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PRESS RELEASE

GII, CDD and GACC Call for Independent Probe into Finance Committee– NLA Bribery Allegation

The Ghana Integrity Initiative (GII), the Ghana Centre for Democratic Development (CDD-Ghana) and Ghana Anti-Corruption Coalition (GACC) are dismayed with yet another allegation of bribery involving Ghana's Parliament. The reported news that the National Lotteries Authorities (NLA) paid some monies in 2016 to members of the Finance Committee of Parliament prior to the consideration of amendment to the National Lottery Act, 2006 (Act 722) is very worrying. This revelation, coming on the back of recent alleged bribery scandal that involved members of the appointment committee presents a challenge to the image and integrity of members of parliament and the Parliament as an institution.

Considering that sections of the Ghanaian public were not satisfied with the way Parliament managed the Hon. Mahama Ayariga bribery allegation against the appointment committee, it will be useful and helpful for Parliament and the country as a whole for this new allegation be handled differently. The current allegation presents opportunity for Parliament not to attempt to investigate this matter on their own. GII, CDD-Ghana and GACC recommends for the setting up an independent body to investigate this issue, review the payment practices in Parliament and make clear recommendations for regulating these processes.

We wish to encourage the leadership of Parliament not to sweep this allegation under the carpet and pretend there are no problems with the image and integrity of our Parliament. It is in the utmost interest of Parliament and Ghana's young democracy that the integrity and image of Parliament are protected at all cost. Short of these go to undermine the fundamental tenets of checks and balances in a democracy.

Finally, GII, CDD-Ghana and GACC call on Parliament to use this as an opportunity to holistically address the general public's perception of parliamentary corruption and incessant allegations made by individuals, including Hon. Martin Amidu, former Attorney General and Minister for Justice, Hon. Alban Bagbin, current 2nd Deputy Speaker, Hon. P.C Appiah Ofori, former MP, Professor Stephen Adei, Former rector of GIMPA and recently by Hon. Mahama Ayariga.

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