

**For Immediate Release**

**To. All Media houses**

**From: Mamprugu Youth Group in Binduri District**

**May, 8, 2023**

**Subject: Mamprugu Youth in the Binduri District Outline three key strategies that can best bring lasting peace in Bawku\***

The youth of Mamprugu in the Binduri District of the upper east region are calling on government to help expedite actions in solving the recent Conflict in Bawku. The conflict between the Mamprusi and Kusasi over the years have seen several efforts rolled out by successive governments in their bid to finding lasting solution to the over two decades conflict but to no avail.

The imposition of curfew, ban on motor ridding, establishment of permanent military base in Bawku and the ban of smock riding among others are current measures put in place by government but has yielded less impact as the town within a year has witnessed several killings and destruction of properties by persons suspected to belong to either the Kusasis or the Mamprusis. The Police and Military presence in Bawku is gradually losing relevance due to Military familiarity with residents in the area thereby emboldening hoodlums to block roads leading to Bolgatanga and Togo, to shoot and kill travelers plying these routes. Just this year, aside from the numerous killings of persons belonging to the feuding factions and those from other tribes like Bissas, Moshies, Fulani among others who were killed as a result of mistaken identities. On April 3, 2023, some three immigration officers were attacked at Gingade, a suburb of Bawku by unknown gunmen leading to the death of one officer whose identity was identified as a Ga by tribe. A female police officer was shot dead around the same enclave where a formal Head teacher of the Bawku Senior High Technical Institute, Alhassan Gbanwaa, popularly known as Rocks was attacked leading to his death. Regardless of the existence of the Bawku

Divisional Police station around that enclave, very little has been done to either apprehend the perpetrators of such crimes or stop the attacks around that area on innocent lives.

Up till now, the Bawku area has been noted as “a no go area” for now as these bandits are on rampage, attacking and killing innocent persons all in the name of conflict while the security looks overwhelmed and helpless.

It is against this backdrop that we the Mamprugu Youth in the Binduri district have outline three key strategies below that we believe should government consider, would go a long way in bringing lasting solution to the aged long conflict in the area;

□ **Hold community elders and youth of shooting areas responsible.**

Undoubtedly, Bawku has consistently witnessed the firing of guns mostly during the night amidst attack and killing of innocent persons at very notable areas. The attack of the Military, the immigration officers and a police woman that was killed all happened at areas noted for such heinous crimes yet the security is unable to identify persons engaged in such criminal acts. We the youth of Binduri District believe that should the military be empowered to hold such areas that record these occurrences, it will help in minimizing the unwarranted and unprovoked attacks and killings as residence would take it upon themselves to help expose those engaged in such acts or wage war against such perpetrators.

□ **Establish permanent military camps in areas such as Binduri , Pusiga , Zebila, Nayoko , Zabugu and Mognori .**

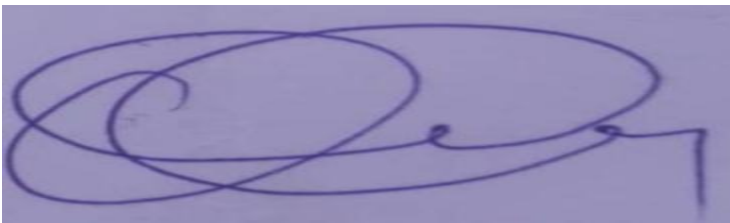
It will interest many to know that, even though under normal circumstances these areas should have had no involvement in the conflict, recent happiness have revealed that these bandits have succeeded in extended their attacks on innocent travelers and settlers suspected to belong to or sympathize with either tribes at these places due to the less security patrol around those areas .These areas in recent times have recorded more loss of lives and properties as a result of the activities of these criminals .The presence of the military base in these areas however will help restore calm in such areas. However, to avoid familiarity, these military personnel together with their Command in the area, should be rotated at least twice every month to make room for fresh

military teams in the town. This would by far help minimize or avoid the possibilities of compromising.

- **Constitute a Committee of eminent chiefs to look into the matter.**

It will be recalled that the current peace that the people of Dagbon are enjoying was as a result of the efforts of a committee of eminent chiefs led by the Ashanti here in collaboration with the National House of Chiefs , an institution vested with the original jurisdiction to tackle chieftaincy problems .Pronouncements by the president , members of parliament and other government appointees on the matter have rather aggravated the tension between the Mamprusi and the Kusasis.

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