



JOBS, PROSPERITY AND MORE

THE PEOPLE'S MANIFESTO



NDC

**NATIONAL
DEMOCRATIC
CONGRESS**

2021-2025



NDC

NATIONAL
DEMOCRATIC
CONGRESS



CONTENTS

Acronyms

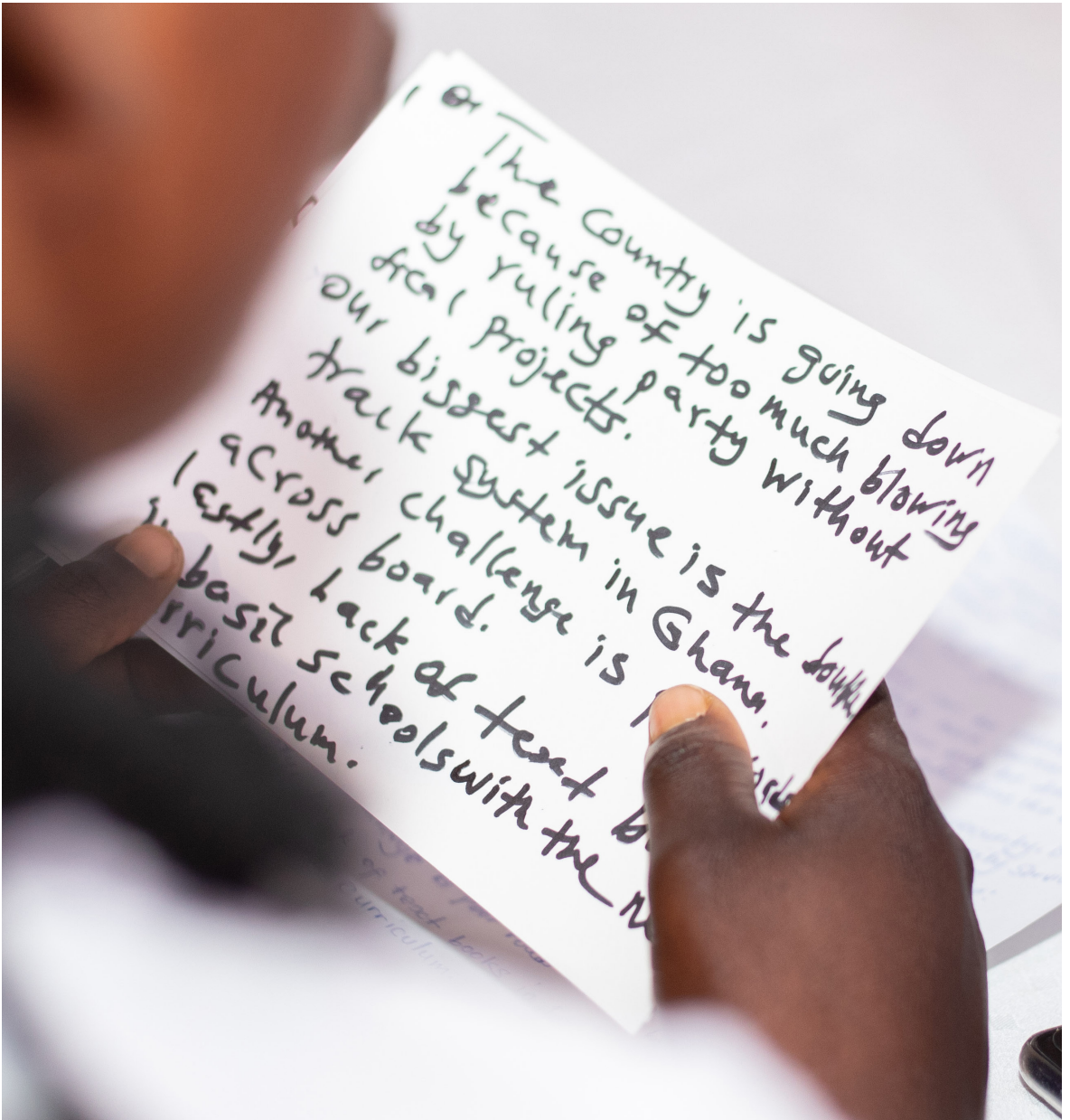
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ACRONYMS

| | |
|------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| ACI | Airports Council International |
| Africa CDC | Africa Centre for Disease Control and Prevention |
| AfCFTA | African Continental Free Trade Area |
| AGI | Association of Ghana Industries |
| AML/CFT | Anti-Money Laundering and Combating the Financing of Terrorism |
| CHASS | Conference of Heads of Assisted Secondary Schools |
| COTVET | Council for Technical and Vocational Education and Training |
| CSD | Central Securities Depository |
| CSSPS | Computerised School Selection and Placement System |
| DACF | District Assemblies Common Fund |
| EOCO | Economic and Organised Crimes Office |
| ESRP | Economic and Social Reconstruction Programme |
| FIC | Finance Intelligence Centre |
| FATF | Financial Action Task Force |
| GFIM | Ghana Fixed Income Market |
| GIIF | Ghana Infrastructure Investment Fund |
| GPHA | Ghana Ports and Harbours Authority |
| GUTA | Ghana Union of Traders Association |
| IATA | International Air Transport Association |
| ICAO | International Civil Aviation Organization |
| KCCR | Kumasi Centre for Collaborative Research |
| LESDEP | Local Entrepreneurs Skill Development Programme |
| MDAs | Ministries, Departments and Agencies |
| MMDAs | Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies |
| NABPTEX | National Board for Professional and Technical Examinations |
| NACOB | Narcotics Control Board |
| NBSSI | National Board for Small Scale Industries |
| NMRI | Noguchi Medical Research Institute |
| PAs | Purchase Agreements |
| PEF | Private Enterprises Federation |
| PPAs | Power Purchase Agreements |
| PPRSD | Plant Protection and Regulatory Services Directorate |
| PRMA | Petroleum Revenue Management Act |
| REIF | Real Exchange Investments Funds |
| SBA | Small Businesses Association |
| SDI | Specialised Deposit Taking Institutions |
| SMEs | Small and Medium Scale Enterprises |
| TVET | Technical and Vocational Education and Training |
| UCC | University of Cape Coast |
| VLTC | Volta Lake Transport Company |
| YEA | Youth Employment Agency |







FOUNDER

H.E. FLT. LT. JERRY JOHN RAWLINGS





1 INTRODUCTION

As Social Democrats, the National Democratic Congress (NDC) subscribes to a compassionate political philosophy that seeks to create opportunities for all to develop to their fullest potential.

We believe that our pursuit of economic prosperity for all Ghanaians can best be achieved through appropriate regulation and strategic investments. The NDC is, therefore, committed to using the legal, fiscal and trade instruments at our disposal, in an inclusive effort, to safeguard the jobs of today and create sustainable jobs for the future.

This Manifesto is our Social Contract between the people of Ghana and the NDC Government. Creating a bright future for Ghana and our people means delivering on our Social Contract and ensuring that the vision comes to life.

In our quest to build a sustainable society with opportunities for all, we will continue to prioritise quality education and skills development as the cornerstone of progress. We will embark on a US\$10 billion accelerated infrastructural plan, dubbed the 'Big Push', which will drive jobs and entrepreneurial agenda.

We, in the NDC, re-dedicate ourselves to the expansion of economic freedom and opportunities by providing incentives for small businesses to grow, as well as, encourage local community development. In addition, we will build an environment for digital transformation and domestic manufacturing to support job creation.

Our overarching goal is to deliver *Jobs, Prosperity and More*.

To achieve this, John Dramani Mahama will focus on delivering on the following development priorities over the next four (4) years:

- Fixing the Economy and Uniting Against Poverty
- Promoting Human Development
- Providing Infrastructure for Accelerated Growth
- Creating Sustainable and Decent Jobs “Edwuma Pa”
- Promoting Good Governance, Anti-Corruption and Accountability
- Deepening International Relations and Foreign Affairs.





FOREWORD BY
FLAGBEARER

JOHN DRAMANI MAHAMA

FOREWORD BY FLAGBEARER

I have had the unique privilege of providing leadership as President, stepping back, and being elected again to lead the National Democratic Congress (NDC) into the December 2020 elections.

I have had the opportunity, during the period, to reflect soberly on the challenges and expectations of governance and the heavy burden of people's hopes and aspirations that come with it.

Ghana cannot afford to do things in the same old way. Survival and success for today and future generations require a much more urgent and, in some cases, painful change of prevailing economic and social relations.

Ghana needs a new era of Social Justice:

- it is time for renewal and gathering
- it is time for greater self-reliance
- it is time to close the wealth gap that divides our society
- it is time to finally end intolerance and social discrimination against ethnic groups, religious groups, gender and age groups
- it is time to end the repression of the media
- it is time to unite and create opportunities for all – not just a few
- it is time to do this democratically – with the full involvement of our people.

The world is changing fast and in very fundamental ways. We must place Ghana in sync with the new developments taking place around the world in order to propel our economy into an advanced one. We must prepare Ghana to cope with the current global changes, and we must open new horizons and hope, to instil a new sense of purpose in our people, catching up on what we have missed while taking steps to enhance our growth.

To achieve this, we must build a knowledge-based economy and move faster into the new world of smart manufacturing and digital services. This will not only generate growth, but also prosperity for all Ghanaians. We will create not only jobs, but sustainable and decent jobs, so that people can live dignified lives.

With this in mind, we set out to develop the People's Manifesto, a social contract between the NDC and the people of Ghana. To make our manifesto-writing process widely consultative and popular, we adopted a bottom-up approach.

In addition to internal consultations within the NDC, our grassroots organs engaged their communities and forwarded their expectations for inclusion.

