

# RESETTING GHANA

**JOBS. ACCOUNTABILITY. PROSPERITY.**

**2024 MANIFESTO | ABRIDGED VERSION**







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# 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.

Two contrasting choices will be on the ballot: to continue the slide down the present unsustainable path or to carry out an urgent reset that gives our nation a fresh start, restores good governance, ameliorates our people's suffering and sets 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: various groups of professionals, chiefs, queen mothers, fisherfolk, traders, market women, artisans, farmers, financial sector players, journalists, teachers, miners, youth, students, workers in the informal sector, workers' unions, people in the creative industry, our security services, employers 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 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 the humility, introspection, integrity and urgency of an experienced leader convinced that Ghana is headed in the wrong direction and must be rescued.

This manifesto, which we launch today, sums up our proposals to improve the lot of our people and realise their aspirations. We expect 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 in which it is trapped. We offer the Ghanaian people a well-curated blueprint for fixing the economy and creating prosperity.

The National Democratic Congress government of John Dramani Mahama and Jane Naana Opoku-Agyemang would implement a 24-hour economy for business development, growth and job creation.

We will boost our economy through investments in the productive sectors of agriculture, manufacturing and the creative economy. We will stimulate growth through energy, infrastructure, science, technology and environmental developments.

As a social democratic party, we have an immutable commitment to inclusive growth through health, education and sports investments. We are intentional about social inclusion, addressing the needs of core constituencies such as women, youth, children, persons with disabilities, older people and marginalised groups, promoting 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 more significant than any challenge we may encounter.

We have an abiding faith in the Ghanaian people's ability to weather the most daunting storms. I do not doubt that when we combine our collective energies and efforts, 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 I will lead will be about you—serving with dedication, selflessness and deep love for the country.

I solemnly pledge to lead by example and demand the highest standards of ethical conduct from all my appointees.

I promise to 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.

**HE John Dramani Mahama**

# MESSAGE FROM THE RUNNING MATE

I thank H.E. John Dramani Mahama and the NDC for my renomination.

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

Many have talked about the historical nature of this ticket. While acknowledging that, we intend to 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 December 7, 2024, election offers us the greatest opportunity to reverse the very negative trend set by

the NPP. When elected, John Mahama, with my support, will value your mandate every day. National interest will be our watchword when making decisions.

We solemnly pledge to work with 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 creates a new Ghana for coming generations.

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

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

**Professor Jane Naana  
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 and fanciful 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 these senior citizens on television sent a rather bizarre image of our beloved country to the international community.

Our present Government has introduced many taxes that have caused excruciating hardship and a debilitating impact on our living conditions. Our infrastructure is broken down and our roads are in bad shape. 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 completely due to the reckless and incompetent approach to implementing the free Senior High School programme after the Mahama administration's smooth introduction of the Progressive Free Senior High School programme.

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," which 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 furthered 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 it. There are other policies that we are convinced will help create the egalitarian society we seek for Ghana.

We assure Ghanaians that this manifesto provides a solid framework for "Building the Ghana We Want Together." We urge you to identify with our Manifesto Policy Proposals and vote for the NDC on December 7, 2024.

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

**Hon. Johnson Asiedu Nketiah**



**We assure Ghanaians that the People's Manifesto provides a solid framework for "Building the Ghana We Want Together."**



# The Ghana We Left For The NPP

*The previous NDC Mills/Mahama government bequeathed a remarkable legacy of unprecedented 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 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-, a low budget deficit of 6.1%, a declining inflation rate that hovered around 15%, a stable currency with a depreciation rate of 9%, a booming industry sector and manufacturing sub-sector that grew by 4.3% and 7.9% respectively, a vibrant 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 economic growth of over 8% for 2017.
2. Made significant investments in the upstream petroleum sector, bringing on stream two additional oil and gas (TEN/Sankofa) fields for increased oil production and revenue for national development.

3. Created strategic cash buffers such as the Ghana Infrastructure Investment Fund (GIIF) with an accrual of \$270 million, the Sinking Fund with \$500 million, and the Stabilisation Fund with \$300 million.
4. Delivered unmatched infrastructural investments across all sectors of the Ghanaian economy. Among these were the following:
  - a. The University of Ghana Medical Centre (UGMC), a world-class and only quaternary hospital in West Africa.
  - b. Ultramodern 420-bed Greater Accra Regional Hospital at Ridge.
  - c. Several state-of-the-art institutional hospitals (Bank of Ghana, Ghana Maritime Authority, etc.), regional and district hospitals, and polyclinics added over 6,000 beds.
  - d. The Tema Port expansion project- making it the largest in the sub-region and the Takoradi Port expansion project which has created over 5000 direct jobs.
  - e. Ultramodern and multiple-award-winning Terminal 3 at the Kotoka International Airport.
  - f. A brand-new Ho Airport and the redevelopment of the Kumasi and Tamale Airports into international airports.
  - g. Establishment of multiple niche universities, such as the University of Health and Allied Sciences and the University of Energy and Natural Resources, and secured funding 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 to tertiary level Colleges of Education.
  - j. The single largest contribution to the secondary school stock by constructing 124 Community Day Senior High Schools, 46 of which were operationalised and 27 other completed physical structures.

- k. 14-kilometre Kojokrom–Sekondi–Takoradi railway line with modern passenger terminals and the 94-kilometre Tema–Mpakadan railway project.
  - l. The construction of the Kwame Nkrumah and Kasoa Interchanges and securing funding for the Tema Interchange, Pokuase Interchange, Obetsebi Interchange, and Flowerpot Flyover Phase 1, among others.
  - m. Installed the 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 national water coverage from 56% to 76% through the addition of 110 million gallons a day capacity of water production to serve over seven million Ghanaians by undertaking the Kpong Water Project, Accra Desalination Project, Mampong Water Project, Akim–Oda Water Project, Wa Water Project, 5-town (Kyebi, Osenase, Anyinam, Apedwa and Kwabeng) Water Project, Akim–Oda–Akwatia–Winneba Water Project, Kumasi Water Project, among others.
  - o. The Komenda Sugar Factory, Elmina Fish Processing Plant, Buipe Shea Factory, revamped Kumasi Shoe Factory, and over 150 factories under the Free Zones and EDAIF programmes.
  - p. Massive investments in modernising markets, including the Kejetia and Kotokuraba markets to enhance trade and commerce.
5. Established Ghana’s first-ever Gas Processing Plant (Atuabo Gas) and developed the historic Six-billion-dollar ENI–Sankofa Gas project to address the escalating fuel import bill of about \$300 million annually, 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') and expanded national electricity coverage from 60.5% to 83.2%, the highest in West Africa.
8. Annual cocoa output of 966,000 metric tonnes for the 2016/17 cocoa season.
9. Elimination of the obnoxious shift system in public primary schools, removal of over 2,000 schools under trees, drastic reduction of teacher absenteeism from 27% to 7%, improvement of pupil-to-textbook ratio from 4:1 to 1:4, distribution of free uniforms, free exercise books, free sandals, free sanitary pads, and free laptops for teachers and students and the achievement of Ghana's all-time best BECE performance (2015) and overall best-performing WASSCE nation's award for four consecutive years.
10. The Bank of Ghana, Ghana EXIM Bank, and several State-Owned Enterprises, such as ECG, GOIL, and GRIDCO were profitable.

