

RESETTING GHANA

JOBS. ACCOUNTABILITY. PROSPERITY.

NDC 2024 MANIFESTO





RESETTING GHANA

JOBS, ACCOUNTABILITY & PROSPERITY FOR ALL



BUILDING
THE GHANA
WE WANT
TOGETHER



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ACRONYMS

ACP	Aqua/Cage-culture Project
ADB	Agricultural Development Bank
ADR	Alternative Dispute Resolution
AET	Agriculture for Economic Transformation
AfCFTA	Africa Continental Free Trade Area
AGI	Association of Ghana Industries
AI	Artificial Intelligence
AML/CFT	Anti-Money Laundering and Combating Financing of Terrorism
AMLROs	Anti Money Laundering Reporting Officers
BOG	Bank of Ghana
BOST	Bulk Oil Storage and Transportation
BPC	Broiler Production Cooperatives
BPO	Business Process Outsourcing
CAT	Centre for Alternative Technologies
CBG	Consolidated Bank Ghana
CBMs	Community-Based Monitors
CDs	Communicable Diseases
CFP	Comprehensive Foreign Policy
CFPF	Comprehensive Fiscal Policy Framework
CHAG	Christian Health Association of Ghana
CHASS	Conference of Heads of Assisted Secondary Schools
CHPS	Community-based Health Planning and Services
CMPF	Comprehensive Monetary Policy Framework
CMHOs	Chief Municipal Health Officers
CORS	Continuously Operating Reference Stations
COTVET	Council for Technical and Vocational Education and Training
CPC	Cocoa Processing Company
CRC	Constitutional Review Commission
CRIG	Cocoa Research Institute of Ghana
CSD	Central Securities Depository
CSIR	Council for Scientific and Industrial Research
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility
CSSPS	Computerized School Selection & Placement System
CWSA	Community Water and Sanitation Agency
CWCL	Community Water Company Limited
DACF	District Assemblies Common Fund
DBG	Development Bank Ghana
DDEP	Domestic Debt Exchange Programme



DDMP	Domestic Debt Management Policy
DGMP	Digital Ghana Master Plan
DOVVSU	Domestic Violence and Victims Support Unit
DVLA	Driver and Vehicle Licensing Authority
ECG	Electricity Company of Ghana
EOCO	Economic and Organized Crime Office
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
ESLA	Energy Sector Levies Act
ESRP	Economic and Social Reconstruction Programme
ESTA	Electronic System for Travel Authorization
ETFs	Exchange-Traded Funds
FAA	Federal Aviation Administration
FATF	Financial Action Task Force
FaSC	Farmers Services Centres
FBL	Fidelity Bank Ghana
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
FiSC	Fisheries Services Centres
FIC	Financial Intelligence Centre
FTAs	Free Trade Agreements
GACL	Ghana Airports Company Limited
GAIS	Government Agriculture Insurance Subsidy
GAF	Ghana Armed Forces
GAMOS	Government-Assisted Mortgage Scheme
GCB	Ghana Commercial Bank
GCDC	Ghana Centre for Disease Prevention and Control
GCX	Ghana Commodity Exchange
GES	Ghana Education Service
GETFUND	Ghana Education Trust Fund
GFIM	Ghana Fixed Income Market
GHA	Ghana Highway Authority
GIDA	Ghana Irrigation Development Authority
GIIF	Ghana Infrastructure Investment Fund
GIRSAL	Ghana Incentive-Based Risk Sharing System for Agricultural Lending
GIS	Ghana Immigration Service
GISPA	Ghana Internet Service Providers Association
GLMIS	Ghana Land Information Management System
GMC	Ghana Manganese Company
GPO	Ghana Preschools Online
GPHA	Ghana Ports and Harbours Authority
GRA	Ghana Revenue Authority
GREDA	Ghana Real Estate Developers Association



GSE	Ghana Stock Exchange
GSFP	Ghana School Feeding Programme
GSS	Ghana Statistical Service
GTEC	Ghana Tertiary Education Commission
GWCL	Ghana Water Company Limited
HES	Health and Environmental Services
IATA	International Air Transport Association
ICAO	International Civil Aviation Organization
ILO	International Labour Organization
IRR	Inter-Regional Roads
ITAB	Independent Tax Appeals Board
IXPs	Internet Exchange Points
J4U	JOBS 4 You
KCCR	Kumasi Centre for Collaborative Research
KIA	Kotoka International Airport
KPO	Knowledge Process Outsourcing
LDP	Livestock Development Programme
LED	Local Economic Development
LEAP	Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty
LESDEP	Local Entrepreneurs Skill Development Programme
LI	Legislative Instrument
LISAG	Licensed Surveyors Association of Ghana
LMCs	Licensed Market Operators
LUSPA	Land Use and Spatial Planning Authority
LMCs	Licensed Market Operators
MDAs	Ministries, Departments, and Agencies
MDPI	Management Development and Productivity Institute
MFIs	Microfinance Institutions
MINCOM	Minerals Commission
MMDAs	Metropolitan, Municipal, and District Assemblies
MMDCEs	Metropolitan, Municipal, and District Chief Executives
MoGCSP	Ministry of Gender, Children, and Social Protection
MOF	Ministry of Finance
MRO	Maintenance Repairs and Overhaul
MSM	Medium-Scale Mining
MSMEs	Micro, Small, and Medium-sized Enterprises
NALAG	National Association of Local Authorities of Ghana
NABPTEX	National Board for Professional and Technical Examinations
NACOC	Narcotics Control Commission
NADMO	National Disaster Management Organization
NAFCO	National Food Buffer Stock Company



NAP	National Apprenticeship Programme
NCC	Narcotic Control Commission
NCDs	Non-Communicable Diseases
NDC	National Democratic Congress
NHC	National Health Commission
NIB	National Investment Bank
NHIS	National Health Insurance Scheme
NOC	National Organization Committee
NPA	National Petroleum Authority
NPP	New Patriotic Party
NREC	National Research Ethics Committee
NRSA	National Road Safety Authority
OMNIB	OmniBank
PAs	Purchase Agreements
PBL	Prudential Bank Limited
PDMO	Public Debt Management Office
PEF	Private Enterprises Federation
PFM	Public Financial Management
PFMA	Public Financial Management Act
PFT	Poultry Farm to Table
PHC	Population and Housing Census
PJCC	Permanent Joint Commissions for Cooperation
PLC	Prior Learning Certification
PPC	Patient (Client) Protection Council
PPRSD	Plant Protection and Regulatory Services Directorate
PPPs	Public-Private Partnerships
PTAs	Parent-Teacher Associations
PWDs	Persons with Disabilities
REIF	Real Exchange Investments Funds
REER	Real Effective Exchange Rate
RTCs	Road Traffic Crashes
SBA	Small Businesses Association
SCORE	Sustaining Competitive and Responsible Enterprise
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SDI	Specialised Deposit-taking Institutions
SEC	Securities and Exchange Commission
SIGA	State Interests and Governance Authority
SLTF	Students Loan Trust Fund
SMEs	Small and Medium-sized Enterprises
SOEs	State-Owned Enterprises
SRC	Science Resource Centres





SSM	Small-Scale Mining
SSNIT	Social Security and National Insurance Trust
STEAM	Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics
STEM	Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics
SWM	Solid Waste Management
TEF	Tertiary Endowment Fund
TGD	Transformational Grains Development
TLM	Teaching and Learning Materials
TOR	Tema Oil Refinery
TUC	Trades Union Congress
TVET	Technical and Vocational Education and Training
UEMOA	Union Economique et Monetaire Ouest Africaine
UCC	University of Cape Coast
UDS	University for Development Studies
UGMC	University of Ghana Medical Centre
UHAS	University of Health and Allied Sciences
UHC	Universal Health Coverage
UMB	Universal Merchant Bank
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNICEF	United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund
VLTC	Volta Lake Transport Company
WASH	Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene
WHO	World Health Organization
WRC	Water Resources Commission
YAP	Youth Agriculture-Estate Programme
YEA	Youth Employment Agency
YIIP	Youth Innovation and Industrial Parks





MESSAGE FROM THE FLAGBEARER

Ghana will hold its most important election in December this year.

One in which the very soul of our nation is at stake.

On the ballot will be two contrasting choices - to continue the slide down the present unsustainable path or to carry out an urgent reset that gives our nation a fresh start to restore good governance, ameliorate the suffering of our people and set our country on a trajectory of economic transformation.

Over the past few years, I have travelled around the country many times, meeting fellow citizens from diverse backgrounds: chiefs, fisher-folk, traders, market women, artisans, farmers, Fintech ecosystem operators, journalists, teachers, miners, youth, students, hairdressers, workers' unions, people in the creative industry, our security services and many other groups.

I have listened to their harrowing stories of harsh socio-economic conditions and bad governance. I could not help but admire their exceptional resilience in the face of such difficulties.

I also had the opportunity to learn of their dreams and aspirations for the Ghana they want.

These dreams and aspirations are connected to the vision of our forebears – to build a prosperous and democratic state anchored on the principles of freedom and justice, providing equal opportunities for all.

This is the Ghana we all want and must work to build together.

I seek the mandate of the people of Ghana once again, confident that together, we have the human and natural resources to build the Ghana we all want.

I approach this quest with humility, introspection, integrity and the urgency of an experienced leader who is convinced that Ghana is headed in the wrong direction and must be rescued.

It is our expectation that with your support, the next NDC government under my leadership will implement these policies to transform our country for the benefit of all. We consider this a solemn pact between us and you, the good people of Ghana — a bond that will lift our dear country from the abyss we are trapped in.

We offer the Ghanaian people, a well-curated blueprint to fix the economy and create prosperity; implement a 24-hour economy for business development and job creation; boost our economy through investments in the productive sectors of agriculture, manufacturing and the creative economy; and stimulate growth through developments in energy, infrastructure, science, technology and the environment.



For a social democratic party, we have an immutable commitment to inclusive growth through investments in health, education and sports. We are intentional about social inclusion, addressing the needs of core constituencies such as women, youth, children, persons with disabilities, the elderly and marginalized groups, promoting empowerment, equal access to public services and protection from abuse.

We remain unequivocally committed to promoting good governance, principled and friendly relations with all nations and support multilateralism whilst upholding our sovereign integrity.

The launch of this Manifesto marks the beginning of a journey towards national revival and prosperity for all.

We do not underestimate the extent of the national decay that confronts us today, but we hold a resolve far greater than any challenge that we may encounter.

Ours is an abiding faith in the ability of the Ghanaian people to weather the most daunting of storms.

I have no doubt that when we put our collective energies and efforts together, we can rescue our beloved country and build a great nation that offers opportunities for all and a bright future for our children.

The NDC government that I will lead, will be all about you - serving with dedication, selflessness and deep love for country.

I make a solemn pledge to lead by example and demand the highest standards of ethical conduct from all my appointees. I promise you that I shall exact accountability from all public officials- past and present.

By the grace of the Almighty God and with your support, we shall reset and build the Ghana we want together.

John Dramani Mahama





MAHAMA
FOR PRESIDENT



NDC

NATIONAL
DEMOCRATIC
CONGRESS



I seek the mandate of the people of Ghana once again, confident that together, we have the human and natural resources to build the Ghana we all want.

- John Dramani Mahama





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#ChangingLives
#TransformingGhana

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#TransformingGhana

#ChangingLives
#TransformingGhana





MESSAGE FROM THE RUNNING MATE

I am thankful to H.E. John Dramani Mahama and the NDC for my renomination.

There is much to respect and admire in H.E. Mahama: his unshakeable love of country, vision for national transformation, unmatched legacy, incorruptibility, belief in inclusivity, and quest to always prioritise the welfare of others.

Many have talked about the historical nature of this ticket. While acknowledging that, we intend to truly make history by offering far-reaching leadership to reset Ghana by restoring hope in our democracy, renewing trust in public officials, and helping every Ghanaian attain their full potential.

This is an election like no other. The election of December 7, 2024, offers us the greatest opportunity to reverse the very negative trend set by the NPP.

When elected, John, with my support, will value your mandate every single day. When making decisions, national interest shall be our watchword.

We make a solemn pledge to work with the utmost integrity and patriotism to deliver this Manifesto, our social contract with you.

We promise a new brand of public service that offers a trusted hand to the vulnerable, particularly women and youth, and that creates a new Ghana for coming generations.

It will not be an easy mission, but we are up to the task.

Let's come together to reset and build the Ghana we want.

NOPOKU Agyemang

Prof. Naana Jane Opoku-Agyemang.




MESSAGE FROM THE NATIONAL CHAIRMAN

Since 2017, Ghana has seen the most ignoble degeneration in all areas of national life. Our economy has collapsed to the extent that we have now introduced new terms such as “haircuts” and “domestic debt exchange” into our economic management lexicon. For the first time in our history, pensioners who toiled to serve our country and are entitled to a quiet retirement, have had to picket the Ministry of Finance to demand their hard-earned savings, which they had invested in Government Bonds. The sight of our senior citizens on television picketing was an unfortunate and sad spectacle.

Our present Government has introduced a plethora of taxes that has visited excruciating hardship and a debilitating impact on our living conditions. Our infrastructure is broken down, and many of our roads have been left in a bad state. Our hospitals have been neglected, and many projects meant to enhance the quality of our health services have been completely ignored.





Our educational system has been destroyed due to the incompetent approach to the implementation of the free Senior High School education programme after the smooth introduction of the Progressive Free Senior High School education by the Mahama administration. Many parents have become exasperated as they demand the ever-elusive quality education for their wards. In the energy sector, the mismanagement has been phenomenal, and “dumsor,” that was effectively ended by the Mahama administration in 2016, has again reared its devastating head in Ghana.

Underpinning all these setbacks has been the massive corruption, nepotism, favouritism and impunity that has weakened independent state institutions and entrenched the culture of state capture. We have witnessed the most devastating destruction of our environment through uncontrolled illegal mining activities led or aided by government officials.

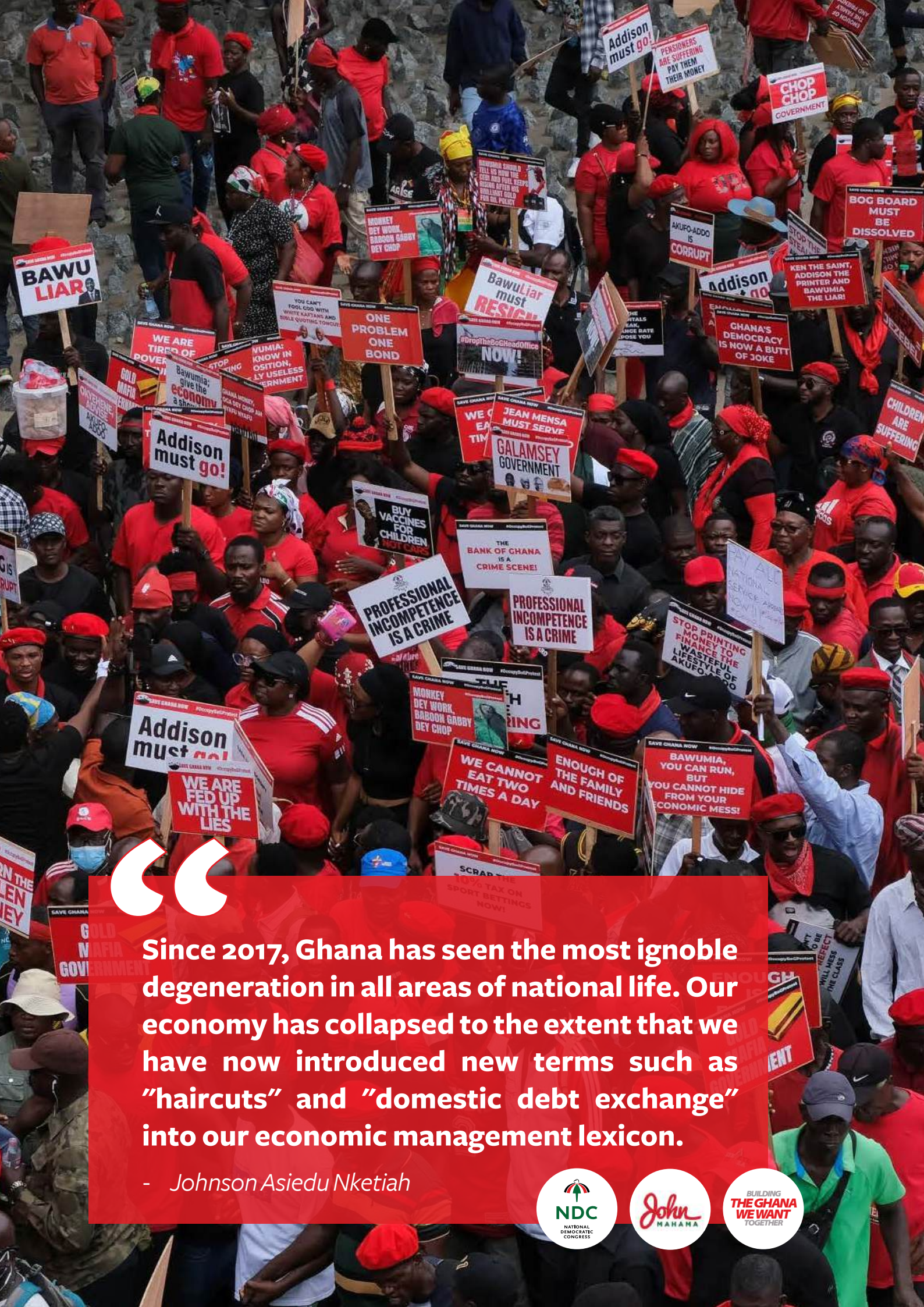
In this Manifesto, the National Democratic Congress has provided Ghanaians with clear, actionable, and concise solutions, borne out of our social democratic ideals, to address the many problems this country faces today. Our policy on the 24-Hour Economy has been clearly stated in simple terms to enable everybody to understand and associate with. So are other policies that we are convinced will help create the egalitarian society that we all seek for Ghana.

We assure Ghanaians that the Manifesto provides a solid framework for “Resetting Ghana.” We urge you to support our Manifesto Policy Proposals and dedicate yourselves to voting for the NDC on December 7, 2024, to reset and build Ghana, to bring it back from the abyss into which it has sunk.

Let us all join hands to Reset and Build the Ghana We Want Together.



Johnson Asiedu Nketiah
National Chairman
National Democratic Congress



Since 2017, Ghana has seen the most ignoble degeneration in all areas of national life. Our economy has collapsed to the extent that we have now introduced new terms such as “haircuts” and “domestic debt exchange” into our economic management lexicon.

- Johnson Asiedu Nketiah



THE GHANA WE LEFT FOR THEM




The NDC/Mahama government bequeathed a remarkable legacy of investments that set Ghana on the path of economic transformation and sustainable development.

THE GHANA WE LEFT FOR THEM

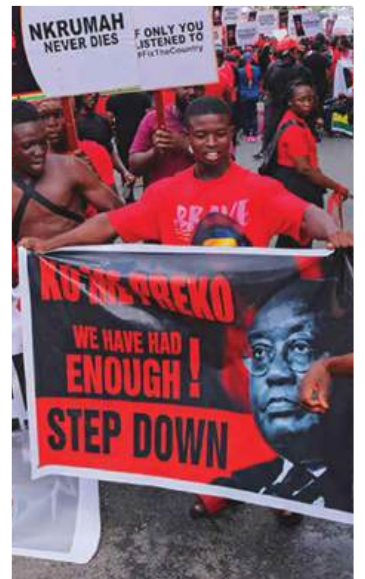
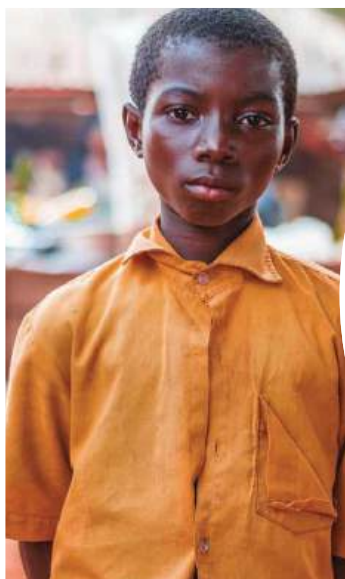
The NDC/Mahama government bequeathed a remarkable legacy of investments that set Ghana on the path of economic transformation and sustainable development.

By the end of 2016, the NDC under the visionary leadership of the Nation-BUILDER, H.E. John Dramani Mahama had:

1. delivered a sound economy marked by a sustainable public debt with a debt to GDP ratio of 55.6%, a stable credit rating of B-, low budget deficit of 6.1%, declining inflation rate that was approximately 15%, a stable currency with a depreciation rate of 9%, an industry and manufacturing sub-sector that grew by 4.3% and 7.9% respectively, a construction sector that was growing at 8.4%, a relatively low single-digit unemployment rate of 8.4%, with the IMF and Economic Intelligence Unit projecting an economic growth of over 8% for 2017;
2. made significant investments in the upstream petroleum sector, bringing onstream, two additional oil and gas (TEN/Sankofa) fields for increased oil production and revenue for national development;
3. created strategic institutional and cash buffers such as the Ghana Infrastructure Investment Fund (GIIF) with an accrual of \$270 million, the Sinking Fund had accrued \$500 million, and the Stabilisation Fund had accrued \$300 million;
4. delivered infrastructural investments across all sectors of the Ghanaian economy. Among these were the:
 - a. world-class and only quaternary hospital in West Africa, the University of Ghana Medical Centre;
 - b. ultramodern 420-bed Greater Accra Regional Hospital at Ridge;
 - c. state-of-the-art institutional (Bank of Ghana hospital, Maritime hospital, etc.), regional and district hospitals and polyclinics, that together delivered over 6000 hospital beds;
 - d. Tema Port expansion project that has made Tema Harbour the largest port in the sub-region, and the Takoradi Port Expansion project that created over 5000 direct jobs;
 - e. ultramodern Terminal 3 at the Kotoka International Airport, Accra;
 - f. Ho Airport and the redevelopment and transformation of the Kumasi and Tamale Airports into international airports;
 - g. establishment of universities such as the University of Health and Allied Sciences, University of Energy and Natural Resources. Funding was also for the University of Environment and Sustainable Development;
 - h. conversion of Polytechnics into Technical Universities to expand access to tertiary education;
 - i. upgrading of Teacher Training Institutions into tertiary level Colleges of Education;
 - j. single largest contribution to the secondary school infrastructure stock through construction of 124 Community Day Senior High Schools. 46 are operationalised, and physical structures have been completed for 27;
 - k. 14-kilometre Kojokrom-Sekondi-Takoradi railway line with modern passenger terminal and the 94-kilometre Tema-Mpakadan railway project;
 - l. Kwame Nkrumah Interchange, Ring-Road Flyover, Kasoa Interchange, Tema Interchange, Pokuase Interchange, Obetsebi Interchange, Flower Pot Flyover phase 1 among others;

- 
- m. 1000-kilometre Eastern Corridor Fibre Optic Cable from Tema to Bawku passing through 120 communities, the 300-kilometre Accra-Tema Metro Fibre, the 3-tier Data Centre, the 10,000-worker capacity Accra Digital Centre and the first Digital Terrestrial Television (DTT) infrastructure in Ghana;
 - n. expansion of water coverage from 56% to 76% through the addition of a 110 million gallons a day capacity of water production to serve over 7 million Ghanaians. This was done through the 5-town (Kyebi, Osenase, Anyinam, Apedwa and Kwabeng) Water Project, Akim-Oda-Akwatia-Winneba Water Project, Kumasi Water Project, Kpong Water Project, Accra Desalination Project, Mampong Water Project, Akim-Oda Water Project, Wa Water Project, among others;
 - o. Komenda Sugar Factory, Elmina Fish Processing Plant, Buipe Shea Factory, the revamped Kumasi Shoe Factory and the over 150 factories established under the Free Zones and EDAIF programmes;
 - p. modernisation of existing markets including the Kejetia and Kotokuraba markets to enhance trade and commerce
5. built Ghana's first-ever Gas Processing Plant (Atuabo Gas) to address the escalating fuel import bill of about \$300million per annum, thereby reducing pressure on our currency;
 6. addressed the legacy debt and financial bottlenecks that had crippled the energy and financial sectors through the introduction of ESLA;
 7. massive investments in the energy sector through the fastest and largest mobilisation of power generation to sustainably fix the country's recurring power crisis (dumsor) ;
 8. expansion of national electricity coverage from 60.5% to 83.2%, the highest in West Africa;
 9. 966,000 metric tonnes cocoa production;
 10. elimination of the shift system in public basic schools, removal of over 2000 schools under trees, reduction of teacher absenteeism from 27% to 7%, improvement of textbook to pupil ratio to 1:4, distribution of free uniforms, free exercise books, free sandals, free sanitary pads and free laptops for teachers. The achievement of Ghana's all-time best BECE performance (2015) and overall best-performing WASSCE nation's award for four consecutive years;
 11. performance of the Bank of Ghana, Ghana EXIM Bank and several SOEs including COCOBOD, ECG, BOST, GOIL, and GRIDCO, that were consistently making profit.

These among others constitute the enduring legacy the John Dramani Mahama NDC led government handed over to the NPP on the 7th of January 2017.



Eight years of economic mismanagement, systematic and organised plunder of state resources, state capture, waste, nepotism, cronyism, abuse of office, impunity, and human rights violations, has reversed the gains made under the NDC government, and imposed untold suffering on Ghanaians.



GHANA NOW – THE NPP MESS

Eight years of economic mismanagement, systematic and organised plunder of state resources, state capture, waste, nepotism, cronyism, abuse of office, impunity, and human rights violations, has reversed the gains made under the NDC government, and imposed untold suffering on Ghanaians.

Today, Ghana is bankrupt, and our economy is classified among the worst-performing in the world. Almost every economic metric is showing deterioration from the relatively healthy state we bequeathed to them. There is a high cost of living crisis, fuelled by hyper-inflation of 54% and debt to GDP ratio of 104% in 2022. A recent Ghana Statistical Service Report shows that 8.5 million Ghanaians constituting 25% of Ghana's population, went a day without food in 2023.

The cedi exchange rate to a dollar is at almost 16ghs to a dollar from a 2016 rate of 4ghs to a dollar. Our currency lost 54% of its value in 2022 alone, at the back of high levels of capital flight, from which we have not recovered.

Through unhinged borrowing, the NPP Government has more than quadrupled our public debt from GHS120 billion in December 2016 to over GHS742 billion. Ghana has defaulted on its debt obligations leading to its downgrade to junk status by all Sovereign Credit Rating Agencies.

This situation has affected about 1.3 million Ghanaians, who trusted their government by buying its bonds. This has resulted in dire consequences for their investments and wellbeing.

Lending and interest rates are now approximately 35%. Additionally, excessive taxation and government hostility towards investors has collapsed businesses and created a toxic investor climate. This has forced some multi-national companies to relocate to neighbouring countries.

Local businesses, especially contractors and service providers are hard hit by the harsh economic climate as they are owed tens of billions of Ghana Cedis. The value of the debt owed them continues to diminish.

Government is unable to meet its statutory obligations, and this has led to the accumulation of arrears. Government is now not able to provide the most basic needs of school pupils such as textbooks, and ensure proper feeding of Senior High School students.

Over 40 different tax measures have been imposed on Ghanaians. Unemployment has reached a record high of nearly 15% with youth unemployment at 32%. Thousands of job losses have occurred, and this has led to a high sense of despondency and destabilised many families.

Amid all the suffering, one thing is thriving – CORRUPTION! As the Catholic Bishop Conference puts it, massive uncontrolled corruption has become the order of the day.

State capture has been their creed and they have spared no effort in gaining undue control of the levers of the state.

This is the NPP mess we are in now. Our country needs an urgent rescue from this socio-economic quagmire.

INTRODUCTION

Our mandate as a Manifesto Committee was to curate a Manifesto anchored on the NDC’s vision of economic transformation for “Resetting Ghana”.

We proceeded by subjecting our 2020 “People’s Manifesto” to 22 Expert Committees for review. We then incorporated recommendations from Party members, Organised Labour, Civil Society Organisations, Youth Groups, Women Groups, Think Tanks, Religious Groups, Traditional Authorities, Professional Bodies, Business Associations, Academics, Disability Groups, and Ghanaians from diverse backgrounds who were engaged across the country.

The result of this rigorous research, debates, consultations, and engagements is the Manifesto you now hold – the NDC’s programme for resetting Ghana, revitalising our economy and strengthening governance for jobs, accountability and prosperity for all.



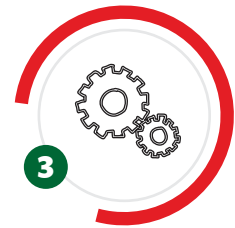
Chapter 1: Resetting the Economy and creating prosperity for All

Chapter One details key policy initiatives aimed at restoring fiscal sustainability and discipline, lowering interest rates, stabilising the cedi, reducing inflation and creating the enabling environment for businesses to create jobs and foster inclusive economic growth and development. This includes regulating financial services like capital markets, banking, insurance, and pensions.



Chapter 2: Jobs for All

Chapter Two presents our 24-Hour Economy Policy, business development, and sustainable job creation strategies. It covers comprehensive policies for entrepreneurship, SME support, and market expansion. The Jobs 4 You Agenda focuses on creating sustainable jobs, enhancing labour productivity, and generating wealth for Ghanaians through technology, innovation, and inclusive growth strategies.



Chapter 3: Ghana Framework For Industrialisation, Revitalisation, Support And Transformation (Ghana First)

Chapter Three targets production as a direct driver of our economic development. This chapter focuses on agriculture, trade (manufacturing), and the culture-arts-tourism sectors. The objective is to boost national income and employment and reposition Ghana as a self-reliant player in regional and international markets.



Chapter 4: Powering Growth through Infrastructural Development

Chapter Four addresses strategic enabling sectors including energy, infrastructure, communications, and technology that will boost productivity in key sectors. Our focus is on the capacity of the sectors to stimulate and optimise core productive sectors, ensuring a sustainable cycle of growth and employment creation.



Chapter 5: Investing in People for Inclusive Growth

Chapter Five underscores our commitment to social democracy, emphasising equitable and inclusive participation in development. We focus on lifelong learning, skills development, health promotion, sports, and wellness. Our social inclusion agenda addresses women, youth, children, persons with disabilities, and marginalized groups, promoting empowerment, equal access to services, and protection from abuse.



Chapter 6: Restoring Good Governance and Combating Corruption

Chapter Six outlines our commitment to reducing the cost of political governance, ensuring transparency, reducing corruption, enhancing government efficiency from the local government to the national level, fostering free speech and debate, and building new relationships with social partners. Our aim is to insulate the state machinery from personal or partisan agenda, promote ethical leadership, professionalism and an impartial justice delivery system.



**Chapter 7: Deepening
International Relations
and Foreign Policy**

Chapter Seven discusses Ghana’s place in the world. We advocate for equal, sovereign, principled, and friendly relations with all nations, protecting our non-alignment and trade opportunities, supporting multilateralism, and maintaining our commitment to non-violent solutions to global problems. We remain resolutely Pan-Africanist, fighting for the rights of oppressed countries and building capacity to deliver on these objectives.

We will progressively implement all our programmes. Nevertheless, we acknowledge the financial mess left by the NPP and anticipate some challenges. This notwithstanding, we will progress swiftly, investing home-grown resources in people to accelerate job creation, growth, and wealth creation. We thank all contributors and welcome continued comment, as we prepare for governance on January 7th, 2025. We the People will Reset Ghana and Build the Nation we want together.


2024 NDC Manifesto Committee



CHAPTER 1: RESETTING THE ECONOMY AND CREATING PROSPERITY FOR ALL







Ghana is grappling with the most severe economic and financial crisis. For the first time under the Fourth Republic, Ghana has defaulted on its debt obligations leading to a debt restructuring programme, which has deprived many creditors, including pensioners, their lifetime investments. Ghanaians are enduring declining economic opportunities, a lower standard of living, an alarming high unemployment rate, leading to a sense of despair and lack of confidence in the Akufo -Addo - Bawumia administration. This economic crisis is marked by unsustainable debt levels, significant revenue shortfalls, dwindling international reserves, a rapidly depreciating cedi, soaring inflation particularly food inflation, low productivity, minimal value addition to raw materials, limited exports, and a persistently high import expenditure.