I was also privileged to hold town hall meetings with representatives of different socio-economic groupings. I sought to derive a consensus on what the next NDC Government must do, how we must do it, and what roles citizens want to play in our forward march. The idea was to distil this knowledge and commitment into our Manifesto.

Our consultative process was interrupted by the COVID-19 Pandemic. We did not, however, abandon our objective. We continued, using technology and small group meetings, until our objectives were achieved.

Six months later, the Pandemic is spreading even faster, and with more disruptive effect on our lives than Government anticipated. From all indications, COVID-19 will continue to plague the world for some time to come, but this People's Manifesto lays the foundation for its tackling and the renewal of my resolve to deliver Jobs, Prosperity and More for all Ghanaians.

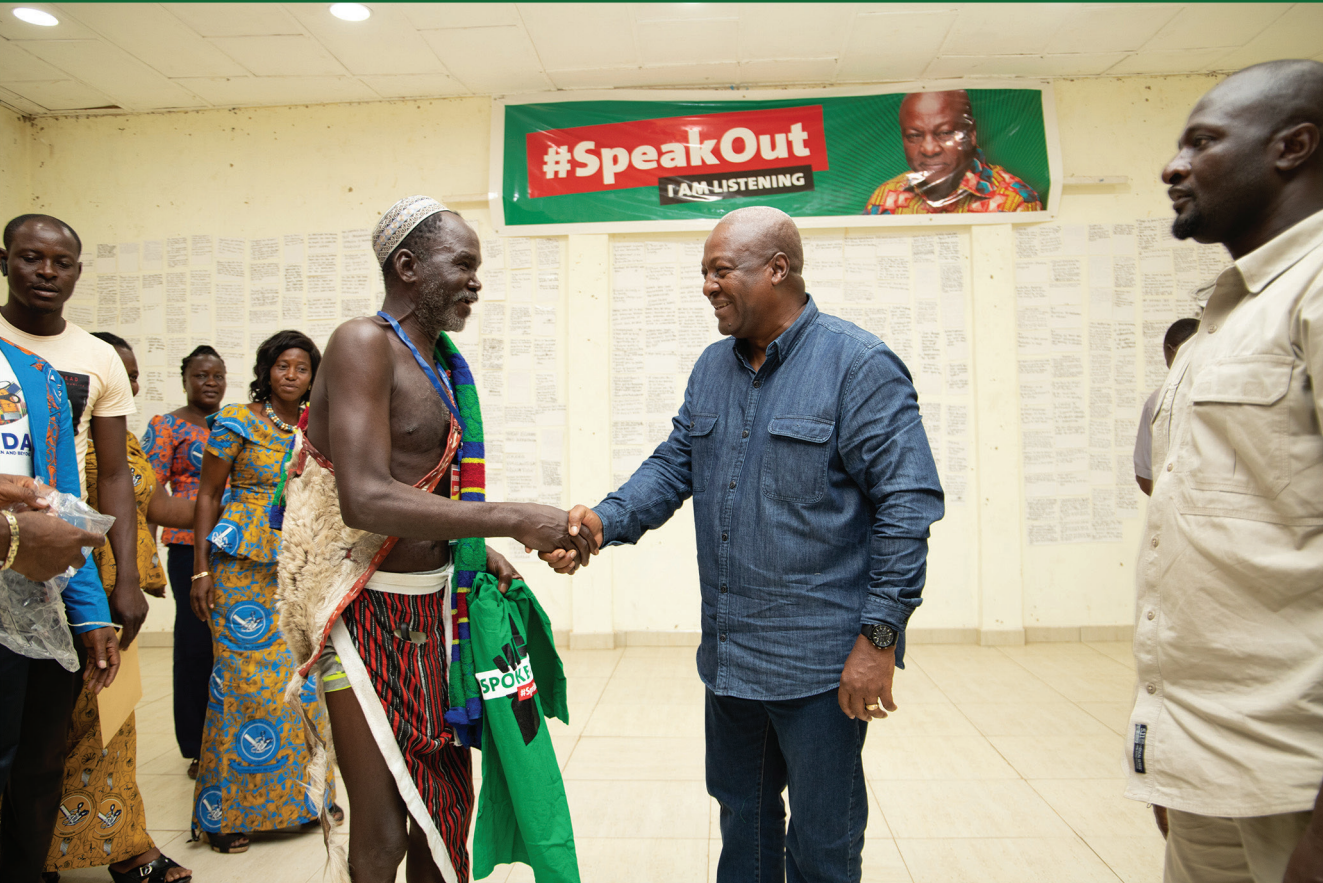
I hope you will identify with the ideals of our People's Manifesto, vote for me John Dramani Mahama, and engage us to improve our programme delivery.

I believe that there are great times ahead for all of us.

Let us all join hands to create the country that we all wish for.

John Dramani Mahama

Flagbearer



“We will create not only jobs, but sustainable and decent jobs, so that people can live dignified lives. With this in mind, we set out to develop the People’s Manifesto, a social contract between the NDC and the people of Ghana. To make our manifesto-writing process widely consultative and popular, we adopted a bottom-up approach. In addition to internal consultations within the NDC, our grassroots organs engaged their communities and forwarded their expectations for inclusion”.

**John Dramani Mahama
Flagbearer**



MESSAGE FROM THE
RUNNING MATE

PROFESSOR NAANA JANE OPOKU-AGYEMANG

MESSAGE FROM THE RUNNING MATE

Three months ago, the National Democratic Congress (NDC), through the visionary decision of our Flagbearer H.E. John Dramani Mahama, opened a new chapter in our Party's leadership by endorsing me as the first female Running Mate; a manifestation of the NDC's belief in gender justice and inclusion. I express my gratitude to the Flagbearer, the Founder, the Council of Elders, Party Executives and all Comrades for granting me the opportunity to contribute towards our Great NDC's resounding victory in the December 7, 2020 elections.

As a nation, it is a fact that our socio-economic conditions are fast deteriorating under the current New Patriotic Party administration. The country faces a grim socio-economic future. The economy is fast collapsing, nepotism and state capture have characterised our political economy. By the NPP's action and inaction, we are experiencing high levels of insecurity, and safety is not even guaranteed or assured anymore. The NPP's adherence to the rule of law is only a mirage. Our once highly valued educational system has been politicised and devalued. This is the reason why I am happy to join hands with our Flagbearer, John Dramani Mahama, to rescue this country on December 7, 2020.

The gender balance in our leadership as a Party provides hope for our resounding victory. It signifies inclusive and participatory democracy, which prioritises the needs of all: the head porters (Kayayei), okada riders, market women, traders, farmers, seamstresses, tailors, hair dressers, beauticians, carpenters, masons, steel binders, car mechanics, fishermen, teachers, nurses, security persons, persons with disabilities and all others, irrespective of gender, religion, ethnicity, profession or geographical location. To maximise the benefits of this gender balance for our rescue mission, I call for the full participation of every member of OUR GREAT NDC PARTY. I urge you to be part of the victory process.

Having worked closely with H.E. John Dramani Mahama as former Minister of Education, I know he is a man of vision, a leader we can trust, a public servant of integrity and a courageous leader who makes the right decisions in the national interest at all times. I pledge to apply myself diligently and to dedicate all my energies and intellect to ensure a resounding victory for the NDC and for our country, Ghana. With God on OUR SIDE, VICTORY IS OURS!

Professor Naana Jane Opoku-Agyemang

NDC Running Mate

MESSAGE FROM THE NATIONAL CHAIRMAN

The National Democratic Congress is a social democratic Party and believes in an egalitarian society in which there is equal opportunity for all Ghanaians. Equal opportunity refers to the right to adequate and affordable health care, decent jobs, quality education irrespective of gender or creed, liberty to practice one's religion and to engage in religious activities, and the freedom to pursue one's economic interests. The Party, therefore, seeks to empower the powerless, free the oppressed, liberate the poor, assimilate the marginalised and extend equal dignity to the vulnerable members of the Ghanaian populace.