These, among others, constitute the enduring legacy we handed over to the NPP on January 7, 2017.

# Ghana Now – The NPP's Mess

Eight long years of unprecedented economic mismanagement, misrule, systematic and organised plunder of state resources, state capture, waste, obscene arrogance, nepotism, cronyism, abuse of office, impunity, human rights violations and deliberate bastardisation of state institutions have reversed the gains made under the erstwhile NDC government and imposed untold suffering on Ghanaians.

These ills have descended upon us like a plague and left a destructive trail of immeasurable anguish which has rendered our people totally broken. With Bawumia at the helm of economic management, this government has foisted the worst economic conditions and excruciating hardships on Ghanaians in living memory.

Today, Ghana is bankrupt, and our economy is classified among the worst-performing in the world. Almost every economic metric shows terrible deterioration from the relatively healthy state we bequeathed to them.



An unbearable cost-of-living crisis, fuelled by 54% hyperinflation and a debt-to-GDP ratio of 104% in 2022, has plunged the broad masses of our people into abject poverty and penury. A recent Ghana Statistical Service report reveals that 8.5 million Ghanaians, constituting 25% of our population, went a day without food in 2023.

Even more damaging to the welfare of Ghanaians and businesses has been the free fall of the cedi, which now exchanges at almost 16 to a dollar from a 2016 rate of 4 to a dollar. Our currency lost 54% of its value in 2022 alone due to historic levels of capital flight and has never since recovered.

Through reckless and unhinged borrowing, the Akufo-Addo/Bawumia administration has more than quadrupled our public debt from GH¢ 120 billion in December 2016 to over GH¢ 742 billion. Ghana has defaulted on its debt obligations, leading to its downgrade to junk status by all Sovereign Credit Rating Agencies.

In response, the international capital market has shut its doors in our faces. This situation has affected about 1.3 million Ghanaians, who trusted their government by buying its bonds and has sunk them into total destitution.

Lending and interest rates are now hovering around 35%. This, coupled with excessive taxation and governmental hostility towards investors, have collapsed many businesses and created a toxic investor climate that has forced many multinational companies to relocate to neighbouring countries.

Local businesses, especially contractors and service providers, are suffocating under this harsh economic climate. They are owed tens of billions of Ghana Cedis, whose value continues to be whittled away.

The government is unable to meet its statutory obligations, leading to the accumulation of huge arrears. Even the most basic commitments, such as providing adequate textbooks to primary school pupils and ensuring proper feeding of Senior High School students, have become impossible.

The NPP has flattered to deceive on all its major promises and prioritised deceptive sloganeering over sound economic management. Over 40 different draconian tax measures have been imposed on already-suffering Ghanaians, leading to the mass exodus of our youth.

Unemployment has reached a record high of nearly 15%, with youth unemployment at 32%. This, coupled with hundreds of thousands of job losses, has bred a high sense of hopelessness and destabilised many families.

Any nation of our size, with millions of disillusioned youth, is sitting on a powder keg that could explode in a blinding explosion and produce an unquenchable inferno that could consume us all.

The chairman of the government's Economic Management Team, Alhaji Bawumia, who has persistently refused to heed sound advice, has now fled from responsibility and is pretending to be an opposition leader in government.

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. The country's meagre resources that ought to be utilised for the people's benefit have been hijacked by a clannish cabal of family, friends and cronies of President Akufo-Addo and Vice-President Bawumia. State capture has been their creed, and they have spared no effort to gain undue control of the state's levers.

Our dear nation's moral fibre has been corrupted, and our reputation tarnished in the comity of nations. Our country needs an urgent rescue from this socio-economic quagmire. As daunting as this may seem, the NDC believes in the collective capability of Ghanaians to overcome these challenges with the right leadership.

Together, we can RESET our country and Build the Ghana We Want.

# Resetting The Economy And Creating Prosperity For All

The topmost priority of the next NDC government will be to implement the following measures, among others:

- Reduce hardships.
- Ensure macroeconomic stability.
- Restore fiscal and debt sustainability.
- Restore investor confidence.
- Prioritise investment in productive sectors for sustainable economic growth and decent jobs.

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
  - Import duty on vehicles and equipment imported into the country for industrial and agricultural purposes

To further ease hardships, we will:

Apply the Price Stabilization and Recovery Levy on fuel to cushion consumers.

- Rationalise fees and charges at our ports to reduce the burden on importers and Ghanaians.
- Undertake a comprehensive reform of Ghana's VAT regime to provide relief for households and businesses. This will include reversing the decoupling of GETFund and NHIL from VAT, reversing the VAT flat rate regime, upwardly adjusting the VAT registration threshold to exempt micro and small businesses and repealing the law imposing VAT on domestic electricity consumption.
- Stabilise the Ghana Cedi and macro-economy through an urgent economic recovery programme to shore up our foreign reserves.
- Roll out the equivalent of a \$10 billion Big Push policy for strategic infrastructural development to drive sustainable economic growth and transformation.
- Introduce various social interventions to alleviate the current economic hardships and protect the vulnerable. These will include the:
  - ◊ No-Academic-Fee policy for all first-year students in public tertiary institutions under the 'No-Fees-Stress' initiative
  - ◊ Free Tertiary Education for Persons with Disability (PWDs)
  - ◊ Free Primary Healthcare
  - ◊ Ghana Medical Care Trust (MahamaCares)
  - ◊ Free Sanitary Pads for school girls, among others.

We will:

1. Launch a forensic audit into the NPP's collapse of indigenous Ghanaian banks and financial institutions at a supposed cost of GH¢25 billion.
2. Restore the licenses of wrongfully collapsed financial institutions and create employment opportunities for persons who lost their jobs as part of a broader strategy to increase Indigenous participation in the sector.

