

**PETITION TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT OF THE
REPUBLIC OF GHANA**

RE: CALL FOR THE REVOCATION OF THE APPOINTMENT OF PROFESSOR
RANSFORD EDWARD VAN GYAMPO AS CEO OF THE GHANA SHIPPERS'
AUTHORITY

Your Excellency,

The undersigned petitioner is a citizen of our beloved nation, Ghana and a believer in the respect of the dignity of all humans as guaranteed by the 1992 Constitution of Ghana. As a young Ghanaian woman, I have witnessed deliberate government programmes since the early 1990s aimed at making Ghana a haven for the girl-child and women, notably the passage of the Affirmative Action (Gender Equity) Act, 2024 (Act 1121). However, recent events have left me, and many women, with profound concern about the security of women in this country, and the appointment of Professor Ransford Edward van Gyampo as Chief Executive Officer of the Ghana Shippers' Authority suggests an evident decline in national efforts to protect the girl-child and women generally in Ghana. I am certain that Your Excellency, like every Ghanaian, knows of Prof. Gyampo's involvement in the BBC "Sex for Grades" documentary, in which he was implicated in the sexual harassment of female students at the University of Ghana. This may be unknown to the President: today, Prof. Gyampo's reputation as an abuser of women prevails beyond any academic or intellectual talents he may possess. Hence, his appointment to a position of national leadership undermines both the moral integrity of public office and the safety of women and girls in Ghana, especially for a government that campaigned on elevating the place of women in the Ghanaian society. With the prevalence of sexually-related violence against women in schools and the workplace, Prof. Gyampo's appointment sends an unwelcome but clear signal to women that we are condoning a society that pays little concern to victims of sexual abuse but rewards powerful, abusive men with more power and influence.

**A. BACKGROUND & CONTEXT: SEXUAL HARASSMENT AND ABUSE IN
GHANA**

Today, sexual violence and other related issues constitute a pervasive and underreported problem in Ghana. Recent available data from national and international reports indicate that a significant proportion of women experience sexual violence in their lifetime. According to the 2022 Ghana Demographic and Health Survey (GDHS), 14.1% of women aged 15-49 have experienced sexual violence in their lifetime, with 6% facing it in the 12 months preceding the survey. Furthermore, recent data from the Ghana Statistical Service (November 2025) reveals that among women aged 18 to 29 who

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report forced sex, 81.9% experienced their first incident before age 18, most commonly at age 15, with peak incidence rates exceeding 16% for some adolescent groups. Significant regional disparities exist, with district-level estimates (2025) showing that the Volta Region has the highest prevalence at 22.3%. The Central and Savannah regions each have a prevalence rate of 19.6% while the North East Region has the lowest at 5.2%. In terms of official reports, police data for 2025 shows that Greater Accra recorded the highest number of sexual assault cases (5,389) followed by Central (2,673) and Ashanti (2,370), all contributing to a total of 10,433 cases across these three regions.

Unfortunately, Your Excellency, victims of this pervasive culture face cultural stigma, fear of retaliation, and lack of institutional trust, leading to widespread underreporting of sexual violence. This further suggests that the accurate scale of the problem is far greater than official statistics indicate.

A breeding ground for sexual violence is in those spaces where there exist economic and power imbalances, such as in schools, workplaces and even marriages. With women usually on the lower end of power and economic metrics, women have always been the victims of such violent colonisation of the right to choose to participate in sexual relations. While national efforts attempt to address these socio-economic imbalances, there is still a long way to go to create an equitable society for women. Therefore, when individuals caught on camera engaging in conduct that exploits power imbalances are subsequently rewarded with high public office, it sends a chilling message to victims that speaking out does not lead to justice, but instead reinforces their vulnerability.

B. THE DANGEROUS SIGNAL OF THIS APPOINTMENT

In February 2025, Your Excellency appointed Prof. Gyampo as the C.E.O. of the Ghana Shippers' Authority. This appointment raised significant commentary about propriety stemming from Prof. Gyampo's involvement in a sexual harassment scandal that shocked the conscience of this nation. Admittedly, the core mandate of the Shippers' Authority is commerce-facing, and maybe the Government did not consider how appointing someone of Prof. Gyampo's profile may adversely affect other sectors of our holistic development drive. However, appointing a person publicly associated with sexual harassment allegations to a position of influence sends a harmful signal to the vulnerable that in Ghana, power shields misconduct. Notably, it discourages reporting, emboldens abusers, and undermines years of progress toward gender equality and safe schools and workplaces.

Ghana has worked hard to assure women that their dignity matters and that abuse will not be tolerated. This appointment reverses those gains and risks normalising impunity. It also implicates the government as an enabler of such sexual violence abuses.

C. LEADERSHIP, MORAL AUTHORITY, AND NATIONAL VALUES

Your Excellency, as President and as a father, I am certain that you would not wish your daughter or any Ghanaian woman to work or study under leadership associated with

such conduct or signals that sexual violence is tolerable. For many of us, if not all of us, as Ghanaians, we expect a future where women feel secure in schools, workplaces, and public institutions.

Underneath this troubling appointment lies a very troubling ethical and moral contradiction. Ghana boasts of our very first female Vice President, who promised not only to be an example to women and the younger generation but to hold the door open for those behind. The Vice-President is an embodiment of hope and courage to many women. Prof. Gyampo's appointment places the Vice President, herself a woman, in a difficult moral position and risks disappointing the many women who supported the government, believing their voices and safety would be prioritised.

MY PRAYER:

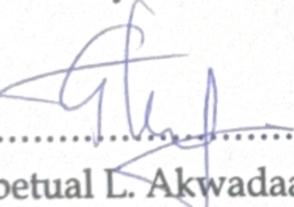
I respectfully call on Your Excellency, in our collective resolve to make our Republic a haven for all persons, whatever their sex, gender or creed, to:
Revoke the appointment of Professor Ransford Edward van Gyampo as CEO of the Ghana Shippers' Authority.

- a. Affirm that individuals associated with sexual harassment or abuse are not eligible for high public office.
- b. Reaffirm Ghana's commitment to protecting women and girls from abuse and exploitation.
- c. Revise the Code of Conduct, 2025, to include an explicit prohibition against sexual harassment by public officials.

CONCLUSION

Your Excellency, I firmly believe that this is a moment for Ghana to demonstrate moral leadership. We must demonstrate to the citizenry that public office is and must remain a refuge for integrity and not a citadel for misconduct. Further, the Government would not be an enabler of sexual violence or create a conducive climate to entrench this regrettable vice. I urge you to act decisively and affirm that abuse of power will never be rewarded in our Republic.

Respectfully submitted,


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Perpetual L. Akwadaa
Petitioner