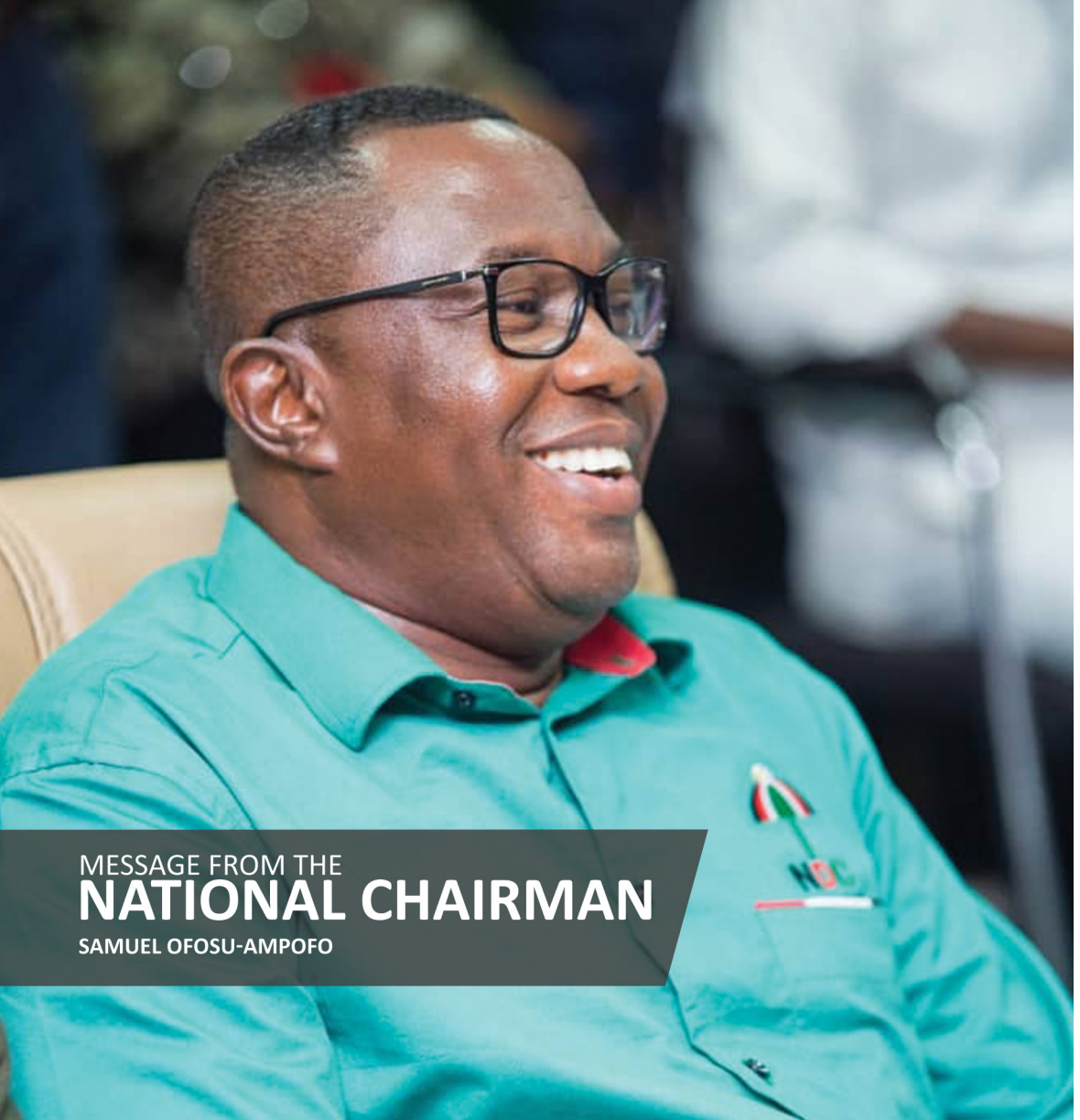
Since 1992, the NDC has sought to achieve these objectives through the various administrations which the Ghanaian electorate has given the Party the opportunity to lead. We have endeavoured to significantly improve the living standards of Ghanaians in all sectors of our lives and provide opportunities for enhancing education, health and business. In the education sector, the immediate past NDC administration provided infrastructure for the expansion of Senior High Schools in all corners of the country. In health, the previous NDC administration provided unprecedented health infrastructure that served the country well in combatting the COVID-19 outbreak.

The huge number of road projects, undertaken in the immediate past NDC Administration, and the extensive provisions laid out for the future, have enhanced economic activities and these will lead to improved accessibility to all parts of the country. In the energy sector, the NDC carried out infrastructural development that effectively ended 'dumsor'. Today, if Ghanaians enjoy continuous electricity in their homes and businesses, it is due to the prudent extensive infrastructural investments undertaken by the last NDC Administration led by President John Dramani Mahama in the energy sector. The NDC has positively impacted the lives of the people of Ghana in every aspect of our lives.

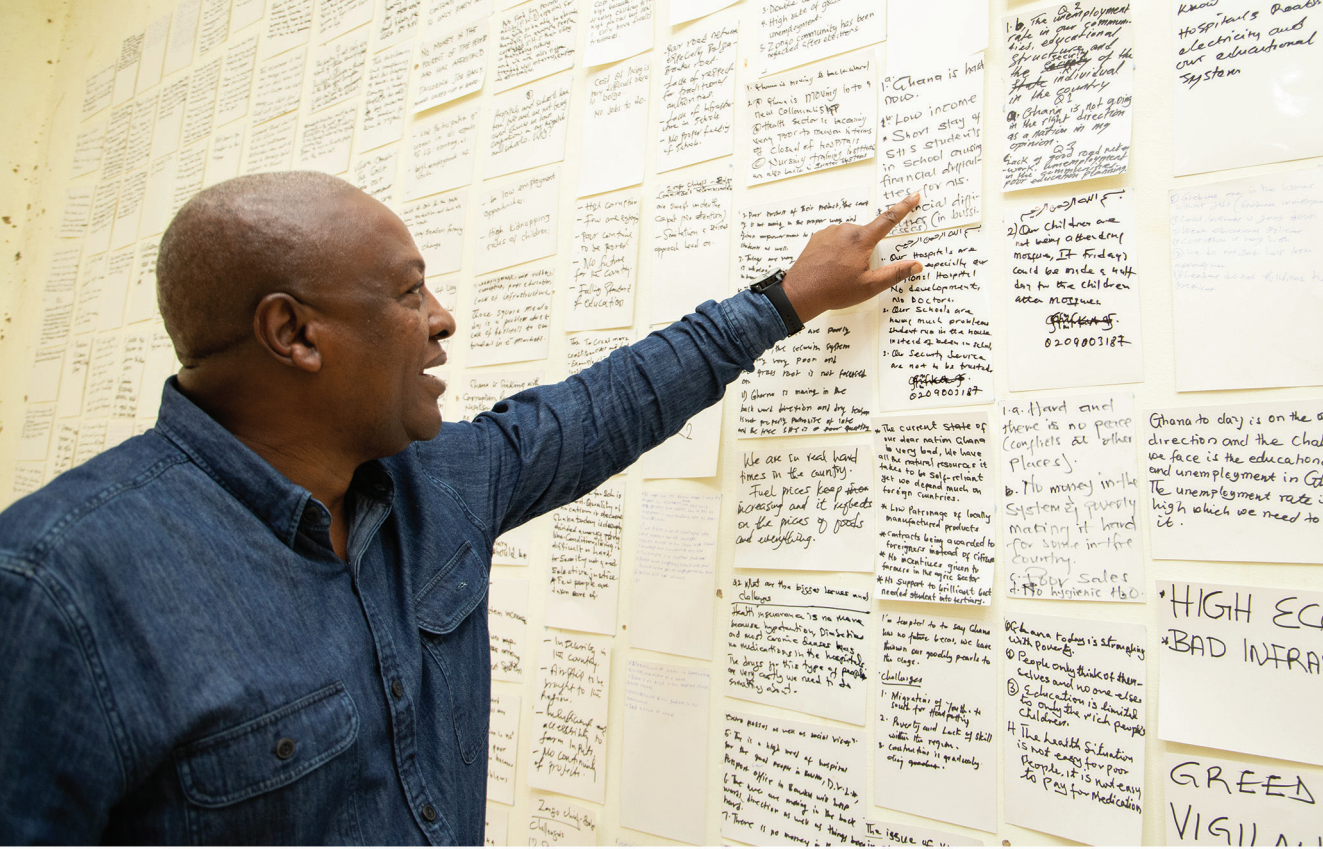
This Manifesto carries many of these ideas and includes many new projects and programmes which will make the lives of all Ghanaians better. From health to education, to agriculture to tourism, everyone will find new policies that will impact positively on their lives. We do recognise the devastating effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic on the lives of all our people. The educational system has been seriously disturbed, our health facilities have been tested to their limits, peoples' businesses have been adversely affected and so have the incomes of many of our people – particularly those in the private and informal sectors. In this Manifesto, the NDC has laid out extensive plans for taking the country forward to a better position, not only to restore what Ghanaians have lost, but more importantly, to raise the living standards of every Ghanaian.

This People's Manifesto has been prepared with the ordinary man and woman on the street in mind. You will find the language simple and unambiguous; the policy proposals also are so simple that everybody can relate to them. The issues have been presented in thematic areas and we have provided a Table of Contents so you can easily find issues you are interested in. I invite you to take the time to read it and note the contents. It is a social contract the NDC is presenting to the people of this country; give us your mandate and hold us to strict account of the things you find in here.

Vote for John Dramani Mahama for President and let us, together, move Ghana forward.



MESSAGE FROM THE
NATIONAL CHAIRMAN
SAMUEL OFOSU-AMPOFO





“It signifies inclusive and participatory democracy, which prioritises the needs of all: the head porters (Kayayei), okada riders, market women, traders, farmers, seamstresses, tailors, hair dressers, beauticians, carpenters, masons, steel binders, car mechanics, fishermen, teachers, nurses, security persons, persons with disabilities and all others, irrespective of gender, religion, ethnicity, profession or geographical location”.

Professor Naana Jane Opoku-Agyemang
NDC Running Mate



5

BUILDING A PANDEMIC-RESILIENT GHANA

The COVID-19 Pandemic has already made a tremendous impact on life in Ghana. It has exposed the deep weaknesses in our health care system and brought an inadequate system to its knees. We address the medical response to the Pandemic under our section on health. However, the SARS II Coronavirus and COVID-19 are not just “health” problems measured by reference to infections deaths and treatment costs. Viruses like SARS II Coronavirus fundamentally disrupt our social relations such that to survive, we must change our way of life.

Viruses have been around for billions of years. They have played critical roles in the evolution and decline of different species over millions of years. Generally, species (or communities of species) that have come into contact with dangerous viruses can either adapt or become extinct.

Humankind differs from other animal species because, in addition to biological evolution, we have learned how to evolve socially as communities. We are not immune to viral attacks - human communities have perished as a result of viral attacks. We are, however, more adaptable in responding to new viral attacks. We can analyse viruses scientifically. We can develop vaccines and remedies for viral diseases to contain them. Besides, we can learn different behaviours that make us less susceptible to viral diseases.