3. Shift from over-concentration on the macro-economy, prioritise the micro-economy and invest in the real sector to anchor sustainable growth.
4. Implement an Economic Transformation Agenda (ETA) underpinned by structural reforms and anchored on promoting modernised agriculture, agri-business and value addition for import substitution, exports and job creation.
5. Work to reduce food inflation to lower the high cost of living in the country through our Agriculture for Economic Transformation Agenda (AETA).
6. Revise the Earmarked Funds Capping and Realignment Act, 2017, to free statutory funds such as the GETFund, NHIL, Road Fund, etc., for their mandated objects.
7. Develop a deliberate policy to build economic buffers through external reserves to cushion the Ghana Cedi.
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.
9. Implement a robust fiscal policy framework to reset the government's priorities and reduce waste and financial losses.
10. Review the Public Procurement law to provide for an Independent Value for Money office to scrutinise government procurements above a threshold determined by Parliament.
11. Constitute the Independent Public Debt Management Office (DMO) under the Public Financial Management Act, 2016 (Act 921) to ensure effective public debt management
12. Restore confidence in Ghana's economy on the domestic bond and capital markets.
13. Restructure the Bank of Ghana to strengthen its independence and operational efficiency to deliver its price and financial stability mandate.



**We will implement revolutionary and transformational policies to create sustainable, decent, well-paying jobs."**

14. Launch a forensic audit into the illegal printing of money by the Bank of Ghana to finance the corrupt Akufo-Addo/Bawumia government, which caused hyperinflation and pushed over 850,000 Ghanaians into poverty in the year 2022.
15. Investigate the NPP's opaque Gold-for-Oil initiative and review the Gold Purchase Programme of the Bank of Ghana.
16. Improve disbursements into the District Assemblies Common Fund (DACF) for local development.
17. Implement Mo-Ne-Yo, a unique Pension Scheme for informal sector workers such as commercial drivers, commercial motorcyclists (Okada), small-scale miners, farmers, fishermen, traders, market women, creatives and artisans to improve their livelihoods in retirement.

## **JOBS FOR ALL**

Ghana has recorded its highest unemployment rate of almost 15%, with youth unemployment at about 32% under the failed Akufo-Addo/Bawumia government. As a result, a vast majority of Ghanaians have been plunged into abject poverty and pain. A June 2024 Ghana Statistical Service Report showed that 7.3 million Ghanaians are experiencing severe poverty.

The current unemployment crisis has been occasioned by reckless economic mismanagement, rampant corruption, waste and a disconnect between government policies and job outcomes.

Increasing hopelessness and desperation have compelled many to join the mass exodus of Ghanaians in search of greener pastures – a phenomenon called 'jakpa' by the youth. This poses a significant threat to our fledgling democracy.

Thus, job creation will be a high priority for the next NDC government.

We will implement revolutionary and transformational policies to create sustainable, decent, well-paying jobs.

# JOB CREATION INITIATIVES

## **1. 24-Hour Economy**

This is a deliberate policy by John Dramani Mahama to encourage and support businesses and public organisations to operate 24/7 in three shifts of eight hours each to boost production, promote productivity, and generate well-paying jobs. The 24-Hour Economy policy aims to transform Ghana into an import-substitution and export-led economy.

## **2. Women's Development Bank**

The Women's Development Bank is a special-purpose bank run by women. It will support women-owned and women-led businesses with low-interest loans and other tailored financial services on very flexible terms. This is aimed at economically empowering a minimum of one million Ghanaian women.

## **3. National Apprenticeship Programme**

The National Apprenticeship Programme is a policy to generate self-employment by providing 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**

Our 'Adwumawura' Programme is a unique 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

This will be a three-billion-dollar investment in partnership with the private sector to leverage ICT for the creation of jobs through the following programmes:

- i. **One Million Coders Programme:** one million young Ghanaians will be trained in digital skills such as coding, WebApp development and software engineering, among others, for jobs in the digital eco-system.
- ii. **Regional Digital Centres** (modelled on the Accra Digital Centre) will be established to facilitate the expansion of Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) and Knowledge Process Outsourcing (KPO) sectors for job creation.
- iii. A \$50 million FinTech Growth Fund will be established to promote the growth of digital entrepreneurs and support Indigenous FinTech companies.



- iv. Zonal ICT Parks will be established nationwide to make Ghana the hub for innovation, artificial intelligence and cybersecurity in Africa. Existing ICT parks, such as the Dawa ICT Park, will be redeveloped into world-class centres of excellence to create jobs.

## **6. Agriculture for Jobs.**

The next NDC government will implement innovative policies and strategic investments to modernise agriculture and make it attractive. This will improve food security and create jobs.

To achieve this, we shall roll out an aggressive FEED GHANA PROGRAMME to boost food production, guarantee food security and supply raw materials to industries. This we will do by:

- Establishing Farmer Service Centres to support farmers with modern agricultural equipment, technologies and inputs in all districts.
- Creating Farm Banks within agriculture zones to ease access to land and irrigation facilities for agricultural purposes and encourage young people to enter farming.

## **7. Rapid Industrialisation for Jobs.**

The next NDC government will implement an accelerated plan to promote value addition for domestic consumption and exports. We will do this by establishing strategic industries and reviving defunct ones. 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.
- 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 brewing local beer in the Upper East, Upper West and other northern regions.
- We shall also revive the following factories:
  - Zuarungu meat factory.
  - Pwalugu tomato factory.
  - Wulugu livestock station.
  - Komenda sugar factory.
  - Other strategic SOEs and industries.

### **8. The 'Big Push'**

The NDC will roll out a \$10 billion 'Big Push' policy for rapid infrastructure development to continue our legacy of massive infrastructure development for job creation.

### **9. Public Sector Employment**

We will undertake critical public sector recruitments based on our comprehensive Human Resource Gap Analysis in line with international best practices and the demands of the 24-hour Economy.

### **10. 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.

# 24-Hour Economy Policy Formula 1-3-3.

The 24-hour Economy is a deliberate policy intervention 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 operating around 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, production,

revenue, and enhanced access to public services. Implementing the 24-hour Economy Policy will be supported by strategic investments in infrastructure, security, and energy, among other things.

To complement the existing labour law, an Employment Act that sets up a regulatory framework for a 24-hour economy will be passed in consultation with organised labour, AGI, and other stakeholders.

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

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

### **Key Sectors of the 24-hour Economy Policy**

The 24-hour Economy will focus on selected public institutions with significant customer traffic, such as Ports and Harbours, Customs, the Passport Office, the DVLA, and others.