This crisis has been exacerbated by the NPP's lack of understanding, and the lack of a clear vision for addressing the economic challenges and combatting poverty to achieve inclusive growth. The NDC Government will focus on achieving macro-economic stability, restore fiscal and debt sustainability for long term economic growth and prosperity: We will:

1. scrap the following draconian taxes within our first 100 days in office to alleviate hardships and ease the high cost of doing business: E-levy, COVID levy, 10% levy on bet winnings, emissions levy and import duty on vehicles and equipment imported into the country for industrial and agricultural purposes
2. apply the price Stabilisation and Recovery levy on fuel to cushion consumers;
3. ensure prudent economic management to restore investor confidence, halt capital flight and spur on economic growth;
4. Undertake a comprehensive reform of Ghana's VAT regime to provide relief for households and businesses
5. stabilize the national currency and the macro-economy through an urgent economic recovery programme to shore up our foreign reserves;
6. introduce various social intervention measures to alleviate the current economic hardships of Ghanaians and protect the poor and vulnerable.
7. Shift from over-reliance on the macro-economy; but rather prioritize the micro-economy and invest in the real sector to anchor sustainable growth.
8. implement an Economic Transformation Agenda (ETA), underpinned by structural reforms anchored on promoting modernized agriculture, agri-business and value addition for import substitution, exports and job creation.
9. reduce food inflation to lower the high cost of living in the country through agriculture for economic transformation;
10. review and enforce the Fiscal Responsibility Act, 2018 (Act 982) and implement a Fiscal Consolidation Plan to ensure fiscal discipline under the supervision of an Independent Fiscal Council (IFC).
11. implement a fiscal policy framework to reset government's priorities, cut down waste, and financial losses.
12. re-engage the IMF and complete the current programme;
13. leverage new technologies including Artificial Intelligence (AI) to create a more robust, transparent, and responsive fiscal management systems



MAHAMA
SAVE
US

FROM THE WICKED RULERS

4 Hour
Economy



1.1 Fiscal Policy

Our fiscal policy shall be anchored on a 24-hour economy strategy to enhance productivity, maximize production, create sustainable jobs, and transform Ghana into an import substitution and export-led economy.

The specific objectives of our fiscal policy are to:

1. enhance revenue mobilisation;
2. reduce government expenditure and cut down waste;
3. reduce public debt to sustainable levels;
4. reduce consumption related expenditure and increase capital investments to spur economic growth and job creation; and
5. reduce the fiscal deficit progressively in accordance with the Fiscal Responsibility Act.

1.1.1 Scaling up Revenue Mobilisation

The next NDC government will enhance revenue mobilisation and create an equitable and efficient tax system by:

1. broadening the tax base;
2. reviewing the extractive sector regime to enhance Ghana's stake in our natural resources;
3. reviewing the tax exemption regime to promote transparency, economic growth, technology transfer, and job creation;
4. reviewing the Public Financial Management Act, 2016 (Act 921) and the Public Procurement Act, 2016 (Act 914) to plug leakages and reduce waste and corruption;
5. reviewing and rationalising port fees to enhance trade competitiveness and maximise revenue;
6. resuming the restructuring of the Ghana Revenue Authority (GRA) initiated by the previous NDC government to improve tax administration and compliance;
7. operationalising the Independent Tax Appeals Board [ITAB];
8. enacting a Natural Resources Revenue Management Act (NRMA) to increase revenue from our mineral resources including green minerals and new finds;
9. reviewing the Petroleum Revenue Management Act, 2011 (Act 815) to maximise petroleum revenue for development;
10. harmonising and standardising the tax regime to ensure equity in tax administration for effective revenue mobilisation;
11. diversifying funding options for development by the introducing Diaspora Bonds among others;
12. pursuing membership of the Islamic Development Bank to broaden opportunities for development financing; and
13. implementing the Public-Private Partnership Act, 2020 (Act 1039) for infrastructure financing.

1.1.2 Prudent Expenditure Management

The next NDC Government will ensure fiscal discipline by rationalising government spending to promote efficiency, economic growth, and job creation.



To this end, we will:

1. prioritise investments in the productive sectors of the economy;
2. digitalise and harmonise government's fiscal management systems for efficient expenditure management;
3. enforce compliance with the Public Procurement Law to stop the abuse of sole-sourcing and other breaches;
4. restore the contract database and management system created by the NDC in 2010 to ensure accountability, transparency, and efficient administration of government contracts;
5. complete the Treasury Single Account Project started by the previous NDC government to ensure efficient management of public funds;
6. revamp the Ghana Infrastructure and Investment Fund (GIIF) to undertake well-targeted and self-financing projects;
7. revise the Earmarked Funds Capping and Realignment Act, 2017 to free statutory funds (such as the GETFUND, NHIL, Road Fund, Student Loan Trust Fund (SLTF), etc.) for their mandated objects;
8. reduce government expenditure by running a lean government that eschews profligacy and opulence;
9. improve disbursements into the District Assemblies Common Fund (DACF) for local development;
10. revive fiscal decentralization for local development;
11. Determine a criteria for the grant of tax exemptions based on a measurable cost-benefit approach and a rigorous monitoring mechanism to ensure the state gain

1.1.3 Public Debt Management

The next NDC government will reverse the current trend of borrowing, ensure prudent debt management through SMART borrowing to improve credit rating and debt sustainability. In pursuit of this, we will:


1. re-activate the Sinking Fund and build strategic buffers for effective debt management;
2. strengthen regulation of State Owned Enterprises to reduce contingent liabilities;
3. constitute the independent Public Debt Management Office (PDMO) under the Public Financial Management Act, 2016 (Act 921) to manage public debt to sustainable levels;
4. promote public-private partnerships and prioritise strategic self-financing projects to reduce government liabilities; and
5. prioritise capital investments over consumption-related expenditure in the utilisation of borrowed funds.

1.2 Monetary Policy, Exchange Rate Policy, and Financial Sector Development

1.2.1 Implementing effective Monetary Policy to reduce inflation

Government over-borrowing, reckless monetary policy actions, and the large injection of liquidity by the Bank of Ghana (BOG) over recent years has impaired the effectiveness of monetary policy and fuelled





high inflation and exchange rate depreciation to historic levels. Consequently, the monetary policy under the next NDC government will aim at restoring single-digit inflation, stable exchange rates, and low interest rates. At the same time, emphasis will be placed on promoting job creation as well as maintaining a sound and resilient financial sector. We shall:

1. restructure the Bank of Ghana to strengthen its operational efficiency, fulfil its mandate to ensure price and financial stability, restore public confidence, and contribute to economic growth and job creation;
2. launch a forensic audit into the illegal printing of money by the Bank of Ghana to finance the corrupt Akuffo- Addo/Bawumia government, which caused hyperinflation and pushed over 850,000 Ghanaians into poverty in the year 2022.
3. encourage collaboration amongst the Bank of Ghana and key ministries (Finance, Agriculture, Trade & Industry) to coordinate policy efforts to manage food price stability and support economic growth;
4. ensure the Central Bank enforces its governing laws;
5. adopt measures to curb and eliminate price fixing, price gouging, restrictive price maintenance schemes, and other anti-competitive trade practices that unjustifiably raise food prices to the detriment of most consumers in favour of a few predatory suppliers;
6. reform the Bank of Ghana's monetary policy framework, including inflation targeting and liquidity management, to enhance job creation and sustainable economic development;
7. push ahead with efforts to introduce a state-backed central bank digital currency (e-cedi) to help drive financial inclusion, improve payment efficiency, and enhance monetary policy implementation; and
8. leverage the Ghana Incentive-Based Risk Sharing System for Agricultural Lending (GIRSAL) and Ghana Commodity Exchange (GCX) and undertake measures to double agriculture's share of credit from the banks.

1.2.2 Managing the Exchange Rate

To manage the exchange rate, lower inflation, enhance trade competitiveness, and attract foreign investment for economic growth, the next NDC Administration will:


1. overhaul the entire framework for foreign exchange management including market operations, the legal framework and strengthen the role of BOG in forex market oversight, market structure, reserve management, exchange rate policy, export promotion, and management of capital flows;
2. review the Foreign Exchange Act 2006 (Act 723) to enhance cedi stability, boost investor confidence, prevent illicit financial transactions, support effective monetary policy, and promote a stable economic environment;
3. investigate the NPP's opaque Gold-for-Oil initiative and review the Gold Purchase Programme of the Bank of Ghana.
4. investigate BOG's Gold-for-Oil Programme, review and rationalise the Gold Purchase Programme;
5. control monetary growth and liquidity to ensure cedi stability and competitiveness for expansion of exports and foreign direct investments;
6. monitor all foreign exchange transfers and enforce forex surrender agreements;
7. renegotiate agreements with mining firms upon expiry on the repatriation of export proceeds; and
8. promote export trade of value-added cocoa and other cash crops to improve foreign exchange earnings and job creation.



BANK

OF

GHANA



1.2.3 Enhancing Payment Systems to Promote Financial Inclusion

An efficient payment system supports the smooth functioning of money and credit markets as well as the implementation of monetary policy and the maintenance of price and financial stability.

The next NDC Administration will:

1. enhance financial services and the digital economy by revising the Payment System and Services Act 2019 (Act 987);
2. introduce a FinTech regulation to foster flexibility, innovation, and competition, to make financial services more accessible and affordable for all;
3. enhance security and consumer protection by developing a national cyber security strategy, implement a robust fraud monitoring system, and create a Blacklisted Persons Database to ensure a safe and resilient digital financial environment;
4. utilize advanced technology to improve and enhance risk management; and
5. establish a framework for financial data exchange, promote shared infrastructure for FinTechs and financial institutions, ensure efficiency, innovation, and a seamless digital transformation across the financial services industry.

1.2.4 Promoting Financial Sector Stability and Development for Economic Growth

The financial services sector in Ghana has been adversely impacted by the NPP government's so-called banking sector reforms and the reckless borrowing leading to the Domestic Debt Exchange Programme (DDEP). This has led to a severe loss of livelihoods, jobs, and 'dignity' of life.

The next NDC Administration is committed to building a strong and stable financial sector that will promote intermediation of savings and accelerate economic growth.

We will:

1. reform the financial sector and support the development of modernized financial services for round-the-clock operations, enhance access to credit, improve consumer protection, and boost financial literacy and inclusion, drive economic growth and job creation in line with the 24-hour economy policy;
2. reconstitute and strengthen the Financial Stability Advisory Council to maintain a sound and stable financial sector for sustainable economic growth and development.
3. intensify efforts to implement the financial sector strengthening strategy and augment the Ghana Financial Stability Fund (GFSF) to stabilize the sector;
4. review and update the financial sector laws to modernize operations in the financial services industry for job creation and economic growth;
5. enhance the supervisory structure for the financial sector through a twin-peak supervisory model that will separate prudential supervision and market conduct in the medium term;

6. enact a Virtual Assets Service Providers' Law (VASP Law) to enable regulation of the virtual assets services ecosystem (cryptocurrencies, digital fiat currencies, tokens, bitcoin, and blockchain technology etc.) by the Bank of Ghana and the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC);
7. facilitate the use of blockchain and other emerging technologies to support and enhance government service delivery;
8. set up a transparent, accountable, and effective framework to utilise unclaimed balances in the financial sector and ensure that these serve the broader public interest; and
9. Support cooperative credit union activity as well as other welfare groups to provide specialized financial services to members and enhance financial inclusion.

1.2.5 Restoring Confidence and Integrity in the Capital Markets

The NPP government's clean-up exercise lacked transparency, and SEC directives to liquidate or transfer wealth portfolios under GH¢100,000 caused anxiety, leading to panic withdrawals and a run-on Fund Managers. Additionally, the Domestic Debt Exchange Programme (DDEP) impaired the capital markets, significantly eroding bond values and investor confidence. For example, liquidity in the bond market dropped by 70 percent between 2022 and 2023, affecting bank treasuries, fund managers, brokerage firms, and investors.


The next NDC Administration will:

1. restore confidence in Ghana's economy and on the domestic bond and capital markets.
2. update the capital markets master plan that was introduced by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) in 2021 due to recent developments in the capital markets such as the DDEP;
3. create a more dynamic, efficient, and attractive capital market that meets the needs of both issuers and investors and contributes to economic growth and development;
4. upgrade trading platforms, clearing and settlement systems, and market surveillance mechanisms to deepen the capital market, ensure efficiency and attract more investors and issuers;
5. attract more issuers, including state-owned enterprises, to list on the Ghana Stock Exchange (GSE) to enhance market liquidity and growth opportunities;
6. exempt dividend tax for individuals and revise stamp duty to lower the cost of raising capital, review and update the securities industry regulations to promote activities such as securities lending, margin trading, and dispute resolution;
7. facilitate the introduction of new financial products, including exchange-traded funds (ETFs), asset-backed securities, infrastructure bonds, derivatives, and Islamic financial products, diversifying investment opportunities and boosting market activity; and
8. restructure investment funds into a single Sovereign Wealth Fund to finance infrastructure projects, strengthen the private equity ecosystem, reform and recapitalize the Ghana Venture Capital Trust Fund to also provide risk capital for SMEs, to drive economic development.

1.2.6 Strengthening the Banking Sector

In contrast to the NDC's roadmap for cleaning up the banking sector, the NPP adopted a haphazard approach with no reference to the existing strategy and no prior consideration for the level of interconnectedness across the industry.





The process was politically motivated and was used to deliberately target banks owned by persons perceived to be anti-NPP. The industry has currently been captured by the President's friends and family with dire socio-economic consequences on households and livelihoods.

The next NDC Administration will:


1. launch a forensic audit into the NPPs collapse of indigenous Ghanaian banks and financial institutions at a supposed cost of GH¢25 billion.
2. conduct a forensic audit of the politically motivated banking sector clean-up, review stakeholder roles, and ensure the payment of locked-up investments, restoring trust and stability in the financial system;
3. introduce differentiated minimum capital requirements for the local and foreign banks to promote a vibrant and diversified sector with specialized financing for businesses by reviewing the universal banking concept and amend the Banks and Specialized Deposit-Taking (BSDI) Act, 2016 (Act 930);
4. establish a National Women's Bank to support female entrepreneurs to foster entrepreneurship, innovation and promote women-owned businesses;
5. reform and strengthen Development Bank Ghana Ltd (DBG) to support various economic sectors, fostering sustainable development and economic growth through targeted financial assistance;
6. create a regulatory framework for digital banks to operate and contribute to financial inclusion and innovation;
7. tackle the high non-performing loans (NPLs), recapitalization of banks, risk management practices, and cybersecurity measures to ensure a robust and secure banking industry;
8. establish a regulatory framework for the introduction of non-interest banking; and
9. strengthen the framework for Anti-Money Laundering and Combating Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT) to mitigate risks, deter illicit activities, and foster a more secure and resilient financial environment.

1.2.7 Promoting Indigenous Participation in the Banking Sector

Out of twenty-three (23) banks currently, only nine (9) are indigenous. These are GCB, ADB, NIB, UMB, CAL, PBL, FBL, OMNIB, and CBG. Indigenous banks control only 39.6 percent of total industry assets and only two (2) are among the top eight (8) earners in the banking industry. The Domestic Debt Exchange Programme (DDEP) has further worsened the situation for these banks, hence the need for the government to support their recapitalization.

The next NDC Administration will:

1. promote increased indigenous participation and strengthen the financial services sector through new jobs that prioritize local talent to build a robust economy rooted in our local workforce;
2. review the withdrawal of banking licenses by the NPP Government and implement fair arbitration to restore trust in our financial system and provide opportunities for experienced bankers who lost their jobs;
3. enhance the regulatory and supervisory framework of the banking sector to ensure stronger corporate governance and financial stability;
4. empower indigenous banks by establishing an Equity Fund to aid their recapitalization; and
5. promote local ownership of banks.



1.2.8 Revamping the Specialized Deposit-Taking Institutions (SDI) Sector

The next NDC Administration will:

1. review and enhance the regulatory frameworks for savings and loan companies, rural banks, and microfinance institutions, to ensure efficient supervision a stable and resilient banking sector;
2. develop a comprehensive framework to consolidate the SDIs to support SMEs;
3. address the issue of insolvent Microfinance Institutions (MFIs) and the residual issues from the banking sector clean-up; and
4. promote financial inclusion in rural areas, increasing access to credit for smallholder farmers, and rural communities.

1.3 Insurance and Pensions

Insurance and Pension funds provide significant support for economic development and growth as they act as major sources of investible funds for banks and financial institutions. These funds fundamentally provide various forms of support and benefits for contributors – pensions and life insurance – including risk assumption and support for individuals, institutions, and businesses.

The two sectors have been severely hit by the disturbances in the financial services sector since 2018, in particular, the Domestic Debt Management Policy (DDEP) of the government that has harshly affected pension funds and investments of insurance companies. The current situation demands dramatic changes in the regulatory framework and operational practices for the two sectors to bring them back to a growth trajectory and to fully exercise their core mandates as significant oiling institutions of the economy.

1.3.1 Insurance

To strengthen Ghana’s insurance sector for greater resilience and ensure comprehensive coverage for citizens, the next NDC government will:

1. introduce a risk-based minimum capital regime to link minimum capital to the risks an insurance company carries;
2. leverage GIRSAL to provide agricultural insurance products to protect small-scale commercial and large-scale farmers and lenders against risks from natural disasters;
3. promote the use of Provident Funds and Tier 3 Funds as Group Life Insurance for workers;
4. promote a regime of minimum local participation in foreign insurance companies in conformity with the Ghana Local Content Law;
5. incentivize local insurance companies to take up equity stakes in international reinsurance entities;
6. enforce the insurance of all public access facilities against fire and allied risks; and
7. enhance local value in the insurance sector by facilitating the setting up of additional local reinsurance companies.



1.3.2 Pensions – “All Covered”

To enhance the security and sustainability of Ghana’s pension system and ensure a dignified retirement for all citizens, and to enable the pensions industry delivers on its core mandate of providing enhanced retirement income security for all, the next NDC government commits to implementing the following interventions:

1. Review the legislative and regulatory framework for pensions to:
 - a. allow contributing workers who lose their jobs suddenly due to natural disasters to be supported while they search for new opportunities;
 - b. set up a Mortgage Assistance Fund to allow workers who have made Tier 2 contributions for a minimum period of fifteen (15) years to use their contributions as collateral to access mortgage loans;
 - c. accommodate credit lump-sum payments to workers from age 50 years; and
 - d. improve efficiency in service delivery and enhance the operational and financial efficiency of SSNIT;
2. Restructure and strengthen the corporate governance of SSNIT for efficient pension fund management, enhance operations, and deliver dignified and financially secure retirement;
3. Reduce old-age poverty by encouraging Ghanaians of all income brackets to invest towards their retirement by making defined pension contributions;
4. Create value for contributors and pensioners by investing pension contributions in development projects with high returns;
5. Implement the Mo-Ne-Yo Initiative to promote the uptake of special pension schemes for informal sector workers such as commercial drivers, commercial motorcyclists (Okada), small scale miners, farmers, fishermen, traders, market women, creatives and artisans, to improve the quality of their livelihood in retirement as part of the All-Covered-Pension-Programme;
6. Ensure the efficient distribution of contributors’ funds to listed pension firms and optimum benefits of contributors of a stable, profitable pension systems.

KEY EXTRACTS - RESETTING THE ECONOMY AND CREATING PROSPERITY FOR ALL

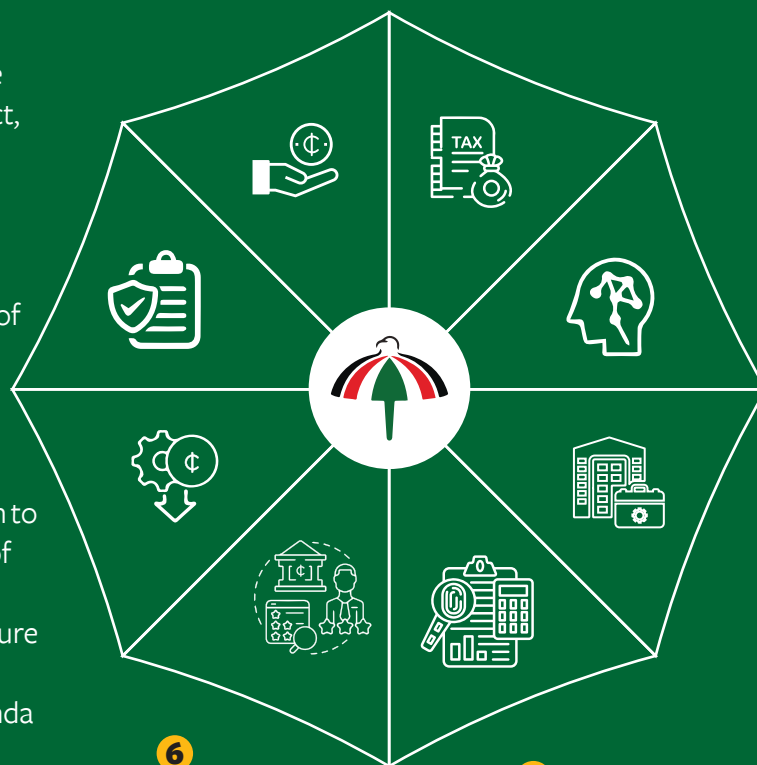
1 Implement the **Mo-Ne-Yo** to promote the uptake of special pension schemes for informal sector workers

2 reduce the tax burden on the Ghanaian people by scrapping the following taxes: E-levy, COVID levy, 10% bet winnings levy, Emissions levy, among others

8 review and enforce the Fiscal Responsibility Act, 2018 (Act 982) and implement a fiscal consolidation plan to ensure fiscal discipline under the supervision of an Independent Fiscal Council (IFC)

3 leverage new technologies including Artificial Intelligence (AI) to create a more robust, transparent, and responsive fiscal management systems

7 reduce food inflation to lower the high cost of living in the country through our agriculture for economic transformation agenda



4 restructure the Bank of Ghana to strengthen its operational efficiency, fulfil its mandate to ensure price and financial stability, restore public confidence, and contribute to economic growth and job creation


6 review the withdrawal of banking licenses by the NPP Government and implement fair arbitration to restore trust in our financial system and provide opportunities for experienced bankers who lost their jobs to reclaim their careers

5 conduct a forensic audit of the politically motivated banking sector clean-up, review stakeholder roles, and ensure the payment of locked-up investments, restoring trust and stability in the financial system

CHAPTER 2: JOBS FOR ALL







Ghana is confronted with a crisis of high unemployment, jobless growth, high cost of doing business, low wages, rising poverty and growing inequality.

Ghana has now recorded its highest unemployment rate of almost 15% with youth unemployment of about 30%. The current unemployment crisis has been occasioned by a disconnect between government policies and job outcomes. This poses a major threat to our fledgling democracy.

Job creation will therefore be the topmost priority of the next NDC government. We will implement revolutionary and transformational policies to create sustainable, decent and well-paying jobs.

These include the following:

1. **24-Hour Economy:** a deliberate policy to encourage and support businesses and public organisations to operate 24/7 in three shifts of eight hours to boost production, promote productivity and generate well-paying jobs. This is aimed at transforming Ghana into an import substitution and export led economy.
2. **Women’s Development Bank:** a special-purpose bank to support women-owned and women-led businesses with low-interest loans and other tailored financial services on very flexible terms. This is aimed at the economic empowerment of millions of Ghanaian women.
3. **National Apprenticeship Programme:** a policy to generate self-employment through the provision of free technical and vocational training for young people in various crafts. Trained apprentices will be issued with appropriate certification and supported with start-up capital and equipment to set up businesses.
4. **“Adwumawura” Programme:** a special business start-up policy aimed at facilitating the creation, tracking, and mentoring of a minimum of 10,000 businesses annually with a special focus on young people.
5. **Digital Jobs Initiative:** a three-billion-dollar investment in partnership with the private sector to leverage ICT for the creation of jobs through the following programmes:
 - a. **One Million Coders Programme:** one million young Ghanaians will be trained in digital skills such as coding, WebApp development, software engineering, among others for jobs in the digital eco-system.
 - b. **Regional Digital Centres** (modelled on the Accra Digital Centre) to facilitate the expansion of Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) and Knowledge Process Outsourcing (KPO) sectors for job creation.
 - c. **A \$50 million FinTech Growth Fund** will be established to promote the growth of digital entrepreneurs and support indigenous FinTech companies.
 - d. **Zonal ICT Parks** will be established across the country to make Ghana the hub for innovation, artificial intelligence, and cybersecurity in Africa. Existing ICT parks such as the Dawa ICT Park will be re-developed into world-class centres of excellence to create jobs.



6. **Agriculture for Jobs (AfJ)**: The next NDC government will implement innovative policies and strategic investments to make agriculture attractive through modernisation. This is aimed at food security and job creation.

To achieve this, we shall roll out a **Feed Ghana Programme** - an aggressive programme to boost food production, guarantee food security, and supply raw materials to industries.

This we will do by:

- a. establishing **Farmer Service Centres** to support farmers with modern agriculture equipment, technologies and inputs in all districts; and
 - b. creating **Farm Banks** within agriculture zones to ease access to land, and irrigation facilities for agricultural purposes and encourage young people into farming.
7. **Rapid Industrialization for Jobs (RIJ)**: Roll out an accelerated plan to promote value addition for domestic consumption and exports. Strategic industries will be established, and defunct ones revived. In pursuit of this, we will:
 - set up Agro-Industrial Zones in all regions based on their comparative advantage.
 - establish mini-processing plants for cassava, tomatoes, fruits, and other commodities.
 - initiate plans to establish cocoa processing factories in cocoa-growing regions such as Western, Western North, Eastern, Central, Ashanti, Bono, Bono East, Ahafo, Volta, and Oti regions.
 - establish cashew processing factories in the Bono, Bono East and Ahafo regions.
 - revamp the textile and cotton-allied industry.
 - facilitate the construction of at least twenty (20) medium-scale animal feed processing plants and revamp the collapsing poultry industry.
 - promote the establishment of factories for the brewing of local beers in the Upper East, Upper West and other regions.

We shall also revive the following factories:

- Zuarungu meat factory;
 - Pwalugu tomato factory;
 - Wulugu livestock station;
 - Komenda sugar factory; and
 - other strategic SOEs and industries
8. The NDC will roll-out **“the Big Push”** for rapid infrastructure development to continue the NDC legacy of massive infrastructure development for job creation.
 9. **Public Sector Recruitment**: Undertake critical public sector recruitments based on the requirements of a comprehensive Human Resource Gap Analysis in line with international best practices and the demands of the 24-Hour Economy.



NDC YOUTH WING

**John Mahama's
24HourEconomy
is for jobs, decent
jobs, and more jobs!**

NDC YOUTH WING


**John Mahama's
24HourEconomy
will boost SME
operations**

NDC YOUTH WING

**John Mahama's
24HourEconomy**

John Mahama's
24HourEconomy

John Mahama's
24HourEconomy

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10. **Ghana Green Jobs Initiative:** We will leverage green technologies for entrepreneurship by promoting the usage of electric vehicles, clean energy for commercial and residential use, and create jobs in sectors such as solar energy, plastic recycling, electronic waste management, and sanitation.

These programmes will be anchored on our 24-Hour Economy Strategy and a Business Development Policy aimed at creating a conducive environment for business growth, innovation, economic expansion and job creation.

2.1 24-Hour Economy Policy (same job, three shifts, three people)

The 24-Hour Economy is a deliberate policy intervention by the incoming NDC administration to stimulate economic growth by creating an enabling environment for businesses and public institutions to operate 24/7, in three shifts of eight (8) hours each.

This innovative policy represents an integrated framework designed to support businesses to operate round-the-clock. It is a comprehensive, multi-sectoral, import-substitution, export-led and industrialisation agenda to transform the Ghanaian economy and create decent, sustainable, well-paying jobs.

It promises increased employment opportunities, productivity, and an enhanced access to public services and revenue.

The implementation of the 24-Hour Economy Policy will be supported by strategic investments in infrastructure, security, energy among others.

2.1.1 Key Sectors of the 24-Hour Economy Policy

The 24-Hour Economy will focus on selected public institutions with large customer base such as Ports and Harbours, Customs, Passport Office, DVLA etc.

It will also focus primarily on;

1. Agro-Processing,
2. Manufacturing,
3. Pharmaceuticals,
4. Construction,
5. Financial Services,
6. Extractive industries,
7. Sanitation and Waste Management,
8. Hospitality Industry,
9. Retail Centres,
10. Transportation Services,
11. Health Services,
12. Security Services



2.1.2 Support Package for Businesses

Through a **‘Made in Ghana Agenda’**, the next NDC government will use its spending power to stimulate demand by patronising made in Ghana goods.

Also, the next NDC government will create an enabling environment for businesses to be able to operate 24/7 by providing:

- i. an atmosphere of safety and security through a public/private security architecture
- ii. cheaper and reliable electricity for participating businesses based on a Time-of-Use (ToU) tariff system
- iii. tax incentives for participating businesses to reduce their cost of operations, and enhance their competitiveness
- iv. financing support through the Ghana Exim Bank for strategic agro-processing factories and manufacturing companies, to boost production for import substitution and exports;
- v. support for viable SMEs operating below capacity in priority value chains with catalytic investments to grow, generate jobs, and propel the economy’s growth.

2.1.3 Implementation Approach

The 24-Hour Economy will be implemented within the context of other national development initiatives, such as education and training, health services, agriculture, the provision of affordable housing for workers, efficient public transport, and effective justice delivery, among others.

It will be home-grown to fit our unique cultural, economic, and social situation. This will be both public and private sector driven, with government policies designed to stimulate round-the-clock business operations. Policy coordination will be integrated across Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs) to ensure efficiency.

An Employment Act that will complement the existing Labour Law will be enacted in consultation with organized labour, AGI, and other stakeholders to create a regulatory framework for the 24-Hour Economy.

We shall promote good work ethic to ensure efficiency in the already existing 8-hour work schedule and in new additional work shifts in public organisations.

An Accelerated Export Development Authority (AEDA) chaired by the President will be established to promote exports through the 24-hour Economy.

2.1.4 Labour and Institutional Reforms for Jobs

The next NDC government will undertake the following reforms to facilitate job creations:

1. review and accelerate the Ghana Labour Market Information Systems (GLMIS), to collect, analyse, and disseminate comprehensive labour market data, including unemployment rates, skill shortages, and sector-specific labour trends;

2. ensure the GLMIS provides adequate and timely information for job seekers and expands the scope and quality of labour market indicators to help policymakers make more informed decisions about employment-generating policies;
3. pass an Employment Act outlining the roles and responsibilities of public and private actors in creating employment as a central objective of economic development policy;
4. ratify the ILO Transition of Employment Convention, 1982 (158) and enact laws to protect workers against exploitation and arbitrary dismissals;
5. review and update the Factories, Offices, and Shops Act, 1970 (Act 328) for effective regulation of Ghana's occupational health and safety in the modern workplace;
6. restructure the Ministry of Employment and Labour Relations to provide policy and technical support to MMDAs in incorporating job creation into their medium-term plans and budgets; and
7. establish a Bilateral Labour Migration Framework to develop agreements with countries seeking skilled workers and creating opportunities for Ghanaians to work abroad, gain valuable experience and return to support national development (including bilateral co-financing arrangements to develop and export the skilled workers needed in these countries).

2.1.5 Aspire 24 – Increased Labour Productivity and Enterprise Competitiveness

Aspire 24 focuses on improving labour productivity and enterprise competitiveness in Ghana. According to the ILO, Ghana's average output per worker is six times lower than the global average, having stagnated since the 2000s. The six key thematic areas of focus for Aspire 24 will be:

1. **Mindset and Work Ethic Transformation:** We will implement a workplace excellence programmes in the public sector as part of a nationwide campaign aimed at transforming work ethics and attitudes towards productivity.
2. **Digital Intelligence Skills Development:** As part of the 'Digital Jobs Initiative', we will provide free basic digital literacy courses in all districts, with advanced courses available through partnerships with local tech companies.
3. **Multilingual Competence Development:** We will integrate multilingual education into the national curriculum from primary to tertiary levels, with a specific focus on strategically important languages for trade and diplomacy.
4. **Vocational and Technical Skills for key sectors:** We will engage industry leaders to identify priority skills needed in the job market and work with CTNET and other key stakeholders to ensure these are incorporated into the curricula of relevant programmes and adequately rolled out across vocational and technical institutions.
5. **Workforce Skills Upscaling:** As part of the workplace excellence programmes, we will collaborate with professional training centres like the Civil Service Training Centre and the Institute of Local Government Studies to establish a Continuing Professional Development (CPD) framework for local government workers.
6. **Business Support Services:** We will develop a Technical Assistance Programme as part of the implementation of the National Employment Trust to provide comprehensive technical and support services to SMEs.





2.1.6 The National Employment Trust

We will create a National Employment Trust to manage an investment fund that operates professionally on market principles to de-risk and mitigate risk in areas that traditional banks do not ordinarily venture into, but have high growth and job potential.

These catalytic investments will make beneficiary 24-Hour Economy SMEs viable and enable them to access funding from commercial lenders.

The Trust will have clear mandates and annual funding targets for each priority sector. In total, this component of 'Jobs for All' will provide catalytic investment to about 1500 enterprises over four years.

The Trust will fund SMEs operating 24-Hour in the following sectors:

1. Integrated Agri-Business to leverage agriculture's complete value chain (production, processing, and marketing) for job creation;
2. Pharmaceuticals to improve access to essential medicines and create jobs in research, manufacturing, and distribution;
3. Construction and Infrastructure to create immediate jobs and lay the foundation for long-term economic growth by facilitating trade, transportation, and access to services;
4. Manufacturing especially for light and heavy industries to create many employment opportunities;
5. Technology for job creation, and investments to encourage entrepreneurship and innovation;
6. Services to particularly creative arts, tourism, and inclusive micro-level financial intermediation;
7. Education and Healthcare to improve people's well-being and develop a skilled workforce that attracts investments and supports economic growth; and
8. Small-scale mining to address safety and environmental standards to create jobs and generate income for local communities.

2.1.7 'Levelling Up' – Achieving Equity for the Youth, Women, and Persons with Disabilities.