The viral challenge in the 21st Century is significantly greater than at any time in history because of the actual ways in which we have developed. On the one hand, development has exposed us to more and more viruses as we, directly and indirectly, interfere with natural virus reservoirs. We are warming the climate. We are destroying forests. We are mining deep into the earth. We are melting polar ice caps. We are polluting oceans. We are consuming animal and plant species that have adapted to living with dangerous viruses that can jump species. On the other hand, we have massively increased the opportunities for viruses to spread within our species.

Three hundred thousand years ago, humankind lived in communities of typically 22 adults and probably interacted with their nearest neighbours, not more than monthly. Viral infections could thus “burn” their way through specific communities without spreading to other communities. Today we live in a “global village” with mega-cities and tens of millions of inhabitants. Furthermore, there are millions and millions of individual trips between communities, countries and continents every day. In these conditions, Pandemics are almost inevitable. Thus, we must prepare for viruses that are far more dangerous in terms of their infection and mortality rates than the SARS II Coronavirus.

Given these challenges, our responses must be scientific, organisational and cultural. They must cut across all sectors. They must cut across all levels of social organisations, from community and to the United Nations. Thus, they must be adaptive. We need comprehensive social change and reorganisation. Fortunately, this is precisely what social democrats, such as the NDC, have campaigned for over the decades.

The current NPP Government's response to the Pandemic has been characterised by:

Callous indifference – NPP took weeks before focusing seriously on the problem as they continued to hold mass durbars in Kyebi and Kumasi when other countries were shutting down. Thus, the NPP prioritised its pursuit of power over lives by insisting on holding its internal elections and coronations over containing the disease in the last two months or forcing school children back into unsafe boarding environments before the GES was ready to manage admissions safely;

Populism and propaganda – the NPP has focused on looking good rather than on dealing with the problem. For example, the NPP massaged COVID-19 statistics to create a false sense of security and the impression of leadership. Thus, the Director General of the Ghana Health Service (GHS) suspiciously announced that the infection had peaked in early April to justify the Government's lifting of the lockdown or provide verbal instructions to doctors in the public health system not to perform autopsies on suspected COVID-19 patients to suppress statistics on mortality rates:

Corruption – the NPP has failed to account for the billions and billions that have flowed into national coffers to support our fight against the Pandemic even as it is cutting back on mass testing and contact tracing, while it has sought to claim credit for the work of private individuals, e.g. around the lockdown feeding programme.

These failings are squarely attributable to the wrong priorities of NPP leadership. However, there are deeper structural problems that we need to address. We all know that the most effective response to COVID-19, back in February and March was a lockdown. Our inability as a country to implement an effective lockdown in Accra, Kumasi and Kasoa for just 3 weeks demonstrated the collapse of our national political organisation.

The State was unable to organise food supplies to the vulnerable in our communities – even as foodstuffs lay rotting on farms just a few hours away and farmers and transporters lost their livelihoods. Ghana's attempts to feed the Urban poor led to stampedes by starving people that surely accelerated the spread of the virus in inner-city areas. The State also failed to protect the physically weak from deprivation by the physically strong. Our State could not organise the distribution of essential hygiene products to peoples' homes.

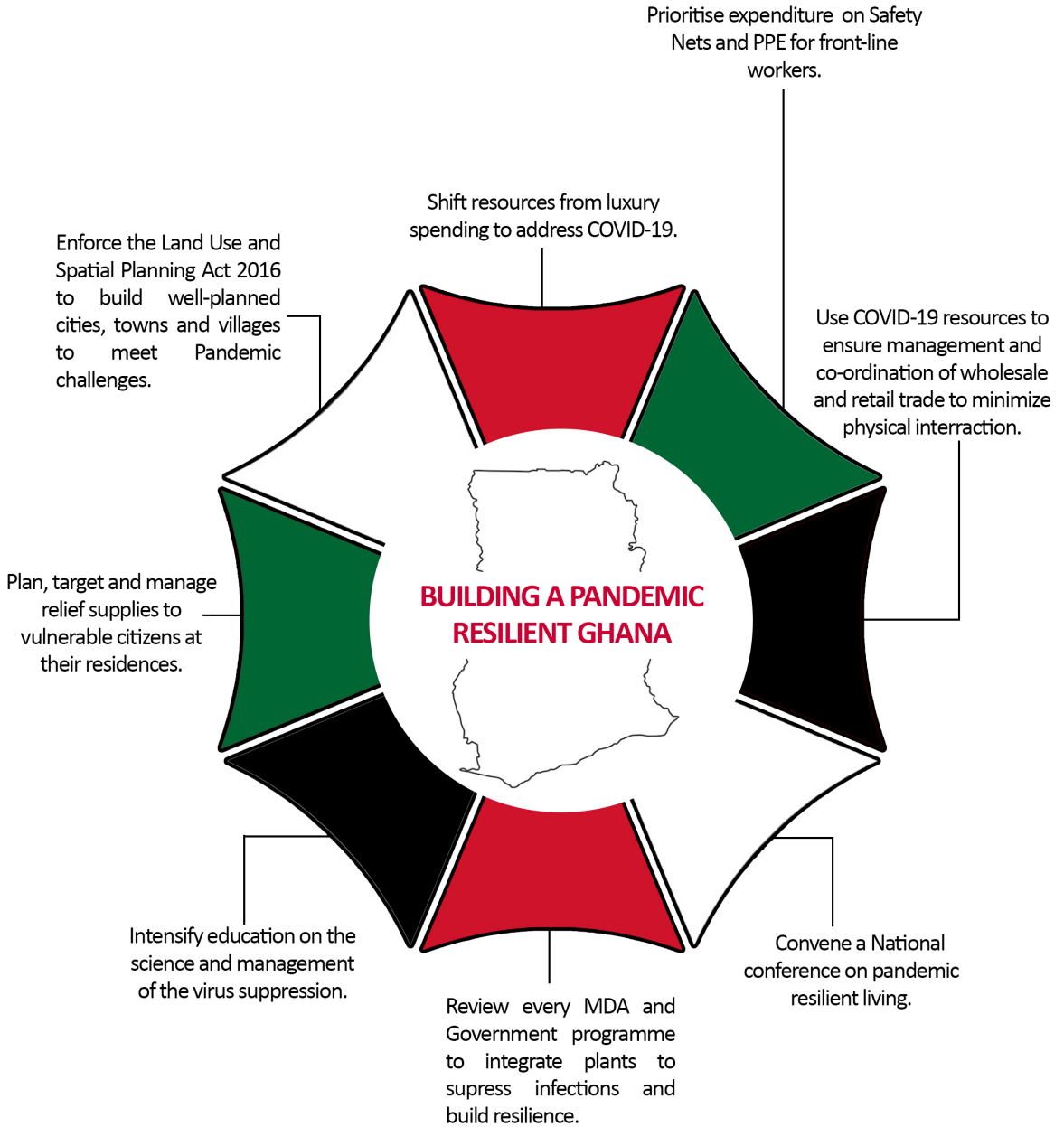
Our State was unable to police lockdowns (or even mask-wearing) without violent abuse of citizens' constitutional rights. It is probable that, in subsequent waves of viral spread, we will have to lock down cities, Districts, Regions or the entire country. It is possible that at some point, we will have to ration essential supplies. Without addressing these problems, we will fail in the future just as we failed last March. It is clear that the NPP lacks the vision or the competence to design solutions to them. The NDC must and will confront these problems head-on.

The next NDC Government will approach COVID-19 holistically as the principal framework for development planning through our social reorganisation project. From our first day in office, we will:

- a. review every single MDA and Government programme and project, and every budget line in terms of how it affects our campaign to suppress infections and build resilience
- b. actively shift resources from luxury spending to enable us to address COVID-19 in a scientific, planned, and sustainable way
- c. prioritise expenditure on social safety nets and on supplies (e.g. PPE) for front-line workers (particularly front-line health workers, schools, teachers, etc.) and in the systems that ensure that these actually reach the intended targets

- d. call a national conference on pandemic resilient living within the first Quarter of 2021 to galvanise the country to meet ongoing and upcoming challenges in unity
- e. improve coordination between MDAs and MMDAs based on the accelerated devolution of responsibilities to MMDAs. Within the MMDAs we will empower Assemblymen/women and Unit Committees that work directly with communities
- f. within the framework of our 2016 Land Use and Spatial Planning Act, implement a massive programme of spatial planning and urban renewal to achieve well-planned cities, towns and villages better able to meet pandemic challenges
- g. support community self-organisation as provided for in Article 35(2)(a) of the Constitution to ensure that communities can direct Assembly organisations constructively to provide the specific solutions needed in communities
- h. use COVID-19 resources (whether provided by Development Partners or from savings from our expenditure reviews) to ensure that defined processes are rapidly improved in an accountable and democratic way including:
 - intensive education on the science and management of virus suppression including hand washing, sanitiser use, avoiding face touching etc.
 - management and coordination of wholesale and retail trading to avoid crowding and minimise the level of physical interaction amongst citizens
 - plan and manage relief supplies to vulnerable citizens at their residences to avoid the ugly scenes we saw during the lockdown and suppress transmissions; and
 - arrange community-level policing of COVID-19 regimes.

BUILDING A PANDEMIC-RESILIENT GHANA



Our ICT infrastructure programme prioritises increased access for connectivity at lower costs. It also has a district internet component that will allow both greater “physical” distancing and greater “social” engagement in all aspects of our lives – production, education, healthcare, entertainment.

We are committed to a community-led vision of national development that will strengthen and upgrade, particularly, food supply-chains to make our communities more economically self-organised, planned, and self-sufficient enabling them to directly manage social reorganisation to a more resilient way of living. This is what it takes to protect our communities and return to equitable growth in the shortest possible time.