It will also focus primarily, but not exclusively, on:

- Agro-Processing
- Manufacturing
- Pharmaceuticals
- Construction
- Financial Services
- Extractive industries
- Sanitation and Waste Management
- Hospitality Industry
- Retail Centres
- Transportation Services
- Health Services
- Security Services

### **Support Package for Businesses**

Through a 'Made in Ghana Agenda,' the next NDC government will deliberately use its spending power

to stimulate demand by patronising made-in-Ghana goods under the 24-hour Economy policy.

We will create an enabling environment for businesses to be able to operate 24/7 by providing:

1. An atmosphere of security through a public/private security architecture.
2. Cheaper and reliable electricity for participating businesses based on a Time-of-Use (ToU) tariff system.
3. Tax incentives for participating businesses to reduce their cost of operation and enhance their competitiveness.
4. Financing support through the Ghana Exim Bank for strategic agro-processing factories and manufacturing companies to boost production for import substitution and export.
5. Support for viable SMEs operating below capacity in priority value chains with catalytic investments to grow, generate jobs and propel growth.



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# BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

We will:

1. Establish a WOMEN'S DEVELOPMENT BANK to support women-led and women-owned businesses with low-interest loans on very flexible terms.
2. Enhance the role of the Ghana EXIM Bank in financing non-traditional exports.
3. Exempt new small businesses from paying corporate and personal income tax for the first two years after incorporation.
4. Provide tax breaks and low-cost financing for strategic start-ups and Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).
5. Implement a 'MADE-IN-GHANA AGENDA' to promote the production and consumption of Made-in-Ghana goods, particularly by leveraging the government's spending power.
6. 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.
7. Review the Customs (Amendment) Act, 2020 (Act 1014) to scrap the law banning the importation of salvaged vehicles to save the local automotive industries at Suame Magazine, Kokompe, Abossey Okai, among others, from collapse.
8. Leverage green technologies for entrepreneurship by promoting the assembly and use of electric vehicles and clean energy for commercial and residential use.
9. Reduce bureaucracies, promote transparency, simplify administrative and regulatory processes, and uphold the rule of law to create a friendly investment climate.
10. Promote technology-based businesses, such as app development, e-commerce platforms, Fintech and other digital services



***Establish a WOMEN'S  
DEVELOPMENT BANK  
to support women-  
led and women-  
owned businesses  
with low-interest  
loans on very flexible  
terms.***



# GHANA FIRST

The next NDC government will implement comprehensive and far-reaching reforms under our Ghana Framework for Industrialization, Revitalisation, Support and Transformation (Ghana FIRST) flagship programme designed to:

- Accelerate manufacturing growth for economic development and jobs.
- Empower domestic trade to drive national prosperity.
- Promote exports to expand global market reach.
- Structure and formalise the informal economy for sustainable economic development.
- Enhance the business environment for seamless operations.

**Under this programme, we will:**

1. Develop an integrated aluminium industry to stimulate industrialisation, reduce import dependency and create sustainable jobs.
2. Incentivise the expansion of the automotive and vehicle assembly sector to provide jobs and reduce the cost of motor vehicles.
3. Promote light industrial manufacturing, especially of apparel and electronic products.
4. Support the pharmaceutical industry in enhancing the local manufacturing of drugs and other pharmaceuticals.
5. Promote modern technologies to facilitate growth in the furniture and furnishing industry.
6. Invest in advanced technologies to support the production of plastics, fertilisers and synthetic materials.
7. Revitalise the following industries to enhance manufacturing, promote exports and create jobs:



- a. The textile industry with a special focus on Juapong textiles and new textile industries in the Northern Regions.
- b. The Industrial Hub of Obuasi, which the NDC started.
- c. The tomato processing industry including the Pwalugu tomato factory.
- d. Meat processing industry, including the Zuarungu Meat factory.
- e. The sugar industry, including the Komenda Sugar Factory.
- f. The leather processing enclave in Kumasi with technical and financial support for small-scale local shoemakers.
- g. Incentivise the local production of menstrual hygiene products to drive our Free Sanitary Pads initiative.
- h. Support the redevelopment of the Abossey Okai, Suame, Kokompe and Cape Coast Artisanal enclaves.
- i. Establish modern markets in the six newly created regions.

# TRANSFORMING EDUCATION

We will:

1. Introduce the 'Bright Beginnings Initiative' to revive early childhood education for the well-being of Ghanaian children and facilitate seamless integration into continuous schooling and lifelong learning.
2. Launch a 'Furniture for All Initiative' in partnership with the local carpentry and furniture industry to address the acute deficit at the basic school level.
3. Significantly improve the pupil-to-textbook ratio through the comprehensive provision of curriculum-based textbooks.
4. Embark on an aggressive infrastructure drive to address the increasing phenomenon of schools under trees and rehabilitate dilapidated school buildings.
5. Improve the free SHS programme by providing a dedicated and sustainable funding source.
6. Decentralise the procurement of food for Senior High Schools to boost local economies.
7. Abolish the double-track system to restore a stable one-track academic calendar.
8. Embark on an emergency infrastructure drive to complete abandoned E-blocks and expand infrastructure in existing SHS and TVET institutions.
9. Continue our policy of providing free laptops/tablets for students.

10. Equip Science Resource Centres in all schools across the regions to support STEM/TVET education.
11. Review the Computerized School Selection & Placement System (CSSPS) to make it merit-based and address corruption.
12. Commence the establishment of regional TVET Centres of Excellence equipped with state-of-the-art facilities to promote innovation and simulate natural work environments.
13. Promote the recognition of the Prior Learning Certification/ 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.
14. Implement a 'No-Academic-Fee' policy for first-year students in all public tertiary institutions, including Universities, Colleges of Education and Nursing Training Colleges.
15. Provide continuing students with financial assistance by reintroducing and redeploying our Student Loan Trust Fund Plus and a reformed scholarship regime.
16. Provide Free Tertiary Education to all persons with disabilities.
17. Provide allowances, student loans, scholarships and other funding options for teachers and nurses.
18. Improve subventions to public universities and ensure timely disbursements.
19. Promote the establishment of Tertiary Endowment Funds (TEF) in partnership with alumni, philanthropists and corporate Ghana, among others, to support students in public tertiary universities.
20. Implement a 'Bed-for-All' programme by building on-campus affordable student hostels and expanding accommodation facilities through Public-Private Partnerships with universities.



