

# **PRESS RELEASE**

## **PRESIDENT GRANT'S NINE HUNDRED 900) PRISONERS AMNESTY TO MARK REPUBLIC DAY**

To mark this year's Republic Day, His Excellency President John Dramani Mahama, acting in consultation with the Council of State and in the exercise of his Prerogative of Mercy and in accordance with Article 72 of the 1992 Constitution, has granted Presidential Amnesty to Nine Hundred (900) prisoners drawn from prisons across the country.

The grant of the Presidential Pardon was done based on ill-health, advanced age and satisfactory conduct of the prisoners during the period of incarceration.

The breakdown is as follows:

- Eight Hundred and Eight-Three (883) first offenders of good behavior who have served half or more of their sentences as at 1<sup>st</sup> July 2015.
- One (1) prisoner who is old and infirm.
- One (1) prisoner who is very ill.
- Fourteen (14) prisoners on death row who have served at least ten (10) years have their sentences commuted to life imprisonment.
- One (1) prisoner sentenced to life imprisonment and has served at least ten (10) years has his sentence commuted to a definite term of twenty (20) years.

It is the hope of H.E. the President that the beneficiaries of the Republic Day Amnesty would conduct themselves properly to avoid falling foul of the law.

The beneficiaries are also advised to make use of the skills acquired during incarceration to improve their lives.

The President, having exercised this prerogative advises that the general public and families of the beneficiaries should receive them back and help integrate them into society, so they could live meaningful lives and contribute their quota to society.

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