“Given these challenges, our responses must be scientific, organisational and cultural. They must cut across all sectors. They must cut across all levels of social organisations, from community and to the United Nations. Thus, they must be adaptive. We need comprehensive social change and reorganisation. Fortunately, this is precisely what social democrats, such as the NDC, have campaigned for over the decades”.

**The People’s Manifesto
Building a Pandemic-Resilient Ghana**



6

FIXING THE ECONOMY AND UNITING AGAINST POVERTY

FIXING THE ECONOMY AND UNITING AGAINST POVERTY

Ghanaians need new opportunities for the development of their talents and skills. Transitioning from the current economic model to a knowledge-based economy will provide exactly that.

We will fight the deleterious effects of the poor economic management of the Akufo-Addo Government and change the economic model to unleash the creativity of every Ghanaian.

The results of the current model during the last four years, at the micro-level, have been hardship, spiralling cost of living, high unemployment, massive job losses and a generally harsh economic climate.

On the macro front, the mounting public debt, depreciating currency, and rising inflation above the failed NPP Government's target, deteriorating balance of payment position and the current poor economic growth are tell-tale signs of an economy in deep distress.

The NDC has the record and experience to turn around this dire economic situation in order to bring relief to the suffering masses of Ghana. Among others, prudent macroeconomic measures, anchored in sound management, will be rolled out.

The public debt will be brought under control, inflation will be reduced to the barest minimum, and a low taxation regime instituted. Inclusive growth will be restored to appreciable levels, while the business environment will be made friendly again.

The long-suffering Ghana Cedi will be stabilised and strengthened. The private sector will receive the biggest job-related stimulus package in Ghanaian history.

The financial sector will be sanitised, and emphasis placed on growing Ghanaian participation in the economy. We will put an immediate end to the vindictive targeting and collapse of indigenous Ghanaian businesses and its attendant job losses.

Job creation will be the predominant preoccupation of the next NDC Government as a way of enhancing the livelihoods of our people, under a One Million Jobs, EDWUMA PA Plan.

There will be major annual recruitment of young Ghanaians into an expanded and productive public sector based on a carefully conducted Human Resource Gap Analysis. In addition, we will launch a National Apprenticeship Programme that will train technically skilled human resource, for rapid industrialisation, job creation and entrepreneurship.

The NDC has done this before by ensuring the most stable and prosperous period of economic management during which the highest economic growth rates and the longest sustained period of single-digit inflation were recorded. The NDC will again generate economic growth that creates infrastructure and sustainable jobs.

Drawing on this record, we will usher Ghana into an era of shared prosperity under which all Ghanaians reap the fruit of their labour and not a privileged few who carve out state resources for their exclusive benefit.

We need to turn our beloved country, Ghana, into an advanced nation. The first step is to eradicate extreme poverty. We need to make sure that all Ghanaians are protected during the transition towards a fully modern Ghana! It is time to unite as one people, resume our journey towards building the future of Ghana.

It is possible. This is the very ethos upon which the next NDC Government will be built – Social Justice and Equality.



6.1 FINANCE AND ECONOMY

In line with article 36(1) of the 1992 Constitution, the State is mandated to take all necessary measures to ensure that the national economy is managed in such a manner as to maximise the rate of economic development and to secure the maximum welfare, freedom and happiness of every Ghanaian.

The next NDC Government will aggressively promote and protect indigenous Ghanaian businesses, to ensure greater Ghanaian ownership of the commanding heights of the economy, such as banking, insurance, construction, telecommunications, the extractive sector, energy, and international trade. The next NDC Government will also enhance the current environment for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI).

Local economic development (LED) will be the bedrock of our national development strategy. We will ensure that every district and community in Ghana participate fully in national development and benefits according to its local economic development. We shall collaborate with the private sector to establish agro-processing factories across the country based on regional comparative advantage.

To promote private sector development and make the Ghanaian industry internationally competitive, and to protect consumer interests and safety, we will enact the National Competition Law and Consumer Protection Law, which will support the establishment of a Consumer Protection Council.

Existing laws and policies that constrain the growth of the private sector will be reviewed, amended, or eliminated. We will continue to work with key stakeholders, such as the Association of Ghana Industries (AGI), the Private Enterprise Federation (PEF), the Ghana Union of Traders Associations (GUTA), and other identifiable groups like the market associations, mechanics, tailors and barbers to ensure greater private sector participation.

6.1.1 Macro-Fiscal Policies

Broad Macro-Fiscal Targets

The broad macro-fiscal targets of the next NDC Government are:

- low levels of inflation that will translate into reduced lending and interest rates
- high levels of inclusive and sustainable GDP growth rates that will create and sustain high income earning jobs
- an overall budget deficit at sustainable levels using the primary balance as an anchor to ensure that Government financing needs do not crowd-out the private sector
- contain public debt within sustainable limits.

Fiscal Policy Objectives

The absence of fiscal space in 2021 will require significant effort by an NDC Government to navigate governance and administrative constraints in its financing. For example, debt service and compensation exceeded total domestic revenue by 55.7 per cent as at June 2020 (2020 Mid-year Budget Review).

Therefore, the overall fiscal policy objectives of the NDC Government from 2021, in the medium-term, will be guided by fiscal deficits that are consistent with the transformational agenda of the NDC Government and a primary balance that will keep the agenda on a sustainable path.

Public expenditure in 2021 will be tailored towards investments that will lead to robust economic growth while promoting social inclusion - Social Justice. Debt financing will be directed to growth-stimulating projects and programmes. Fiscal policy will be used as a tool to stimulate competitive business growth.

The NDC acknowledges that every Ghanaian, including market women, taxi drivers, tro-tro drivers, 'okada' 'prajia' and 'aboboya' riders, farmers, fisherfolk, hairdressers, tailors, seamstresses, artisans, businessmen, businesswomen, entrepreneurs, civil servants, labourers, directly or indirectly participate in the Public Revenue Mobilization Process to contribute to the Resource Envelope.

Therefore, the economy draws its strength from the activities of households, firms, businesses, and other relevant Government units. The fiscal policy of the NDC in 2021 will be designed to ensure that taxes are fair, equitable and favourable, and that public expenditure is aligned to the needs of Ghanaians.

The NDC Government will focus primarily on eliminating the crowding-out of the Ghanaian private sector to create sustainable jobs, guarantee decent incomes, improve the livelihood of Ghanaians and bridge the inequality gap.

Goals

To achieve the goals of the fiscal policy the next NDC Government will:

- a. realign the entire fiscal framework to achieve efficient resource mobilisation and utilisation of public funds
- b. ensure fiscal stability using the fiscal balance as a primary anchor
- c. enhance the Public Financial Management Act (PFMA) to develop secondary anchors and rules around revenue, expenditure, primary fiscal balance, borrowing and debt.

Strategies

The next NDC Government will:

- a. broaden the tax base while containing tax rates
- b. reduce discretionary tax exemptions
- c. improve tax collection
- d. rationalise expenditures
- e. ensure a transparent relationship with stakeholders and investors.

Focus of Revenue Policy and Strategies

The principal objective is to ensure a stable tax system that does not distort production decisions and the distribution of income. The next NDC Government will implement the following reforms that will enhance revenue mobilisation while broadening the tax base and promoting business growth:

- a. improve systems and processes including integration and interfacing of customs
- b. integrate domestic tax database with other institutional databases
- c. streamline GRA headquarters along functional lines
- d. improve operations in domestic tax offices and customs' entry points
- e. revise income and corporate tax rates and review the system of financial support to the poor, vulnerable, and retirees.

Tax Measures

Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) contribute significantly to private sector development in Ghana. MSMEs in Ghana offer sustainable and meaningful jobs to the majority of Ghanaians.

Many SMEs that cannot endure the harsh economic conditions following the mismanagement of the economy by the NPP Government and the deliberate collapse of businesses by same, coupled with the adverse impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, will be forced to lay-off most of their workers and at worse fold up, especially those that cannot keep up with production.

Beginning 2021 and into the medium-term, the NDC Government will offer several tax reliefs to the private sector, especially MSMEs to enable them to recover and get back to their full operating capacities. The next NDC Government will ensure that firms leverage on these tax reliefs to expand their scope of production and employ more Ghanaians.