*Improve the free SHS programme by providing a dedicated and sustainable funding source."*



We will also:

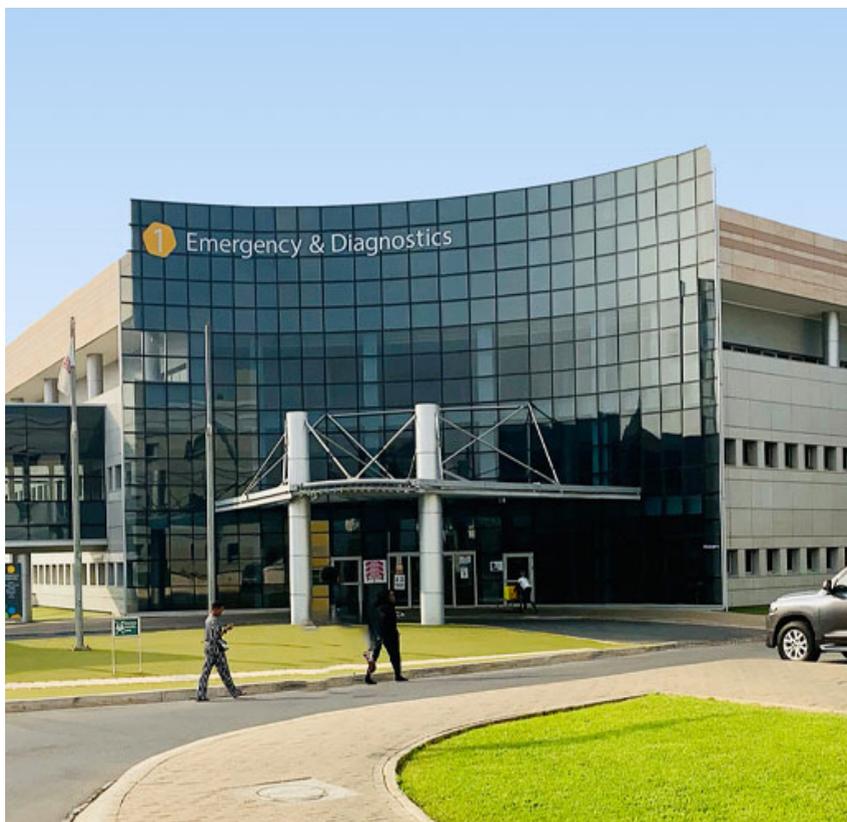
21. Introduce legislation to streamline and regulate the awarding of government scholarships and prohibit the award of scholarships to political appointees.
22. Halt the collateralisation of the GETFund and restore it to its original mandate of educational financing.
23. Establish a National Research Fund to support and promote indigenous and commercialised research.
24. Abolish the teacher licensure examination and integrate the licensing process into the final year examination of trainees
25. Scrap the NPP's mandatory national service policy for teacher trainee graduates and ensure the prompt employment of newly qualified teachers.
26. Prioritise the timely promotion of teachers and ensure the availability of funds for their remuneration.
27. Institute the 'Teacher Dabr3' Project to provide accommodation facilities for teachers within new and existing school buildings.
28. Introduce a special allowance—20 per cent of basic salary—for teachers who accept postings to rural and underserved communities.
29. Initiate a scheme to assist teachers own vehicles of their choice by offering flexible duty payment arrangements and employer guarantees in partnership with teacher unions and the banking sector.
30. Continue with our policy of establishing a public university in every region with a focus on newly-created regions

# QUALITY HEALTHCARE DELIVERY

We will:

1. Uncap the National Health Insurance Levy and ensure the timely release of payments to service providers and additional funds to finance health care for Ghanaians.
2. Establish the Ghana Medical Care Trust Fund (MAHAMACARES) to support the cost of health care for persons with chronic diseases such as kidney failure (dialysis), cancers, Sickle Cell disease, diabetes, hypertension and heart diseases.
3. Implement FREE PRIMARY HEALTHCARE from the CHPS compound to the polyclinic level in the short to medium term.
4. Expand health infrastructure to restore the prompt employment and timely deployment of health workers.
5. Provide affordable accommodation within the premises of health facilities and offer home ownership schemes for health and other workers.
6. 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.
7. Introduce a vehicle tax waiver scheme for health professionals under a well-regulated system.

8. Provide scholarship opportunities for nurses and Allied Health Workers to pursue PhD-level education.
9. Reward healthcare workers who accept posting to rural communities and underserved areas with a decent rural allowance of 20% of the basic salary and shorter service periods for promotion and study leave.
10. Introduce degree and specialist nursing programmes in nursing colleges to support career advancement and skills upgrade of nurses to meet global standards.
11. Mainstream research-backed herbal, traditional and alternative medicine and practice in patient management at all levels.
12. Support the Pharmaceutical Society of Ghana with incentives to make Ghana a Pharma Hub in Africa.
13. Construct a state-of-the-art 500-bed Specialist Children's Hospital and Fertility Centre in Accra.
14. Refurbish the Korle Bu Teaching Hospital as an additional ultra-modern quaternary specialist hospital to reduce medical care and training abroad.
15. 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.
16. Refurbish the Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital to meet the standards of an ultra-modern teaching Hospital.
17. Expand the Ho Teaching Hospital to provide comprehensive specialist services and establish a quaternary hospital in the Volta region to attract medical tourism.
18. Build a Specialist and Trauma Hospital in the Oti Region to respond to emergencies on the eastern corridor road.
19. Establish a modern dialysis centre in the Upper East region to serve the catchment area.
20. Build an ultra-modern hospital in Bawku, Yendi and other towns based on a needs assessment.



21. Upgrade the Navrongo War Memorial Hospital to facilitate the training of doctors, nurses and other health workforce.
22. 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.
23. 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.
24. Complete the establishment of additional campuses of the University of Health and Allied Sciences in Keta and Battor.

# AGRICULTURE AND AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

The agriculture sector is confronted with low production, low productivity, food losses, limited markets and poor access to credit, among other problems. These have primarily 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.

The sector is also beset with climate change and environmental degradation aggravated by the increased spate of illegal mining.

The next NDC Government is committed to addressing these challenges through an 'AGRICULTURE FOR ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION AGENDA' (AETA), which will focus on modernising agriculture and promoting agri-business to reduce food inflation, ensure food security, boost exports and create sustainable jobs.

We will:

1. Implement a Feed Ghana Programme to ensure food security by promoting 'SMART' agriculture to boost local food production for consumption. Under this programme, we will:
  - ◊ Establish farmer service centres to support farmers with modern agricultural equipment, technologies and inputs in all districts.

