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Human Security and Peace Building

FORGED CERTIFICATES IN SECURITY RECRUITMENT: THIS IS MORE THAN FRAUD — IT IS A NATIONAL SECURITY CONCERN

The Jatikay Centre for Human Security and Peace Building is deeply concerned by the disclosure by Hon. Muntaka Mubarak, Minister for the Interior, that some recruits in Ghana's security services training schools have been dismissed after being found to have submitted forged or doctored WASSCE results.

We welcome the decision to remove persons whose credentials have been proven fraudulent. But dismissal alone is not enough.

The first question we should be asking is: **How did they get that far in the first place?**

These are security services. Recruitment cannot operate on a system where documents are accepted first and verified much later. In today's digital environment, the recruitment portal should be designed to facilitate early verification of applicants' academic credentials with WAEC before applicants are allowed to progress through the recruitment process.

It is particularly troubling if genuinely qualified applicants are still waiting to be called while persons who allegedly gained entry through fraudulent documentation have already reached training institutions. That is not simply an administrative failure. It is an issue of fairness, institutional integrity and public confidence.

And we must be clear about something else: forging or knowingly using a forged academic certificate is potentially a criminal matter, not merely a recruitment violation. We therefore urge the appropriate authorities to investigate these cases fully and, where the evidence establishes criminal wrongdoing, prosecute the offenders. If the consequence for submitting a forged certificate is simply, **"You have been dismissed from training,"** we may be sending the wrong message to thousands of other applicants.

There is also a much more serious national-security question. A person who is prepared to falsify his or her academic qualifications to enter a security institution may have an integrity problem that goes far beyond a certificate. These institutions give officers access to weapons, intelligence, restricted facilities, sensitive information and enormous public trust. We cannot afford to discover an individual's dishonesty after giving that person a uniform, training, authority and access.

The Jatikay Centre therefore calls for an urgent audit of the recruitment and vetting process.

We want to know: **How many fraudulent applications were detected? How many got through? How many are still in training? And what safeguards are being introduced to ensure this does not happen again?**

Our position is straightforward: Verify before you recruit; Vet before you train; Prosecute proven fraud. And protect the integrity of Ghana's security services.

The security of the Republic begins with the integrity of the people we recruit to protect it.

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