN GHANA

The peoples of the Northern Regions of Ghana— comprising the Northern, North East, Savannah, Upper East, and Upper West Regions— have taken note, with deep indignation and firm resolve, of recent remarks by Hon. Linda A. Ocloo, Greater Accra Regional Minister and Member of Parliament for Shai- Osudoku. In her statement, she suggested that public officials who engage in misconduct would be transferred to Northern Ghana as a form of punishment.

We unequivocally condemn this statement in the strongest possible terms.

This comment is not merely inappropriate; it is a reckless affront to the dignity of an entire people. It reduces the lives, livelihoods, and legitimate aspirations of millions of Ghanaians to a crude symbol of punishment. Such a characterization is deeply offensive, morally indefensible, and politically irresponsible. It reflects a troubling level of insensitivity that is wholly unbecoming of a public official entrusted with national leadership.

Northern Ghana is not— and will never be— a penal destination for administrative discipline. It is a vital and indispensable part of our republic, rich in history, culture, intellect, and contribution. From agriculture to public service, from academia to national leadership, the North has consistently demonstrated its value and commitment to Ghana's progress. To portray it otherwise is to betray a narrow, uninformed, and deeply prejudiced perspective.

Even more concerning is the irony underlying this statement. The Minister's rise to prominence has been influenced, in part, by the leadership and political legacy of John Dramani Mahama— a distinguished son of Northern Ghana. For a beneficiary of such leadership to publicly demean the region is not only ironic, but also reflects poor judgment.

We state, without ambiguity, that such conduct cannot be normalized or excused. Leadership demands awareness, sensitivity, and respect for all segments of the nation. When a public official instead reinforces harmful stereotypes, they undermine the very unity they are sworn to protect.

Our Demands

1. Public Engagement and Accountability

Beyond her initial apology, Hon. Linda A. Ocloo must undertake a formal visit to the chiefs and people of Northern Ghana to address this matter directly. This will allow

for a proper assessment of her sincerity and acknowledgment of the harm caused.

2. Resignation or Dismissal

In recognition of the gravity of this breach of public trust, we call for her immediate resignation or, failing that, her prompt dismissal from office. Continued occupancy of public office under these circumstances is incompatible with national unity and inclusive governance.

3. Reaffirmation of National Unity

We call on the highest levels of government to reaffirm— through both words and concrete actions— the equal worth of all regions of Ghana and the dignity of every citizen, regardless of geography.

Let it be clearly understood: the people of Northern Ghana will not accept any attempt— subtle or overt— to diminish our identity, contributions, or rightful place within the Ghanaian state. We reject entirely any narrative that portrays our homeland as inferior, burdensome, or punitive.

This moment demands accountability. It calls for leadership that unites rather than divides, respects rather than demeans, and recognizes that Ghana's strength lies in the equal dignity of all its people.

We stand firm, resolute, and united in defense of our collective honor.

Issued by:

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For the Peoples of the Northern Regions of Ghana

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