'Levelling Up' will seek to achieve equity in the job market and empower youth, women, and persons with disabilities through equitable employment policies. We will:

1. empower vulnerable workers in the informal economy by collaborating with the TUC, CSOs, and private sector associations to form and strengthen democratic, independent, and membership-based organisations representing wage workers, own-account workers, self-employed persons, and employers in the informal economy;
2. implement an Informal Sector Pension Inclusion Initiative to increase participation in micro pension schemes;
3. partner with financial institutions and CSOs to provide financial literacy training and develop innovative financial products and services to support the informal sector;
4. partner with technology institutions and CSOs to offer digital literacy programmes and supporting the informal sector workers to acquire digital tools for their businesses;
5. introduce occupational health and safety training and support programmes to improve working conditions in the informal sector;





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6. streamline, simplify, and decentralise business registration, permits, and tax payment to facilitate informal sector operators' formalisation of their businesses and access to regulatory services;
 7. formalise craftsmanship and artisanal work through standardization and licensing/certification to improve job safety, professionalism, wages, and pension security in cooperation with the relevant industry bodies; and
 8. pursue active labour market programmes, such as public works and technical, vocational and digital training for unemployed youth, expanding special support programmes through the Ghana Enterprise Agency, which will be developed or introduced to young entrepreneurs who can grow and create employment in the short to medium term. Training programmes will include the world-famous 'Start and Improve Your Business', which China used to transform its private sector, and the ILO's Sustaining Competitive and Responsible Enterprise (SCORE) for medium and large-scale businesses.

2.1.8 Employment Programme Monitoring and Evaluation

We will resource and empower the Ministry of Employment to:

1. monitor and evaluate (using GLMIS and other tools) the employment impact of all major government policies and programmes and foreign direct investment;
2. ensure MDAs and MMDAs prepare Local Economic Development (LED) policies that integrate job creation, job protection, and decent work considerations into their planning and reporting processes;
3. direct the Ministry of Education to continuously improve the educational curricula to align with the job market, including modernising infrastructure, updating curricula, and encouraging partnerships between educational institutions and industry;
4. partner with the Management Development and Productivity Institute (MDPI) to improve labour productivity in both the public and private sectors; and
5. convene periodic stakeholder conferences on jobs to assess progress, gather input and feedback, share best practices, and promote collaboration and partnerships among stakeholders.

2.2 Business Development and Entrepreneurship

Ghanaian businesses are currently faced with an unprecedented crisis marked by taxation, steep exchange rate depreciation, high interest rates, high import duties, high utility cost, an unstable macroeconomic environment, a corrupt bureaucracy, and a high cost of doing businesses in a hostile investment climate.


These have been exacerbated by the expropriation of the investment proceeds of Ghanaian businesses under the NPP debt restructuring programme.

This hostile business climate has led to the collapse of several Ghanaian businesses and compelled many multi-national companies to relocate to neighbouring countries leading to further job losses.

In response to these pressing issues, the NDC commits to restoring investor confidence, creating a congenial business atmosphere, and supporting indigenous businesses including SMEs for job creation. To achieve these, we will:





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1. ensure a stable monetary and macroeconomic environment for businesses to thrive;
 2. ease the tax burden on businesses by scrapping the COVID levy, E-levy, emissions levy among others;
 3. rationalize import duties, fees and charges to reduce the cost of doing business;
 4. provide tax incentives, financing support, security services, cheaper and reliable power (through Time-of-Use tariffs) for businesses under the 24-Hour Economy;
 5. provide tax breaks and low-cost financing for strategic start-ups and Micro Small Medium Enterprises (MSMES)
 6. reduce bureaucracies and corruption, promote transparency, simplify administrative and regulatory processes, and respect the rule of law to create friendly investment climate;
 7. provide agro-production support services for MSMES by linking them to our Agro-Industrial Zones,
 8. enhance the role of EXIM Bank in financing non-traditional exports and international trade generally.

2.2.1 “Made in Ghana Agenda”

We will implement a “Made in Ghana Agenda” to promote the production and consumption of made-in-Ghana goods. To this end, we will:

1. leverage the spending power of government and prioritise the procurement of made in Ghana goods and services through a deliberate policy;
2. embark on public education campaign to re-orientate citizens to patronize made-in-Ghana products;
3. promote market access for agro commodities through the warehouse receipt system and the Ghana Commodity Exchange;

2.2.2 Expanding Access to External Markets

We will launch an “Export Ghana Policy” to expand the market of made in Ghana goods under the African Continental Free Trade Area Agreement (AfCFTA) regime and other external trade programmes.


In pursuit of this, we will:

1. promote quality assurance standards, effective branding, and marketing of Made-in-Ghana products to enhance their competitiveness in local and international markets;
2. promote the expansion of businesses owned by Ghanaian entrepreneurs into neighbouring regions through training, strategic partnerships and networking.
3. diversify Ghanaian exports by promoting strategic products through value addition

2.2.3 Addressing Human Capital Development and Skills Deficit

We will:



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1. encourage educational institutions to incorporate artificial intelligence and emerging technologies into their curriculum to prepare our human capital for the future of work.
 2. promote capacity-building in entrepreneurship to enhance the management and profitability of businesses in Ghana;
 3. revitalize Business Development Centres in all districts in Ghana to support local business development and growth;
 4. strengthen partnerships between relevant TVET/tertiary institutions, and industries to provide entrepreneurial training;

2.2.4 Leveraging Private Sector Expertise and Investments for Job Creation


We will harness private-sector investments and expertise to:

1. promote eco-tourism, boutique hotels, tour guide services, and cultural experiences to tap into Ghana's rich tourism potential;
2. invest in waste-to-energy, solar, wind and other clean energy solutions;
3. set up plastic recycling plants to create pellets for other products and exports;
4. establish modern healthcare facilities, telemedicine services, and pharmaceutical production;
5. promote technology-based businesses, such as app development, e-commerce platforms, Fintech and other digital services;
6. establish strategic organic waste-processing plants for energy and fertilizer production in partnership with the private sector;
7. set up manufacturing units for consumer goods, textiles, and building materials;
8. facilitate the manufacturing of simple and power tools;
9. expand the cocoa and shea butter cosmetic industry;
10. facilitate the expansion of cattle rearing and the dairy value-chain in Ghana;
11. enhance transportation and logistics services within the country and sub-region;
12. facilitate the establishment of a National Airline
13. develop the Ho Airport into an aviation training hub;
14. promote Ghana as a health and medical tourism hub by upgrading health infrastructure and enhancing health delivery;
15. establish Ghana as an assisted birth technology hub for Africa;
16. set up amusement and theme parks to drive recreational tourism and services; and
17. expand the fashion industry by encouraging greater use of local textiles and apparel as official work attire.

2.2.5 Removing Gendered Barriers to Entrepreneurship.

We will:

1. implement affirmative action policies in the disbursement of all government grants, procurement, and support services towards inclusive business growth;

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2. establish the Women’s Development Bank to support women-owned and women-led businesses with low-interest capital and other tailored financial services on flexible terms;
 3. provide tailored training and enterprise development support services for young women; and
 4. ensure equitable representation of all sexes on private and public sector boards and corporate leadership.

2.2.6 Ghana Green Jobs Initiative

We will:

1. leverage green technologies for entrepreneurship by promoting the usage of electric vehicles and clean energy for commercial and residential use;
2. create jobs in sectors such as plastic recycling, electronic waste management, and sanitation.

2.2.7 Promoting Foreign Direct Investments (FDI)

We will:

1. enhance e-visa and visa-on-arrival processes to facilitate investor and tourist entry;
2. strengthen business units/trade attaches in missions abroad to support Ghanaian businesses and encourage them to invest in Ghana;
3. implement an Electronic System for Travel Authorisation (ESTA) to fast-track entry at border points; and
4. establish a visa-free regime for African countries, diasporans and other selected countries.

2.2.8 Lotteries, Betting, and Gaming

We will:

1. review the regulatory framework for betting and related businesses to ensure responsible gaming practices, protect vulnerable individuals, and promote fair and transparent operations;
2. strengthen the enforcement of laws governing the lottery industry to ensure compliance and fairness in lottery processes;
3. review the licencing regime and commission structure for Lotto Marketing Companies
4. ensure the prompt payment of lotto winnings and resolve petition tickets within 14 days to maintain trust and reliability in the system; and
5. expedite the issuance of lotto licenses to applicants who have fulfilled the payment requirements.





KEY EXTRACTS - JOBS FOR ALL

1 24-Hour Economy: a deliberate policy to encourage and support businesses and public organizations to operate 24/7 in three shifts of eight hours. Same Job, 3 shifts, 3 People.

2 Women’s Development Bank: a special-purpose bank to support women-owned and women-led businesses with low-interest loans.

8 ‘Levelling Up’ achieve equity in the job market and empower youth, women, and persons with disabilities through equitable employment policies.

7 ‘Buy Ghana Agenda’, deliberately use government’s spending power to stimulate demand for made in Ghana goods.



3 National Apprenticeship Programme: a policy aimed at generating self-employment through the provision of free technical and vocational training for young people.

4 “Adwumawura” Programme: a special business start-up policy aimed at facilitating the creation, tracking, and mentoring of a minimum of 10,000 businesses annually.

6 Ghana Green Jobs Initiative: jobs through green technologies, clean energy for plastic recycling, electronic waste management, and sanitation.

5 Digital Jobs Initiative: One Million Coders Programme, Regional Digital Centres, \$50 million FinTech Growth Fund and Zonal ICT Parks.

CHAPTER 3: **GHANA FRAMEWORK FOR INDUSTRIALISATION, REVITALISATION, SUPPORT AND TRANSFORMATION (GHANA FIRST)**






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Ghana has a great potential in the agriculture, trade, creative arts and tourism industries. Sadly, these critical sectors have suffered eight years of neglect under the NPP government who have prioritised cheap sloganeering over real transformative actions.

The agricultural sector is confronted with low production, low productivity, food losses, limited markets, and poor access to credit, among others. These have been occasioned by low investment in agricultural modernisation and the entire value chain leading to food insecurity and the alarmingly high food inflation the nation is grappling with. Also confronting the sector is the problem of climate change, and environmental degradation aggravated by the increased spate of illegal mining. The Trade and Industry sector is suffocating under the yoke of the high cost of doing business due to excessive taxation, macro-economic instability, high production cost and administrative bureaucracies.

Our tourism and creative industries are challenged by inadequate investments, acute infrastructural deficit, and lack of strategic partnerships which have crippled the sector.

The next NDC Government is committed to addressing these challenges through:

1. an **Agriculture for Economic Transformation Agenda (AETA)** that focuses on modernising agriculture and promoting agri-business to ensure food security, reduce food inflation, boost exports, and create sustainable jobs.
2. a first of its kind **'Black Star Experience'** – a flagship Culture, Arts, and Tourism brand aimed at redefining and affirming our Ghanaian identity, and cultural offerings to make Ghana a preferred tourism destination.
3. comprehensive reforms to reduce the cost of doing business, attract investors, rejuvenate manufacturing and address administrative bureaucracies for a thriving trade and industry sector.

3.1 Agriculture and Agribusiness Development

The next NDC Government will roll out an Agriculture for Economic Transformation Agenda (AETA). Under this programme, we will implement coordinated strategies to build a modernised agricultural economy and promote agribusinesses as key anchors of our economic transformation plan for jobs.

The vision of the AETA is to achieve the following:

1. position Agriculture and Agribusiness as the central focus for economic transformation;
2. create a robust and integrated value chain;
3. apply innovative financing to agriculture and agribusiness;
4. formalise and improve access to land and water for agriculture production; and
5. promote greater participation of young people and women in agriculture
6. Reinroduce the fertiliser subsidy programme for farmers to boost food production and reduce inflation.

In furtherance of these objectives, we will establish **Farmer Service Centres**, to support farmers with modern agriculture equipment, technologies and inputs in all agricultural districts. We will also create **Farm Banks** within agriculture zones to ease access to land, and irrigation facilities for agricultural purposes and encourage young people into farming.





Technical and financial support will be provided for farmers to promote large-scale farming to increase yield and agro-processing.

Additionally, the next NDC Government will undertake the following strategic policies and programmes:

3.1.1 Feed Ghana Programme- Increasing Agricultural Production for Food Security

The Feed Ghana Programme will ensure food security by promoting ‘SMART’ agriculture to boost local food production for consumption.

We will:


1. implement a Transformational Grains Development (TGD) Project to increase the local production of maize, rice, soya beans, sorghum and other staples for domestic consumption and processing;
2. improve the production of roots and tubers through investments in research and the adoption of locally manufactured and approved technology;
3. operationalise and expand the NSS and YEA-supported institutional commercial farms;
4. implement a Vegetable Development Project (‘Y&REDUA’) to enhance the production of tomatoes, onions, peppers and other vegetables through the following measures:
 - a. develop green houses and other modern infrastructure for controlled-environment farming;
 - b. designate ready-to-farm spaces for sustainable open field cultivation under irrigation;
 - c. provide technical support for existing urban and peri-urban vegetable farmers;
 - d. promote home, school and community gardening; and
5. resource research institutions to conduct basic and applied research in plant production, breeding, protection, water harvesting/conservation, climate adaptation/resilience and postharvest handling.

3.1.1.1 Livestock

The NDC will:

1. revamp the collapsing poultry industry by providing incentives for farmers and promoting local consumption under the **‘Buy Ghana’** agenda;
2. roll out a ‘Poultry Farm to Table’ (PFT) Project in collaboration with Poultry Farmers Associations to boost poultry production;
3. roll out a Livestock Development Project (LDP) to boost meat and dairy production especially of cattle, piggery and small ruminants;
4. introduce a National Livestock Day to acknowledge the contribution of the sector to economic growth and promote animal husbandry; and
5. introduce new livestock breeds and support the establishment of Capacity Building Centres to promote livestock production;



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6. revive abandoned ranches, farms and meat factories with particular attention to the Wulugu, Zuarungu, Kpong, Aveyime, and Adidome facilities; and
 7. implement a Broiler Production Cooperatives (BPC) project involving at least 160,000 rural women each producing 100 birds every six (6) months.

3.1.1.2 Fisheries, Aquaculture and the Blue Economy

The next NDC government will revitalise fisheries, the aquaculture sector and promote development of the blue economy in general. We will;

1. collaborate with Landing Beach Committees and leverage technologies to combat corruption in the distribution of the premix fuel;
2. establish a Blue Economy Commission, to sustainably harness and regulate our marine and fresh water resources;
3. enhance aquaculture through improved fish genetics, commercial fingerling production, strengthened quality assurance and disease control;
4. provide resources to support research and development in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors;
5. provide technical support including training, financial support, and resources for women and the youth to engage in sustainable aquaculture and fish farming practices under an Aqua/Cage-culture Project (ACP);
6. ensure effective weather communication, and enforce laws to sustain fish stocks and fishing practices; and
7. improve education in fishing communities and develop alternative livelihoods for fisher folks to improve their well-being and reduce pressure on fish stocks.

3.1.2 Feed Industry Programme

The 'Feed Industry Programme' will boost the production of local raw materials to ensure a consistent and sufficient supply of high-quality agricultural produce for industrial use.

3.1.2.1 Cocoa

The next NDC Government will:

1. re-introduce the provision of free fertiliser, improved seedlings and agro-inputs to cocoa farmers to increase yield;
2. restore prudent management of COCOBOD to enhance efficiency, and productivity and revive the collapsing cocoa sector.
3. prioritize investment in cocoa production over wasteful administrative expenditure to improve the livelihood of cocoa farmers;
4. wage a war against the use of cocoa farms for illegal mining (galamsey) and reclaim degraded cocoa lands;
5. ensure timely release of funds for the purchase of cocoa beans to prevent smuggling;
6. promote the production and adoption of organic fertilizer for sustainable cocoa production;
7. improve support to CRIG to produce new resilient and high-yielding cocoa varieties;

BUILDING THE COCOA VALUE CHAIN



re-introduce the provision of free fertiliser, improved seedlings and agro-inputs to cocoa farmers



initiate a Youth in Cocoa Farming project through a comprehensive support system



ensure timely release of funds for purchase of cocoa beans to prevent smuggling;



wage a war against the use of cocoa farms for illegal mining and reclaim degraded cocoa lands;



integrate agroforestry practices in new cocoa plantings




establish Cocoa Colleges in cocoa-growing regions to train cocoa farmers and extension officers;



support women in cocoa farming and establish an award scheme for female cocoa farmers;



invest in research, and quality standardization to enhance cocoa processing and expand market access.

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8. enhance cocoa pest surveillance and farm biosecurity to prevent pest/disease outbreaks and increase yields;
 9. initiate a 'Youth in Cocoa Farming' project through a comprehensive support system including facilitating partnerships with cocoa farm owners to revive and optimise abandoned cocoa farms;
 10. integrate agroforestry practices in new cocoa plantings to enhance soil microbial life and accrue soil organic carbon that is sellable as carbon credits to registered entities;
 11. establish Cocoa Colleges in cocoa-growing regions to train cocoa farmers and extension officers;
 12. support women in cocoa farming and establish an award scheme for female cocoa farmers; and
 13. invest in research, and quality standardization to enhance cocoa processing and expand market access.
 14. promote Cocoa Farmer Welfare and Support by:
 - a. re-introducing the Cocoa Price Stabilization Fund to protect cocoa farmers;
 - b. ensuring regular cocoa price increments depending in line with world market trends;
 - c. building new and equipping existing health facilities in cocoa-growing districts to provide healthcare;
 - d. assigning a portion of cocoa receipts for health insurance for cocoa farmers;
 - e. operationalising the cocoa farmer pension scheme;
 - f. providing additional livelihood programmes; and
 - g. enhancing child educational support by constructing and equipping basic schools in deprived cocoa-growing areas to eliminate child labor;

3.1.2.2 Cotton

We will revive the cotton industry by:

1. promoting the use of high-yield pest resistant cotton varieties and sustainable farming practices; and
2. facilitating the production of at least 100,000 tons of cotton in the five northern regions for export.

3.1.2.3 Strategic Tree Crop Development

The next NDC Government will bolster Ghana's tree and other strategic crops through these initiatives.

1. The Tree Crop Development Programme will:
 - a. enhance production capabilities in key commercial crops such as shea, oil palm, cashew, coffee, rubber, coconut, mango, and citrus;
 - b. establish a Cashew Development Board to set and regulate standards for cashew production, pricing, export and promote the growth of the cashew industry;
 - c. implement a Shea Development Project to accelerate research and shea nursery development;
 - d. establish mini shea processing plants and expand the shea cosmetic industry in Ghana; and
2. launch a new Strategic Crops Programme to boost and process strategic commercial crops such as cashew, cotton, rubber, among others in our agro-industrial zones.



3.1.2.4 Ghana's Palm Industry ('RED GOLD')

Ghana consumes 250,000 metric tonnes of palm oil annually. Yet, only 50,000 metric tonnes are produced locally by palm plantations such as Benso Oil Palm Plantation (BOPP), Twifo Oil Palm Plantation (TOPP), Ghana Oil Palm Development Company (GOPDC) and other out-grower schemes for palm oil refineries in the country.

Ghana imports 200,000 metric tonnes of palm oil annually at a cost USD200 million. This means the country only produces 20% of the national consumption, even though Ghana has a significant potential to produce about one million metric tonnes of palm oil in the medium term. Ghana cannot meet its own domestic demand for palm oil.

The next NDC government will aggressively:

- i. develop the national palm oil industry policy to offer incentives for the growth of palm and develop the entire value chain of the palm oil industry
- ii. acquire land banks for the development of commercial palm plantations across the country and encourage farmers to actively participate in out-grower palm plantation schemes
- iii. develop palm oil industries through investments, research, and development



3.1.3 Agro-Processing for Economic Expansion and Jobs

The next NDC Government will partner with the private sector to:

1. establish a sugar factory in Salaga and revive the Komenda Sugar Factory which has been abandoned by the NPP government;
2. facilitate the establishment of mini rice mills to support smallholder rice farmers;
3. promote the commercial processing and preservation of tomatoes and pepper for lean periods;
4. establish mini processing plants for cassava, cashew, fruit juice, and tomatoes in key producing regions;
5. facilitate the establishment of cocoa processing factories in cocoa-growing areas;
6. facilitate the commercialisation of cocoa bean pulp by training farm groups and youth start-ups to extract, preserve and package bean pulp for the market;
7. promote the commercial development of cocoa-based products by local businesses across cocoa producing areas through capacity building and start-up finance support;
8. facilitate the establishment of cotton-allied industries such as textile production for job creation;
9. facilitate the construction of at least twenty (20) medium-scale animal feed processing plants, particularly for poultry, the agro-industrial zones;
10. improve meat processing standards by establishing ultra-modern abattoirs, and retrofitting poultry farms with new dressing and packaging equipment; and
11. support the establishment of factories for the brewery of local beer in the Upper East and Upper West Regions.

3.1.4 Developing the Agriculture Market and Value Chain

The next NDC government will:

1. support private sector partners to develop fully functional warehouses, cold housing, and pack centres integrated with the Ghana Commodity Exchange and NAFCO;
2. support the development of containerised Vegetable Terminals as sale and pick-up points;
3. develop the agriculture market and value chain by modernising markets in key towns such as Sekondi, Mankessim, Techiman, Savelugu, Ejura, Yendi, Adenta, Aflao, Wiawso-Asawinso, Wa, Koforidua, Kasoa, Elubo among others;
4. support fish industry productivity by constructing modern inland fish terminals/markets at Adabraka and Kpando Torkor;
5. establish modern fish harbours, landing sites and market complexes with smoking, processing, and storage facilities in major fishing communities such as Shama, Aflao, Sogakofe, Asewewa, Biriwa, Tema New Town and Dixcove; and
6. partner with local processors and supply chain partners to develop the domestic cashew industry and improve returns for farmers and local stakeholders.

3.1.5 Agricultural Infrastructure for Increased Production

The next NDC government will:

1. facilitate the establishment of Agro-Production enclaves with appropriate infrastructure including irrigation and networked warehousing systems as follows:
 - a. map existing land-use to identify strategic zones for medium to large-scale crop and livestock production, and establish Agro-Industrial Zones to support allied industries and services;
 - b. establish 'Farmers' Services Centres' (FaSC) in agro-production zones to provide comprehensive support to farmers, especially, smallholder farmers;
 - c. support Landing Beach Committees to create Fisheries Services Centres (FiSC) to supply necessary equipment and services to fisherfolks;
 - d. refurbish and construct strategic silos and warehouses to support post-harvest activities and reduce losses.
 - e. develop agricultural estates to attract youth and women into agriculture;
2. expand local fertilizer blending by supporting local companies to produce fertilizers and facilitate the establishment of fertilizer manufacturing plants in Ghana;
3. facilitate financing for private sector commercial farm and mariculture through a land and aquatic bank acquisition framework; and
4. double the cultivable land under irrigation to improve agricultural productivity through enhanced irrigation and water management.
5. rehabilitate various irrigation projects including Nasia-Nabogo, Pwalugu multi-purpose dam, Accra Plains, and Tamne Phase 2, Kamba, Mprunem, Wli, Kpli, Dekpor-Weta-Afife, Amate, Nasia, Libga, Paga Zaa among others.

3.1.6 Innovative Agriculture Financing

3.1.6.1 De-risking Agriculture with Affordable Financing

The next NDC administration will:

1. promote the establishment of Farmer's Cooperatives in every district to bring smallholder farmers together and undertake compulsory agriculture census for enhanced farmer traceability;
2. introduce a Government Agriculture Insurance Subsidy (GAIS) Programme to support agricultural development;
3. resource GIRSAL to mitigate lending risks and provide insurance cover;
4. implement a Networked Farmer-Collateral Registry and Insurance Collateral System to allow insured farmers to use their insurance as collateral for credit;
5. encourage agro-companies to list on capital markets to secure resources for growth.
6. improve the Ghana Commodity Exchange (GCX) to facilitate agriculture production, financing and marketing.

3.1.6.2 Improving Access to Low-Cost Financing for Agriculture Development

We will:

1. refocus the Exim Bank to invest in concessional support annually through cooperatives and community banks for export promotion; and

2. encourage commercial banks to invest at least 8% of deposits in the sector to facilitate agricultural initiatives.

3.1.7 Promoting Agricultural Inclusion

We will:

1. facilitate collaborations to provide education, training, and mentorship of young people in agricultural ventures;
2. prioritise the use of technology and innovation in areas such as greenhouse farming to optimize resources and promote entrepreneurship;
3. promote the development of user-friendly digital platforms and virtual communities to highlight successful farming stories to support youth participation in agriculture;
4. establish the Youth Agriculture-Estate Programme (YAP) to provide financial support, land, agronomic assistance, and access to mechanized tools for young farmers; and
5. coordinate school farms initiative in partnership with GES to assign expert agriculture extension services, and technical input for enhanced production.

3.1.8 Institutional Development and Regulatory Framework

We shall:

1. restructure and strengthen the Ghana Irrigation Development Authority (GIDA);
2. restructure and resource institutions responsible for grains warehousing and promote private participation;
3. upgrade the Veterinary Services Directorate to an Authority;
4. upgrade the Pong Tamale Veterinary College into a satellite campus under the UDS to train additional veterinary personnel and lead research in the livestock sector;
5. equip the Central Veterinary Laboratory in Pong-Tamale to increase veterinary vaccine production;
6. develop infrastructure along migration corridors and regulatory framework to minimise herder-farmer conflicts;
7. implement the ECOWAS Protocol on Transhumance through improved bilateral cooperation with sub-regional neighbours; and
8. establish local multi-stakeholder Arbitration Committees involving the community, MMDAs, Traditional Authorities and Security services to help resolve farmer-herder conflicts in affected areas.

3.2 Trade and Industry

Ghana faces significant challenges, including declining exports, and avoidable imports of over \$1 billion worth of essential commodities like rice, sugar, poultry, and even tomatoes. The manufacturing sector - a vital economic driver, is in decline, creating obstacles to growth and employment.

Additionally, bureaucratic inefficiencies, regulatory complexities, and inadequate infrastructure hinder trade growth.



An underutilized informal economy further limits sustainable development and access to financial and legal protections.

These issues highlight the urgent need for strategic trade reforms to restore economic balance and promote self-reliance.

The next NDC government will implement comprehensive and far-reaching reforms designed to:

1. accelerate manufacturing growth for economic development;
2. empower domestic trade to drive national prosperity;
3. promote exports to expand global market reach;
4. structure and formalise the informal economy for sustainable economic development; and
5. enhance the business environment for seamless operations.

3.2.1 Manufacturing for Growth

The next NDC Government will:

1. develop an integrated aluminium industry to stimulate industrialization, reduce import dependency and create sustainable jobs;
2. incentivize the expansion of the automotive and vehicle assembly sector to provide jobs and reduce the costs of motor vehicles;
3. promote light industrial manufacturing, especially of apparel and electronic products;
4. support the pharmaceutical industry to enhance local drug production;
5. promote the use of modern technologies to facilitate growth in the furniture and furnishing industry;
6. invest in advanced technologies to support the production of plastics, fertilizers, and synthetic materials;
7. revitalize the following industries to enhance manufacturing, promote exports, and create jobs:
 - a. the textile industry with special focus on Juapong Textiles, ATL (Akosombo) and new textile industries in the Northern Regions;
 - b. the Industrial Hub of Obuasi, started by the NDC;
 - c. the tomato processing industry at Pwalugu, and the Bono Region;
 - d. meat processing industry especially the Zuarungu Meat factory;
 - e. the sugar industry especially the Komenda Sugar Factory; and
 - f. the leather processing enclave in Kumasi with technical and financial support for small-scale local shoemakers; and
8. incentivize the local production of menstrual hygiene products.

3.2.2 Domestic Trade Promotion

The next NDC Government will





- 
1. promote the development of strategic trade and industrial enterprises, including e-commerce, to enhance market access and competitiveness in Accra, Tema, Takoradi, Tamale and Kumasi;
 2. support the redevelopment of the Abossey Okai, Suame and Cape Coast Artisanal enclaves;
 3. establish modern markets in the six newly created regions;
 4. promote the consumption of Made-in-Ghana products by:
 - a. reinstating the Brand Ghana Council and the Made-in-Ghana Committee;
 - b. assisting local SMEs to standardise production;
 - c. launching comprehensive awareness campaigns to increase visibility and recognition; and
 - d. mandating Ministries, Departments, and Agencies to patronize Made-in-Ghana goods and services.

3.2.3 A Structured Informal Economy for Economic Growth

The next NDC Government will

1. facilitate the formation of small business and trade associations to create structured platforms for engagement, and advocacy, and promote the welfare of members and business growth;
2. promote digital payment systems to facilitate easy and secure transactions and promote financial inclusion;
3. facilitate access to vital business support services to empower small-scale entrepreneurs;
4. promote the development and uptake of innovative insurance packages for the informal sector as part of the All-Covered Initiative; and
5. provide financial and technical support for enterprise development through cooperatives.

3.2.4 Promoting Exports

The next NDC Government will:

1. establish an Accelerated Export Development Programme chaired by the President to facilitate access to foreign markets for Ghanaian products;
2. leverage the benefits of the Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and other Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) for manufacturing and exports;
3. implement tailored export promotion initiatives to assist local manufacturers in producing goods and services aligned with the identified strategic sectors;
4. enhance trade facilitation mechanisms and infrastructure to streamline cross-border trade processes;
5. support SMEs to leverage technology and implement quality assurance systems to enhance their competitiveness;
6. facilitate the development of the packaging industry to support the export sector; and
7. facilitate the establishment and operationalization of a national shipping line to promote exports and imports.





3.2.5 Ease of Doing Business

The next NDC Government will improve the ease of doing business in Ghana to attract private investments for industrialization.

We will

1. simplify, digitize and decentralize registration and permits of Micro, Small, and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs);
2. simplify trade procedures and customs processes to minimise administrative burdens, decrease costs, and improve the efficiency of trade operations;
3. review allied shipping costs to curtail excessive charges and reduce the cost of doing business at the port; and
4. improve trade facilitation, investment promotion, and cross-border cooperation to make Ghana a prominent trade hub in West Africa.

3.3 Culture, Arts, and Tourism Economy – The Black Star Experience

The next NDC Government will create and promote ‘The Black Star Experience’ as Ghana’s flagship Culture, Arts, and Tourism brand to redefine and affirm our Ghanaian identity, attract investments, create new jobs, and increase tourism. The Black Star Experience will undertake a year-round celebration in all the major entertainment, artistic, and educational disciplines to include the celebration of the following:

1. The Pan African Month, Celebrating Heritage, History, and Diaspora Engagement
2. The Ghana Film, Festival and Awards Month
3. Ghana Music World
4. Culinary Month
5. Architecture, Design, Arts and Crafts
6. Fashion and Textiles Month
7. Literacy/Literary Month

To this end, we will:

1. partner with MMDAs to institute creative festivals in honour of Ghanaian legends, for recognition, celebration, and inspiration;
2. introduce well-calendared Black Star Experience to inform planning and participation; and
3. encourage community-based cultural programming and participatory planning to foster ownership and sustainability of cultural initiatives.

3.3.1 Harnessing Culture for Economic Growth

The next NDC Government will:

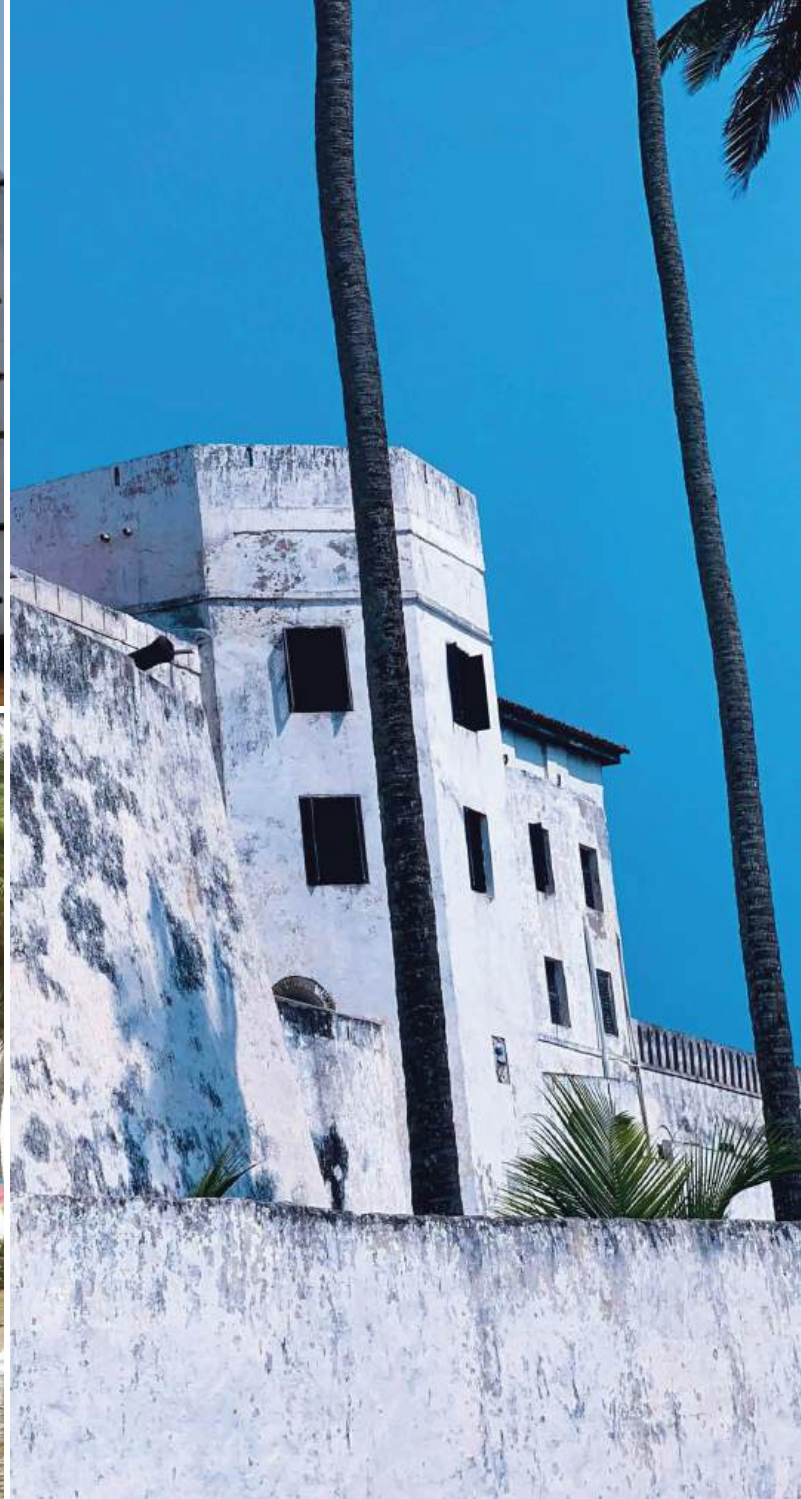



1. revive the Creative Arts Fund to provide sustainable financial support for start-ups, and for ailing large, medium and small creative enterprises;
2. introduce the concept of "Cultural Villages" to showcase Ghana's diverse culture and boost domestic arts and tourism;
3. support the commercialization of cultural and artistic goods and services by facilitating financial literacy education among industry players;
4. use digitalized experiences including virtual reality versions of museums, galleries, memory spaces, and creative contents, to present Ghanaian culture, heritage recreational experiences, and brands;
5. invest in capacity building, education, training, and sensitization in the culture, arts, and tourism sector to empower young artists to contribute to the cultural and economic development of their communities;
6. modernize existing Centres of National Culture into commercially viable performance spaces; and construct new ones in the new regions;
7. facilitate partnerships with international cultural organizations to promote knowledge exchange, collaboration, and exposure to diverse artistic practices; and
8. partner with chiefs and other traditional authorities to promote the commercialisation of heritage festivals.

