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11<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2023

OUR REF: ALPHA/VB/DBO/KM/11/08/23

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**Attn:** Mr. Ismail Akwei

Dear Sir,

**FALSE REPORTAGE ABOUT SUMS ALLEGEDLY FOUND IN OUR CLIENT'S BANK ACCOUNT**

We act for Ms. Cecilia Abena Dapaah (hereafter referred to as "Our Client") and write regarding some recent untrue and misleading publications from your outlet, GhanaWeb.

Our instructions are therefore as follows:

- I. On 8<sup>th</sup> August 2023, the Office of the Special Prosecutor (hereinafter referred to as the "OSP") filed an application in the High Court, Financial

Division to confirm among others, a freezing order regarding our client's bank accounts.

- II. Although, the Application did not disclose any specific amounts of money found in the bank accounts, your news outlet GhanaWeb published false information about the amounts in those accounts, while ascribing the information to nameless, unidentified and unverifiable sources.
- III. Thus, on 9<sup>th</sup> August 2023, your outlet published a story titled "**EXCLUSIVE: Cecilia Dapaah's bank accounts containing millions of dollars frozen**" and authoritatively commented that it can confirm that our client's accounts contained millions of dollars and cedis frozen by the OSP.
- IV. At about 4pm of that same day, 10<sup>th</sup> August 2023, the Office of the Special Prosecutor via one of its verified social media handles "*Office of the Special Prosecutor – Ghana, @ospghana*" rebutted and dispelled claims that it had revealed any specific amounts of monies found in our client's bank accounts.
- V. Despite this rebuttal, your outfit posted yet another story titled "**High Court to determine whether OSP can freeze Cecilia Dapaah's assets**" in which your outfit referred to its earlier 9<sup>th</sup> August 2023 story containing false information that our client's bank accounts contained millions of dollars and cedis.

From the foregoing, it is evident that your outfit's consistent reportage of our client's matter has been steeped in namelessness, the lack of truth and accuracy. Your outfit's assertions about the sums in our client's accounts are false and you

have continued push these falsehoods that you attribute to unidentified and unverified sources.

Beyond that, your outfit has also failed to correct its errors and to give a balanced reportage of events after the Office of the Special Prosecutor dispelled the false information your outfit had earlier peddled. No retraction or apology has followed since the Office of the Special Prosecutor set the records straight. It is apparent that your outfit's coverage and publications are actuated by malice and a deliberate/reckless attempt to impute wrongdoing to our client contrary to the constitutional and time-honoured principle of the presumption of innocence she is legally entitled to.

We are by this letter demanding that your outfit retracts the false information it has published and apologizes to our client within three (3) days from the delivery of this letter (using the same means and coverage with which you published the false information), failing which we have our client's firm instructions to institute legal action and bring the full force of the law to bear on your outfit for the damage and injury your reportage has caused and keeps causing.

You are accordingly advised.

Yours faithfully,



**VICTORIA BARTH**

Cc: Ms. Cecilia Abena Dapaah