Private Sector Tax Initiatives

From 2021, MSMEs will be given tax reliefs to support their operations. Within the first three months of 2021, the NDC Government will lay before Parliament several bills that will seek to grant the following tax reliefs to MSMEs:

a. Tax Cuts for Jobs (effective 2021):

- small businesses will be exempted entirely from corporate and personal income tax
 - corporate income tax for medium size companies will be reduced from the current 25per cent to 15per cent
 - newly established medium-sized companies that employ up to twenty (20) staff will be exempted entirely from the payment of corporate income tax for one year
 - newly established medium companies that employ more than twenty (20) staff will be exempted entirely from the payment of corporate income tax for two years
- b. exempt commercial vehicles and other equipment imported into the country for commercial, industrial and agricultural purposes from import duty
 - c. review the Customs (Amendment) Act, 2020 (Act 1014) to scrap the law banning the importation of salvaged vehicles. This will save the local automotive industry, especially Suame Magazine, Kokompe and Abossey Okai from collapse
 - d. encourage vehicle assembling companies to operate as a complement to local industry
 - e. reverse the decoupling of VAT (12.5 per cent), NHIL (2.5 per cent), GETFund (2.5 per cent), which has brought untold hardship to Ghanaian businesses and households. The NPP Government in 2018 effectively increased the VAT rate under the guise of decoupling the NHIL rate and the GETFund rate from the value-added tax system and made it a straight levy. Even though the statutory rate remained at 17.5 per cent after the decoupling, the effective rate increased from 17.5 per cent to 18.5 per cent because businesses were not allowed to claim their input VAT for the NHIL and GET Fund components of VAT. The NPP effectively introduced a tax through the backdoor
 - f. introduce a Rural Investor Incentive (RII) to create meaningful employment opportunities for the youth in rural areas. This is intended to address the adverse effects of rural-urban migration. Investors in rural communities:
 - will be exempted from dividend and capital gain tax
 - employing up to fifty (50) persons will be granted tax exemptions and other incentives on the importation of capital equipment

- g. provide special tax incentives for indigenous value chain industries such as mineral-processing, petroleum-based, agro-based, and pulp and paper industries, to unlock potential sustainable job opportunities. We will:
 - use special tax incentives to maximise the gains from the value chain of indigenous manufacturing activities
 - introduce the agriculture value chain tax incentives regime within the first quarter of 2021
- h. introduce a Tax Support for Export Growth (TSEG) to address trade and balance of payment deficits and also in furtherance of the One Million Jobs Plan. Special tax incentives will be offered Ghanaian businesses in the Export-Oriented Industries (EOI) to stimulate exports
- i. provide the Shipping Industry with special tax incentives to achieve Ghana's objective of becoming a world-class cargo hub on the West African coast (similar to Singapore). For example, tax incentives, efficient logistics support, safety and security
- j. revisit Ghana's international tax policy to protect the tax base and profit shifting. We will:
 - develop Ghana's model tax treaty negotiating manual
 - strengthen Ghana's tax treaties to eliminate transfer pricing
 - establish and equip a new Centre with experts to specifically handle international tax-related issues.

Fiscal Incentives for rent reform

We will:

- a. 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
- b. restructure rent control office into Ghana Rent Authority to effectively implement the new Rent Act in the interest of tenants and landlords.

Expenditure Policies and Strategies

The next NDC Government will ensure that Government expenditure policies are designed to contain fiscal deficits within sustainable levels consistent with Government growth strategies and policies.

To eliminate the risk of fiscal unsustainability and its long-term implications on debt, the next NDC Government from 2021 through to the medium-term, will redirect Government expenditure towards high growth areas to create the necessary and sufficient conditions for social spending to thrive.

Capital expenditure in the last three and a half (3½) years, under the NPP Government, has consistently remained below three percent (3%) of GDP. At this level, our economy cannot deliver the growth momentum required to restore us to economic prosperity and development. For the next NDC Government, the level of investment in the Real Sector will be our true measure of performance.

The two (2) primary thematic areas of the next NDC Government will be centred on the following:

- a. realign public expenditure to high growth-inducing areas while emphasising social protection policies such as free primary health care
- b. institutionalise structural reforms in accordance with the Public Financial Management Act (PFMA) to enhance effective budget implementation, eliminate budget overruns and off-budget expenditures, and ensure value for money.

Expenditure Measures

The overarching aim of Government expenditure measures under the next NDC Government will be to ensure an inclusive, sustainable, and job-creating economic growth, alongside an effective and efficient public service delivery. The NPP Government since 2017 has deprived critical state institutions of the resources needed to execute their mandate effectively and efficiently. The next NDC Government will restore the much-needed resources to these critical state institutions. In this regard, we will pursue the following growth-oriented and job-creating expenditure measures:

- a. implement the 'Big Push' for Infrastructural Development and Economic Transformation. Capital expenditure has slowed down considerably in the last three and a half (3½) years, under the NPP Government. The impact of COVID-19 is expected to slow it down further. A Big Push is required to turn this around.

The next NDC Government will set up a \$10 billion Fund to build robust infrastructure like roads, railways, port expansion, inland ports, hospitals, social housing and multi-purpose markets in every part of the country.

A component of the Big Push is a transportation plan made up of three (3) major projects: the Eastern Corridor; the Golden Triangle; and the Western Corridor Project.

1. The Eastern Corridor Project

- a. Complete the Eastern Corridor Road
- b. Port Infrastructure at Keta
- c. Bridge over Oti River, Volivo to Dorfor Adidome bridge
- d. Tema to Ho Highway

2. The Golden Triangle Railway: (Kintampo, Takoradi, Tema)

- Tema- Accra- Cape Coast- Takoradi
 - Tema- Accra- Kumasi- Kintampo
 - Takoradi- Kumasi- Kintampo
- a. Three carriage way, inbound and outbound
 - Accra-Kumasi-Kintampo
 - Accra-Cape Coast-Takoradi
 - Takoradi- Kumasi- Kintampo

3. Western Corridor

- a. railway line from Sekondi-Takoradi to Axim, Elubo, Enchi, Asawinso, Goaso, Sunyani, Wenchi, Bamboi, Bole, Sawla, Wa, Nadowli, and Hamile
 - b. dual carriage road along the railway line from Sekondi-Takoradi to Axim, Elubo, Enchi, Asawinso, Goaso, Sunyani, Wenchi, Bamboi, Bole, Sawla, Wa, Nadowli and Hamile
 - c. inland port at Hamile
 - d. expansion of Takoradi Port to Sekondi.
- b. restore the transfer of 2.5 percentage points of existing VAT to the Ghana Infrastructure Investment Fund (GIIF). The GIIF was established by the John Mahama administration with the mandate to deliver infrastructure projects in Ghana for national development. GIIF has the potential to create One Million Jobs along its value chain
 - c. increase the District Assembly Common Fund (DACF) allocation from 5 per cent to 7.5 per cent of Annual Total Revenue to enable the District Assemblies to function effectively and undertake activities that will spur economic growth at the local level. The NPP Government, since 2017, has continually starved the District Assemblies using the Earmarked Fund Capping and Realignment Policy
 - d. promote local content for local contractors in all sectors of the economy to increase the contribution of Ghanaians to a minimum of 55 per cent of GDP and improve Ghanaian ownership and participation in the economy

- e. amend the Public Procurement Act to give priority to Ghanaian businesses in the award of contracts financed from public funds
- f. Where the contracts are financed by foreign loans, the legislation will ensure that a significant portion goes to local companies.

Public Debt and Financing Operations

The unprecedented borrowing of the NPP Government in the last three and a half (3½) years has worsened Ghana's public debt stock, increased its debt servicing and worsened its debt sustainability.

The NPP Government has increased Ghana's public debt from GH¢120.30 billion in 2016 to about GH¢258.4 billion as at end-June 2020. Under the NPP the public debt is projected to increase to GH¢290 billion by end-December 2020 (2020 Mid-Year Budget Review), with an addition of about GH¢170 billion to the public debt stock in the last four years, with very little to show for it.

The public debt stock as a share of GDP increased from 56.8 per cent in 2016 to 67 per cent as at end-June 2020 and projected at 75.8 per cent of the rebased GDP by end-December 2020. As a demonstration of the incompetence of the failed Akufo Addo Government and his economic management team, the public debt as a share of GDP deteriorated from 57 per cent to 67 per cent further within one and a half years between 2018 and June 2020. Debt service increased from GH¢16.13 billion in 2016 to a projected value of GH¢38.5 billion by end December 2020.

Debt service as a share of domestic revenue increased from 51.9 per cent in 2016 to a projected value of 73.5 per cent by end December 2020, while debt service as a share of total expenditure increased from 32 per cent in 2016 to a projected value 39.4 per cent by end December 2020.

The next NDC Government will adopt a number of financing strategies to manage Ghana's public debt effectively. These will include:

- a. strengthening the domestic borrowing market by enhancing the auction (treasury) and book building (bond) approaches that were introduced in 2015
- b. enhancing external market borrowing strategies, including the use of the sinking fund as a tool for "buy-backs" and redemptions
- c. using the EXIMBank as an agent for trade finance (credit and guarantee) in collaboration with other agencies such as Ghana Export Promotion Authority (GEPA), Ghana Standards Authority, AGI/Chamber of Commerce and Co-operatives
- d. assigning the Debt Management Office at the Ministry of Finance to be in charge of issuing short-term (treasury bills and notes) and medium-term (bonds) fiscal instruments, once determined by the Budget Office
- e. strengthening investor relations and market confidence
- f. developing and using advisory services effectively
- g. restoring ABFA and VAT flows to the Ghana Infrastructure Investment Fund (GIIF)
- h. streamlining the use of EXIM funds, and setting up correspondent bank and escrow regimes
- i. enhancing liability management by restructuring domestic and external debt and international bond issuance
- j. building and maintaining cash buffers to support debt servicing, through efficient application of the sinking and infrastructure funds
- k. operationalising debt management processes by strictly adhering to regulations in the Public Financial Management Act
- l. streamlining debt accumulation with investment, with high priority to rural roads and

the health and education sectors

- m. seeking highly concessional loans for social infrastructure and commercial loans for self-financing infrastructure
- n. establishing a contract and project management register to ensure accountability and transparency.

6.1.2 Monetary Policy



The next NDC Government is committed to the overarching objective of maintaining low inflation and ensuring financial stability post-COVID-19. The COVID-19 measures implemented to support the financial sector will have to be enhanced and extended if the pandemic persists.

The questionable GH¢10 billion loan from the Bank of Ghana to the Government could pose challenges for liquidity management and monetary policy in the medium term. Also, the unjustifiable introduction of GH¢100 and GH¢200 denomination notes could have adverse impacts on the currency in circulation, money supply and inflation in the medium term.

The next NDC Government will ensure that the Bank’s policies are first and foremost geared towards economic development, in addition to promoting price stability (low and stable inflation and exchange rates) and ensuring a sound and resilient financial sector.