3.3.2 Building a Thriving Creative Industry

The next NDC Government will:

1. invest in supporting local content creation initiatives to drive job creation;
2. review and strictly enforce broadcasting, digital media and local content provisions to stimulate local artistic productions;
3. facilitate, enforce and enhance the collection and management system for copyrights and royalties in Ghana;
4. partner with stakeholders in Ghana's film industry to position it among the top three producers in Africa;
5. partner with stakeholders in the Ghana music and dance industry to develop and market their craft;
6. promote a culture of reading by partnering with tech start-ups to develop digital platforms that create content from Ghanaian publishers and writers to generate revenue for local authors;
7. promote writing as a commercially viable art form in collaboration with the Ghana Association of Writers and other stakeholders;
8. support young digital content creators to develop contents that promote Ghanaian culture;
9. partner with the private sector to build an ultra-modern recreation village with auditoriums for films, musical concerts, and other stage performances;
10. partner with digital platform developers to promote Ghanaian cultural centres, heritage products and events.
11. We will commence plans to establish a film village, with equipment to be hired at low rates for film makers;
12. We will rehabilitate the National Theatre in Accra and commence plans to build a second National Theatre in Kumasi;
13. We will acquire a special event channel for the Creative Arts on a digital terrestrial television (DTT) and provide a technology that would make the channel "pay per view";



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14. Introduce tax breaks for Creative Arts artistes who have Tax Identification Numbers(TIN);
 15. Initiate plans for a new city on the banks of the Volta Region with facilities that will generate arts activities and boost tourism;
 16. Hold an annual Stakeholder Dialogue with arts culture and the creative industry; and
 17. Provide special rates for performances at the Blackstar Square, Accra International Conference Centre and other state owned venues by artistes.

3.3.3 Enhancing Tourism

The next NDC Government will:

1. build a comprehensive real-time online database in collaboration with the GSS, GTA, GIS, Universities, and other stakeholders for the collection, analysis, and dissemination of tourism data;
2. promote domestic tourism through awareness creation and the institutionalization of programmes and activities in partnership with relevant stakeholders;
3. revive the abandoned Marine Drive project and initiate similar projects in other regions;
4. review the utilization of the Tourism Development Levy to ensure an equitable, effective and efficient distribution to all sectors under CAT;
5. review taxes and enhance incentives on hospitality and other services within the CAT sector to make Ghana a competitive tourism destination;
6. partner with stakeholders to diversify tourism offerings to include medical tourism, educational tourism, religious tourism, culinary tourism, agro-tourism, cultural tourism, and sports tourism, among others;
7. create career security for the talent in the industry through legal and financial protections and a mass pension mobilization scheme;
8. refurbish Ghana's popularised cultural and heritage sites, monuments, and infrastructure, and identify potential attractions for development;
9. develop the creative potential of People Living with Disabilities (PWDs) to effectively and efficiently participate and pursue careers in CAT industries;
10. facilitate investments in the development of tourist facilities and services to cater for the needs of People Living with Disabilities (PWDs);
11. promote local cuisines on the menus of hotels and other tourist facilities in Ghana;
12. define a legal and ethical framework with adequate and appropriate provisions towards orientation for Diaspora Africans who wish to relocate to Ghana;
13. promote insurance uptake for creatives by facilitating tailored insurance product; and
14. collaborate with other stakeholders to promote Ghana's tourism, arts, and cultural goods and services in diplomatic missions abroad to promote Ghanaian culture.

KEY EXTRACTS - GHANA FRAMEWORK FOR INDUSTRIALISATION, REVITALISATION, SUPPORT AND TRANSFORMATION (GHANA FIRST)

1 Agriculture for Economic Transformation Agenda (AETA) - modernising agriculture and promoting agri-business and create sustainable jobs.

2 Feed Ghana Programme – to ensure food security by promoting ‘SMART’ agriculture to boost local food production for consumption.

8 establish modern markets in the six newly created regions

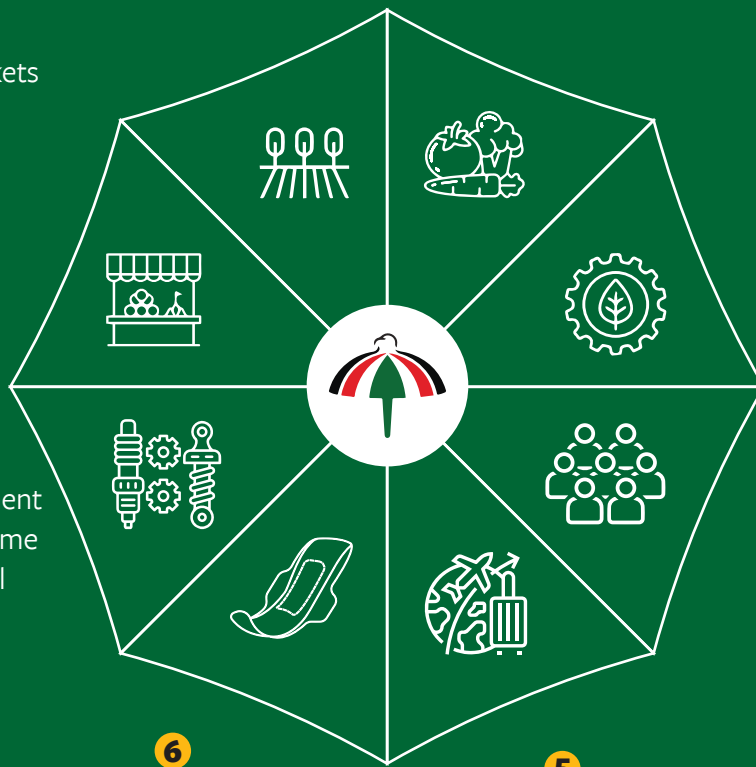
3 enhance production capabilities in key commercial crops such as shea, oil palm, cashew, coffee, rubber, coconut, mango, and citrus;

7 support the redevelopment of the Abossey Okai, Suame and Cape Coast Artisanal enclaves;

4 establish a Cashew Development Board to set and regulate standards for cashew production, pricing, export and promote the growth of the cashew industry;

6 incentivize the local production of menstrual hygiene products.


5 ‘Black Star Experience’ – a flagship Culture, Arts, and Tourism experience making Ghana a preferred tourism destination.



CHAPTER 4: **POWERING GROWTH THROUGH INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT**







Energy, infrastructure, and technology serve as crucial enablers for Ghana’s productive sectors. These sectors facilitate robust growth and enhance competitiveness across various domains. A reliable energy sector is critical for industrialization and economic transformation.

Infrastructure investments connect communities, boost business growth, create sustainable jobs, and foster social cohesion.

Advancements in technology drive innovation, increase digital access, and promote economic diversification. This is critical to our vision of positioning Ghana in the competitive global economy.

However, poorly implemented and uncoordinated policies in these sectors have given rise to challenges that hinder their effectiveness in driving socio-economic development and job creation.

These challenges underscore the urgent need for comprehensive reforms and strategic investments to modernize infrastructure, provide reliable energy, and promote technological advancement.

The NDC will draw on its superior track-record of infrastructure development and experience in these sectors to power growth through the modernisation and expansion of Ghana’s infrastructure.

4.1 Energy for a Sustainable Future

By 2016, the NDC government had made unprecedented investments to achieve reliable, cost-effective, and sustainable solutions to guarantee energy security.

We had achieved the following:

1. fixed the legacy power crisis by increasing power generation by 240 percent from 1,810 MW to 4,292 MW;
2. adequate and reliable fuel supplies for power generation by establishing the one-billion-dollar Atuabo Gas processing plant and the Ghana Gas Company;
3. a modernized and expanded distribution and transmission infrastructure, giving Ghana the strongest and best-connected grid system in the sub-region.
4. increased oil production through significant upstream exploration and development investments, leading to three producing oil and gas fields;
5. value addition and product access by revamping and modernising BOST, GOIL, and TOR;

The failed NPP government has supervised the near collapse of the energy sector through the mismanagement of critical funds, ineptitude, uncontrolled corruption, nepotism, and state capture. As a result, the energy sector is presently engulfed with suffocating debt, declining oil production, increasing transmission and distribution inefficiencies.

These challenges threaten Ghana’s economy and have the potential to plunge the nation back into the dreaded “dumsor crisis” if not addressed.



4.1.1 Energy Sector Management

Eight years of mismanagement and corruption have significantly damaged the capacity and stability of the sector.

To fix this, we will:

1. restructure and realign both operative and regulatory agencies to enhance sector efficiency, transparency, accountability, and governance where necessary;
2. develop an Energy Sector Strategic Framework to integrate the energy and power subsectors;
3. review, and enforce the cash waterfall mechanism ensuring Electricity Company of Ghana (ECG) promptly passes on the appropriate share of revenue to upstream providers;
4. ring-fence ESLA funds for their intended purposes; and
5. improve professionalism across the sector.

4.1.2 Power Sector Development

The NDC will pursue the following interventions to develop the power sector to spur inclusive growth and job creation.

4.1.2.1 Generation

We will systematically:

1. implement an energy transition strategy that will augment thermal and hydro power production with nuclear and other renewable energy sources like solar, wind, biogas, waste-to-energy, and other off-grid energy systems such as mini-hydropower production (e.g. Juale, Pwalugu and Pra), optimizing the flexibility and adaptability of our power system and supporting planned special production zones while reducing our carbon footprint;
2. optimize the economic and environmental sustainability of our thermal sector by investing in the right gas-fired technologies and phasing out inappropriate technologies; and
3. eliminate power wastage through public education and revised building codes.

4.1.2.2 Transmission

We will commence a programme to upgrade, modernize, and expand the National Inter-Connected Transmission System at a measured pace in line with the national transmission plan through the following actions:

1. upgrade, modernize and expand the 161kV and the 330 kV transmission networks to optimize transmission efficiency and reduce losses;
2. construct additional bulk supply points to enhance supply quality, reliability, and flexibility;
3. strengthen market oversight capacity for the West Africa Power Pool System which coordinates cross-border sales of electricity;
4. build transmission sub-stations in Juale in the Oti Region to enhance transmission; and





5. modernise the Yendi substation and link the transmission line from Yendi to the Bolgatanga substation to complete the western corridor loop.

4.1.2.3 Distribution

To work towards achieving sustainable and affordable universal access by 2028, starting with designated special production zones, we will;

1. initiate the LIGHT UP GHANA Project to support the 24-hour Economy by:
 - a. resuming the universal street lighting programme to extend daily productive and social activities and enhance public safety;
 - b. using indigenous engineering firms to develop street lighting infrastructure;
 - c. ring-fencing Energy Sector Levies, national budget allocations and financial and technical resources to fund LIGHT UP GHANA; and
 - d. protecting street lighting infrastructure by engaging MMDAs and local entrepreneurs and developing appropriate insurance schemes;
2. ensure massive investments in the distribution sector to enhance the capacity and also improve the technical and operational efficiency of the utilities;
3. create opportunities and empower local entrepreneurs to participate in the retail of electricity by installing smart boundary meters to ensure accountability and transparency;
4. eliminate bottlenecks associated with electricity connectivity and the acquisition of meters particularly for new customers easier;
5. reduce aggregate technical, commercial and collection losses;
6. review the electricity tariff structure to ensure affordable and cost-effective outcomes;
7. standardize smart metering and lighting systems and eliminate procurement system chaos; and
8. review the electricity tariff structure to promote domestic and industrial use.

4.1.3 Promoting the Petroleum Value Chain

4.1.3.1 Exploration and Production

Our Exploration and Production Sector will deliberately and sustainably provide fuels, feedstock, technologies, and expertise to produce:

1. cheap power to drive productivity, especially in the growth and job-creating priority sectors - Agriculture, Manufacturing, and Culture-Arts-Tourism;
2. appropriate industrial fuels for the transportation sector; and
3. foreign exchange through the export of increasingly value-added products.

The Oil and Gas sector is in decline because exploration, appraisal, and development have nearly collapsed. Private interests have dislodged the national interest through unprofessional, transactional, greed-driven, arbitrary, and opaque policymaking, regulation, and management. This has collapsed investor confidence and demoralized and weakened sector institutions. The task of the next four years is to reverse these trends.

The NDC Government will



1. reinstate the long-term national interest rather than private transactional profitability as the organizing principle of the sector;
2. increase targeted exploration activities to establish new reserves by rebuilding investor confidence through policy and regulatory clarity, consistency, predictability, transparency, and governance and attract world-class investors;
3. innovate multi-field development systems that optimise development infrastructure and allow profitable production of otherwise marginal fields; and
4. fully domesticate the non-revenue benefits of the industry for Ghanaians (e.g. transfer of technologies, development of fleets of Ghanaian oil and gas businesses, and increased “local content” in sector procurement) by re-instating the role of the National Oil Company as a national centre of excellence and by reviewing relevant laws and policies to align with our objectives.

4.1.4 Downstream Petroleum

The previous NDC government took several bold policy initiatives that led to increased availability of petroleum products and enhanced security of supply. These included the petroleum price liberalisation, modernisation of GOIL, public-private partnerships in the BOST petroleum products distribution architecture, the retooling of the Ghana Cylinder Manufacturing Company (GCMC), and the Tema Oil Refinery (TOR), the introduction of the Landing Beach Committees in the distribution of premix fuel and the complete removal of needless mounting debts. Unfortunately, the NPP government truncated these laudable initiatives.

4.1.4.1 Regulatory and Governance Reforms

The next NDC Government will:

1. review the National Petroleum Authority (NPA) Act 2005 (as amended by act 691) to ensure that Petroleum Service Providers (PSPs) are appropriately regulated;
2. establish stringent governance and managerial competence guidelines to enhance decision-making and operational efficacy within the sector;
3. develop and implement a Premix Fuel Management policy involving the landing beach committees to ensure equitable and transparent distribution; and
4. leverage private investments to revitalise Tema Oil Refinery and expand its operations.

4.1.4.2 Enhancement of security of petroleum product installations

We will

1. ensure security of petroleum products installations across the country and implement comprehensive 24-hour security measures for improved integrity and safety; and
2. establish a guaranteed and structured foreign exchange allocation policy for the petroleum downstream sector and review the opaque ‘gold-for-oil’ scheme to ensure sufficient and predictable supply of foreign exchange.



4.1.4.3 Infrastructure and Supply Chain Enhancements

We will, through the Petroleum Infrastructure Master Plan:

1. aggressively develop, modernise and expand petroleum products delivery infrastructure to enhance security of fuel supply, consistency and timely distribution of products supply at stable prices;
2. initiate the development of an alternative mooring facility in collaboration with the private sector to address the current operational and supply security vulnerabilities associated with the SPM facility's monopolistic status;
3. bring on board multiple CBMs and provide additional attack boats to make Ghana a petroleum hub in Africa;
4. upgrade the road infrastructure within and surrounding petroleum storage facilities and Tema Industrial Area to facilitate smoother operations and minimize supply disruptions;
5. expand and develop new Inland Jetties at Akosombo/Debre and Buipe, new pipelines, LNG import and export terminals, and rail transportation of fuel to Kumasi and beyond; and
6. establish the Keta Port (that has seen only a signpost since the appointment of a director five years ago) as a complementary petroleum products delivery hub.

4.1.4.4 LPG Promotion

We will:


1. actively boost domestic LPG use by relaunching the Rural LPG Promotion Programme and ensuring a sustainable supply of LPG to Ghanaian homes;
2. review the Cylinder Recirculation Model through extensive stakeholder consultations for equitable access to market opportunities by all stakeholders;
3. augment local manufacturing capacities for LPG cylinders including retooling the Ghana Cylinder Manufacturing Company; and
4. reduce tariffs on domestic LPG to make it more affordable.

4.2 Investing in Infrastructure Development in Ghana

Ghana's economic growth and development aspirations hinge significantly on the development of a robust and modern infrastructure network. The previous NDC government's enduring legacy of infrastructure development, encompassing transportation, energy, water, housing, and telecommunications, continues to be felt in the daily lives of Ghanaians. This is evident in the world-class airport terminals we built, including Terminal 3 at Kotoka International Airport, Kumasi and Tamale International Airport, the numerous state-of-the-art healthcare facilities such as the University of Ghana Medical Centre, Bank Hospital, Ridge Hospital; educational facilities like the E-Blocks; and the unparalleled road investments that have connected distant communities, including Fufulso-Sawla, among many other achievements.

In stark contrast, the NPP government has failed to deliver on its numerous infrastructure promises. Despite numerous slogans and catchphrases, virtually nothing has been achieved. Over the past eight years, Ghana has witnessed a plethora of abandoned projects, countless reports of corruption, and wasted





opportunities. This has resulted in stagnation and missed potential, highlighting the urgent need for a renewed commitment to infrastructure development.

The next NDC administration will work tirelessly to reinvigorate the economy, drive job creation, enhance productivity, generate revenue, and ensure accelerated and sustainable economic expansion with a national infrastructural growth programme as a catalyst. To this end, we will undertake a National Infrastructure Programme with strategic plans to complete uncompleted and abandoned projects, promote land for wealth, improve water and drainage systems, and enhance transportation.

4.2.1 National Infrastructure Development Programme – The Big Push

The NDC will roll-out “the Big Push” for national infrastructure development to continue the NDC legacy of massive infrastructure development to boost growth.

We will:

1. embark on a US\$10 billion accelerated infrastructural plan to drive job creation;
2. undertake an inventory and review of all uncompleted and abandoned government infrastructure projects across all sectors and complete and equip critical uncompleted structures in order of priority and feasibility;
3. promote comprehensive reforms for equitable, efficient, and transparent land management and use by;
 - a. reviewing the 1999 National Land Policy and establish a Presidential Commission to develop policies for affordable access to land and resources for infrastructure projects;
 - b. establishing related Continuously Operating Reference Stations (CORS) for use by all land-related, spatial, and geographic information decision-makers, service providers, and other users;
 - c. develop a comprehensive National Land Information Database of customary landowners;
 - d. establish viable, self-financing, and electronic system-based Customary Land Secretariats under the administration of trained professionals and competent staff;
 - e. facilitate the compulsory survey and registration of all unregistered customary lands;
 - f. resolve the vexed issue of expropriated Ga-Dangme lands by setting up a Presidential Commission of Inquiry to investigate conflicting judgments of our Superior Courts of coordinate jurisdiction over Ga-Dangme lands that have resulted in overlapping land boundaries plotted at the Lands Commission;
 - g. ensure the effective implementation of Citizens’ Service Delivery Charter for registration of title to land within 30 working days and registration of transfer/assignment and mortgage within 20 working days in the Greater Accra Region;
 - h. review the policy of allocation of state and vested lands at below-market prices;
 - i. consider new management arrangements with original landowners and unauthorized occupants on state-acquired and vested lands on a case-by-case basis;
 - j. promote the establishment of licenced and unarmed Land Security Firms;
 - k. safeguard the land right of women and youth and promote their access to land;
 - l. monitor and curb corruption in land acquisition for both domestic and commercial purposes and large-scale land transactions;



- m. encourage the MMDAs and the Land Use and Spatial Planning Authority (LUSPA) to partner the Ghana Institute of Planners, Licensed Surveyors Association of Ghana (LISAG), and the Ghana Institution of Surveyors in the preparation of planning schemes and surveying services at negotiated concessionary rates; and
 - n. mandate all government institutions and organisations to survey, register and secure state-acquired and occupied lands under them to prevent encroachment;
4. restructure the Ghana Infrastructure Investment Fund (GIIF) and consolidate the administration of additional infrastructure development Funds; and
 5. mobilise and train young people to participate in labour-intensive infrastructure development projects to facilitate job creation.

4.2.2 Water Supply & Distribution

Ghana is blessed with water resources, but many Ghanaians still lack access to clean water, posing significant health risks. The next NDC government aims to address the needs of the population by expanding access to clean water through integrated water resource management, including action in the following specific areas:

4.2.2.1 Urban Water Supply and Distribution

The NDC proposes several initiatives to provide engineering solutions to address perennial flooding, upgrade the existing urban water supply system and increase urban access to piped water.

We will:

1. provide potable water to communities near freshwater sources;
2. expand and extend water distribution networks in urban centres to meet rising demand;
3. equip the 48 Engineers Regiment of the Ghana Army to provide potable water to rural communities, first to those close to freshwater bodies;
4. construct Water Retention and Detention Reservoirs in flood prone communities to reduce the perennial flooding and for irrigation and other purposes;
5. construct and improve drainage systems in Accra, Kumasi, Takoradi, Koforidua and other flood prone cities and towns areas;
6. construct water storage facilities (reservoirs) to store rain and pipe borne water;
7. upgrade existing water supply systems and replace overaged pipes to improve and ensure adequate water supply supported by solar powered energy in rural communities without electricity;
8. upgrade existing systems with solar-powered technology in rural areas lacking electricity;
9. implement borehole projects through public-private partnerships (PPPs) focusing on deep drilling for clean water sources;
10. enhance urban water supply by transporting quality water from the Volta basin to treatment facilities, benefiting communities across catchment areas; and
11. construct, rehabilitate, and expand water supply systems to guarantee sustainable and equitable access to clean and safe water for all communities including:
 - a. Ho and surrounding catchment areas, including the Sogakope Trans-Boundary system and Ho, Kpeve, and Hohoe systems

- b. Tamale and surrounding catchment regions.
- c. Yendi, Sang, and surrounding catchment regions.
- d. Savelugu, Pong Tamale, Diare, and surrounding areas

4.2.2.2 Rural Water Supply and Distribution

To achieve universal rural water coverage by 2030, the NDC proposes to:

1. convert the Community Water and Sanitation Agency into Community Water Company Limited (CWCL) to enhance service delivery and sustainability;
2. rehabilitate and convert rural groundwater systems to solar mechanized systems and construct new systems in underserved communities;
3. utilize scientific data to implement groundwater, dam, rainwater, and floodwater harvesting systems appropriate for local conditions;
4. reduce water costs through strategic investments in storage, transmission, and distribution infrastructure;
5. strengthen regulatory bodies including EPA, WRC, CSIR, GWCL, and CSWA to provide regular updates on water, soil, and air quality;
6. support sanitation and hygiene initiatives through public education and awareness programmes;
7. build new piped schemes in deprived communities and small towns across the country; and
8. provide boreholes for areas without potable water with emphasis on deeper drilling to clean water tables especially in galamsey areas.

4.2.3 Drainage & Irrigation Systems

Our programmes to improve drainage and irrigation includes:

1. constructing dams in Northern Ghana to manage floodwaters from the Bagre Dam, safeguarding agriculture and infrastructure;
2. ensuring coordinated water management to prevent flooding from Akosombo Dam spillage;
3. developing the Nasia Nabogu and Pwalugu multi-purpose dam to support all-year-round agricultural needs;
4. building water retention and detention ponds in flood-prone cities for flood control and irrigation;
5. repairing and maintaining drainage systems such as those on the Odaw River to sustainably manage water resources;
6. empowering local governments to desilt drains regularly, especially before the rainy season;
7. constructing storm drainage systems in critical urban areas to mitigate flood risks;
8. installing culverts on major roads to improve water flow during rainy seasons;
9. supporting the Ghana Irrigation Development Authority to expand and upgrading irrigation systems nationwide; and
10. establishing solar-powered irrigation channels to support small, medium, and large-scale farming initiatives.



4.2.4 Transport

The next NDC government will streamline all transport-related portfolios for the efficient management of highways, urban roads, feeder roads, aviation, maritime and river transport, railways, NRSA, and DVLA.

4.2.4.1 SMART Urban Transit Services

We will deploy a centralized transit control system for all modes to operate on fixed routes and with fixed schedules, including buses, light rail transit, metro, regional rail, and related systems.

4.2.4.2 Air Transport

We will

1. make Ghana the aviation hub of ECOWAS for passengers and freight by:
 - a. developing the aviation refuelling depot for the region;
 - b. establishing certified Maintenance Repairs and Overhaul (MRO) Stations at the Tamale and Ho airports;
 - c. promoting the establishment of training and educational institutions for technical, administrative and service jobs in the industry;
 - d. promoting the growth of businesses that provide ancillary services within the aviation industry;
 - e. creating the most competitive environment for local and international airlines to expand their fleet and routes into other emerging markets within the ECOWAS region and beyond; and
2. carry out a non-aeronautical estate business development of the airport lands in Accra and at all the other regional airports with full participation of the private sector under an Airport City Precinct Development Scheme.

4.2.4.3 Rail Transportation

We will:

1. revamp the Western Corridor rail line in partnership with the private sector to transport bulk cargo and passengers by rail to the major towns along the western corridor and to the port for shipment;
2. progressively reconstruct and upgrade the Eastern Corridor rail line to the nodal town of Kumasi and extend the two corridors to the north for both freight and passenger services with the active participation of the private sector;
3. provide inner-city light rail sub-urban services as an integral part of the western and eastern corridor lines in Kumasi and Takoradi; and
4. roll out the Inner-City Light Rail System in Accra using the Nkrumah Circle as Central Point as shown below:
 - a. Circle to Dodowa
 - b. Circle to Kasoa
 - c. Circle - Koforidua -Nsawam



- d. Circle to Tema
- e. Circle to Aburi
- f. Circle to Korle Bu

4.2.4.4 Maritime & Inland Water Transportation

The maritime sector in Ghana has significant potential for development and plays a crucial role in the economy. The sector contributes directly to economic growth by facilitating trade and commerce, boosting tourism and recreation, and providing other blue economy opportunities. To this end, the next NDC Government will:

1. partner the private sector to upgrade and modernise the port terminals in Tema and Takoradi as grain transshipment hubs for West Africa;
2. re-structure the management of the seaports of Tema and Takoradi to embrace the land lock port concept;
3. re-structure the Tema Shipyard and Dry Dock with private sector participation and partner with technical schools to develop skills in ship building and repair to equip Ghanaians with the needed skills for the industry;
4. re-organize, develop and sustain transit trade with GPHA's involvement in the provision of security in the corridor and the elimination of all forms of barriers and harassments;
5. partner the private sector to upgrade and modernize the Tema Dry Bulk Terminal with conveyor systems and silos for the efficient handling of dry bulk cargo in the Tema port;
6. partner the private sector to develop and operate the Port of Keta in the Volta Region to facilitate economic opportunities in Oti, Volta, Northern, and some parts of the Savannah regions;
7. modernize, upgrade and develop the oil berth in the Port of Tema with the involvement of the private sector for efficient handling of liquid and petroleum products;
8. establish a state-of-the-art training facility with up-to-date simulators to train marine craft pilots, crane operators and port machinery and equipment for the West African sub-region;
9. partner with the private sector to build desalinated water plants for supply to ships;
10. reduce the cost of doing business in the ports by reviewing the governing laws, duties, levies and taxes;
11. liaise with the Ministry of Finance to fix the exchange rate periodically in respect of the calculation of customs duties to provide certainty to the business community;
12. dredge the Volta Lake and other large rivers to introduce suitable vessels for freight and passenger river transport through a multimodal transport system along our rivers;
13. recapitalize the VLTC as a subsidiary entity under the GPHA with a mandate to provide efficient, safe, reliable and sustainable River Transport Services in Ghana for the haulage of cargo and passengers along our rivers;
14. develop and construct fishing landing sites and ports along the Volta Lake and other major fish landing sites along the coastline; and
15. review the operations of the maritime sector to reduce the cost of doing business through our seaports as a ship-owner, shipper, and port operator to keep our seaports competitive and efficient within the sub-region.





4.2.5 Upgrading Road Transportation Systems

We will undertake an accelerated development programme with the private sector to fully dualise the major interregional roads to reduce road accidents, cost and time of transport services and also in conformance with the ECOWAS protocols.

The following major road corridors and Trunk roads, Feeder roads and Urban roads will be improved, completed, or developed:

1. Eastern Corridor: Tema-Asikuma-Hohoe-Damanko-Bimbilla-Yendi-Nakpanduri Kulungugu;
2. Western Corridor: Elubo- Enchi-Sunyani- Wa- Hamile;
3. Upper Corridor:
 - a. Pulmakom-Bawku- Bolga- Tumu – Wa;
 - b. Tamale -Yendi;
 - c. Tamale -Daboya - Busunu – Sawla – Chache;
 - d. Sakoo- Nakpanduru -Bunkpurugu;
 - e. Yendi, Saboba, Waapuli, Cheriponi;
 - f. Nkwanta-Kpaasaa;
 - g. facilitate the construction of trauma centres, clinics, rest stops and other social amenities along the corridors of a) Accra–Kumasi, (b) Accra-Takoradi–Elubo, (c) Accra-Aflao, (d) Kumasi-Techiman-Bolgatanga, (e) Tema-Afienya-Ho, (f) Kumasi-Anwiankwanta;
4. carry out a non-aeronautical estate business development of the airport lands in Accra and at all the other regional airports with full participation of the private sector under an Airport City Precinct Development Scheme.
5. re-design and construct the outer ring roads in the following cities to ease traffic flow: Accra, Kumasi, Tamale, Takoradi, Sunyani, and Techiman;
6. re-design and progressively construct the inner ring roads in all regional capitals to ease traffic flow;
7. reduce the cost of transport services as well as eliminate speed ramps on trunk roads which are a major cause of road damage and loss of lives;
8. re-design and construct the following Inter-Regional Roads (IRR):
 - a. Aburi-Nsawam – Adeiso – Bawjiase - Agona Swedru – Mankessim;
 - b. unkpurugu – Nakpanduri – Walewale – Wiasi – Wa;
 - c. Berekum - Sampa-Banda Ahenkro-New Longoro-Kintampo-Prang;
 - d. Agogo – Dukusen – Anyinofi – Seneso – Atebubu;
 - e. Busunu-Daboya -Yagaba -Fumbisi -Sandema- Chuchuliga;
 - f. Keta - Denu - Ho – Have – Kpando – Worawora – Dambai;
 - g. Sefwi Wiawso – Yametwa – Nkrankwanta – Dormaaa Ahenkro;
 - h. Charibouri – Bunbunu;
 - i. Kumasi – Anwiankwanta – Cape Coast; and
 - j. Asikuma – Anum – Dzemeni.

4.2.5.1 Road Bypasses

We will conduct feasibility studies to explore the provision of bypasses at Mankessim, Tarkwa, Yendi, Walewale, Hohoe, and Kpando to facilitate long-haul traffic and encourage transit trade.





4.2.5.2 Critical Bridges

The following bridges will be systematically constructed on the various links:

1. Pra River on Sekyere Debiso - Sekyere Obuasi Road, Ashanti Region;
2. White Volta at Daboya on Busunu - Mankarigu -Yagaba road;
3. Koukombou River at Yawgu on Chereponi - Ghana/Togo Border;
4. White Volta River on Juanayili - Pusiga Road, Northern Region;
5. Oti River at Saboba on Saboba - Ghana/Togo Border;
6. White Volta River on Bimbilla - Nakpali Road, Northern Region;
7. White Volta River at Nawuni on Tamale - Mankarigu - Yagaba road;
8. Black Volta River at Dikpe on Lawra-Ghana/Burkina Border, Upper West Region;
9. Pra River at Awisam in the Central Region;
10. Volta River at Dambai in the Oti Region;
11. Volta River on Adawso - Ekyiamanfrom Road, Eastern Region;
12. Volta River on Yeji - Makango Road, Bono East/Northern Regions; and
13. Volta River at Kwadwokrom on Kete Krachi - Atebubu Road, Bono East/Oti.

