

**THE BERNARD ANBATAAYELA MORNAH FOR
PRESIDENT 2024 (BAM4P24)
72 Mango Tree St, GA 027 2997
bam4p24@gmail.com**

25 April 2024

Immediate release

NEEDLESS ARREST AND DETENTION OF A COMMUNICATOR IN THE UPPER WEST REGION

My attention was drawn yesterday to a purported arrest and detention of Comrade Biekpe Sylvester by operatives of the National Investigations Bureau in the Upper West Region on April 23rd 2024.

Unconfirmed reports and commentary within the public space indicated that he was arrested for using unsavoury and unpalatable language in criticising the Vice President, Dr Mahamudu Bawumia, during a radio programme in Wa.

He was eventually released very late last night after strenuous efforts by his family, friends and the NDC Party.

Be that as it may, his arrest and detention was needless and must be condemned in no uncertain terms. Free speech is guaranteed under the 1992 Constitution of our dear Republic and we cannot accept any attempts by this government to criminalise it for whatever reason.

In a democracy like ours, no one is immune to criticism including his Excellency the Vice President. If anyone deems another to have defamed him or her, he or she is entitled to seek redress in the Court of Law and not to resort to the use of security operatives to intimidate and trample upon the rights of innocent and discerning but vociferous citizens.

I encourage all citizens to get critical of the leadership of the country who have a mandate to discharge on our collective behalf. Any leader who cannot stand being criticised does not merit the mandate of the people of Ghana

I further sound a word of caution that these intimidating tactics of resorting to arbitrary arrests of innocent citizens would not be allowed to determine the future of this country. We shall stand for each other and speak with a common voice to build a better Ghana than we have now.

.....signed....

Comrade Bernard A Mornah

PNC Presidential Aspirant