Among others, we will

- a. strengthen monetary policy formulation and maintain low but adequate money growth to support financial intermediation and economic growth post COVID-19
- b. enhance the application of the Ghana Reference Rate (GRR) in implementing monetary policy
- c. ensure lower lending rates through a more appropriate pricing of risk for customers by the banks
- d. manage the flexible exchange rate regime to facilitate adjustment to external shocks and ensure sustainable external buffers at all times
- e. maintain well-aligned real effective exchange rates to support the competitiveness of our exports
- f. lower Ghana’s elevated sovereign risk by reducing external financing and strengthen the current account position through export-promoting policies
- g. improve the business environment and attract higher levels of non-debt, creating private capital inflows.

6.1.3 Financial Sector Policy

Financial stability, development and inclusion

Under the previous NDC Government, a number of efforts were made to promote financial sector deepening and greater access to financial services by individuals. In particular, the NDC Government embarked on a programme to improve financial sector oversight with a wide range of institutional reforms and the passage of a number of new financial sector laws in 2016. These included:

- a. the Bank of Ghana Amendment Act 2016 (Act 918)
- b. the Banks and Specialized Deposit-taking Institutions (BSDI) Act 2016 (Act 930)
- c. the Deposit Insurance (DI) Act 2016 (Act 931)
- d. the Securities Industry Act, 2016, (Act 929)
- e. recapitalise National Investment Bank and make it stronger to provide long term financing
- f. establish a Financial Therapy Centre to support households in financial crises in collaboration with the School of Business, University of Cape Coast.

The BSDI Act 2016 and the DI Act 2016 addressed a number of regulatory gaps, such as consolidated supervision, dealing with cross-border and cross-sector collaboration in banking. The D1 Act 2016 also provided a comprehensive framework for dealing with distressed banks. These laws also strengthened the central bank's powers in licensing, dealing with illegal banking and providing a transparent procedure for regulatory issuances.

It must be emphasised that these laws, which were passed under the NDC Government, were the very ones that provided a legal framework for the NPP's financial sector exercise, but which was implemented wrongly.

Following the severe energy and commodity price shocks which impacted on the banking industry,

- a. an Assets Quality Review (AQR) exercise was launched in 2015 to ascertain the true State of health of banks in the industry
- b. the Energy Sector Levy Act (ESLA), 2015 (Act 899) was passed by the NDC Government to, among others, help clear the energy sector debts, which were impacting negatively on the banks
- c. the AQR exercise was updated in early 2016, and the results showed that banks were at various solvency levels
- d. a recapitalisation and liquidity roadmap for the banking sector was established and the affected banks were requested in line with S.105(3) of the Banks and Specialized Deposit-taking Institutions (BSDI) Act 2016 (Act 930) to submit credible capital restoration plans with clear deadlines
- e. a new minimum capital requirement of GH¢230 million for banks was to be announced in early 2017 to be met by end-2019. This was much lower than the GH¢400 million subsequently adopted by the NPP Government without consultations with stakeholders.

Work was started to update the regulatory framework for banks with the passage, in the third quarter of 2016, of the Bank of Ghana Amendment Act 2016 (Act 918), the Banks and Specialized Deposit-Taking Institutions (BSDI) Act 2016 (Act 930) and the Deposit Insurance Act 2016 (Act 931).

These provided a comprehensive framework for dealing with distressed banks. The NPP Government, however, adopted a wrong approach in their contrived financial sector clean-up.

It must also be noted that the implementation of the Basle II/III accord and IFRS 9 were all started in 2016 and efforts were made to strengthen the supervisory processes of the Banking Supervision Department and enhance the Bank of Ghana's prudential framework.

The Internal Capital Adequacy Assessment Process (ICAAP) was also introduced at the same time, and initial guidelines were issued to banks. ICAAP would assess a bank's risks, detail how the bank intended to mitigate those risks and how much current and future capital would be needed.

This approach, together with the implementation of Basle III (covering risk capital and liquidity standards) would have engineered the needed flexibility for small local banks to operate alongside big banks without compromising on solvency or compelling small local banks to carry a lot of capital beyond their needs.

Clearly, this approach would have served better than the controversial Ghana Amalgamated Trust Ltd (GAT) model, the special purpose vehicle which has been set up by the NPP Government to ostensibly support selected indigenous banks.

GAT lacks transparency, especially regarding its beneficial owners, the sources of its funding and the sleazy criteria for selection of banks. The next NDC Government will lift the veil on the true beneficial shareholders of the scheme and the source of its funding as well as the predatory bailout strategy that was used.

As part of the roadmap, a plan was developed to restore SOE's financial viability, including clearance of Government arrears to SOEs and Bulk Oil Distribution Companies (BDCs) after an audit and verification of the claims. This plan was finalised for implementation, including a complementary strategy to issue Government bonds to repay the impaired loans to the affected banks promptly.

In sum, the banking sector issues were handled by the NDC administration, with the view of ensuring a sound, stable, and resilient financial sector to support inclusive economic growth.

In contrast, the NPP decided to adopt a haphazard approach with a wrong sequencing of interventions and with no reference to the strategy that was in place under the previous NDC Government. There was no prior consideration for the level of interconnectedness across the industry and also the fact that one of the banks, in particular, was a Domestic Systemically Important Bank (DSIB) that needed to be handled in line with best practices. For such DSIBs, the first best solution would have been a stabilisation option that engenders the least cost. These considerations were absent, and hence the results are not surprising.

The next NDC Government will:

- a. within one year in office, pay the full amount due to every victim of the reckless handling of the financial sector clean up by the Akufo-Addo Government
- b. within one year in office, pay cash to holders of zero-coupon bonds issued over five years
- c. forge ahead with efforts to improve financial sector oversight and market transparency and discipline
- d. set up a Financial Services Authority to regulate the financial services industry, protect consumers, and ensure fair competition in the financial services sector
- e. implement fully the Basle III framework which comprises risk-based capital and liquidity standards to help mitigate the potential impact of future systemic crises, reduce the overall capital cost to banks, and positively impact the availability, price and volume of credit

- f. establish new Regional Development Finance Institutions (banks) to support credit delivery and provide risk capital for economic development projects
- g. enhance the credit infrastructure such as the operations of the commercial courts, credit referencing and the enforcement of credit contracts
- h. conduct a forensic audit of the entire financial clean-up exercise including the Ghana Amalgamated Trust Plc (GAT)
- i. investigate the circumstances and the printing of high-value GHC100 and GHC200 denomination notes
- j. restore indigenous participation in the financial services sector to further create jobs under the One Million Jobs Plan
- k. ensure a well-regulated and tiered financial system to cater for the various segments of the market such as SMEs
- l. reform and strengthen microfinance, rural and community banks as part of a broader strategy to promote local economic development
- m. transform, strengthen and diversify the entire financial sector, including the introduction of non-interest-bearing Islamic finance products
- n. amend National Pensions Act, 2008 (Act 766) to improve efficiency in service delivery and enhance operational and financial efficiency of the SSNIT scheme
- o. amend National Pensions Act, 2008 (Act 766) to allow contributing workers who lose their jobs suddenly due to natural occurrences such as the COVID-19 epidemic, to be paid some allowances while they search for new opportunities
- p. amend National Pensions Act, 2008 (Act 766) to allow workers who have contributed for a period of ten (10) to fifteen (15) years to use their contributions as collateral to access mortgage loans
- q. pay pensioners an annual thirteenth-month bonus
- r. strengthen corporate governance across the financial services industry and build highly skilled human resources for the financial services sector
- s. establish a specially tailored pension scheme for the informal sector and incorporate a provision for unemployment benefits for workers such as farmers, drivers, fishermen, traders, market women and artisans
- t. link the issue of informal pension coverage to financial inclusion through digital services
- u. raise the level of participation in the three-tier pension scheme for the benefit of formal pension holders
- v. utilise tier 2 contributions to set up a Mortgage Assistance Fund to support workers to own their homes
- w. continue the SSNIT affordable housing projects across the country in partnership with the private sector.

6.1.4 Savings and Loans Companies

Non-bank financial institutions (NBFIs) play important roles in the financial system. They complement the commercial banks by filling gaps in the scope of services. We will:

- a. reorganise the Savings and Loans (S&Ls) industry to facilitate their complementary role in the provision of financial services
- b. regulate S&Ls under a more flexible legal regime by revising Act 930 and the NBFi Act, 2008 Act 774, and ensure that capital levels correspond to permissible activities
- c. allow NBFIs to clear cheques through the Ghana Integrated Payments System (GhIPSS).

6.1.5 Microfinance Institutions (MFIs)

We remain committed to making financial services accessible to a large segment of the population that has little or no access to financial services. We commit to provide synergy and integrate the informal sector into the formal financial system. This will not only create employment opportunities but also increase the productivity and household income of the economically active poor.

We will:

- a. introduce a new model of microfinance that will be governed by an apex regulator for the MFIs
- b. cluster the institutions into two (2) groups namely, deposit-taking institutions as Tier 1 and non-deposit-taking institutions as Tier 2
- c. build confidence and strengthen regulation by renewing MFI licenses and certification every two years
- d. limit the areas of operations of the deposit-taking MFIs to the regions where they operate.

6.1.6 Capital Markets

The next NDC Government will take steps to restore normalcy and growth to the capital market.

While the Securities Industry Act, 2016 (Act 929), which was promulgated by the previous NDC Government is still generally adequate for now, we will take additional steps to facilitate the growth of institutions in the capital markets generally.

We will review the regulatory and legal framework to make it possible for Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies (MMDAs) to issue bonds on their own.