4.2.5.3 Road Safety

We will:

1. plan, develop and implement road safety policies and programmes within the broad framework of road safety management encompassing pre-crash interventions, crash interventions and post-crash interventions;
2. partner with the private sector to construct Trucking/Driver Centres along major Road Traffic Crash (RTC) prone corridors, such as Kintampo and Winneba to provide decent overnight accommodation;
3. promote intelligent transport systems infrastructure as a tool for enhancing road safety and efficiency in transportation planning and management;
4. license mechanical workshops to install speed limiters on long-distance commercial vehicles;
5. enhance DVLA's technical and infrastructure capacity and equip them accordingly for professional driver testing and certification;
6. make road safety audits mandatory for urban and trunk roads during rehabilitation and development;
7. initiate plans to revamp the Neoplan Assembly Plant for the production of both intercity and urban buses with at least 50 percent of all annual state-owned transport operator's fleet replacement being allocated to Neoplan Assembly Plant;
8. upgrade existing Bus/Trotro/Taxi Terminals & Construct Functional Terminals;
9. upgrade major existing transport terminals in the capital including Madina, Achimota, Kaneshie, Korle Bu, Circle, Pokuase, Dansoman, and Dodowa; and
10. construct bus terminals especially in cities to include options for park and ride to encourage commuters to patronize bus services.

4.2.5.4 Regularisation of “Okada” and tricycles

We will regularise the transport of passengers and goods by commercial motorcycles known as Okada and tricycles for improved safety, job security, and welfare for riders.

4.2.6 Sustainable Housing Development

We will:

1. partner with private property developers including GREDA to promote the construction of low-cost and mid-market housing targeting public sector workers;
2. partner both local and international actors to provide affordable and decent homes for the vulnerable in both rural and urban communities;
3. review the Rent Act, 1962, Act 220 to introduce standardization in residential housing and enforce quality control in the built environment;
4. enforce provisions of the Rent Act on payment of rent advances of not more than six months to protect the rights of tenants;
5. establish a low-interest Rent Advance Scheme in partnership with financial institutions/banks for both formal and informal sector workers with regular incomes;
6. engage landlords, real estate investors, and tenants to review the Rent Act to provide tax incentives to landlords and real estate investors to reduce the cost of rent advance for residential and commercial purposes; and
7. restructure the Rent Control Unit into a Ghana Rent Authority to effectively implement the new Rent Act in the interest of tenants and landlords.
8. operationalise the LI (2016) of the Disability Act, on disability access to public places in the built environment.

4.3 Sustainable Environment and Extractive Sector Management

Ghana is endowed with rich biodiversity, vast natural resources, and resilient people. However, the country faces significant environmental challenges that require bold and innovative solutions, and a commitment to sustainability. Ghana is enjoined to protect the environment for the benefit of present and future generations through reasonable legislative and administrative measures.

Regrettably, the NPP government has harmed the environment by allowing increased illegal mining activities, with political figures heavily implicated. Additionally, there have been attempts to privatize forest reserves like the Achimota Forest.

We commit to strengthening the resilience of social and economic infrastructure to the impact of climate change, enhancing sinks of greenhouse gases; and promoting sustainable economic growth and well-being of Ghanaians. Our approach also includes empowering communities, particularly the youth and women, to participate actively in climate protection and air quality initiatives, fostering a culture of sustainability and resilience that will benefit current and future generations.

4.3.1 Environmental Conservation

The next NDC Government will:

1. introduce a 'RESTORE GHANA INITIATIVE' to:
 - a. deal with the issue of galamsey-impacted lands and water bodies through a comprehensive land and water-based rehabilitation and pollution control programme; and
 - b. reclaim and convert impacted land into viable agricultural farmlands.
2. increase the National Forest Plantation cover through creative measures, including mandating timber concessionaires to rehabilitate degraded forest lands as part of their corporate social responsibilities and actively promote the engagement of women and youth from the fringe communities to rehabilitate degraded forest land;
3. undertake a comprehensive review of the state of the forest reserves of Ghana, including the Achimota forest, and implement measures to reduce the unsustainable exploitation of forests;
4. promote community-based ecotourism to increase nature conservation, environmental awareness, job creation, income generation, poverty alleviation and domestic tourism;
5. offer stimulus packages and incentives to companies along the timber value chain to add value and improve the quality of production for add value for both export and domestic markets;
6. set up a technical Timber Product Development team with the requisite expertise to develop new products and product diversification;
7. maintain our forest reserves as healthy and resilient ecosystems to support habitat for wildlife, carbon sequestration and opportunity for outdoor recreation;
8. increase forest reserve patrolling and enforcement measures in critical forest areas, supported by improved staffing, staff training, transportation and communications;
9. establish a new Plantation Division within the Forestry Commission to focus on forest plantations development;
10. promote agriculture co-operatives at the district level for seedlings production;
11. establish Zonal Timber Markets in partnership with private investors for wood processing, marketing and sales for both the domestic markets and for export; and
12. implement comprehensive climate action policies by promoting renewable energy, sustainable agriculture and environmental conservation for a green future.

4.3.2 Extractive Industry Management

In recognition of the crucial role of the extractive industry and natural resources in accelerating Ghana's socio-economic development, the next NDC government will establish a favourable environment for promoting effective, efficient, and sustainable exploitation and utilization of these resources to support accelerated development.

4.3.2.1 Mining

The next NDC government will:

1. re-categorize mining in Ghana into small-scale (SSM), medium scale (MSM), and large-scale (LSM), each with tailored regulatory, operational, environmental, and safety requirements;


2. promote sustainable SSM as a profitable and responsible business especially for young people by enforcing regulations and applying state-of-the-art technology, including AI, to track all excavators and geo-fence all SSM concessions in Ghana;
3. ensure that mining operations are not conducted in unapproved areas, such as water bodies, and that the concession holders rehabilitate impacted areas;
4. facilitate the setting up of mining equipment pools in each small-scale mining district, to ensure easy and affordable access to necessary mining equipment;
5. enhance the capacity of the Minerals Commission to facilitate gold trade, provide mining support services, and ensure efficiency and sustainability in mining operations and to regulate the sector;
6. facilitate equipment financing and mining input, research and standardization, gold recovery optimization, and post-mining land reclamation services;
7. strengthen the capacity of mining regulatory institutions to ensure efficient and effective regulatory operations with quick turnaround times and to engage with stakeholders effectively;
8. amend and strengthen the laws and regulations governing the Minerals Income Investment Fund (MIIF) to include clear guidelines and strict transparency measures for investing mineral revenue;
9. provide a predictable regulatory regime and build confidence for local and foreign investors;
10. collaborate with local and foreign partners to invest in National Minerals Mapping, particularly for mapping and developing lithium and other critical mineral deposits in Ghana;
11. decentralise regulatory and licensing processes for artisanal miners and implement a 'Tree for Life' reforestation policy (with cocoa, palm and rubber) and a Blue Water Initiative to heal and harness the environment by turning areas degraded by illegal mining into hubs of economic and ecological recovery.
12. introduce a system of offset programmes that sets aside part of the royalties due to the government for direct leverage on infrastructure development in mining areas;
13. work with industry stakeholders to revamp the local goldsmithing and jewellery subsector to increase value addition and global competitiveness;
14. promote the production of branded coins and other artefacts; and build the capacity of goldsmiths and jewellery makers to effectively participate in the process.
15. set up a Ghana Gold Board (GOLDBOD) to regulate the small-scale mining sector. This board will restructure the small-scale mining sector;
16. abolish the Community Mining system which is highly partisan, exclusive and defeatist of its own purpose, and establish Artisanal Small-scale mining Cooperatives (ASMCS) for community members interested artisanal small-scale mining;
17. abolish VAT on mineral exploration; and
18. develop special regulatory policies for the development of our critical minerals to ensure improved benefit for our country.

4.3.2.2 Salt Mining

The next NDC government will:

1. establish the Ghana Salt Development Authority (GSDA) with the mandate to regulate the development, mining and export of salt from our entire coastline;
2. facilitate investment by the Minerals Commission to reinvest in the natural Salt Basins at Ada, Keta, Saltpond and Elmina to expand capacity;



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3. create vibrant local community cooperatives in the salt industry through the provision of technology, ponds, pumps etc. to create the needed jobs for the youth;
 4. provide the needed infrastructure including roads and utilities to serve as an attraction for big enterprise exploration along the coast, develop virgin locations and expand existing ones to increase production; and
 5. create market access for Ghana's salt through the facilitation of bilateral level agreements with neighbouring countries such as Nigeria and Mali.

4.3.2.3 Industrial Minerals Development

We will:

1. promote the exploitation of and value addition to mineral deposits, such as limestone, kaolin, iron ore, clay, salt, lithium, aluminium sulphate, oil, and natural gas, in ways that respect the environment while ensuring sustainable development; and
2. attract investments into the non-agricultural raw materials sector to create jobs and stimulate economic development.

4.3.2.4 Climate Change

The NDC party is mindful of the threat of climate change to Ghana's development gains. The country's vulnerability to climate change is marked by unpredictable rainfall patterns, droughts, perennial flooding, disasters, and deteriorating health conditions and is exacerbated by the country's reliance on climate-sensitive sectors like agriculture, forestry, and energy. Climate change worsens environmental degradation, increases migration, and reduces food production, thereby threatening our food security.

To prevent derailment, the next NDC government will:

1. enact and pass a National Climate Change Law;
2. enhance climate resilience of sensitive economy sectors, including agriculture, water resources, forestry, energy, fisheries and aquaculture, infrastructure, and tourism through targeted adaptation and resilience measures;
3. align national efforts and policies with international efforts to limit global warming to 1.5°C and collaborate with global partners to implement the same for sustainable development;
4. facilitate the just transition to renewable energy sources;
5. facilitate implementation of energy efficiency technologies and practices to reduce household consumption of electricity which will eventually reduce the energy budget of households;
6. enhance Ghana's participation in climate diplomacy for Ghana to shape global decisions in line with national interests and positions to help reduce climate change's impact on its people's peace, security, and prosperity.



4.3.2.5 Biodiversity Conservation

Healthy, biodiverse ecosystems sustain life on earth and businesses. Businesses, including pharmaceutical companies, food and agribusinesses, forestry industries, and construction and packaging sectors, use genes, species, and ecosystem services as critical inputs into their production processes. Despite nature's value, it is deteriorating worldwide, including in Ghana. Excessive timber harvesting, slash-and-burn agriculture, illegal surface mining, uncontrolled hunting, wildfires, and wood fuel production are the most significant threats, with a decline projected to worsen under business-as-usual scenarios.

The NDC government will:

1. protect, restore, and conserve natural habitats, including forests, wetlands, and wildlife reserves;
2. develop a National Biodiversity Policy, aligning it with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework to address biological diversity loss, restore ecosystems, and protect community rights;
3. enact and pass a National Biodiversity Protection Law;
4. enact a legal instrument for Access and Benefit-sharing of genetic resources and develop a digital sequence information for genetic resources;
5. enhance Ghana's participation in global biodiversity negotiations for Ghana to shape global decisions in line with national interests and positions to help protect and conserve its biological diversity; and
6. support Ghana Statistical Services, NDCP, the Ministry of Finance, and the Environmental Protection Agency to integrate Natural Capital Accounting (NCA) into national wealth accounting systems to shift policies toward sustainable growth and reflect the actual state of Ghana's GDP.

4.3.2.6 Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) diplomacy

To have an ambitious and progressive position and for Ghana to assert itself as a proactive player with key influence in the MEA negotiations, the NDC government will:

1. enhance the role of MEA National Focal Points to ensure high-level political coordination of activities before, during, and after negotiations; and
2. establish clear negotiation teams for the environmental conventions, including the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, the UN Convention on Biological Diversity, the UN Convention to Combat Drought and Desertification, the Plastic Convention etc. The team shall include, civil society, youth, and women.



4.4 Science, Technology, Digital Economy, Communication and Innovation

4.4.1 Science and Technology

The next NDC government will:

1. promote investments in nanotechnology to enhance the advancement of medical imaging and treatment, radiation therapy, food irradiation, and environmental monitoring;
2. promote the application of remote sensing to monitor changes in forest cover and detect illegal exploitation of natural resources using artificial intelligence and machine learning;
3. ensure efficient and cost-effective waste management using AI-powered systems to reduce environmental impact and effective waste collection;
4. promote the use technology in waste management whenever feasible, including developing alternative uses of waste plastics and e-waste management; and
5. support efficient waste management using AI-powered systems.

4.4.2 Digital Economy, Communication and Innovation


The next NDC Government will expand digital infrastructure to foster innovation, improve public service delivery, enhance access to information and communication technologies, support the digital economy, and ensure inclusive and equitable growth across all sectors to support the implementation.

4.4.2.1 Improving the digital landscape

We will:

1. facilitate the expansion of broadband infrastructure to make high-speed broadband internet services affordable and widely available, especially in underserved areas;
2. commence the building of National Information Highway (Ghana Broadband Network) which utilises 5G and fibre optic technologies to promote the use of the internet through public-private partnerships;
3. enact and implement a Critical National Infrastructure Act to regulate the laying of fibre, water pipes and electricity lines alongside road construction;
4. develop a Digital Ghana Master Plan (DGMP) to cover all aspects of ICT development;
5. develop a National Digital Policy to regulate the deployment and usage of emerging technologies such as Artificial Intelligence;
6. provide license-exempt spectrum to cover communities that will otherwise not enjoy access to broadband services;
7. establish ICT centres in underserved areas to provide shared access to computers, the internet, digital resources, and training and support services;
8. deploy a broadband policy and strategy aimed at enhancing digital skills and facilitating online education;
9. partner with private sector players to make internet access more affordable for low-income households through targeted subsidies, discounted data packages, or device financing schemes;
10. collaborate with the Ghana Internet Service Providers Association (GISPA) and the Ghana Internet Exchange Association to improve internet connectivity and traffic efficiency in Ghana;



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11. facilitate the development of local content and hosting services to reduce reliance on international connectivity;
 12. promote the use of Internet Exchange Points (IXPs) to keep local traffic within the country to reduce latency and costs; and
 13. implement efficient traffic management and peering arrangements to optimize network performance and reduce congestion.

4.4.2.2 Digital Innovation Funds

The next NDC government shall:

1. establish a 50 million dollars FinTech Growth Fund to promote the growth of digital entrepreneurs and support indigenous FinTech companies;
2. transform the Ghana Investment Fund for Electronic Communications into the Digital Economy and Innovation Development Fund to among others:
 - a. provide financial support for innovative projects in the digital economy;
 - b. support the entrepreneurial skills of millennials and Gen-Zs, and stimulate growth; and
3. leverage crypto and blockchain opportunities to advance the digital currency market.

4.4.2.3 Digital Jobs Initiative

We will:

1. launch a ‘Digital Jobs Initiative’ in partnership with local tech start-ups and businesses to create 300,000 job employment opportunities for the youth;
2. work with the private sector to mainstream ICT in all sectors of our national life; and
3. establish tech labs with the private sector to facilitate innovation and digital jobs creation.


4.4.2.4 Promoting ICT and Skills Inclusion

The NDC will develop a National Digital Transformation and Emerging Technology Strategy to guide ethical deployment of digital tools such as AI and emerging technologies for development.

4.4.2.5 E-Government Services

We will:

1. introduce ‘GHForms’; a digital solution to automate all government forms and streamline public services, enhance efficiency, reduce paperwork, and improve citizens’ experience;
2. coordinate a comprehensive ICT digitalization strategy across Ministries to enable seamless data flow, promote synergies, and knowledge-sharing, and eliminate duplications to facilitate real-time monitoring and informed decision-making;
3. support the Ghana India - Kofi Annan Centre of Excellence to implement its indigenous open-source operating system and office suite to reduce government expenditure on software licenses and foster local innovation and technology self-reliance;

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4. streamline government e-services and payment platforms to ensure financial transparency and boost e-commerce and digital trade in line with AfCFTA Protocols; and
 5. ensure universal coverage of the Ghana Card as the national identification system for services and financial inclusion.

4.4.2.6 ICT Parks for the Zonal Belts

We shall:

1. establish ICT parks in all zonal belts to make Ghana the African hub for innovation, artificial intelligence, and cybersecurity; and
2. partner with stakeholders to transform ICT parks such as the Dawa ICT Park into world-class centres of excellence to create jobs for the youth.

4.4.2.7 Cybersecurity

To protect our national security, we will:

1. invest in advanced cyber security infrastructure including enhanced firewalls and encryption methods for rapid threat detection and response capabilities;
2. build the human resource capacity for advanced cyber security threat detection, risk assessment, incidence response, and penetration detection;
3. enhance cyber security regulations to effectively address cybercrime, data protection and digital privacy;
4. mandate cyber security standards and compliance for critical sectors;
5. set up ultramodern Regional Cyber Crime Units (under the Ghana Police Service); and
6. strengthen existing interagency coordination to combat cyberterrorism.

4.4.2.8 Supporting the FinTech Ecosystem

We will undertake the following to support the growth of the FinTech ecosystem:

1. foster active Ghanaian participation in key sectors such as telecommunications, FinTech solutions, data governance, cybersecurity, and artificial intelligence, by creating capacity-building programmes, promoting local talent, and facilitating public-private collaborations;
2. review the capital integrity requirements for non-deposit-taking Financial Technology Firms (FinTechs) and promote the role of FinTech in poverty reduction;
3. establish a robust legal and institutional framework to facilitate the effective regulation of FinTechs; and
4. FinTechs and other financial institutions to opt for shared infrastructure to facilitate digitalization of operations, especially for those that lack the resources to implement digital transformation projects on their own.





4.4.2.9 Coding for Employment Programme

We shall:

1. launch the One Million Coders Programme (“Code Up Ghana”) Initiative to train one million young Ghanaians in digital skills, empowering them to thrive in the rapidly growing Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) and Knowledge Process Outsourcing (KPO) sectors; and
2. identify and support the youth to develop e-applications to support the delivery of public services.

4.4.2.10 Open Education System – (E-School)

In the next NDC government, we will:

1. commence the Next Generation Education Initiative to enable Ghana Education Service provide basic and senior high school students access to interactive remote learning and web-based education;
2. enhance the availability of digital learning resources for schools;
3. provide universal internet access to facilitate digital teaching and learning;
4. provide students and teachers access to devices that can keep them connected;
5. develop culturally and linguistically relevant learning applications and content; and
6. upgrade teachers’ ICT skills through teacher training programmes.

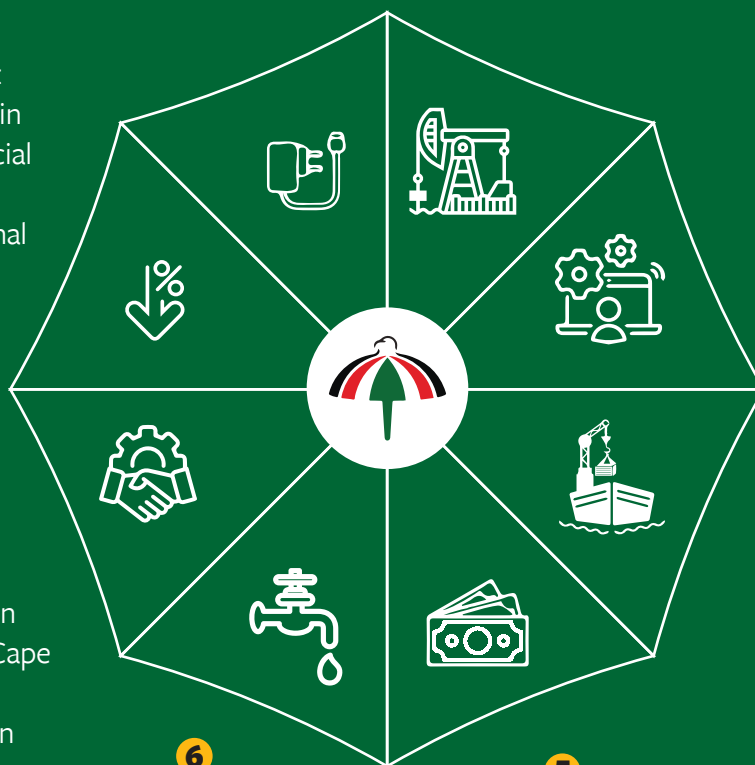
KEY EXTRACTS - POWERING GROWTH THROUGH INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT

1 review the electricity tariff structure to ensure affordable and cost-effective outcomes

2 ensure security of petroleum products installations across the country and implement comprehensive 24-hour security measures for improved integrity and safety

8 establish a low-interest Rent Advance Scheme in partnership with financial institutions/banks for both formal and informal sector workers with regular incomes

7 partner with the private sector to develop and operate cruise terminals in Tema Port, Keta, Elmina, Cape Coast and Takoradi to facilitate cruise business in Ghana



3 launch a 'Digital Jobs Initiative' in partnership with local tech start-ups and businesses to create 300,000 job employment opportunities for the youth.

4 establish the Keta Port (that has seen only a signpost since the appointment of a Director five years ago) as a complementary petroleum products delivery hub


6 upgrade the existing urban water supply system and increase urban access to piped water from 44.6 percent to 80 percent.

5 embark on a US\$10 billion accelerated infrastructural plan to drive job creation

CHAPTER 5: **INVESTING IN PEOPLE FOR INCLUSIVE GROWTH**







As a social democratic party, we are committed to the development of our people. We are determined to rectify the historical setbacks our citizens have suffered due to the elitist economic and social policies implemented by the NPP Government.

Our proud track record in government is characterised by the creation of wealth and its equitable distribution to provide education and healthcare for all Ghanaians. We have over the years expanded access, improved quality and enhanced the general well-being of our people.

We have actively used state power to bridge societal inequalities and reverse the social and political marginalisation of women, the youth, persons with disabilities, the elderly, and children, by implementing numerous social protection programmes.

The NPP Government has paid little lip service to social investment and delivered little. Indeed, the NPP has taken advantage of social disasters such as the COVID-19 pandemic to create enrichment opportunities for themselves and wreak havoc on our national institutions.

The next NDC administration will work hard to undo the damage done by almost eight years of neglect and abuse. We will pursue a comprehensive set of reforms in education that will empower our human resources within a decade. Our health sector reforms and investments will ensure that quality healthcare is accessible, our human resource is healthy, long-lived, and able to live full lives.

We will also revive our social inclusion and protection programmes, empowering women, youth, persons with disabilities, children the aged and all other disadvantaged groups economically, politically, and socially. Our sports development programmes will focus on talent development and will feed our human development agenda in a cross-cutting manner.

This is the time for the youth of Ghana. They are centre to the NDC's 'Resetting Ghana' agenda. We promise to create an enabling environment for youth development.

5.1 Transforming Education

The previous NDC government worked hard to enhance our educational system through significant infrastructural investments, curriculum reforms, teacher motivation and social interventions that expanded access and improved the quality of education.

Our vision was to create an educational system that nurtured talent, fostered innovation, and equipped students to be globally competitive with relevant skills for the fast-changing job market.


Regrettably, the current NPP government has superintended over a marked decline in the sector over the past eight years. This deterioration is evinced by an acute infrastructural deficit, an erratic academic calendar, inconsistent curricula, lack of investment in the professional needs of teachers, poor industrial relations leading to prolonged and unresolved strikes, inadequate teaching and learning materials, and slumping quality in education outcomes at all levels.

Basic education has suffered nearly eight years of neglect, leading to a crisis characterised by:



1. dilapidated structures and a huge infrastructural deficit that has increased the number of schools under trees to over 5000.
2. lack of textbooks after six years of the introduction of a new curriculum
3. lack of furniture for over one million pupils,
4. non-payment of capitation grants for more than eight terms,
5. a poor nutrition diet due to the appallingly low allocations for school feeding and government's heavy indebtedness to caterers.





The haphazard implementation of the Free SHS programme by the NPP government has led to deep-seated problems that threaten the entire education sector. These include:

1. the double-track system
2. spatial constraints and massive overcrowding
3. inadequate and irregular funding
4. high extra cost to parents
5. a declining quality of education
6. erratic academic calendar and insufficient contact hours
7. poor quantity and quality of food for school children occasioned by the centralisation of food procurement riddled with corruption and undue delays in food supply and
8. the harassment of dissenting teachers and school heads.

The next NDC government will comprehensively reset our educational system in collaboration with all stakeholders. Our goal is to aggressively expand infrastructure, enhance teacher welfare and professional development, and increase investments in the sector for quality outcomes.

5.1.1 Early Childhood Education

We will introduce the **‘Bright Beginnings Initiative’** to revive and repurpose early childhood education for the well-being of Ghanaian children and facilitate seamless integration into continuous schooling and lifelong learning.

We will:

1. initiate a policy to integrate early childhood education into basic education supported by appropriate infrastructure;
2. establish a Department for Early Childhood Development under the Ministry of Education with a special mandate to promote early childhood education;
3. initiate a National Edu-Care Programme (NEP) to establish early child learning facilities in workspaces to support working parents;
4. establish Ghana Pre-schools Online (GPO) to enhance literacy and numeracy education for nursery, and kindergarten children using multimedia tools;
5. review early childhood curricula to develop a national value-based curriculum that enhances the psychomotor skills of children and equips children with basic life skills;
6. significantly improve the pupil -to-textbook ratio;
7. invest in comprehensive professional development programmes for early childhood educators;
8. institutionalise and promote the use of first languages (L1) as the medium of teaching and learning in early years’ education and care;
9. incorporate indigenous knowledge, traditions, and stories into teaching and learning materials to make learning more meaningful for children;
10. promote the creation of digital content of supplementary early childhood learning materials; and
11. facilitate the introduction of courses in tertiary institutions to train early childhood facilitators.

5.1.2 Basic Education (Primary & Junior High School)

We commit to achieving the full objective of the Free Compulsory Universal Basic Education (FCUBE) by prioritising investments in basic education to expand access and improve quality.



We will:

1. initiate a ‘SmartStart Curriculum’ for greater integration of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM), coding and Digital Literacy and TVET into the basic education curricula;
2. launch a **‘Furniture for All Initiative’** to address the acute deficit at the basic level in partnership with the local carpentry and furniture industry;
3. significantly improve the pupil-to-textbook ratio through the provision of curriculum-based text books;
4. embark on an aggressive infrastructure drive to address the increasing phenomenon of schools under trees and rehabilitate dilapidated school buildings;
5. increase and ensure regular payment of capitation and feeding grants;
6. promote digital literacy at the basic level by:
 - a. providing computer facilities installed with digitized learning materials and upgrade ICT laboratories;
 - b. promoting solar energy as the primary energy source for school facilities; and
 - c. partner with industry and digital experts to provide voluntary service as visiting teachers to impart practical ICT knowledge and skills in schools;
7. review curricula and assessment systems to prioritize skills acquisition and value-based education for the holistic development of each child;
8. review the capitation grant to address existing challenges in low-cost-private schools in rural and inner-city communities;
9. reinstate and promote the continuous teaching of indigenous languages at the basic school level to support cognitive development, foster cultural sensitivity, social cohesion, and the transfer of cultural heritage;
10. enhance the implementation of First Language lessons policy by:
 - a. providing scholarships to incentivise the training of more Ghanaian language teachers, especially in languages that have insufficient teachers;
 - b. restructuring and mandating the Bureau of Ghanaian Languages (BGL) to standardise the development of Ghanaian Languages in collaboration with Ghanaian Language faculties of tertiary institutions;
 - c. promoting scholarship and research in Ghanaian language development;
 - d. encouraging the speaking of the Ghanaian Languages
 - e. promoting digital content creation of first language curricula, including animations, to provide auxiliary learning materials and enhance comprehension of lessons.

5.1.3 Secondary Education

The next NDC Government will:

1. abolish the double-track system to restore a stable academic calendar;
2. extend Free SHS to cover students in private Senior High Schools.
3. provide a dedicated and sustainable funding source for quality secondary education by ring-fencing a percentage of our oil proceeds;
4. embark on an emergency infrastructure drive to complete abandoned E-blocks and expand infrastructure in existing SHSs and TVET institutions;





5. decentralise the procurement of food and other basic supplies, ensure timely food supply, and improve the quantity and quality of food for students;
6. integrate the operations of the Free SHS Secretariat into the Ghana Education Service (GES) to efficiently implement the policy;
7. reform secondary education curricula to integrate STEM, agriculture, vocational skills, digital literacy, civic education, design thinking, and life skills into secondary educational outcomes;
8. introduce specialized Artificial Intelligence labs in selected secondary schools across the sixteen regions;
9. continue our policy of provision of free laptops/tablets for SHS students;
10. forge partnerships for the efficient delivery of secondary education, including restoring the role of Parent-Teacher Associations (PTAs) and old student associations;
11. strengthen government partnerships with religious bodies in managing mission schools;
12. uncap and stop the collateralisation of the Ghana Education Trust Fund (GETFund) to free up resources to pursue its core purpose of funding education;
13. upgrade existing ICT laboratories and establish new ICT laboratories in Schools without same to promote digital literacy
14. expand digital libraries to enhance access to global teaching and learning materials for both teachers and learners;
15. expand Science Resource Centres (SRC) across the regions to support STEM/TVET education; and
16. review the Computerised School Selection & Placement System (CSSPS) to address corruption in school placement, and make it merit-based.
17. implement a policy to upgrade selected SHSs across the sixteen regions into Grade A schools
18. conduct an infrastructural audit to identify gaps and invest in targeted infrastructure to enhance access and quality of education.

5.1.4 Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET)

We will reform the TVET system to integrate emerging digital skill sets, soft skills, and prioritise the delivery of practical trade skills and entrepreneurial acumen. The aim is to develop a critical mass of skilled workforce for the job market.

We will prioritize investment to provide the required infrastructure for Competency-Based-Training (CBT), enhance the image of TVET, and expand access to meet the labour demands of a growing 24-hour manufacturing economy.

The NDC government will:

1. implement a ‘National Apprenticeship Programme’ to generate self-employment through the provision of free technical and vocational training for young people in various crafts. Trained apprentices will be issued with appropriate certification and supported with start-up capital and equipment to set up businesses. This program will be expanded to:
 - a. include a Business Growth Apprenticeship Module, a structured mentorship/ apprenticeship links between established industries and business individuals, and TVET graduates with business ideas; and
 - b. provide vocational training and start-up support for trainees in the informal TVET sector/artisans.





2. prioritise, rebrand, and increase investments in TVET as a key anchor of economic transformation;
3. commence the establishment of regional TVET Centres of Excellence integrated with fabrication and other state-of-the-art facilities to promote innovation and simulate real work environments;
4. promote the recognition of Prior Learning Certification (PLC)/Step-Up Certification (SEC) programme to enable artisans in the informal sector to validate and improve their skills and knowledge for academic and career progression through:
 1. formalizing and awarding certificates for existing skill sets of artisans through special programmes run by relevant TVET institutions;
 2. assessment and evaluation of skills programmes based on industry standards.
5. facilitate the establishment of MakerSpaces to foster innovation and enterprise development and provide TVET graduates with the necessary equipment to be creative.
6. integrate digital proficiency, such as project management software, digital marketing, generative Artificial Intelligence, and industry-specific software, into TVET delivery;
7. provide incentive packages and other affirmative action interventions to ensure equity and inclusive participation in TVET especially for women and persons with disability;
8. promote linkages between industries and SMEs in the manufacturing, GRATIS, and construction sectors and TVET institutions to support the implementation of workplace experiential learning initiatives;
9. resource relevant agencies to fully implement the National TVET Qualification to promote career progression in the sector;
10. initiate the full implementation of Competency-Based-Training;
11. promote scholarship, research, and innovation in TVET development in the Technical Universities;
12. enhance the image of TVET, for example, by using multimedia tools and platforms, including the film industry;
13. promote synergies among TVET management agencies such as TVET Services, and the Commission for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (C TVET) to enhance efficiency and improved training outcomes for both formal and informal TVET;
14. harmonise the TVET Assessment system with clear mandates for the various agencies in assessment and certification; and
15. establish sustainable TVET funding sources in collaboration with stakeholders.

5.1.4.1 Enterprise Development and job creation for TVET graduates

In the next NDC government, we will:

1. develop core entrepreneurship and business development programmes as part of the Workplace Experiential Learning Programme;
2. align the Ghana Skills Development Fund in consultation with stakeholders to support product and innovation development within government priority sectors to drive national development;
3. promote cooperation and partnership among TVET graduates to leverage multi-skills and diverse talents for innovative product development and the sustainable funding of enterprises;
4. design structured mentorship for TVET graduates with business ideas through the Business Growth Apprenticeship module of the National Apprenticeship Programme;
5. provide business incubation support for TVET graduates through the proposed TVET Centres of Excellence, the TVET Markers Spaces, GRATIS and others; and
6. promote the fabrication and assembling of power tools in Ghana.



5.1.4.2 TVET Instructor Development

We shall:

1. introduce TVET pedagogy in partnership with relevant Technical Universities to encourage technically skilled professionals to acquire pedagogical skills to teach in TVET institutions;
2. build industry partnerships for continuous professional development for TVET instructors; and
3. expand scholarship opportunities for TVET instructors' professional development and research, and academic scholarships in TVET.