- ◇ Create Farm Banks within agriculture zones to ease land access and irrigation facilities for agricultural purposes and encourage young people to start farming.
2. Implement a Vegetable Development Project ('Y&#xREdua') to enhance the production of tomatoes, onions, peppers and other vegetables through the following measures:
    - a. Develop greenhouses 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.
  3. Revamp the collapsing poultry industry by incentivising farmers and promoting local consumption under the 'Made-in-Ghana' agenda.
  4. Roll out a 'Poultry Farm to Table' Project to boost poultry production in collaboration with Poultry Farmers Associations.
  5. Roll out a Livestock Development Project to boost meat and dairy production, especially cattle, piggery and small ruminants.
  6. Implement a 'Feed Industry Programme' to boost the production of local raw materials to ensure a consistent and sufficient supply of agricultural produce for industrial use
  7. Reintroduce free fertiliser distribution, improved seedlings and agro inputs to cocoa farmers to increase yield.
  8. 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.



9. Promote Cocoa Farmer Welfare and Support by:
  - a. Reintroducing the Cocoa Price Stabilization Fund to protect cocoa farmers.
  - b. Ensuring regular cocoa price increments in line with inflation and market trends.
  - c. Restoring the payment of bonuses to motivate cocoa farmers.
  - d. Building new and equipping existing health facilities in cocoa-growing districts to provide healthcare.
  - e. Assigning a portion of cocoa receipts for health insurance for cocoa farmers.
  - f. Operationalising the cocoa farmer pension scheme.
10. Facilitate the production of at least 100,000 tons of cotton in the five northern regions.
11. Launch a New Strategic Crops Programme to boost and process strategic commercial crops such as cashew, palm, cotton, and rubber in our agro-industrial zones.
12. Facilitate the establishment of Agro-Production enclaves with appropriate infrastructure, including irrigation and networked warehousing systems.
13. Refocus the Exim Bank to invest in concessional support for farmers through cooperatives and community banks for export promotion.
14. Reintroduce the fertiliser subsidy programme for farmers to boost food production and reduce inflation.

# 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 out-grower schemes for palm oil refineries in the country.

Ghana imports 200,000 metric tonnes of palm oil annually at \$200 million. This means the country only produces 20% of the national palm oil consumption, even though it has the potential to produce about one million metric tonnes of palm oil in the medium term.

Cote d'Ivoire produces 600,000 metric tonnes of palm oil annually, twice its national consumption of 300,000 metric tonnes, and exports 300,000 metric tonnes, while Ghana imports 200,000 metric tonnes, representing 80% of its local consumption.

In 2023, the global palm oil industry was valued at more than \$70 billion and is projected to grow at an annual rate of about 5% from 2024 to 2030. This growth is attributable to the growing demand from the food, beverage, biofuel, energy, personal care, and cosmetic industries.

More than half of all packaged products consumed worldwide contain palm oil.

It is found in lipsticks, soaps, detergents and ice cream. Despite its vast fertile land, it is depressing that Ghana cannot meet its domestic demand for palm oil, let alone take advantage of the about \$80 billion global palm oil industry.

Thus, the next NDC government will aggressively:

1. Develop a national palm oil industry policy to offer incentives for growing palm and develop the entire value chain of the palm oil industry.
2. Acquire land banks to develop commercial palm plantations nationwide and encourage farmers to participate in out-grower palm plantation schemes.
3. Develop palm oil industries through investments, research and development.



# RESTORING GOOD GOVERNANCE AND FIGHTING CORRUPTION

The next NDC government will promote good governance and launch a ruthless war against corruption.

We will:

1. Drastically reduce the size of government by appointing not more than sixty (60) Ministers.
2. Launch an 'Operation-Recover-All-Loot' to investigate, prosecute and recover proceeds of corruption.
3. Initiate legislation prohibiting political appointees, politically-exposed persons, and all serving public officials from purchasing state assets.
4. Conduct a forensic audit and an inquiry into the \$58 million National Cathedral scandal and seek broad consensus on what should happen to the abandoned pit.
5. Launch inquiries into the numerous scandals that have rocked the nation under the corrupt Akufo-Addo/Bawumia NPP government. These inquiries shall include investigations into Ghana's COVID-19 management and expenditures, the SML, 'Agyapa', Math Sets, PDS, Sky Train, Pwalugu Dam, 'Appearance Fees', Ambulance Spare Parts scandal, illegal sole-sourced contracts scandals, among others.

6. Review the Public Procurement law to provide for an Independent Value for Money office to scrutinise government procurements above a threshold determined by Parliament.
7. Address the disparities in the remuneration of Article 71 officeholders and the broader public service.
8. Scrap the payment of ex gratia.
9. Establish an Independent Emoluments Commission by merging the Presidential Commission on Emoluments and the Fair Wages and Salaries Commission as the Constitutional Review Commission recommended.
10. Collaborate with the judiciary to establish a special court for persons against whom the Auditor-General and Parliament have made adverse findings.
11. Repeal all anti-press freedom laws, reverse the current climate of fear, intimidation, harassment and safety, and broaden the frontiers of media freedoms and development.
12. Reopen investigations into major unresolved cases, including the 2020 election killings, Ayawaso West Wuogon election violence, and the murder of Ahmed Hussein-Suale and Silas Wulochamey.

## **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.
2. Streamline and realign scholarships across multiple sectors to eliminate 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 and awarded in line with the principles of meritocracy, equity and inclusivity.

## SECURITY AND PUBLIC SAFETY

We will:

1. Develop a comprehensive security and safety programme to support the implementation of the 24-Hour Economy Policy.
2. Purge our security agencies of all militia and vigilante elements.
3. Clear the backlog of promotions and ensure timely promotions based on meritocracy and transparency.
4. Ensure merit-based, transparent and decentralised recruitments and promotions in all security agencies in line with our HR GAP analysis.
5. Enhance police visibility and patrols in neighbourhoods and public spaces.
6. Expand the implementation of community-based crime prevention programmes focusing on high-crime areas.
7. Enhance border security and cooperation with international partners to combat terrorism financing and foreign terrorist fighters.
8. Prioritise the welfare of serving and retired personnel of our security agencies.
9. Establish a new military training and recruit academy in the northern sector.
10. Introduce a nationwide community police programme.
11. Invest in ICT infrastructure, training, modern equipment, mobility and other logistics to support intelligence gathering and enhance national safety.
12. Control the proliferation of small arms and light weapons.
13. Harmonise and address disparities in salaries, remunerations and other conditions of service across all security agencies.
14. Review and enforce the medical package for serving and retired personnel and their families.
15. Review the compensation package for personnel who lose their lives or get injured in the line of duty.