5.1.5 Tertiary Education

5.1.5.1 Education Financing Support – (No-Fees-Stress)

The next NDC government will introduce a **“No-Fees-Stress”** policy to alleviate the hardships on parents and students in public tertiary institutions.

Under this policy, we will:

1. implement a **‘No-Academic-Fees’** policy for all first-year students in all public tertiary institutions;
2. provide continuing students with financial assistance through the reintroduction and redeployment of our **Student Loan Trust Fund Plus ‘SLTFP’** and a reformed scholarship regime;
3. provide free tertiary education for all persons with disabilities;
4. revamp the Student Loan Trust Fund to increase loan amounts based on a needs assessment and ensure prompt disbursements;
5. promote the establishment of Tertiary Endowment Funds (TEF) in partnership with alumni, philanthropists, corporate Ghana among others to support students in public tertiary universities; and
6. provide trainee allowances, student loans and other diverse funding options for teacher and nurses trainees.

5.1.5.2 ‘Bed for All’- Affordable Accommodation for Tertiary Education

We will implement a bed for all programme by;

1. investing in building students' hostels and facilitate the expansion of accommodation facilities for tertiary students through PPP Schemes; and
2. engaging private investors in student housing to regulate accommodation prices.

5.1.5.3 Creating a New Scholarship Regime

The next NDC government will introduce legislation to usher in a new era of government scholarship administration which will:



implement a 'No-Academic-Fees' policy for all first-year students in all public tertiary institutions



revamp the Student Loan Trust Fund



provide free tertiary education for all individuals living with disabilities



promote the establishment of Tertiary Endowment Funds (TEF)



provide continuing students with financial assistance through the SLTFP




establish a College of Education in the Afram Plains North to address professional teacher deficit challenges



invest in building students' hostels and the expansion of accommodation facilities for tertiary students through PPP Schemes



operationalise the National Research Fund to support indigenous academic research;

- 
1. prohibit the award of scholarships to government officials and politically-exposed persons;
 2. streamline and realign scholarships across multiple sectors to do away with the current uncoordinated regime;
 3. align scholarships with our national development priorities;
 4. eliminate political patronage, corruption, cronyism, and nepotism in the award of government scholarships;
 5. ensure that government scholarships are reserved for the vulnerable and marginalised, on the principle of meritocracy, equity and inclusivity.

5.1.5.4 Educational Governance and Institutional Development


We will:

1. de-collateralise the GETFUND, and restore it to its original mandate of educational financing;
2. continue with our policy to establish public universities in every region with a focus on the newly-created regions;
3. establish the National Research Fund to support indigenous research and promote commercialised research;
4. increase and ensure the timely release of subventions to public tertiary institutions;
5. empower Governing Councils of public tertiary institutions to function without external interference;
6. regularise the affiliation relationship between universities and colleges of education to make the colleges more effective in delivering quality education through the Ghana Tertiary Education Commission (GTEC).
7. improve subventions to public universities; and
8. promote the establishment of Tertiary Endowment Funds in partnership with alumni, philanthropists and corporate Ghana.

5.1.5.5 Teacher Professional Development, Licensing and Welfare

The next NDC Government will place teachers at the heart of its educational reforms. We will prioritise enhanced conditions of service, professional development, and teacher welfare through the following initiatives:

1. abolish the teacher licensure examination and integrate the licensing process into the final year examination of trainees;
2. scrap the NPP's mandatory national service for teacher trainee graduates and restore the automatic employment of newly qualified teachers;
3. prioritise the timely promotion of teachers and ensure the availability of funds for their remuneration;
4. institute the **“Teacher Dabr3”** Project to provide accommodation facilities for teachers within new school buildings;
5. introduce a special allowance of 20 percent of basic salary for teachers who accept postings to rural and underserved communities;
6. partner with teacher unions to initiate the Government Assisted Mortgage Scheme (GAMOS) to support teachers to own homes;

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7. collaborate with teacher unions to institute guaranteed rent loans for newly-trained graduates of Colleges of Education;
 8. initiate a scheme to assist teachers own vehicles of their choice by offering flexible duty payments arrangements and government guarantees in partnership with teacher unions and the banking sector;
 9. expand continuous professional development opportunities through scholarships, teacher-mentorship, career development programmes, and digital learning platforms for teachers; and
 10. establish a College of Education in the Afram Plains enclave to address the acute professional teacher deficit.

5.1.5.6 Inclusive and Special Education

To fully implement the Inclusive Education Policy developed by the previous NDC government, the next NDC Government will:

1. renovate dilapidated special schools and increase subventions to them;
2. progressively integrate persons with disabilities into the regular education system;
3. upgrade the Inclusive Education Resource Centre to support learners with various forms of impairments with the required aids to facilitate their learning;
4. provide opportunities for early visual and audio screening of pupils and support children with disabilities;
5. establish dedicated district-based support systems and resources for educators to teach children with special needs;
6. implement a Gender and Inclusion Education Integration Plan, to address the intersectional challenges of gender, disability, and child protection;
7. incorporate accelerated learning programmes and teaching resources to better engage and teach gifted children;
8. promote complementary and non-formal education to enhance functional literacy and lifelong learning;
9. enhance and resource the Islamic Education Unit under the Ghana Education Service to enable the effective recruitment of more Islamic/Arabic tutors;
10. establish STEM and TVET schools in historically underserved zongo and poor peri-urban communities to equip young persons with the technical and vocational skills necessary for jobs;
11. provide scholarships to brilliant but needy Muslim students, especially to study law, medicine, and engineering;
12. support Islamic Colleges of Education with additional infrastructure and logistics to enhance their capacity to deliver quality education; and
13. enrol youth in Zongo and deprived urban settlements into the National Apprenticeship Programme and offer free technical and vocational education and training.
14. collaborate with traditional public universities to establish satellite campuses in the newly-created regions without public universities.





5.1.5.7 Professional Legal Education

The next NDC Government, will embark on the following legal reforms to enhance access to professional legal education.

We will:

1. conduct a comprehensive review of professional legal education aimed at accrediting certified law faculties to run the Professional Law Course under the supervision of the General Legal Council;
2. facilitate the establishment of a faculty of law in the Northern Region to serve the northern sector; and
3. review the Legal Profession Act in consultation with stakeholders to address current challenges and emerging frontiers occasioned by technology.

5.1.5.8 Creating a New Scholarship Regime

The next NDC government will introduce legislation to usher in a new era of government scholarship administration which will:

1. prohibit the award of scholarships to political appointees and their families;
2. streamline and realign scholarships across multiple sectors to do away with the current uncoordinated regime;
3. align scholarships with our national development priorities;
4. eliminate political patronage, corruption, cronyism and nepotism in the award of government scholarships; and
5. ensure that government scholarships are reserved for the vulnerable and marginalised, on the principle of meritocracy, equity and inclusivity.

5.2 Health

The NDC Governments made significant progress in primary healthcare towards attaining Universal Health Coverage (UHC). We also contributed to clinical care and scaled up the patient referral system from tertiary to the quaternary level of care by establishing the University of Ghana Medical Centre (UGMC). The NDC built the University of Health and Allied Sciences (UHAS) to expand the training of the allied health workforce. Additionally, the NDC instituted the School of Medicine and Health Sciences within the University for Development Studies (UDS), the University of Cape Coast Medical School, and the University of Ghana Dental School. The NDC government also established Teaching Hospitals, Regional and District Hospitals, Health Centres, Polyclinics, and many Community-Based Health Planning and Services (CHPS) compounds across the country – a feat unmatched by the New Patriotic Party (NPP).

Mismanagement of the health sector by the NPP during their nearly 8 years in government has resulted in significant rise in both Communicable Diseases (CDs) and Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs). As of July 2024, CDs account for 48% of Ghana's disease burden while NCDs constitute 42% of all age-related mortality. The Ghana Demographic Health Survey released in July 2024, highlights a troubling trend of 50% of Ghanaian doctors and 24% of nurses migrating to work abroad in the past three years. This brain drain has exacerbated the crisis leading to a deplorable health system.

In response, the next NDC government will deploy cost-effective strategies to expand infrastructure, upgrade existing medical facilities, train and motivate health workers to improve healthcare delivery. Driven by the following objectives, we will promote “Health for all, by all and in all”.

1. Bringing quality primary and specialized health services closer to the people by fully localizing healthcare delivery, health education and health research.
2. Preventing diseases and promoting health and wellness by improving quality of and access to comprehensive healthcare and improving patients’ rights.
3. Prudent management of public health emergencies and epidemics.
4. Improving healthcare economic efficiency for sustainable funding of health services by diversifying the sources of health financing and efficiently allocating them to priority needs.
5. Promoting health tourism, efficiently managing human resources and health governance to increase employment, manage migration and professional exchange.

5.2.1 Preventing diseases and promoting health and wellness

The next NDC government will initiate sustained public health education programmes focused on encouraging healthy lifestyles, reducing health risks, and promoting regular health screenings to promote a culture of health and wellness in the country. Specifically, we will;



1. introduce the 'Food for Health Initiative' to educate the public on the health and nutritional benefits of indigenous Ghanaian foods;
2. implement a National Vector Control Programme and promote sustainable sanitation practices in collaboration with assemblies, the private sector, and the Ghana Malaria Programme, towards eradicating malaria;
3. collaborate with research institutions to increase surveillance and monitoring of health data and produce periodic public health alerts;
4. collaborate with scientific and industrial research institutions to provide periodic data on water, soil, and air quality, for the safety of citizens;
5. support the development of infrastructure and spaces such as community parks to facilitate physical activities and foster a fitness culture among citizens;
6. scale up regular screening for cervical, prostate, and breast cancer and encourage self-screening;
7. mandate the integration of Occupational Health and Safety practices in workplaces to enhance employee well-being and a safe work environment;
8. mainstream climate change and environmental safety activities in all health policies and implementation plans; and
9. embark on public health education to promote a healthy lifestyle and regular screening to mitigate health risks, and provide education on the prevention of communicable and non-communicable diseases.

5.2.2 Increasing access to mental healthcare

To increase access to mental healthcare and significantly reduce mental health-related complications, the next NDC Government will:

1. review and integrate mental health into Primary Health Care;
2. commence the establishment of a mental health hospital in the Northern sector and refurbish existing mental health hospitals;
3. resource the Accra and Pantang Psychiatric Hospitals to enhance their capacity to provide comprehensive mental healthcare services;
4. review the Mental Health Authority Law to expand training, recruitment, and retention of more Community Mental Health Officers (CMHOs); and
5. establish hotlines under the NHIS framework for individuals to access mental healthcare and e-counselling services at the district level.

5.2.3 Herbal, Traditional and Alternative Medicines Development

The next NDC Government will improve research for the development of herbal, traditional, and alternative medicine practices. We will:

1. encourage more public universities to establish herbal medicine research departments to increase innovation and knowledge development in the sector;
2. mainstream research-backed herbal, traditional, and alternative medicine and practice in patient management at the district hospitals;



3. promote local and international partnerships among herbal medicinal research institutions, and pharmaceutical industries to improve diagnostics, medicine production, and treatment;
4. review the Ghana Health Service and Teaching Hospitals Act 1996 (Act 525) to strengthen the regulation and quality control of plant medicinal products and clinical trials for licensing; and
5. promote investment in modern scientific methods, technological innovations, and equipment for identifying active plant ingredients and producing safe herbal medicinal products.

5.2.4 Public Health Emergencies and Pandemic Preparedness

The NDC government is committed to the prudent management of public health emergencies and, will work with all actors and stakeholders to ensure proactive management and impact mitigation of epidemics and pandemics.

The next NDC Government will:


1. develop an integrated emergency and pandemic preparedness plan that draws resources and technical expertise from relevant institutions to manage pandemics efficiently;
2. establish robust international partnerships and research for epidemiological surveillance and strategic coordination to enhance pandemic preparedness and response.

5.2.5 Localising Quality Primary and Specialised Health Service

We will bring quality primary and specialized health services closer to the people by fully localizing healthcare delivery, health education, and health research. To this end, the next NDC Government will:

1. prioritize the completion of remaining CHPS compounds under construction and build additional CHPS to ensure quality delivery of Primary Health Care (PHC) services to all rural and urban poor dwellers;
2. make Primary Healthcare free and universally accessible to all Ghanaians in CHPS compounds, health centres, clinics, and polyclinics in the short to medium term;
3. commence the establishment of market and transport station clinics to provide basic healthcare services for traders, passengers, drivers, and the general public;
4. strengthen the healthcare delivery system at the sub-district level (health centres and CHPS) and scale up the network of practice and the social accountability measures at the PHC level;
5. upgrade school sickbays into satellite clinics managed by health professionals in all boarding schools for quality 24-hour healthcare and prompt referral services to students and teachers;
6. re-introduce the “Onuador” and the “Onipa Nua” mobile medical and dental services to serve rural areas, islands, and disadvantaged communities to bring specialist care closer to the people;
7. partner with the private sector to establish licensed medical bureau in the district to be linked to medical facilities to improve swift access to medical information for healthcare delivery;
8. provide information on available medical services to clients (patients) upon request and link them to specialist facilities including palliative care; and



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9. develop a regulatory framework to allow interested pharmaceutical outlets to attach licensed clinics (managed by healthcare professionals) to their practice for increased access to primary healthcare services in communities.

5.2.6 Health Worker Motivation for Quality Health Care

The next NDC Government will prioritize health workers' motivation and professional growth of health workers. We will introduce a health worker development scheme and support health workers' professional development in strengthening the healthcare delivery system at all levels.

We will:


1. develop a health-worker migration policy framework to facilitate ethical migration of health workers, promote knowledge exchange, and regulate the impact of 'brain drain' on our health system;
2. introduce 'Risk Exposure Insurance' for health workers to provide financial protection and support in the event of injuries, illnesses, or other risks encountered on the job;
3. re-introduce and regulate the vehicle tax waiver scheme for health professionals;
4. provide scholarship opportunities to at least 200 nursing tutors to pursue PhD-level education and advance their qualifications;
5. expand access to nursing training institutions;
6. introduce performance and evidence-based health worker and facility awards to motivate health workers and promote quality standards in health care delivery;
7. reward healthcare workers who accept postings to rural communities and underserved areas;
8. ensure early recruitment and deployment of health workers;
9. develop regulatory frameworks to:
 - a. redefine the role of Physician Assistant Health Care Professionals (Clinical Officers) in the healthcare delivery continuum;
 - b. provide a clear career development pathway to address health personnel gaps to achieve UHC;
10. introduce degree and specialist nursing programmes in colleges of nursing to support career advancement, and skills upgrade of nurses to meet global standards; and
11. maintain the payment of allowances to trainee nurses and provide them with additional funding options including student loans.

5.2.7 Sustainable Funding for Health Services

The next NDC government will explore innovative and alternative ways of funding the health sector and prioritize efficient allocation to priority sub-sectors to achieve 21st-century health financing. We will:

1. establish the Ghana Medical Care Trust Fund to support the cost of care for persons with chronic diseases such as kidney failure (dialysis), cancers, and heart diseases;
2. de-collateralize the National Health Insurance Levy and ensure that the total revenue (100%) accrued to the NHIS levy is set aside for only health-related purposes;



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3. introduce a fund retention system at the CHPS level to ensure uninterrupted 24-hour service delivery at the sub-district level;
 4. remove taxes and tariffs on vaccine and medical donations to public health facilities;
 5. introduce a franchising policy for private health services such as laboratory, dental, eye, and pharmaceutical services to operate within public hospitals, based on best practice models;
 6. increase allocation of the total government health budget to primary healthcare including the deprived districts and sub-district levels;
 7. establish an equipment-leasing framework, and review the current system of procurement of medical consumables for efficiency;
 8. establish an equipment-leasing policy, and review the current system of procurement of medical consumables;
 9. legislate for and assign a percentage of national revenue from established and new extractive fields to the national health insurance fund; and
 10. legislate for and assign a percentage of the National Insurance Commission motor insurance premium to the national health insurance fund to cater for road traffic accident victims and for accident vehicle recovery.

5.2.7.1 Franchising policy for health service delivery in public facilities

We shall introduce a franchising policy to allow private health businesses to provide services including laboratory, dental, eye, and pharmaceutical services within public hospitals, based on best practice models.

5.2.7.2 Strengthening Health Service Delivery Systems

We will:

1. provide incentives and encourage investment in local production of medical equipment such as thermometers, BP apparatuses, hospital beds, and drip stands;
2. establish Central Bed and Emergencies Management Bureaus in all three geographical belts (Southern, Middle, and Northern) to respond to health emergency needs and address referral challenges such as ‘no-bed-syndrome’;
3. enact a law to govern biomedical transplantation such as kidney transplants to protect the rights of patients, ensure affordability, and local provision of such services;
4. develop a centralised health information management system to share patient data across hospitals in compliance with the Data Protection Act;
5. license and regulate the private sector to build and operate facilities for home care, chronically ill persons, and end-of-life care services;
6. scale up the telehealth and existing telemedicine projects, including tele-consultation and tele-education to all regions to better connect patients at all levels to health advisory consultation services for timely and effective referrals;
7. establish a Patient (Client) Protection Council (PPC) that regulates standards and norms for health service delivery, and research to protect patients’ and practitioners’ rights;
8. support the formation of a Medical Laboratory Council to promote the welfare and professional development of practitioners;
9. support the local production of laboratory diagnostics

10. establish a National Laboratory Proficiency Testing Centre
11. establish one zonal Public Laboratory in the Volta region and upgrade the four existing zonal laboratories
12. upgrade selected district, regional, and other certified private hospitals to specialist teaching institutions to enhance the clinical training of health professionals; and
13. establish a College of Allied Health Sciences as a post-graduate professional institute to promote specialist training and continuous professional development for allied health workers.
14. set up a Council for Allied Health Sciences
15. initiate plans to set up a School of Biomedical Sciences and Post Graduate Biomedical Research Institute to provide full professional development programmes for all the healthcare areas.

5.2.8 Pharmaceutical Sector Development

The next NDC government will:

1. collaborate with the Pharmaceutical Society of Ghana to implement the Ghana Pharmaceutical Sector Strategic Plan;
2. initiate the establishment of a National Bio-Equivalence Centre and a Pharmaceutical Research Institute;
3. provide support to local pharmaceutical companies to expand the production of pharmaceuticals, including essential medicines and vaccines, as part of the 24-hour economy initiatives to reduce dependence on imports;
4. promote the integration of pharmaceutical manufacturing programmes into relevant tertiary education curricula;
5. provide support to local pharmaceutical companies as was initiated in 2015 to expand production of pharmaceuticals including vaccines within the 24-hour economy programme; and
6. Support the Pharmaceuticals Society of Ghana with incentives to make Ghana a Pharma Hub in Africa.

5.2.8.1 Repositioning Ghana as a Medical Tourism Hub

The next NDC government will maximize the nation's tourism gains by diversifying our tourism to include health tourism to expand employment opportunities and increase foreign exchange earnings. We will achieve this through improved inter-sectoral partnerships, expanded health infrastructure and systems, strategic branding, and enhanced service delivery. We will:

1. select, equip, and retool health tourism facilities to meet international standards and attract clients/patients;
2. improve the country's tertiary and quaternary-level hospitals to boost health tourism;
3. rebrand health professionals and facilities to market Ghana in the medical tourism space within the West Africa sub-region;
4. train health professionals in specialists and sub-specialist skills for selected tertiary and quaternary facilities to manage critical conditions such as cancers, orthopaedic, neurology, cardiovascular, organ harvesting and transplant, beauty plastic surgery, etc.;
5. motivate investors to develop attractive and competitive hospitality facilities near medical facilities;

6. strengthen partnerships with health facilities in the sub-region and promote linkages in the referral system for increased utilization of specialist services in medical facilities; and
7. transform the Volta region into a medical tourism hub by upgrading health infrastructure and building linkages between auxiliary infrastructure such as hospitality facilities and the Ho airport for transporting patients.

5.2.8.2 Expanding Healthcare Delivery Infrastructure


The next NDC government will complete abandoned ongoing health infrastructure projects, upgrade selected specialist hospitals, and focus on the following health delivery infrastructure:

1. complete prioritised abandoned and ongoing health infrastructure projects;
2. upgrade key specialist hospitals including the Afari Hospital (Military Hospital in Kumasi) and the Police Hospital expansion project in Accra;
3. commence plans towards the rebuilding of Korle Bu Teaching Hospital as an additional ultra-modern quaternary specialist hospital to reduce medical care and training abroad;
4. upgrade the Greater Accra Regional Hospital (Ridge Hospital) into a full Teaching Hospital and link it to the College of Physicians and Surgeons for specialist training;
5. refurbish the Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital to meet the standards of an ultra-modern teaching Hospital;
6. expand Ho Teaching Hospital into a specialist hospital;
7. commence the building of Specialist and Trauma Hospital in the Oti Region to respond to emergencies on the eastern corridor road;
8. establish a modern dialysis centre in the northern sector of the country;
9. upgrade the Navrongo War Memorial Hospital to facilitate the training of doctors;
10. commence plans for the establishment of a medical school in Bono Region and operationalise the Sunyani Regional Hospital as a teaching site;
11. reconstruct the La General Hospital;
12. expand the capacity of the National Ambulance Training School to produce more paramedical staff;
13. commence the establishment of a Post-Graduate College for Biomedical Sciences and other allied professions in health in the Western part of the country;
14. construct a state-of-the-art 500-bed Specialist Children's Hospital and Fertility Centre in Accra;
15. build an ultra-modern hospital in Bawku, Yendi and other towns based on a needs assessment;
16. establish a medical school within the former Brong Ahafo region (Bono, Bono East and Ahafo) and operationalise the Sunyani Regional hospital as one of the teaching sites; and
17. complete the establishment of additional campuses for the University of Health and Allied Sciences in Keta and Battor.

5.3 Gender and Disability Inclusion, Child Protection, and Social Protection

Economic and social inclusion is core to the social democratic values of the NDC, and we commit to working towards eliminating discrimination, promoting fairness, and creating an inclusive society where everyone can participate fully and equally in social, economic, and political life.





In the next four years, we commit to significantly reducing poverty, and increasing social and political representation of women and persons living with disabilities. The Ghanaian society is still beset with deep-seated gender biases and harmful social norms that fuel gender-based violence, unequal gender representation, and limited economic opportunities for women and young people in inner cities and rural communities.

There are inadequate social protection buffers and insufficient legal protection for women and other vulnerable groups. The NPP government has failed in its responsibility to ensure gender safety, social protection, and social inclusion. The performance of the Ministry of Gender, Children, and Social Protection (MoGCSP) has been poor. The NPP Government has neglected the crucial task of ensuring gender transformation.

To confront these challenges, the NDC commits to prioritizing gender equality, equity, and social justice. This includes enacting comprehensive laws and policies to combat harmful social norms, improve access to resources and opportunities for all especially young women, and increase their representation in decision-making bodies. The NDC pledges to enhance support for persons with disabilities and protect vulnerable children from exploitation and streetism. The NDC will create a more equitable and inclusive society where all individuals, regardless of gender or social status, receive equal opportunities.

To this end, the next NDC government will address the following issues:

5.3.1 Gender

5.3.1.1 Legal and Regulatory Framework for Gender and Disability Inclusion

We will:

1. strengthen the legal and policy framework for the political inclusion of women and other underrepresented groups;
2. implement the Affirmative Action (Gender Equity) Act, 2024 passed by Parliament;
 - a. pass a Legislative Instrument to the Affirmative Action (Gender Equity) Act, 2024;
 - b. support institutions such as Parliament, Judiciary, Security Agencies, Political Parties, public office appointments and recruitments, trade unions and the private sector to achieve gender parity in accordance with Schedule A of the Act.
 - c. support the establishment the Gender Equality Committee and resource it to ensure effective exercise of its mandate and accountability.
3. mandate a minimum 30 percent quota for women in all political appointments; and
4. pass the Property Rights of Spouses Bill, the Intestate Succession (Amendment) Bill, and the Domestic Workers Bill.

5.3.1.2 Economic Empowerment and Inclusion

The next NDC government will:

1. establish a Women's Development Bank a special-purpose bank, to support women-owned and women-led businesses with low-interest loans and other tailored financial services on very flexible terms. This is aimed at the economic empowerment of millions of Ghanaian women.

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2. launch the “Women in Agriculture” initiative to promote young women’s participation in agriculture by expanding access to land in agricultural zones, along with financial and business support;
 3. reserve a portion of available land within government-owned business enclaves and other designated areas for women-owned businesses;
 4. facilitate primary ownership of market stalls by market women to enhance their financial independence;
 5. resume the “Market Enhancement Programme” as a comprehensive initiative aimed at uplifting markets and improving market communities’ overall conditions and well-being, especially for women;
 6. renovate existing markets and build modern markets in selected communities to enhance market traders’ working conditions, especially for women;
 7. establish an Entrepreneurship Development Programme for young women and women living with disabilities to foster economic empowerment, skills development, and inclusive participation in the business sector;
 8. establish cottage industries by utilising locally competitive raw materials in rural areas; and
 9. launch an Expanded Financial Inclusion Programme with relevant institutions to encourage saving, investment and pension uptake responding to the peculiar needs of women and vulnerable groups.

5.3.2 Support for Victims of Gender-Based Violence

We will:

1. facilitate the establishment of 16 regional shelters with comprehensive support services for victims of gender-based violence;
2. develop a “Survivors Care Kit” for victims of gender-based violence, including free legal services, medical examinations, emergency contraception, HIV prophylaxis, mental healthcare services, counselling and necessary medications;
3. build a community of virtual volunteers to provide online confidential support services to victims of gender-based violence;
4. ratify the International Labour Organization Convention 190 on Elimination of Gender-Based Violence and Harassment in the Workplace;
5. launch the “Zero Tolerance for Domestic Violence and Sexual Harassment in Ghana” Campaign to raise awareness, mobilise community support, and enforce stringent measures aimed at eradicating domestic violence and sexual harassment;
6. strengthen support systems for survivors of domestic violence by resourcing and operationalising the Victim Support Fund under the Domestic Violence Act, 2007 (Act 732);
7. elevate the Domestic Violence and Victims Support Unit (DOVVSU) to the status of a Directorate for more effective coordination and implementation of policies and services to address gender based violence in Ghana;
8. establish DOVVSU units in all police districts across the country to ensure easier accessibility and comprehensive support for victims of domestic violence and speedy investigation and prosecution of GBV cases;
9. identify geographical domestic violence hotspots for increased surveillance and operations; and
10. enhance and upgrade the forensic laboratory of the CID of the Ghana Police Service with modern technology to assist in speedy investigations of gender-based violence crimes.



5.3.2.1 Anti-Harassment and Safeguarding Framework

The NDC will:

1. review and harmonise laws on sexual harassment to strengthen legal protection and enforcement mechanisms for victims;
2. initiate a National School-Related Gender-Based Safety Programme to prevent and address gender-based violence and provide comprehensive support and protection for all pupils, students and all those working in the school environment;
3. implement a robust referral system to provide at-risk individuals and victims with access to domestic and GBV support services, including social welfare and legal aid;
4. partner with religious, traditional and community organisations to embark on community education on gender-based violence, harmful cultural practises, and develop safeguards and other essential services for survivors, including shelter, counselling, and social support; and
5. develop and adopt a National Anti-Sexual Harassment Policy for Ghana to provide comprehensive guidelines for identifying, reporting, and addressing incidents of sexual harassment.

5.3.3 Protection and Welfare for Vulnerable Groups

We will;

1. develop a Legislative Instrument and implementation protocols for the protection of individuals accused of witchcraft and other harmful traditional practises;
2. transform alleged witch camps into community-owned wellness centres offering comprehensive geriatric care and social support;
3. work with traditional authorities, the youth and civil society organisations to intensify public education on anti-witchcraft practices and law; and
4. provide free sanitary pads for female students in basic and secondary schools and ensure access to menstrual hygiene products, especially sanitary pads for adolescent girls especially in rural and inner-cities; and
5. establish menstrual WASH facilities in schools.

5.3.4 Maternal Protection and Child Health

We shall also:

1. review the Labour Act, 2003 (Act 651) to mandate four months of paid maternity leave for mothers, in addition to other existing legal maternity provisions;
2. amend the law to provide maternity leave and mental health support for mothers coping with stillbirths or infant loss post-childbirth;
3. develop a regulatory policy and legal framework for Assisted Reproductive Technology to ensure the protection and well-being of all parties involved, including patients, donors, and medical professionals, while maintaining ethical standards and safeguarding the rights and interests of each party; and
4. introduce paternity leave to promote parental engagement and work-life balance.



5.3.5 Social Protection

We will:

1. pass the Social Protection and Aged Persons Bill to cater for vulnerable and marginalized groups;
2. strengthen institutions coordinating social protection at all levels to ensure efficiency and sustained financing;
3. complete the Ghana Household Registry to enhance the targeting of vulnerable groups in social protection;
4. build the capacity of social workers and offer enhanced employment opportunities for graduates from the School of Social Work;
5. provide educational scholarship and develop special skills training and social assistance Programme for Kayayeji;
6. offer comprehensive support services including school enrolment opportunities, skills training, and micro-entrepreneurship support for children, and out-of-school adolescents to address streetism and rural urban migration among others;
7. review the National Health Insurance Act, 2012 (Act 852) to extend Free NHIS coverage to all extremely poor households;
8. enhance accessibility to essential primary healthcare services for persons with disabilities (PWDs), and the elderly by providing among others sign language; and
9. implement an iron supplementation project, especially in rural areas, to reduce and subsequently eliminate anaemia in under 5-year-olds.

5.3.5.1 Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty (LEAP)

The next NDC government will:

1. initiate the 'Big LEAP' to pursue an economic inclusion programme for LEAP beneficiaries and the urban poor with complementary funding support from state and non-state sources;
2. introduce Livelihood Enhancement programmes for households with productive capacity;
3. improve access to essential services for LEAP households by implementing multiple complementary initiatives;
4. develop specialised projects for indigent persons within coastal and urban-poor communities;
5. establish an Emergency Response LEAP Grant Programme to collaborate with relevant disaster management organizations to deploy emergency LEAP to provide respite to disaster victims; and
6. provide educational scholarships for children of LEAP households.


5.3.5.2 Capitation Grant and School Feeding Programmes

We will:

1. extend the Capitation Grant to private schools located in deprived and underserved communities to support the goal of 100 per cent enrolment at the basic level of education;
2. resolve outstanding payments of capitation grants to public basic schools and ensure consistent and timely disbursements moving forward;





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3. assign nutritionists to district education offices to provide expert nutrition advice to inform menus to address long-standing anaemia among children;
 4. introduce menu frameworks in collaboration with relevant research institutions to ensure the provision of community and geographic zone-based balanced diets;
 5. enhance efficiency and equity in school feeding programmes through, nutrition frameworks, targeted expansion, and decentralized management;
 6. decentralise the management of the Ghana School Feeding Programmes (GSFP) to the district level and ensure timely payments to caterers; and
 7. utilise geographical targeting data to broaden the reach of the GSFP to deprived communities.

5.3.6 Protective Framework for Children

We shall:

1. establish an Orphan and Vulnerable Child Support Scheme as a special vehicle to create a safe environment for street, trafficked and other internally displaced children;
2. develop a Protective Framework for Children to ensure safety, support family reintegration, prevent trafficking, address the issue of missing children, and enforce parental financial responsibility;
3. support family reintegration and school re-entry for street, trafficked and other internally displaced children;
4. sustain public education on child trafficking to create awareness and prevent child trafficking;
5. establish a Child Support System/Directorate to ensure the provision of financial support from both parents for child maintenance; and
6. Establish Child Maintenance Service Bureau to ensure that parents who live apart from their children contribute to the care of the child.

5.3.7 The Aged: Geriatric Care and Welfare Services

We will also:

1. Re-introduce the Eban Elderly Welfare System to enable Ghanaians above sixty (60) years have priority and free access to social and health services, public transport and public places;
2. partner with the private sector to establish Day Centres and Residential Homes for the Elderly; and
3. propose an amendment to the National Health Insurance Scheme Act 2012, (Act 852) to grant exemption from premium payments for individuals aged sixty and above.
4. exempt persons seventy (70) years and above from the payment of property rates in respect of their owner-occupied properties; and
5. support the Ghana Health Service to increase access to geriatric care and train more geriatric care specialists.

5.3.8 Disability Empowerment

To ensure the enhanced welfare of Persons with Disabilities, the NDC will:





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1. strengthen the legal framework on disability rights by passing the Person's with Disability (Amendment) Bill and introducing a Legislative Instrument to augment the provisions of the Persons with Disability Act 2006, Act 715;
 2. mandate a minimum of 5 percent hiring of persons living with disabilities in public and private sector;
 3. enforce the Ghana Accessibility Standards on Built Environment adopted in 2016 to facilitate access to public places for Persons with Disability;
 4. increase the percentage of the District Assemblies Common Fund (DACF) reserved for Persons with Disability;
 5. establish a Disability Fund in the districts to be managed by relevant stakeholders and review the Guidelines for disbursement and management of the Fund to ensure strict compliance with the aims of the DACF;
 6. implement Guidelines for the disbursement and management of the DACF for PWDs to effectively deliver the objectives of poverty reduction and dignified labour for PWDs;
 7. modernise education facilities for Persons with Disability and the use of customized ICT learning, including the creation of an information hub/portal;
 8. strengthen and resource the National Council on Persons with Disability;
 9. create disability desks at all MMDAs to facilitate mainstreaming of disability issues into local governance;
 10. establish a Centre of Excellence for Special Education to enhance special and inclusive education;
 11. establish rehabilitation centres in the six newly created regions and in regions lacking such facilities;
 12. prioritise the renovation of existing rehabilitation centres to ensure they meet modern standards and adequately cater to the needs of individuals requiring rehabilitation services;
 13. provide targeted support for women with disabilities to promote their welfare and empowerment;
 14. support para-sports and recreation by enhancing technical programmes across various disciplines, ensuring adequate resource allocation, and fostering accessibility;
 15. establish a National Para Sports Festival to celebrate and promote inclusivity in sports for individuals with disabilities;
 16. promote road safety for persons with disabilities by creating barrier-free environments that prioritize independence, convenience, and overall safety;
 17. provide incentives for teachers working in special needs educational institutions to enhance the quality of education and support provided to students with disabilities;
 18. appoint persons with disabilities to MMDCE positions to ensure diverse representation and inclusivity in local governance;
 19. direct the Local Government Service to prioritize the employment of at least 5 percent of its total staff from persons living with disabilities; and
 20. Increase availability of sign language interpreters at health care facilities.

5.4 Empowering Zongo communities and Inner-City Development

The next NDC government commits to implementing targeted affirmative action measures aimed at bridging significant developmental gaps and accelerating growth in inner cities and predominantly Muslim areas, to promote social equity, stimulate economic development, and foster social inclusion for a more balanced and prosperous Ghana.







5.4.1 Educational Infrastructure and Support for Islamic Education

1. initiate an educational infrastructure programme to expand educational infrastructure in Zongo communities.
2. enhance and resource the Islamic Education Unit under GES to enable effective monitoring and recruitment of more Arabic teachers.
3. commence an infrastructure upgrade of the AL-Faruq College of Education.
4. facilitate accreditation of Islamic schools such as the Institute of Islamic Research to support the training of more Arabic teachers.
5. provide scholarships to Muslim students, particularly in the fields of Law, Medicine, Engineering, and ICT.
6. facilitate partnerships to establish Islamic tertiary institutions.

5.4.2 Economic Empowerment and Support for Muslim Communities

1. Establish the Soyaaya Fund to provide working capital for SMEs in Zongo communities.
2. Ensure the National Women's Bank provides tailored support for Muslim women to support their business growth.
3. Extend the LEAP support to some poor, aged, widows, and orphans in deprived Muslim communities.

5.4.3 Religious and Cultural Support

1. implement measures to ensure transparency in the Hajj management by among others reviewing and reducing hajj fares;
2. support pilgrims within the middle belt to fly directly from Kumasi to Saudi Arabia and review the regulation that governs the Hajj board;
3. grant an additional holiday for Eid celebrations;
4. address all forms of discrimination against Muslims, especially discrimination against women who are prevented from wearing the Hijab in school, at work, and other public places;
5. review the marriage of Mohammedans Ordinance, 1951 Cap 129 and streamline the legal framework for the recognition and certification of Muslim marriages in Ghana; and
6. establish Islamic morgues at some major hospitals for the early retrieval and burial of corpses according to Islamic customs.

5.4.4 Health and Infrastructure Development

1. Equip health facilities in Muslim communities with relevant health infrastructure; and
2. Partner with the private sector to build new abattoirs in communities such as Turaku and rehabilitate existing abattoirs to conform with WHO standards.





5.5 Youth Development

Ghanaian youth are among the most hardworking young population on the continent, with limitless potential, remarkable creativity and enthusiasm about life. However, these young people are saddled with an inequitable education system, unemployment and underemployment pushing them and their families into extreme poverty and hopelessness with associated mental health challenges.

To address these issues, the next NDC government will provide greater investment in education and skills development and a robust entrepreneurial ecosystem to unlock the innovative potential of young people for nation-building and self-actualisation. We will invest in digital infrastructure to expand access to digital literacy and skills, promote healthy lifestyles among young people and enhance their political and social participation.

The next NDC government will undertake the following policy interventions.

5.5.1 Ministry for Youth Development

We will establish a Ministry of Youth Development to focus on youth development by mainstreaming and coordinating youth development policies, programmes, and initiatives at all levels of governance.

The Youth Development Ministry will:


1. promote and mainstream youth-friendly local content policies in the energy, mining, telecommunication, and manufacturing sectors;
2. establish a strong framework for interagency partnership to address critical youth related socio-economic issues such as unemployment, skills development, education, health, entrepreneurship, and substance abuse;
3. fully implement the National Youth Authority Act, 2016, Act 939 by enacting a Legislative Instrument, facilitating the establishment of District and Regional Youth Committees as well as the Ghana Youth Federation as mechanisms for promoting active youth participation in decision making from the district to national levels;
4. develop and implement youth work professionalization programmes;
5. foster the creation of Neighbourhood Development Brigades - Volunteers to mobilize the energies and initiatives of the youth in developing their communities;
6. promote active participation of Ghanaian youth in international programmes and support them to take up leadership positions for their leadership development; and
7. promote job creation and youth entrepreneurship in the 24-Hour Economy.

5.5.2 Youth Entrepreneurship Development

We shall:

1. initiate the **“Adwumawura Programme”** – a special start-up policy aimed at facilitating the creation, tracking and mentoring of a minimum of 10,000 youth-led businesses every year under the 24-Hour economy policy;



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2. develop a comprehensive credit system specifically for youth entrepreneurs and develop a database of businesses run by young individuals to guarantee advisory services, create marketplaces, provide managerial support, offer partial credit guarantees, soft loans, grants, and tax incentives;
 3. establish a Young Entrepreneurs Microcredit institution with a seed fund of Seven Hundred and fifty (750) million Cedis to disburse affordable loans to young entrepreneurs;
 4. develop and implement a programme to support graduates of tertiary institutions to form cooperatives to bid for public and private contracts by dedicating specific contracts to such cooperatives; and
 5. facilitate skills training programmes and provide start-up kits for artisans.

5.5.3 Youth Innovation and Industrial Parks (YIIP)

In partnership with the private sector, we will establish a Youth Innovation and Industrial Parks (YIIP) initiative to undertake the following:

1. scale up small to medium enterprises created by young people tailored to district-level economies;
2. create co-working spaces and one-stop business start-up services at district levels to help young people with the services of the Registrar General's Department, the office of the Registrar of Companies, and other start-up related services; and
3. stimulate market development in districts for products created by young entrepreneurs.

5.5.4 Empowering Rural Youth

We will:

1. ensure sustainable livelihoods, economic empowerment, social stability, and community development for young people in rural areas; and
2. leverage global funding for climate action to secure financing for sustainable alternative livelihoods support strategies and affordable housing in rural Ghana.

5.5.5 Digital Economy Accelerator

We will:

1. elevate the Ghana Digital Centre to propel the nation into the forefront of the global digital and gig economy;
2. establish digital innovation hubs;
3. facilitate the creation of unicorns developed by young development technology entrepreneurs;
4. introduce annual robotic competition, track winners of robotic competitions and encourage investors to invest in their innovations; and
5. host the annual digital marketplace festival for the exhibition of innovations created especially by young people.



5.5.6 Youth Employment Agency (YEA)

We will:

1. establish a National Employment Bureau which will be responsible for the creation of an employment database for young people and host data for all unemployed persons;
2. develop more programmes to employ more young people; and
3. grant incentives to employers who employ through the YEA.

5.5.7 National Service

To harness the vast talents, skills, and energies of our most critical human resource for national development, the National Service Scheme will be reformed to respond to national development priorities.

We will:

1. review allowances for national service personnel;
2. pass a Legislative Instrument to implement the National Service Authority Act 2024;
3. develop a structured National Orientation Programme as an on-boarding tool to advance civil responsibilities, national identity and cohesion;
4. enhance the school-to-work transition value by introducing mandatory and voluntary programme to promote the acquisition of practical work tools, skills and values; and
5. promote the development of social enterprises by young people to create solutions for national challenges such as sanitation, food security, climate change etc.

5.6 Sports Development

Ghana, once a force to reckon with in African sports, is currently a pale shadow of itself.

From the heights of African football dominance to consistent appearances at World Cups amid impressive performances, Ghana now struggles to compete with relative minnows in the sport and has suffered embarrassing exits from recent international competitions. Our proud track record in athletics, boxing, and hockey among others, lies in ruins. Chronic under-investment, poor administration, corruption, outmoded infrastructure and abandonment of grassroots talent development have accounted for the current state of affairs.

The NDC intends to implement far-reaching policies to put Ghana back among the ranks of elite sporting nations in Africa and beyond. This vision of sport development is already captured in the 40-year National Development Plan prepared under the NDC government.

The next NDC government shall thus focus on systematic long-term support for sports with a comprehensive National Sports Policy to guide the development of:

- a. Sports Infrastructure
- b. Sporting talents and Human Resource
- c. Sports Governance and Administration Ethics





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- d. life-long participation and inclusivity
 - e. Sports for economic and social development; and
 - f. A framework for the implementation of the African Union's Sports Agenda 2063 and the SDG Sports-Related Goals.

5.6.1 Sports Infrastructure Development

We will:

1. undertake emergency refurbishment of pitches at our national stadia in Accra, Kumasi, Tamale, Cape Coast and Sekondi to meet FIFA standards;
2. pursue our long-standing policy of establishing international-standard stadia in all regions;
3. provide for an equitable geographic spread of infrastructure for the development of sporting talents in all districts;
4. build more multi-purpose sports facilities to promote regional sporting events and inter-school competitions as part of our talent development policy;
5. upgrade the UEW Sports College into a modern Sports University offering training programmes in sports, related medicine, science, and sports management/administration with campuses around Ghana;
6. establish Sports Centres of Excellence in the northern, middle and southern zones in collaboration with existing universities and the private sector;
7. develop a strategy in partnership with the private sector to provide community sporting facilities to stimulate talent development.

5.6.2 Sport Talents and Human Resource Development

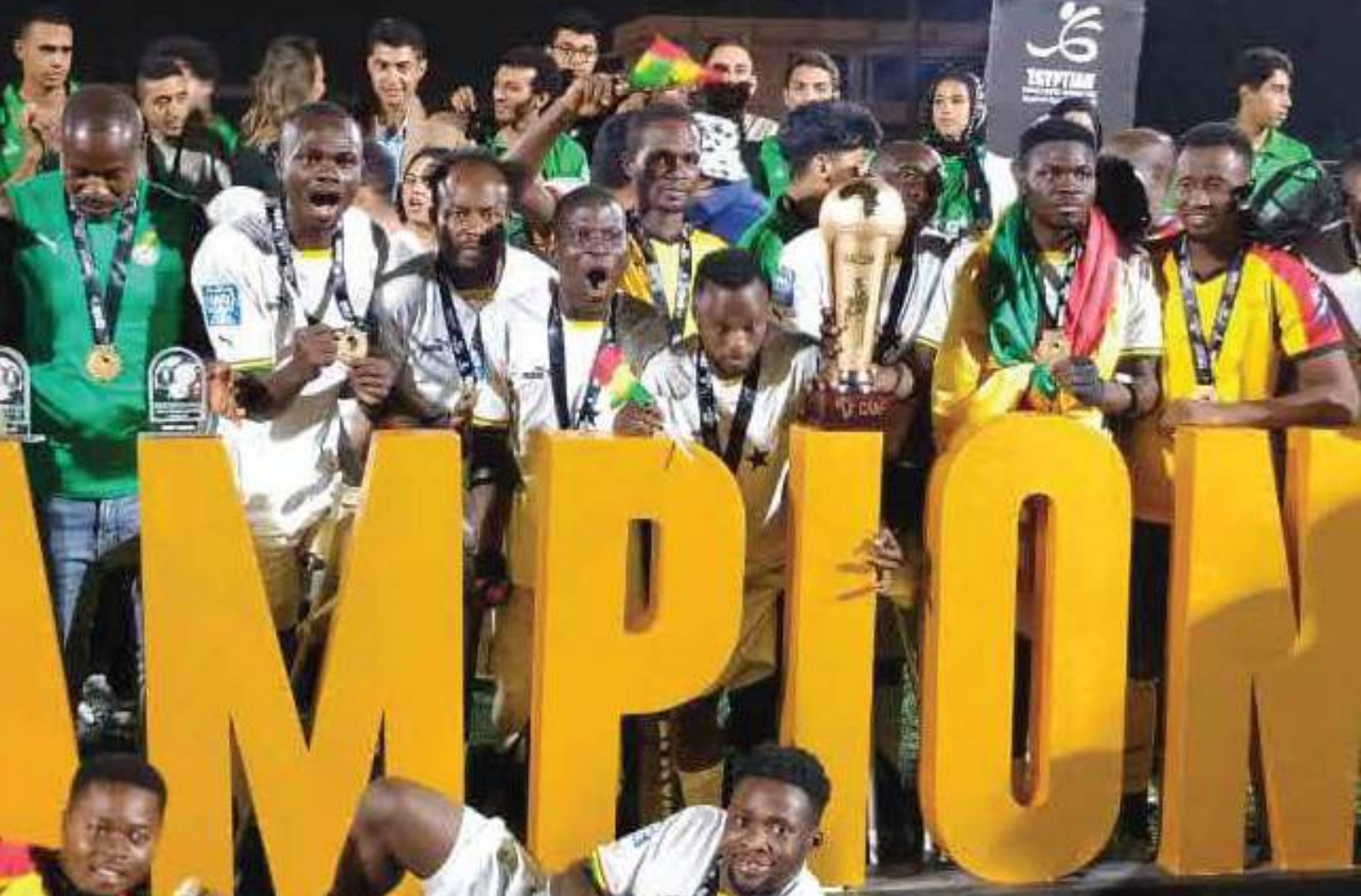
We will:

1. support the development of colts, division one and two and the Ghana Premier League by augmenting the salaries of all registered footballers with allowances.
2. diversify interests and investments into other sports disciplines beyond football and boxing by injecting adequate resources into other competitive sporting activities including beach soccer, volleyball and regatta;
3. ensure equitable investments in other national teams such as the women's football teams, disability sports, football teams, juvenile teams and other lesser-known sports;
4. establish a School Sport Development Agency to focus on developing young talents and promoting physical fitness among young people;
5. hold biennial capacity-building programmes and sporting clinics for technical teams, especially women and persons with disabilities to pursue careers in sports administration and management;
6. offer scholarships to promising sports talents;
7. encourage sporting personalities to invest in pension schemes while in active service;
8. revive Schools and Colleges Sports at all levels, including Primary and Junior High schools, in consultation with relevant stakeholders;
9. support retired sports personalities to pursue other sports-related careers after an active sporting life; and
10. promote community teams and competitions in various sports.





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5.6.3 Sports Governance Ethics

We will:

1. deepen transparency and accountability in sports administration and across all stakeholders in the industry;
2. strengthen and enforce financial management practices and transactions to reduce corruption in the sector;
3. review governance practices of all publicly funded sporting associations, authorities, and other organisations in conformity with national and international standards;
4. take measures to improve professional standards and practices in sports, including anti-doping; and
5. review governance of all sporting institutions to ensure that by their own example of transparency and accountability, they can instil the character development benefits that sports offer young people.

5.6.4 Promoting Lifelong Participation and Inclusivity in Sports

We will:

1. promote greater lifelong sports participation, especially for women, to address historical gender imbalances in national sports development and the development of lesser-known and indigenous sports; and
2. promote the branding and marketing of sporting activities for inclusive participation by Ghanaians.

5.6.5 Sports for Economic and Social Development

We will:

1. develop a framework with the National Sports Associations and sponsors for promoting and marketing our domestic sports;
2. support national athletes more consistently to compete internationally and develop schemes such as post-competition careers and pension schemes to cater for the economic security of national athletes;
3. engage stakeholders to prioritize sports as a business and create an enabling environment for the private sector to support sports development; and
4. review and enforce the Gaming Act 2006, (Act 721) to support national sports development.





5.6.6 African Union’s Sports Agenda 2063 and the SDG Sports-Related Goals

We will:

1. engage stakeholders to prioritise sports as a business and create an enabling environment for the private sector to support sports development; and
2. establish a National Sports Development Fund to support sports development and related activities.



KEY EXTRACTS - INVESTING IN PEOPLE FOR INCLUSIVE GROWTH

1 establish a Department for Early Childhood Development under the Ministry of Education with a special mandate to promote early childhood education

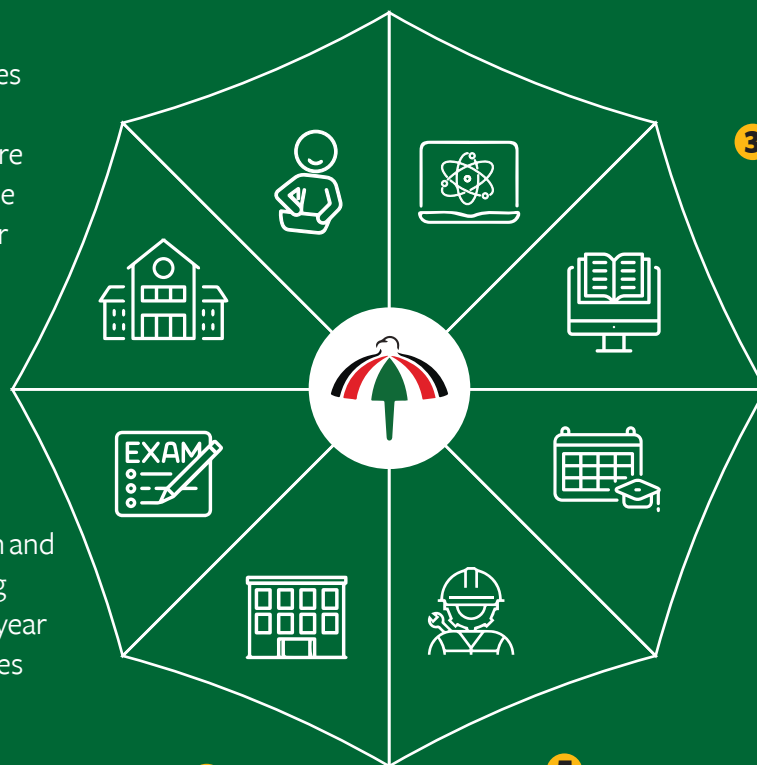
2 initiate a 'SmartStart Curriculum' for greater integration of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM), coding and Digital Literacy and TVET into the basic education curricula

8 support Islamic Colleges of Education with additional infrastructure and logistics to enhance their capacity to deliver quality education

3 promote digital literacy at the basic level

7 abolish the teacher licensure examination and integrate the licensing process into the final year examination of trainees

4 abolish the double-track system to restore a stable academic calendar



6 establish a College of Education in the Afram Plains enclave to address the acute professional teacher deficit


5 implement a 'National Apprenticeship Programme' to generate self-employment through the provision of free technical and vocational training for young people in various crafts. Trained apprentices will be issued with appropriate certification and supported with start-up capital and equipment to set up businesses.

CHAPTER 6: **RESTORING GOOD GOVERNANCE AND FIGHTING CORRUPTION**





Equal Justice Under The Law



The NPP government has been marked by abuse of office, greed, economic mismanagement, nepotism and corruption, leading to a significant decline in good governance in Ghana.

This NPP administration has actively undermined and politicised independent state institutions such as the Judiciary, the Electoral Commission, the Audit Service, and the Office of the Special Prosecutor.

The 2018 removal of EC chairperson Mrs. Charlotte Osei and her two deputies, along with the unconstitutional dismissal of Auditor-General Daniel Yao Domelevo, exemplify the government's interference and politicisation of these bodies. The appointment of known NPP activists as judges and members of the Electoral Commission further illustrates this trend. Recruitment into security agencies has been tainted by nepotism, partisanship, and corruption, thereby undermining professionalism.

Despite promises to combat corruption, the NPP government has fomented and protected it. Scandals such as the PDS, SML, Scholarship Secretariat, Kroll & Associates, BOST contaminated fuel, Australia visa, National Cathedral, Sale of SSNIT Hotels to a cabinet minister, active involvement of government officials in illegal mining, missing excavators, missing tricycles, the Ambulance Spare Parts deal and the unethical conduct of Sanitation Minister Cecilia Dapaah have severely damaged the country's reputation internationally.

Unfortunately, the President and other government officials have actively worked to cover-up these corrupt activities shielding perpetrators from prosecution or exonerating them. This has resulted in the dismal ranking for Ghana on the Corruption Perception Index (CPI) by Transparency International.

Press freedom and civil liberties have suffered under the NPP government. Many journalists and critics feel unsafe with some seeking protection in foreign countries. Critical radio stations have been forcibly shut down. The government routinely uses security agencies to suppress peaceful protests. An investigative journalist, Ahmed Hussein-Suale, was assassinated. The government has since failed to bring the perpetrators of these crimes to justice.

Restoring good governance and effectively combating corruption are crucial for Ghana's future.

The next NDC Government is committed to the values of transparency, accountability, and the protection of independent institutions and civil liberties. We will restore good governance and combat corruption to safeguard Ghana's future.

6.1 Promoting Good Governance

We will:

1. reduce the size of government by appointing no more than sixty (60) Ministers;
2. address the disparities between Article 71 office holders and the wider Public Service;
3. scrap the payment of ex gratia;
4. establish an Independent Emoluments Commission by merging the Presidential Commission on Emoluments and the Fair Wages and Salaries Commission as recommended by the Constitutional Review Commission;

5. realign and merge MDAs to eliminate duplication and waste;
6. reduce the number of political appointees at the Office of Government Machinery;
7. establish a Constitution Review Implementation Committee to implement the recommendations of the Constitution Review Commission.
8. align donor-funded projects with government priorities to ensure the efficient use of resources;
9. create and enforce a culture of national discipline, patriotism, punctuality, and result-oriented leadership in the Public and Civil Services; and
10. engage stakeholders to review the regulatory framework for political party financing; and
11. review the policy on providing official housing for political appointees.

6.1.1 Fighting Corruption and Ensuring Transparent Governance

The next NDC government will:

1. launch “Operation-Recover-All-Loot” to investigate, prosecute, and recover proceeds of corruption;
2. initiate legislation to prohibit political appointees, politically exposed persons and all serving public officials from purchasing state assets;
3. establish a State Assets Registry to effectively protect state assets, usher in an era of transparency and accountability in the management of state assets and address the detrimental phenomenon of state capture;
4. set up an inquiry into the matter of looted state lands and the implementation of the Accra Redevelopment Policy and make recommendations as appropriate;
5. conduct a forensic audit and an inquiry into the National Cathedral scandal and make recommendations on the future of the project;
6. launch inquiries into the numerous scandals that have rocked the nation under the corrupt NPP government.
7. implement the recommendations of the Justice Yaw Appau Commission of Inquiry into Judgement Debts as approved in the Government White Paper;
8. enact a conflict-of-interest legislation for all government and public officials;
9. set up an Independent Value for Money office to scrutinize government procurements above \$5 million or as Parliament may decide;
10. review the Public Procurement Act, 2003 (Act 663) (as amended) to ensure value for money and transparency in the public procurement process and pursue procurement reforms to prevent conflict of interest and insider dealing by politically exposed persons in the award of contracts;
11. implement measures to curtail abuse of single-sourced and restricted tendering procurement;
12. collaborate with the Judiciary to establish a special court for persons whom adverse findings have been made against by the Auditor-General and Parliament;
13. support the Auditor-General to enforce the surcharge powers of his/her office to retrieve embezzled funds with interest;
14. increase financial, logistical, and technical support for EOCO, NACOC, the Financial Intelligence Centre, and other anti-corruption institutions;
15. review and enforce the Assets Declaration regime in Chapter 24 of the Constitution and the Public Office Holders (Declaration of Assets and Disqualification) Act 1998, (Act 550) to promote transparency and check corruption.



MARTYRS OF THE RULE OF LAW



MEMORIAL PLATE

MEMORIAL PLATE

MEMORIAL PLATE



6.1.2 Long Term National Development Plan

The next NDC government will review the national long-term development plan (40-Year National Development Plan) developed under the previous NDC government and commence its implementation.

6.1.3 Restoring Public Confidence & Trust in Government

We will:

1. review all codes of conduct to develop a consolidated code of conduct for all public office holders to promote ethical work, professionalism, and efficiency;
2. pass and implement the revised Internal Audit Agency Bill to address financial irregularities in public institutions;
3. establish a Governance Advisory Council comprising representatives from Civil Society Organisations, religious leaders, traditional leaders, and ordinary Ghanaians to improve political governance, curb corruption, and ensure respect for human rights;
4. restructure development authorities to promote efficiency, job creation, and community development.

6.1.4 Strengthening Independent Constitutional Bodies

The next NDC government will strengthen the legal framework to uphold the autonomy of independent constitutional bodies.

We will:


1. ensure adequate and timely release of funds to independent constitutional bodies;
2. provide the Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice with the necessary tools and resources to enhance its capacity to deliver on its mandate of safeguarding human rights and functioning as the country's Ombudsman;
3. enhance the capacity of the National Commission for Civic Education to better educate citizens on their rights and responsibilities;
4. ensure the Electoral Commission has the resources to conduct free, fair, and transparent elections and implement reforms to insulate the Commission from political interference; and
5. strengthen the Audit Service to ensure it can effectively oversee and audit public accounts.

6.1.5 Parliamentary Oversight and Accountability

The next NDC Government will:

1. create a conducive environment that promotes checks and balances in governance;
2. enhance the independence and oversight function of Parliament;
3. ensure timely release of MPs share of the District Assemblies Common Fund for community development;
4. promote an open and accessible Parliament to citizens, CSOs, and other stakeholders;



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5. address funding gaps to Parliament to enhance research, capacity building, and procurement of relevant technical expertise.

6.1.6 Media Freedom

The next NDC government will promote press freedom and create a conducive work environment for media practitioners by:

1. repealing all anti-press freedom laws and reversing the current climate of fear, intimidation, harassment, and safety as well as improving the frontiers of media freedoms and development by:
 - a. fully implementing and operationalising the Right to Information Act, 2019 (Act 989);
 - b. re-open investigation into the murder of Ahmed Hussein-Suale and ensure prompt action on all cases involving violations of the rights and freedoms of media professionals;
 - c. support the Ghana Journalists Association, National Media Commission, and other stakeholders to promote an enduring professional media environment; and
 - d. improve education for media practitioners by providing equitable scholarship opportunities for continuous learning and professional development;
2. collaborating with industry stakeholders to review and strengthen existing legal, regulatory and policy frameworks essential for the promotion and protection of media freedoms;
3. passing the Broadcasting Bill into a law to define the parameters of broadcasting and enhances the role of community radio in national development;
4. reactivating the Media Development Fund in consultation with the Ghana Journalist Association and other stakeholders;
5. partnering with the private sector to strengthen and establish more community radio and information service centres across the country;
6. providing opportunities for women in media under our Women's Development Bank for entrepreneurship in media and other creative enterprises;
7. promoting the financial viability of the media industry including new media;
8. reviewing the spectrum allocation and licensing regime of the National Communications Authority to promote greater transparency and diversity in frequency allocation;
9. supporting the growth and economic viability of the Ghana Broadcasting Corporation and other state-owned media to realise their public service mandate;
10. resourcing the Information Services Department to execute their mandate of public education;
11. empower the National Media Commission to exercise its oversight responsibility devoid of political interference; and
12. leverage new media to promote and strengthen citizen journalism.

6.1.7 Building Resilient Relationships with Social Partners

The NDC will also:

1. regularly engage with Organised Labour and Civil Society Organisation (CSOs) on national development issues to ensure transparent, accountable, and inclusive governance; and
2. enhance the enabling environment for CSOs to operate freely and independently; and
3. Develop a National Corporate Social Responsibility Policy to harness partnerships for national development.



6.1.8 National Day of Prayer and Thanksgiving

The next NDC government will, in consultation with religious leaders, institute a National Day of Prayer and Thanksgiving.

6.1.9 Strengthening State-Owned-Enterprises

1. revamp and restore prudent management of state-owned enterprises to deliver on their mandates;
2. strengthen SOEs and parastatals to undertake strategic self-financing development projects on the strength of their own balance sheets;
3. mitigate government's exposure to fiscal risks by listing State-Owned Enterprises on the Ghana Stock Exchange (GSE); and
4. review the role of the State Interests and Governance Authority (SIGA) in relation to State-Owned Enterprises.

6.1.10 Special Economic Development Enclaves

In addition to reconfiguring and resourcing current development authorities, we will initiate programmes to develop Special Economic Development Enclaves within designated geographical areas to promote investment in large-scale agricultural production, fisheries and related industries, ecotourism, and sustainable climate action. Under this initiative the following interventions will be implemented;

1. develop a strategic plan towards the creation of an administrative city to expand economic activities within the country;
2. develop the Volta Basin Economic Development Enclave to facilitate private investment in the following sectors;
 - a. Small-scale hydropower generation
 - b. Large-scale agriculture
 - c. Ecotourism;
3. develop the Afram Plains Economic Development Enclave to facilitate private investment in;
 - a. Agriculture development
 - b. Ecotourism
4. develop the Western Economic Development Enclave to facilitate private investment in;
 - a. Mining
 - b. Fisheries
 - c. Ecotourism
5. Develop the Northern Economic Development Enclave to facilitate private investment in;
 - a. agricultural development
 - b. eco-tourism

6.2 Justice Delivery

Recognising the critical role of a robust and efficient judicial system in fostering social equity, democratic consolidation, and national development, the NDC government is committed to promoting justice delivery, facilitating justice for all, enhancing legal research, and ensuring judicial accountability.







6.2.1 Enhancing Justice Delivery

The next NDC government will support the judiciary to:

1. depoliticise the administration of justice and respect the independence of the Judiciary;
2. ensure the expeditious determination of cases through automation and a shift system under the 24 – Hour Economy;
3. continue the implementation of the e-Justice Project initiated by the NDC Government, including the use of virtual hearings for certain categories of cases, and the use of AI and automation for effective justice delivery;
4. establish courts within the precincts of other prisons similar to the High Court established within the precincts of the Nsawam Medium Security Prisons;
5. continue to support efforts to restore, strengthen and enhance the institutional integrity of the courts;
6. collaborate with the justice sector institutions particularly the Judicial Council, Law Reform Commission, the Office of the Attorney General and Ministry of Justice to conduct a comprehensive review of our criminal statutes to attain efficient, speedy and effective delivery of justice;
7. review the Alternative Dispute Resolution Act 2010, (Act 798), to establish community/district level structures (ADR Clinics) to deliver justice through Alternative Dispute Resolution;
8. improve public education of and promote public access to ADR;
9. enhance international cooperation and partnerships in the fight against corruption;
10. support the Chief Justice to establish Regional Tribunals provided for under Article 142 of the Constitution and pass a law to re-introduce the Community and Circuit Tribunals first established under the Courts Act, 1993, Act 459 but abolished under the Courts (Amendment) Act, 2002, Act 620;
11. conduct a comprehensive review of legal education to build a modern legal and institutional framework to expand access to legal education in Ghana and serve national development goals.

6.2.2 Justice for All

The NDC will:

1. reopen investigations into major unresolved cases including the Ayawaso West Wuogon election violence, 2020 election killings, unresolved murder of Ahmed Hussein-Suale, and Silas Wulochamey.
2. expand the court infrastructure and scale up the technical and human resources of justice sector institutions;
3. conduct a comprehensive review of our criminal justice system and, in particular, introduce non-custodial sentences and other alternative forms of punishment for certain criminal offences;
4. promote the use of alternative dispute resolution mechanisms, including aggressive public education and sensitization on available ADR mechanisms to decongest the courts;
5. support the judiciary to establish High Courts in the six (6) newly created regions where these do not exist;
6. support the Judiciary to establish Courts of Appeal in the Western, Northern, and Volta regions;





7. build digital and physical Law Libraries to enhance legal research, and resource the Council for Law Reporting to regularly and expeditiously produce the Ghana Law Reports;
8. enhance the implementation of the e-Justice Project initiated by the NDC Government;
9. integrate digital solutions to enhance the administration and delivery of justice;
10. extend judicial services including courts and e-justice solutions to prisons to enhance justice delivery;
11. decentralize the Legal Aid Commission to the District level and resource it to effectively serve the poor, indigent, and victims of domestic violence;
12. expand the child-friendly courts programme to all regional capitals to include child-sensitive training for judges, court staff and DOVVSU staff, among other institutions in handling children's cases;
13. modernize Borstal Homes/Youth Custody Centres and Juvenile Correction Centres to foster effective rehabilitation and reintegration for young offenders;
14. expand youth correctional programmes to include comprehensive education and skills development.

6.2.3 Judicial Accountability

We will:

1. work with the Judicial Council to rebuild public confidence and improve the image of the Judiciary as a truly independent, transparent, and unbiased public service;
2. improve the conditions of service of the Judicial Service;
3. support the Judicial Council to require Judges and Magistrates to implement the E-judgment project, publishing their judgments electronically not less than seventy-two hours after the delivery of each judgment;
4. support the Judicial Council to operationalise Article 158(2) of the Constitution by passing a Constitutional Instrument to make regulations prescribing the terms and conditions of service of officers and employees of the courts; and
5. support the Judiciary to accelerate the automation of judicial and administrative functions of the Judiciary.