## **GHANA ARMED FORCES**

We will:

1. Review and adjust salaries and allowances of troops and civilian employees to align with economic trends.
2. Construct housing units and refurbish dilapidated and abandoned housing units across the country.
3. Establish Armed Forces Home Ownership Schemes for all personnel and officers.
4. Upgrade personnel retirement benefits according to realistic prevailing economic conditions.
5. Complete and equip the Kumasi Military Hospital (Afari) in the Central Command.
6. Initiate the construction of military hospitals at Ho, Bolgatanga, and Sefwi Wiawso.
7. Establish Veterans' Referral Departments in Military Hospitals across the country.
8. Increase the allowance for personnel engaged in peacekeeping activities and restore transparency in the selection process.

## **INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

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

1. Pursue a friendly foreign policy that repositions Ghana and enhances our image in the comity of nations.
2. Deepen Ghana's renowned Pan-Africanist credentials by rallying other African nations and the diaspora for cultural integration, good governance and economic development.
3. Facilitate and expedite passport acquisition, including e-passports, through decentralisation and adequate service

point equipment. We will do this in compliance with the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) requirements on chip-embedded passports.

4. 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.
5. 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.
6. Engage the diaspora community to streamline dual citizenship and ensure active participation in the democratic process.
7. Facilitate investment opportunities and create platforms for diaspora communities to contribute their expertise to local projects.
8. Negotiate e-visa arrangements with other countries to facilitate international travel and trade for Ghanaians.

# THE BIG PUSH— NATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

The NDC will roll out the ‘Big Push’ for national infrastructure development to continue our legacy of massive infrastructure development to boost growth and create sustainable jobs.

In furtherance of this policy, we will:

1. Embark on a US\$10 billion accelerated infrastructural plan to drive job creation and prioritise the completion of uncompleted and abandoned government infrastructural projects across all sectors.
2. Revamp the Ghana Infrastructure Investment Fund (GIIF) to undertake strategic self-financing projects for jobs and national transformation.
3. 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, the Sogakope Trans-Boundary System and the Kpeve and Hohoe systems.
  - b. Tamale and surrounding catchment areas.
  - c. Yendi, Sang and surrounding catchment areas.
  - d. Savelugu, Pong-Tamale, Diare and surrounding areas

4. Sustainably address the perennial Bagre Dam spillage disaster.
5. Develop the Nasia, Nabogu and Pwalugu multi-purpose dams to support all-year-round agriculture.
6. 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 the port for shipment.
7. Reconstruct and upgrade the Eastern Corridor rail line to the nodal town of Kumasi and extend the two corridors to the north for freight and passenger services with the active participation of the private sector.
8. Provide inner-city light rail sub-urban services as an integral part of Kumasi and Takoradi's western and eastern corridor lines.
9. Roll out an urban inner-city light rail system in Accra.
10. Develop a railway line from Sekondi-Takoradi in the Western region through Western North, Ashanti, Ahafo, Bono, Bono East, Savannah to Hamile in the Upper West Region.
11. The following major road corridors, Trunk roads, Feeder roads and Urban roads will be developed, improved or completed:
  - a. The three-carriage Golden Triangle; Accra/Tema-Takoradi-Techiman (A-3T) highway.
  - b. Outer ring roads (Golden Orbital Motorways) in the following major cities to ease traffic flow:
    - i. Accra Orbital Motorway
    - ii. Kumasi Orbital Motorway
    - iii. Takoradi Orbital Motorway
    - iv. Tamale Orbital Motorway
    - v. Sunyani Orbital Motorway
    - vi. Techiman Orbital Motorway
  - c. Easter Corridor: Tema-Asikuma-Hohoe-Damanko-Bimbilla-Yendi-Nakpanduri Kulungugu.

- d. Western Corridor: Elubo- Enchi-Sunyani- Wa- Hamile.
- e. Upper Corridor:
  - i. Pulmakom-Bawku- Bolga- Tumu – Wa.
  - ii. Tamale –Yendi.
  - iii. Tamale - Daboya - Busunu – Sawla – Chache.
  - iv. Sakoo- Nakpanduru - Bunkpurugu.
  - v. Yendi, Saboba, Waapuli, Cheriponi.
  - vi. Nkwanta-Kpaasaa.
  
- f. Re-design and construct the following Inter-Regional Roads (IRR):
  - i. Aburi-Nsawam – Adeiso – Bawjiase – Agona Swedru – Mankessim
  - ii. Bunkpurugu – Nakpanduri – Walewale – Wiasi – Wa.
  - iii. Berekum – Sampa-Banda Ahenkro-New Longoro-Kintampo-Prang.
  - iv. Agogo – Dukusen – Anyinofi – Seneso – Atebubu.
  - v. Busunu-Daboya -Yagaba -Fumbisi -Sandema- Chuchuliga.
  - vi. Keta - Denu - Ho – Have – Kpando – Worawora – Dambai.
  - vii. Sefwi Wiawso – Yametwa – Nkrankwanta – Dormaaa Ahenkro.
  - viii. Charibouri – Bunbunu.
  - ix. Kumasi – Anwiankwanta – Cape Coast.
  - x. Asikuma – Anum – Dzemeni.
  - xi. Abakrampa-Asomdwe road

# ENERGY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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 engulfed in suffocating debt, declining oil production, and increasing transmission and distribution inefficiencies.

These challenges threaten Ghana's economy and could plunge the nation back into the dreaded 'dumsor crisis' if not addressed.

To fix this, we will:

1. Initiate the LIGHT UP GHANA Project to support the 24-hour Economy by resuming the universal street lighting programme.
2. Promptly resolve all disputes between upstream oil and gas players and the Government of Ghana.
3. Develop and implement a Premix Fuel Management policy involving landing beach committees to ensure equitable and transparent distribution.
4. Apply ESLA for its intended purpose.
5. Implement an energy transition strategy that will augment thermal and hydropower 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).

## **PROMOTE RESPONSIBLE MINING FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

The next NDC government will wage a ruthless war against the illegal mining menace and roll out an aggressive programme to reclaim our polluted water bodies, degraded lands and devastated forest reserves.

We will:

1. Place a ban on new mining activities in forest reserves.
2. Amend the Mineral and Mining Law to impose stiffer punishment on mining in water bodies.
3. Decentralise regulatory and licensing processes for artisanal miners.
4. Implement a 'Tree for Life' reforestation policy and a Blue Water Initiative to heal and harness the environment by turning areas degraded by illegal mining into economic and ecological recovery hubs.
5. Resource the geological survey department to prioritise geological investigation as part of a broader strategy to increase Ghana's stake in its extractive industry.
6. Set up a novel Ghana Gold Board (GOLDBOD) to regulate the small-scale mining sector. The board will restructure the small-scale mining sector by:
  - Provide mining support services to the industry, including concession viability, health, safety and efficiency in mining operations, equipment financing, research and standardisation, gold recovery optimisation, and post-mining and land reclamation services.
  - Compel small-scale miners to undertake skills training in land reclamation techniques as a required component of their operations to minimise their adverse environmental impacts.
  - Place restrictions on the export of unrefined gold produced by small-scale mining companies in the medium term.
  - Ensure that the Bank of Ghana's gold purchasing programme will be backed by a metal leveraging programme with international bullion holders.

# SPORTS DEVELOPMENT

Ghana, once a force to reckon with in global 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 lies in ruins. Chronic underinvestment, poor administration, corruption, outmoded infrastructure and abandonment of grassroots talent development have contributed to the current situation.

The NDC intends to implement far-reaching policies to restore Ghana to the ranks of elite sporting nations in Africa and beyond.

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

- Sports Infrastructure
- Sporting talents and Human Resource
- Sports Governance and Administration Ethics
- Life-long participation and inclusivity
- Sports for economic and social development
- A framework for implementing the African Union's Sports Agenda 2063 and the SDG Sports-Related Goals.

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. Undertake emergency refurbishment of pitches, tracks and other facilities at our national stadia in Accra, Kumasi, Tamale, Cape Coast and Sekondi to meet FIFA standards.
3. Pursue our long-standing policy of establishing international standard stadia in all regions.
4. Build more multi-purpose sports facilities to promote regional sporting events and inter-school competitions as part of our talent development policy.
5. Ensure equitable investments in other national teams, such as women's football teams, parasports teams, juvenile teams and lesser-known sports.
6. Upgrade the UEW Sports College into a modern sports university offering training programmes in sports, related medicine, science and sports management/administration at campuses around Ghana.
7. Establish Sports Centres of Excellence in the northern, middle and southern zones in collaboration with existing universities and the private sector.
8. Support national athletes more consistently to compete internationally and develop post-competition careers and pension schemes to cater for national athletes.
9. Offer scholarships to promising sports talents and invest in the establishment of sports academies in partnership with the private sector.
10. Support retired sports personalities in pursuing other sports-related careers after an active sporting life.

# GENDER, SOCIAL PROTECTION AND INCLUSION

We will:

1. Mandate a minimum 30 per cent quota for women in all political appointments.
2. Establish a Women's Development Bank- a special-purpose bank run by women 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. Launch a 'Women in Agriculture' initiative to promote young women's participation in agriculture by expanding access to land in agricultural zones and financial support.
4. Resume the 'Market Enhancement Programme' as a comprehensive initiative to uplift markets and improve market communities' overall conditions and well-being, especially for women.
5. Facilitate the establishment of 16 regional shelters with comprehensive support services for victims of gender-based violence.
6. Develop a 'Survivors Care Kit' for victims of gender-based violence, including free legal services, medical examinations, emergency contraception, HIV prophylaxis, mental healthcare services and necessary medications.
7. Free sanitary pads for female students in basic and secondary schools.

8. Review the Labour Act 2003 (Act 651) to mandate four months of paid maternity leave for mothers and other legal maternity provisions.
9. Provide educational scholarships, vocational training and enterprise development support for Kayayeei.
10. Re-introduce the Eban Elderly Welfare System to provide free access to social and health services, public transport for Ghanaians 60 years and above.
11. Mandate a minimum of 5 per cent hiring of persons living with disabilities in the public sector.
12. Provide targeted support for women with disabilities to promote their welfare and empowerment.
13. Establish a National Parasports Festival to celebrate and promote inclusivity in sports for individuals with disabilities.
14. develop a Protective Framework for Children to ensure safety, enforce parental responsibility, prevent trafficking, child labour and harmful cultural practices, address the issue of missing children and support family reintegration.





# **BUILDING A THRIVING CREATIVE ARTS AND TOURISM INDUSTRY**

The next NDC Government will:

1. create and promote 'The Black Star Experience' as Ghana's flagship Culture, Arts and Tourism brand to make Ghana a preferred tourism destination. The Black Star Experience will undertake a year-round celebration in all the major entertainment, artistic and educational disciplines.

This will include the celebration of the following:

- The Pan African Month, Celebrating Heritage, History and Diaspora Engagement.
- The Ghana Film Festival and Awards Month.
- Ghana Music World.
- Culinary Month.
- Architecture, Design, Arts and Crafts.
- Fashion and Textiles Month.
- Literacy/Literary Month.

We will also:

1. Support young digital content creators in developing content that promotes Ghanaian culture.
2. Revive the Creative Arts Fund to provide sustainable financial support for start-ups and the ailing large, medium and small creative enterprises.
3. Review and strictly enforce broadcasting, digital media and local content provisions to stimulate local artistic productions.
4. Facilitate, enforce and enhance the collection and management system for copyrights and royalties in Ghana.
5. Partner with the private sector to build an ultra-modern recreation village with auditoriums for films, musical concerts and other special events.

# ZONGO AND INNER-CITY DEVELOPMENT

The next NDC government commits to implementing targeted affirmative action measures to bridge significant developmental gaps and accelerate growth in Zongo communities and inner-city areas.

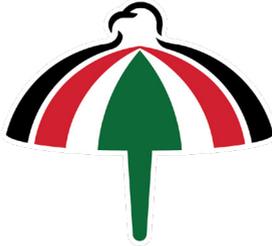
This will promote social equity, stimulate economic development and foster social inclusion for a more balanced and prosperous Ghana. To achieve these goals, we will:

1. Establish the 'Soyaaya Fund' to provide working capital for SMEs in Zongo communities.
2. Reduce the extremely high Hajj fares.
3. Initiate an educational infrastructure programme to expand educational infrastructure in Zongo and Inner cities, including the building of three new Islamic SHS in the Northern, Middle, and Southern belts.
4. Establish STEM and TVET model schools in selected regions to serve selected Zongo communities.
5. Commence an infrastructure upgrade of the AL-Faruq College of Education.
6. Facilitate the accreditation of Islamic schools, such as the Institute of Islamic Research, to support training more Arabic teachers.
7. Provide scholarships to Zongo and inner-city students, particularly in the fields of Law, Medicine, Engineering, and ICT.
8. Facilitate partnerships to establish Islamic tertiary institutions.
9. Link Zongo and inner-city communities to opportunities under the National Apprentice Programme.









**NDC**

**NATIONAL  
DEMOCRATIC  
CONGRESS**