6.3 Local Governance and Decentralization

Ghana's local governance and decentralisation system was designed under the Provisional National Defence Council (PNDC) and has since undergone several reforms with the objective of transferring power, responsibilities and resources to local government units; giving power to the people to decide on issues that directly impact their lives and improving service delivery.


The NPP government has re-centralised the system resulting in late and insufficient transfer of resources, poor local level participation, insufficient financial flows and weak and non-performing MMDAs.

The next NDC government will implement the following policies to achieve the true objectives of a truly decentralized local governance system.

6.3.1 Strengthening Local Governance

We will:

1. upgrade selected Municipalities such as Ho, Kasoa, Ashiaman, Techiman, Koforidua, Sunyani, Bolgatanga, Hohoe, and Wa into Metropolises within the first year of coming into office;
2. pay monthly consolidated allowances to all Assembly members to enhance their capacities and to equip them with resources to monitor the implementation of all government projects and programmes within their electoral areas;
3. assess and upgrade eligible Districts into Municipalities;
4. strengthen local level participation and political accountability through the election of MMDCEs on a non-partisan basis by amending articles 243 and 246 (2) of the 1992 Constitution;
5. increase the share of the DACF of total national revenue from 5 percent to 7.5 percent and implore Parliament to review the disbursement formula to ensure fairness and equity;
6. increase the representation of traditional authorities in the decentralized structures;
7. accelerate the decentralization of departments to the District Assemblies through engagement of the relevant Ministries, Departments and Agencies and enhance the capacity of MMDAs for effective, efficient & quality service delivery by bringing the decentralized departments fully under the District Assemblies as prescribed by L.I 1961 of 2009;
8. revive the Fiscal Decentralization Unit of the Ministry of Finance to ensure full implementation of the Composite Budget system to enhance resources flow to the MMDAs;
9. ensure that MMDAs draw up Revenue Improvement Action Plans (RIAPs) to be approved by the Ministry of Local Government;
10. abolish the centralized collection of property rates and provide technical support to MMDAs to enhance their revenue mobilization capacities, including the collection of property rates;
11. introduce Municipal Bonds to raise revenue and promote public-private partnerships (PPPs) linked to specific development projects of MMDAs;
12. review the existing Sanitation and Waste Policy of the NDC to provide policy direction, including a policy on waste segregation and the application of appropriate technology for waste management in Ghana;
13. develop and implement a waste segregation policy in institutions and communities in partnership with MMDAs;
14. revive the Rural Department Directorate of the Ministry of Local Government to lead rural industrialization in collaboration with relevant MDAs, development partners, the private sector, and CSOs;
15. stimulate local economic growth and diversification for job creation by providing incentives for local-level investment and processing;
16. promote networking among MMDAs to facilitate intra-district/community trade by developing local-level infrastructure such as roads, markets, electricity, and water;
17. encourage MMDAs to revive volunteerism, social mobilization, and community self-help in collaboration with Assembly Members, traditional authorities, and NGOs through an Electoral Area Support Programme;
18. reactivate the bilateral agreement between MMDAs in Ghana (NALAG) and the cities of developed countries to facilitate good governance practices and infrastructural development;
19. build modern waste recycling facilities for both solid and liquid waste in all regions;

- 
20. enact and implement the Local Government (District Assemblies Borrowing) Act to allow MMDAs to access resources from the capital market and the private sector for development and municipal services delivery;
 21. promote local economic development through the development of a LED policy framework that empowers local entrepreneurs for job creation; and
 22. design a resourcing package for the newly created regions to enable them to perform to expectation.

6.3.2 Sanitation – “Clean Up Ghana”

The next NDC government will undertake a “Clean Up Ghana” initiative to ensure a cleaner and healthier environment for all.

We will:

1. restore sanitation and waste management (environmental sanitation) functions to local government to provide policy coherence and alignment to ministerial oversight;
2. review and implement the NDC’s National Environmental Sanitation Policy and District Environmental Sanitation Strategy and Action Plan;
3. facilitate MMDAs in implementing waste segregation by supporting the provision of garbage bags/bins and providing guidelines;
4. strengthen the sanitation and waste management departments of MMDAs to deliver on their mandate;
5. make sanitation and waste management a key performance indicator for MMDCEs;
6. review existing and encourage more public-private partnership in sanitation and waste management;
7. re-introduce National Sanitation Days and Cleanest City Award to inject competitive spirit among MMDAs;
8. improve the capacities of MMDAs to identify relevant and appropriate technologies for solid waste collection;
9. build durable and inclusive toilet facilities and WASH-compliant infrastructure;
10. promote waste-to-energy projects to harness renewable energy sources and manage waste sustainably;
11. establish legal frameworks for integrated solid waste management and implement a “Camp-Size Model” for targeted waste management in high waste generation areas;
12. upgrade Environmental Health units of all Municipal and District Assemblies into Environment Sanitation and Hygiene Departments and empower them for effective waste management at the local level;
13. provide policy coherence and alignment for ministerial oversight and functions in relation to sanitation and solid waste functions of the Ministry of Local Government; and
14. formulate a National Sanitation Policy and empower MMDAs in sanitation enforcement.







6.3.3 Solid Waste Management (SWM)

Solid wastes comprise all solid and semi-solid waste materials generated by households, institutions, commercial establishments, and industries including street sweepings, drain cleanings, electrical and electronic wastes, construction/demolition waste, nuclear wastes, dead animals and other waste materials.

The management of solid waste in Ghana is facing several challenges. These include a lack of focused and targeted national environmental sanitation, overlapping responsibilities among sector ministries, unclear guidelines for waste generators and public authorities, and insufficient economic incentives. Additionally, inconsistent waste policies and a lack of interest among decision-makers in designing and implementing an integrated waste management policy have led to the prevalence of illegal dumps nationwide. This has negatively impacted foreign investments and tourism businesses.

In this regard, the next NDC government will:

1. reintroduce National Sanitation Day and Cleanest City Award Schemes to facilitate the cleansing of the backlog of waste in the system and inject a competitive spirit among MMDAs;
2. comprehensively review the Environmental Sanitation Policy to re-focus the policy on material recovery and streamline overlapping ministerial roles and functions. The current policy unduly prioritises public health and does not align with international best practices;
3. task MMDCEs to prioritise Integrated Solid Waste Management (ISWM) based on the principles of waste prevention, separation, reduction, recycling, and safe disposal of unavoidable waste;
4. implement a "Camp-Size Model in SWM" that makes local authorities responsible and accountable for managing waste in areas with high waste generation;
5. promote the provision of waste bins to households to support waste recycling and management;
6. enact the legal instruments for using a percentage of the excise tax collected to establish the Plastic Waste Recycling Fund under the Customs and Excise (Duties and Other Taxes) (Amendment) Act, 2003, Act 863;
7. recognise, integrate and support the informal sector in Ghana's current SWM architecture; and
8. embark on practical, implementable social and behavioural change communication campaigns to re-orient the general populace towards proper environmental sanitation practices.

6.4 Public Safety and Security

Public safety and security have declined significantly since 2017. We have seen an explosion of violent crime, partisan political capture of security services, and falling professional standards.

The next NDC Government will critically review the national security architecture and comprehensively implement reforms to ensure professionalism. The reforms will primarily focus on equipping all security agencies to effectively execute their mandate towards ensuring the well-being, personal safety and security in Ghana. The following policies will be implemented:

6.4.1 Public Safety and Security

The next NDC government will:





1. develop a comprehensive security and safety programme to support the implementation of the 24-Hour Economy Policy;
2. disband all militias and vigilante groups to ensure public safety and security;
3. purge our security agencies of all militia and vigilante elements;
4. expand the implementation of community-based crime prevention programmes focusing on high-crime areas by enhancing police presence and patrols in neighbourhoods and public spaces;
5. strengthen coordination between law enforcement agencies to improve response times to emergencies;
6. develop and implement cybersecurity measures to protect government systems, critical infrastructure, and citizens' personal data;
7. embark on public awareness campaigns to educate citizens about online safety and cybersecurity best practices;
8. strengthen intelligence gathering and analysis capabilities to identify and prevent terrorist threats;
9. enhance border security and cooperation with international partners to combat terrorism financing and foreign terrorist fighters;
10. conduct regular emergency preparedness drills and exercises at the national, regional, and local levels;
11. enhance coordination between emergency response agencies to improve the effectiveness of disaster response efforts;
12. foster partnerships between law enforcement agencies, community leaders, and local organizations to address safety concerns and build trust;
13. support community-based initiatives that empower residents to play an active role in promoting safety and security in their neighbourhoods; and
14. increase surveillance and monitoring of transportation hubs to detect and deter potential threats.

6.4.2 Institutional Reforms for Public Safety

The next NDC administration will:

1. review recruitment policies and ensure merit-based promotions in all security and defence sectors for enhanced professionalism and national diversity;
2. review staffing in all security and defence institutions to enhance training to contain emerging security threats of global terrorism; and
3. review the Security and Intelligence Agencies Act 2020, (Act 1030), to improve the operations of intelligence institutions.

6.4.3 Investment in Security Infrastructure and Capacity Building

We will:

1. establish two additional modern forensic laboratories and train relevant personnel to improve evidence gathering, asset tracing, and the recovery of proceeds of crime, enhancing the quality of prosecutions and the fight against corruption and other serious crimes;
2. resource the 48 Engineers Regiment to construct barracks and living accommodation;
3. establish new military installations, focusing on borders and new regions to prevent terrorist attacks and ensure rapid response;





5. establish one police station and barracks in each district lacking such facilities.

6.4.4 Community Policing and National Security Structure Enhancements

We will also:

1. introduce a nationwide community police programme;
2. ensure that the enforcement of the Security and Intelligence Agencies Act 2020, (Act 1030), conforms with the constitutional provisions on human rights;
3. restructure national security based on professionalism, meritocracy, fairness, and competence; and
4. promote the establishment of Licenced and Unarmed Land Security Firms.

6.4.5 Technological and Logistical Investment

We will:

1. invest in ICT infrastructure, training, modern equipment, mobility, and other logistics to support intelligence gathering and enhance national safety; and
2. control the proliferation of small arms and light weapons.


6.4.6 Human Resources and Welfare Improvement of Security Services

We shall:

1. harmonize and address disparities in salaries, remunerations, and other conditions of service across all security agencies;
2. decentralize the security architecture and operations to bring security management closer to the people;
3. review and enforce the medical package for serving and retired personnel and their families;
4. review the compensation package for personnel who lose their lives or get injured in the line of duty;
5. clear the backlog of promotions and ensure timely promotions based on meritocracy and transparency; and
6. engage the services of private security organizations who adhere to decent work and fair wages for their employee-security persons.

6.4.7 Ghana Armed Forces

The next NDC Government will create a highly conducive atmosphere for the Ghana Armed Forces personnel to achieve their mission with professional excellence by focusing on the following areas:

- 
1. Operational and Combat Readiness: aggressively resource the Ghana Armed Forces to improve their operational and combat readiness, swift mobilisation, and firepower.
 2. Professionalism and Transparency
 - a. depoliticize the Ghana Armed Forces, restore discipline and loyalty to the State, and establish mechanisms for transparency and meritocracy in promotions.
 - b. encourage and expand opportunities for non-commissioned officers to access officer cadet training.
 3. Housing and Accommodation
 - a. construct housing units and refurbish dilapidated and abandoned housing units across the country.
 - b. expand and improve accommodation for all ranks.
 - c. establish Armed Forces Home Ownership Schemes for all personnel and officers.
 4. Salaries and Benefits
 - a. systematically review and adjust salaries and allowances of troops and civilian employees to align with economic trends.
 - b. upgrade retirement benefits of personnel according to realistic prevailing economic conditions.
 5. Medical and Health Facilities
 - a. complete and equip the Kumasi Military Hospital (Afari) in the Central Command.
 - b. initiate the construction of military hospitals at Ho, Bolgatanga, and Sefwi Wiawso.
 - c. establish Veterans' Referral Departments in Military Hospitals across the country
 6. Defence Industry and Agribusiness
 - a. revamp the defence industry to produce clothing, boots, and accessories for the GAF and other Security Services.
 - b. establish Armed Forces Agribusiness and Processing Units.
 7. Engineering and National Projects - Expand and equip the Field Engineers Corps to undertake national emergency projects, road construction, and be licensed to undertake commercial ventures of the Ghana Government.
 8. External Peace Keeping
 - a. streamline peacekeeping operations in accordance with UN requirements and ensure transparent personnel selection.
 - b. increase the security allowance for personnel engaged in peacekeeping activities to better support and compensate them for their service.


6.4.8 Ghana Police Service

The next NDC Government will address two core aspects of the Ghana Police Service:

1. Police Service Reform and Independence
 - a. ensure the Police Service is insulated from political interference and undertake a comprehensive human resource audit to enhance service delivery.
 - b. revamp the Police Public Order Management School in Pwalugu, roll out a transparent Police Education and Scholarship Scheme, and introduce state-of-the-art technology for police operations.
 - c. increase women's representation in the Police Service
 - d. create a directorate for DOVVSU led by a Director-General
 - e. maintain the Cap 30 pension scheme and review the police compensation policy.





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2. Infrastructure and Technological Advancements
 - a. Embark on an Emergency Redevelopment Project for regional and district offices, build modern offices and accommodation particularly in the newly created regions.
 - b. Create DOVVSU Units in police stations and complete the DOVVSU Headquarters.
 - c. Revamp the Police Driving School in Kumasi.
 - d. Improve and expand the Police Hospital to cater for other security agencies
 - e. Expand involvement in UN/AU peacekeeping operations, streamline its fund disbursement, and increase the security allowance for personnel who participate in those operations.

6.4.9 Ghana Prisons Service

The next NDC Government will focus on two pillars of the correctional system:

1. Modernisation and Humanisation of the Prison System
 - a. Change the name to Ghana Correctional Service and modernize the prison system to make it more humane.
 - b. Implement the Ghana Prisons Decongestion Project and establish a Special Remand/Sentence Review Committee to review remand cases.
 - c. Encourage community services and other non-custodial sentences for minor offenses.
 - d. Ensure proper healthcare facilities in prisons.
 - e. Increase the feeding rate for inmates.
2. Infrastructure and Vocational Development
 - a. Create well-equipped technical and vocational departments in all major prisons.
 - b. Establish open-camp prisons for large-scale agricultural activities.
 - c. Improve housing for prison personnel
 - d. Maintain the Cap 30 pension scheme for prison officers.

6.4.10 Ghana National Fire Service

The next NDC government will undertake the following:

1. Increase Infrastructure and Resources for the Service:
 - a. Build accommodation for Fire Service personnel, especially in the newly created regions.
 - b. Increase operational logistics, including fire tenders, rescue equipment, fire-fighting vests, boots, and hydraulic platforms for high-rise buildings.
2. Improve Compensation and Welfare:
 - a. Review the compensation package for personnel who lose their lives or are injured in the line of duty.
 - b. Maintain the Cap 30 pension scheme for Fire Service personnel.



6.4.11 Ghana Immigration Service

We will:

1. resource and retool the Ghana Immigration Service to carry out its mandate effectively and efficiently;
2. provide Border Patrol Units with surveillance equipment and firearms;
3. build housing units for immigration personnel;
4. construct border post accommodations in border towns;
5. improve compensation and welfare by maintaining a Cap 30 pension scheme for immigration service personnel; and
6. strengthen the use of ICT for the operations of the Ghana Immigration Service.

6.4.12 National Disaster Management Organization

We will:

1. launch Rescue Ready – a crisis-ready volunteer corps mobilized and trained as first-time responders during emergencies;
2. consolidate all disaster and emergency response regulatory frameworks into a National Disaster Preparedness System with clear functions for seamless inter-agency coordination to respond to disasters;
3. establish the NADMO Fund as enshrined in the National Disaster Management Organization Act, 2016, (Act 927);
4. reform NADMO's operations and enhance its capacity to collaborate with relevant stakeholders to prioritize disaster prevention, ensure rapid response, and enhance efficient management. in its policy and operations; and
5. design temporary livelihood support and employment programmes for displaced youth.

6.4.13 Customs Division

We will:

1. fully implement the 2015 Supreme Court Ruling and the recommendation of the Constitution Review Commission regarding the security status of the Customs Division;
2. facilitate the construction of a Customs Hospital for serving and retired officers as well as staff of the Ghana Revenue Authority.

6.4.14 Narcotics Control Commission

We will:

1. enhance substance abuse prevention programmes in educational institutions through a closer collaboration between the Narcotic Control Commission and the Ministry of Education.



2. support the Commission with logistics and strengthen the K9 Unit of the Commission and enhance surveillance at various borders.
3. support the Commission to implement the Narcotics Control Commission Act, 2020 (Act 1019) and Narcotics Control Commission (Cultivation and Management of Cannabis) Regulations, 2023 (L.I. 2475) for the cultivation of industrial and medicinal cannabis in collaboration with other stakeholders with particular focus on the participation of Ghanaians.

6.4.15 National Commission on Small Arms and Light Weapon

We will:

1. implement measures to reduce the illicit proliferation of small arms and light weapons
2. comprehensively review the legal framework for small arms control in line with international best practice
3. empower to the Small Arms Commission to effectively execute its mandate.
4. introduce competency training and testing as a pre-condition for registration and ownership of arms.



KEY EXTRACTS - RESTORING GOOD GOVERNANCE AND FIGHTING CORRUPTION

1 reduce the size of government by appointing no more than sixty (60) Ministers

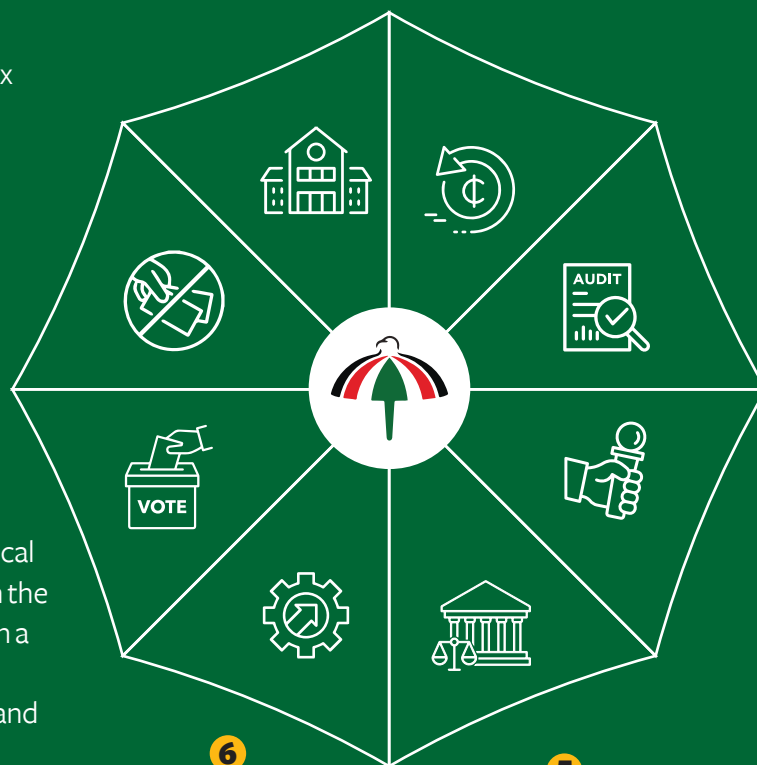
2 launch “Operation-Recover-All-Loot” to investigate, prosecute, and recover proceeds of corruption

8 scrap the payment of ex gratia

3 strengthen the Audit Service to ensure it can effectively oversee and audit public accounts

7 strengthen local level participation and political accountability through the election of MMDCs on a non-partisan basis by amending articles 243 and 246 (2) of the 1992 Constitution;

4 repealing all anti-press freedom laws and reversing the current climate of fear, intimidation, harassment, and safety as well as improving the frontiers of media freedoms and development

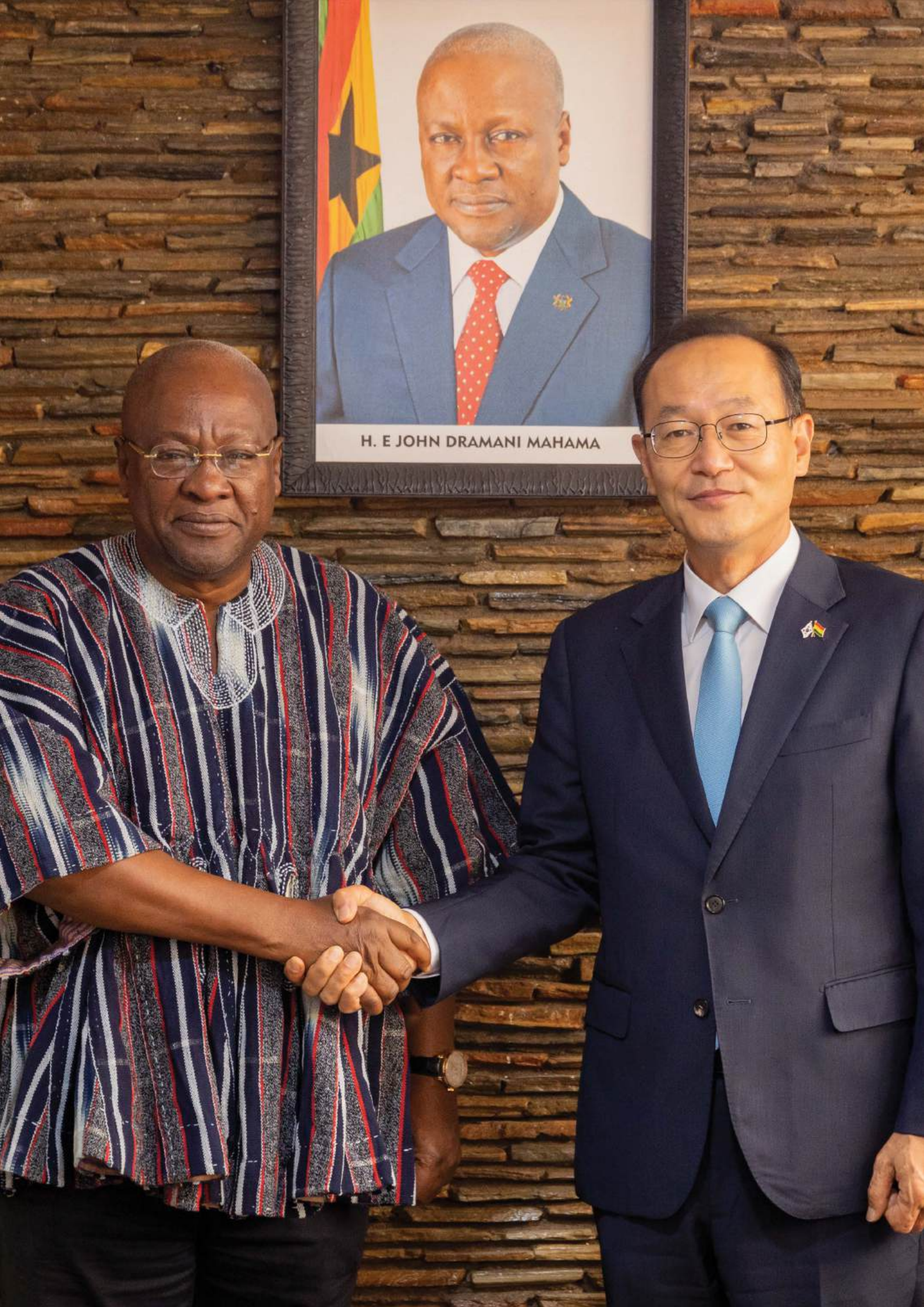


6 upgrade selected Municipalities such as Ho, Kasoa, Ashiaman, Techiman, Koforidua, Sunyani, Bolgatanga, Hohoe, and Wa into Metropolises within the first year of coming into office

5 support the judiciary to establish High Courts in the six (6) newly created regions where these do not exist;

CHAPTER 7: DEEPENING INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND FOREIGN POLICY





H. E JOHN DRAMANI MAHAMA



7.1 International Relations and Foreign Policy

Ghana has long been a significant voice in international affairs, leveraging its membership in and affiliation with various international organizations to promote integration, inclusiveness, and meaningful representation on the global stage. Over the past eight years, Ghana's international relations under the NPP government have become unstable and incoherent due to inconsistent policies. The "Ghana Beyond Aid" agenda contradicted the government's actions, undermining strategic partnerships and development support. This approach has weakened Ghana's standing and credibility on the global stage. In the ECOWAS sub-region, Ghana has lost its influence and leadership in driving regional integration, further highlighting the need for a revised foreign policy approach that better serves our national development goals and our national interest. The unfolding global geopolitical landscape and Ghana's current national development imperatives demand a more pragmatic and impactful approach to our international relations.

To restore our global influence and enhance our role in international affairs, the next NDC government will pursue a comprehensive foreign policy that reaffirms our founding Pan-African vision, considers contemporary geopolitical realities, and emphasizes strategic engagement. We will focus on strengthening diplomatic ties, promoting regional cooperation, and advancing Ghana's interests on the global stage, ensuring that our international relations contribute positively to our national development goals and safeguard our national interest.

To this end, the next NDC government will:

1. reinforce cordial and mutually supportive relations with all our immediate and strategic neighbours in West Africa, reactivating erstwhile Permanent Joint Commissions for Cooperation (PJCC) for enhanced good neighbourliness, peace, security, and economic development;
2. reaffirm Ghana's commitment to a Union of African States with common economic, foreign, and defence policies and appropriate institutions making her a serious player in a multipolar world including, as a transitional strategy, the re-engineering of ECOWAS and its institutions;
3. work strategically to reintegrate the fraternal countries of Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger into the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) for enhanced regional stability;
4. reaffirm Ghana's principled multilateralism and insistence on peaceful resolution of disputes amongst nations, renewing our activism at the United Nations, the Non-Aligned Movement, and other strategic arrangements, to fight threats to global health, peace, security, and sustainable development;
5. reappraise contemporary strategies (including technological) for achieving bilateral and multilateral representation abroad based on which we can shape the country's diplomatic and consular missions;
6. coordinate and leverage Ghana's hosting of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Secretariat, in partnership with relevant stakeholders, to drive industrialisation and position Ghana as the transport and investment hub of Africa;
7. upgrade passport technologies, streamline passport acquisition processes, and develop proactive programmes to promote and protect the welfare and rights of Ghanaian nationals abroad; and
8. encourage the participation of Ghanaians in the diaspora in national political and socio-economic development.
9. protect the inviolability of the premises of all foreign missions in Ghana as required under the 1961 Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations and the 1963 Vienna Convention on Consular Relations.





7.1.1 Policy Blueprint and Strategic Frameworks

In the next NDC administration, we will:

1. develop and launch a Comprehensive Foreign Policy (CFP) with an effective monitoring mechanism to serve as a blueprint for measuring policy output;
2. formulate an economic diplomacy blueprint to serve as a policy guide to diplomats and other staff of the Foreign Service on clear deliverables under Ghana's economic diplomacy agenda;
3. re-evaluate Ghana's bilateral and multilateral representations, and implement policies to enhance the effectiveness and impact of the country's diplomatic and consular missions on national development; and
4. reappraise the geographical representation and economic significance of our diplomatic and consular missions and establish new missions strategic to our national development and national interest.

7.1.2 Economic Diplomacy and Trade

We will:

1. intensify economic diplomacy that transitions Ghana to a vibrant export trade and foreign investment;
2. appoint trade attaches to specifically designated Ghana diplomatic missions to aggressively market Ghana's competitiveness in trade and investment activity and spearhead the implementation of agreed strategies; and
3. address the issue of domestic support workers, especially in the Middle East, by formalising and regularising the domestic support industry, including developing a framework to protect Ghanaians abroad working in this sector.

7.1.3 Regional and Multilateral Engagement

We will:

1. strengthen our relationship with the Francophone and UEMOA communities to maximize the benefits of our geographical position;
2. reassert Ghana's leadership role in re-engineering ECOWAS institutions and enhance the capacity of the national office in Accra to effectively educate Ghanaians and coordinate the implementation of Community Agreements and Protocols; and
3. continue to play an active and lead role in ECOWAS and work in concert with other member states to consolidate the gains of the Community and to achieve its defined goals.

7.1.4 Pan-Africanism and Diaspora Engagement

To foster Pan-Africanism and diaspora engagement, we will:

- 
1. pursue a friendly policy that repositions Ghana and enhances our image in the comity of nations.
 2. reaffirm Ghana's commitment to Pan-Africanism and strengthen our leadership under the AU Agenda 2063;
 3. deepen Ghana's renowned Pan-Africanist credentials by rallying other African nations and the diaspora for cultural integration, good governance, and economic development;
 4. launch a comprehensive outreach initiative targeting Africans in the diaspora and African American and West Indian communities to promote cultural exchange, dialogue, and partnership;
 5. advocate for increased representation of Ghanaians in prominent positions within reputable multilateral organizations; and
 6. promote and protect the welfare and rights of Ghanaian nationals abroad, and facilitate the involvement and participation of the Ghanaian Diaspora in national political and socio-economic development.

7.1.5 Peacekeeping and Security

We will:

1. enhance Ghana's internationally renowned image in peacekeeping operations by continuing to contribute to international peacekeeping missions and promoting conflict resolution and stability globally;
2. improve conditions of engagement and increase the number of females in troop deployments, consistent with today's UN standards; and
3. protect the inviolability of the premises of all foreign missions in Ghana as required under the 1961 Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations and the 1963 Vienna Convention on Consular Relations.

7.1.6 Diaspora Engagement and Consular Services

The next NDC government will:

1. facilitate and expedite passport acquisition, including e-passports, through decentralization and adequate equipment of service points, and in compliance with the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) requirements on chip-embedded passports;
2. enhance esprit de corps and meaningful career progression for career diplomats by ensuring that a sizeable number of ambassadors and envoys are selected from the stock of career diplomats;
3. conduct an asset inventory of all diplomatic properties to pursue an aggressive asset improvement and maintenance programme;
4. engage the diaspora community to streamline dual citizenship and ensure active participation in the democratic process;
5. facilitate investment opportunities and create platforms for diaspora communities to contribute their expertise to local projects, enhancing economic growth, and fostering sustainable development initiatives; and
6. negotiate e-visa arrangements with other countries to streamline international travel and trade for Ghanaians.



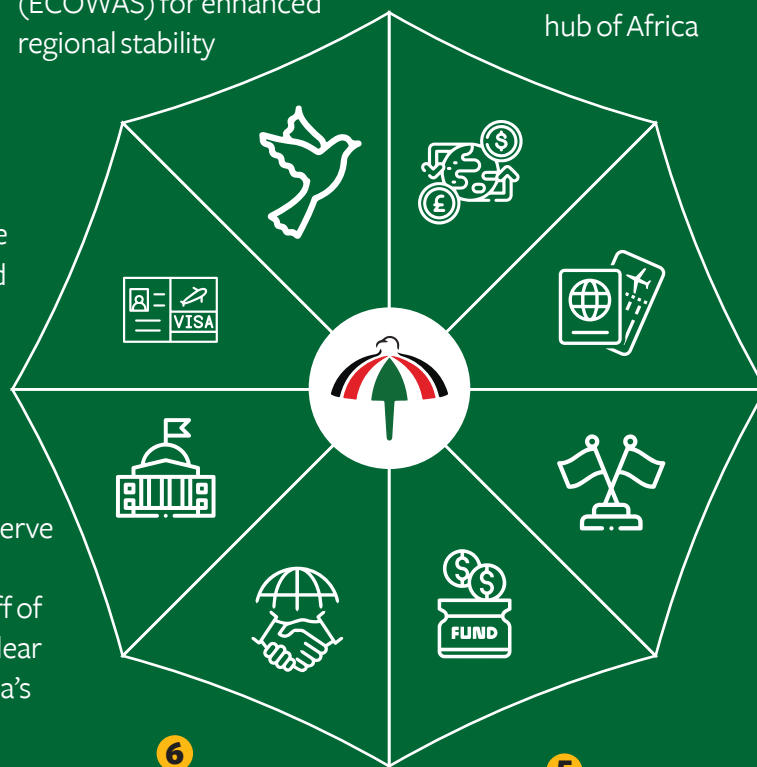
KEY EXTRACTS - DEEPENING INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND FOREIGN POLICY

1 work strategically to reintegrate our fraternal countries of Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger into the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) for enhanced regional stability

2 coordinate and leverage Ghana's hosting of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Secretariat, in partnership with relevant stakeholders, to drive industrialisation and position Ghana as the transport and investment hub of Africa

8 negotiate e-visa programs for arrangements for Ghanaians with other countries to streamline international travel and trade and global connections

7 formulate an economic diplomacy blueprint to serve as a policy guide to diplomats and other staff of the Foreign Service on clear deliverables under Ghana's economic diplomacy



3 upgrade passport technologies, streamline passport acquisition processes, and develop proactive programmes to promote and protect the welfare and rights of Ghanaian nationals abroad

4 reappraise the geographical representation and economic significance of our diplomatic and consular missions and establish new missions strategic to our national development.

6 deepen our involvement in the affairs of the Francophone and UEMOA communities to maximize the benefits of our geographical position

5 appoint trade attaches to specifically designated Ghana diplomatic missions to aggressively market Ghana's competitiveness in trade and investment activity and spearhead the implementation of agreed strategies




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