Specifically, the next NDC will:

- a. restore stability and growth in the capital market
- b. develop a new Master Plan to guide progress over the next five (5) years
- c. encourage the private sector to issue bonds on their own strength and based on the economic viability of proposed projects
- d. build the capacity of the capital market and develop a charter for the Ghana Investment and Securities Institute
- e. review the regulatory and legal framework to make it possible for Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies (MMDAs) to issue bonds on their own.
- f. support Ghana Alternative Market to help SMEs raise long-term capital.

6.2 INSURANCE SECTOR

The Insurance industry has an important role in the economic growth of a nation. One of its main contributions is in facilitating long-term resources as it offers potential avenues to manage and mitigate risk, which increases the long-term investment potential of an economy.

We shall adopt a Risk-Based Minimum Capital approach for the industry whereby minimum capital will be linked to the risks an insurance company carries, instead of the current fixed minimum capital regime.

6.3 PENSION SECTOR

The next NDC Government will introduce a new Pension Scheme for organised groups in the informal sector of the Ghanaian economy, specifically:

- a. Cocoa and Cashew Farmers
- b. Driver Unions such as GPRTU, PROTOA and Co-operatives
- c. Ghana Union of Traders Association
- d. Beauticians and Hairdressers Associations
- e. Dressmakers and Tailors Associations
- f. Garages Associations
- g. Artisans Association of Ghana
- h. Farmers and Fishermen Associations.

We will contribute a percentage on behalf of any group that participates in the new informal sector scheme.



6.4

COMBATING MONEY LAUNDERING, TERRORIST FINANCING AND THE PROLIFERATION OF WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION (AML/CFT & P)

The next NDC Government will:

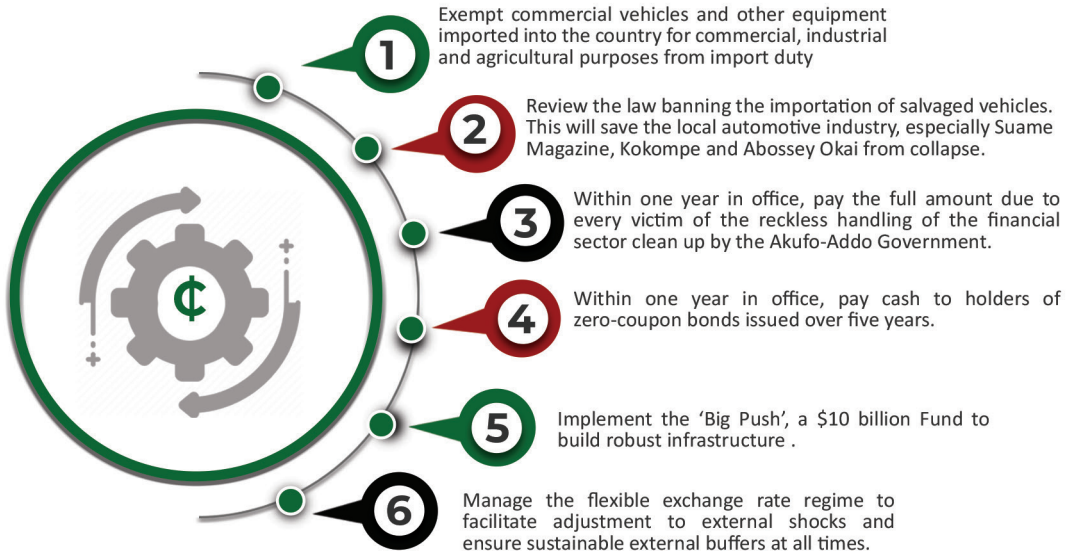
- a. enhance measures towards combating money laundering, terrorist financing and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction
- b. promote the effective implementation of legal, regulatory and operational measures for combating money laundering, terrorist financing and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (AML/CFT & P) and other related risks at the national level
- c. address the identified strategic deficiencies in Ghana's AML/CFT & P system and, thereby, obviate the need for any sanctions or 'blacklisting' by FATF, the international standard-setting body, or the European Union
- d. resource and capacitate the Financial Intelligence Centre (FIC) as well as other key agencies engaged in the fight against money laundering and terrorist financing
- e. introduce standardised certification for AMLROs and Heads of Compliance in all financial institutions
- f. fast-track AML/CFT & P cases, with the setting up of more special courts for financial crimes
- g. ensure better synergy among the FIC, EOCO and the Judiciary to enhance investigation, asset tracing, and prosecution.

6.5

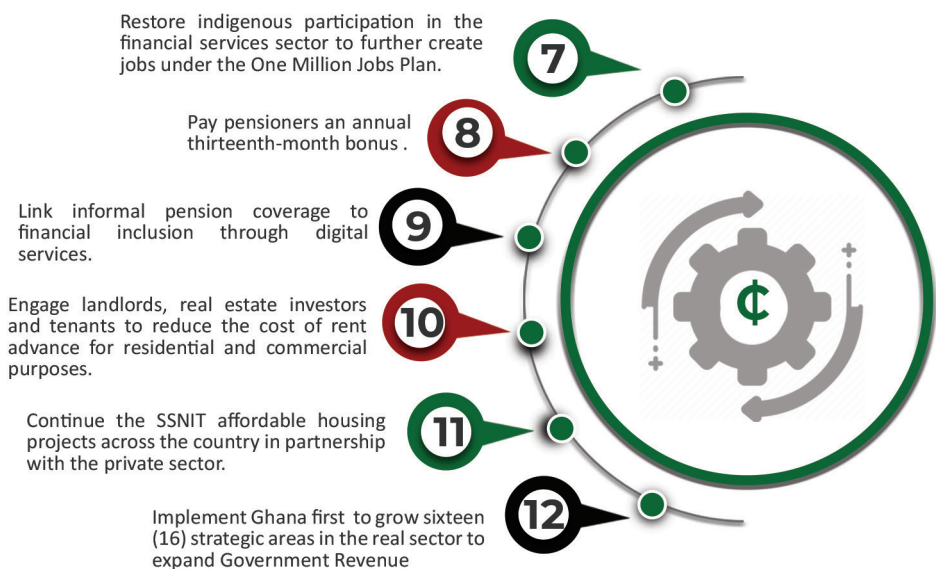
CO-OPERATIVES REVITALISATION AND SUPPORT PROGRAMME

In recognition of the contribution of Co-operatives in the sectors of trade, agriculture, pharmaceutical, transportation, among others, the next NDC Government will:

- a. work with the Ghana Co-operatives Council to restructure the sector to respond to modern economic and financial needs of communities
- b. empower, support and build capacities for co-operatives to play key roles in rural and community socio-economic improvements
- c. collaborate with the Council and stakeholders of the over 3,500,000 co-operatives in Ghana to review and enact a new co-operatives law to reposition co-operatives in community financial inclusion, productivity and socio-economic development, and
- d. Promote the interest of youth in the formation of co-operatives.



FIXING THE ECONOMY AND UNITING AGAINST POVERTY



6.6 REVIVING THE REAL SECTOR TO STIMULATE ECONOMIC GROWTH AND JOBS

Despite its limitless potential, the real sector under the NPP Government has not received any significant boost to deliver robust employment opportunities for Ghanaians apart from sloganeering.

To boost the real sector of the economy, we will implement a Ghana Framework for Industrial Revitalisation, Support and Transformation (Ghana FIRST).

Ghana FIRST identifies sixteen strategic growth areas in the real sector based on their potential to grow rapidly, create jobs, contribute to exports and expand Government revenue while contributing to building a resilient economy. They are:

- a. agriculture and agro-processing
- b. pharmaceuticals
- c. health tourism
- d. light manufacturing including apparels, accessories and assemblage
- e. educational services exports
- f. financial services
- g. furniture and furnishing
- h. ICT, business services and logistics
- i. oil and gas sector
- j. strategic minerals including salt
- k. tourism
- l. tree crops development
- m. coastal, landscape and forest management
- n. infrastructure / construction
- o. waste management
- p. high-tech manufacturing including chemicals
- q. textiles.

6.7 SECTOR SPECIFIC STRATEGIES, POLICIES, AND PROGRAMMES

6.7.1 Agri-Business

a. Agro-production and processing zones.

This will put Ghana on the path of self-sufficiency in the production of commodities and the possibility of excess for export, stimulate economic growth and create opportunities for sustainable jobs. The next NDC Government will:

- i. delineate agro-production and processing zones for medium to large-scale production
- ii. expand cereal crops, starchy staples legumes and vegetables
- iii. align appropriate infrastructure to facilitate their activities, including PPP models for irrigation and networked warehousing system.

b. Cocoa Processing for Value Addition and Jobs

The next NDC Government will:

- i. ensure the processing of at least 50 per cent of cocoa beans locally before export. This will maximise output, value and foreign exchange earnings, which will translate into jobs and economic growth. Small scale cocoa processing companies and artisanal cocoa product manufacturers will also be supported in cocoa-growing regions

- ii. ensure the processing and marketing of finished and semi-finished cocoa products in addition to the raw cocoa beans
- iii. encourage Ghanaian businesses to participate in the cocoa processing industry
- iv. promote the consumption of Ghana cocoa and cocoa-based products domestically as well as regionally, taking full advantage of the continental free trade area.

c. Government Support to the Pharmaceutical Industry

The next NDC Government will:

- i. roll out a Pharmaceutical Industry Financial and Technical Support Programme to expand the existing infrastructure and introduce modern technologies into their operations to improve production. This will create jobs and export opportunities
- ii. assist local pharmaceutical companies to secure licences to produce generic drugs for the local and sub-regional markets
- iii. prioritise the procurement of Made-in-Ghana drugs for the Ghana Health Service and other public health facilities.

d. Strategic Gold Resource Mining Scheme

The next NDC Government will develop a national policy to restructure the small-scale mining sector as follows:

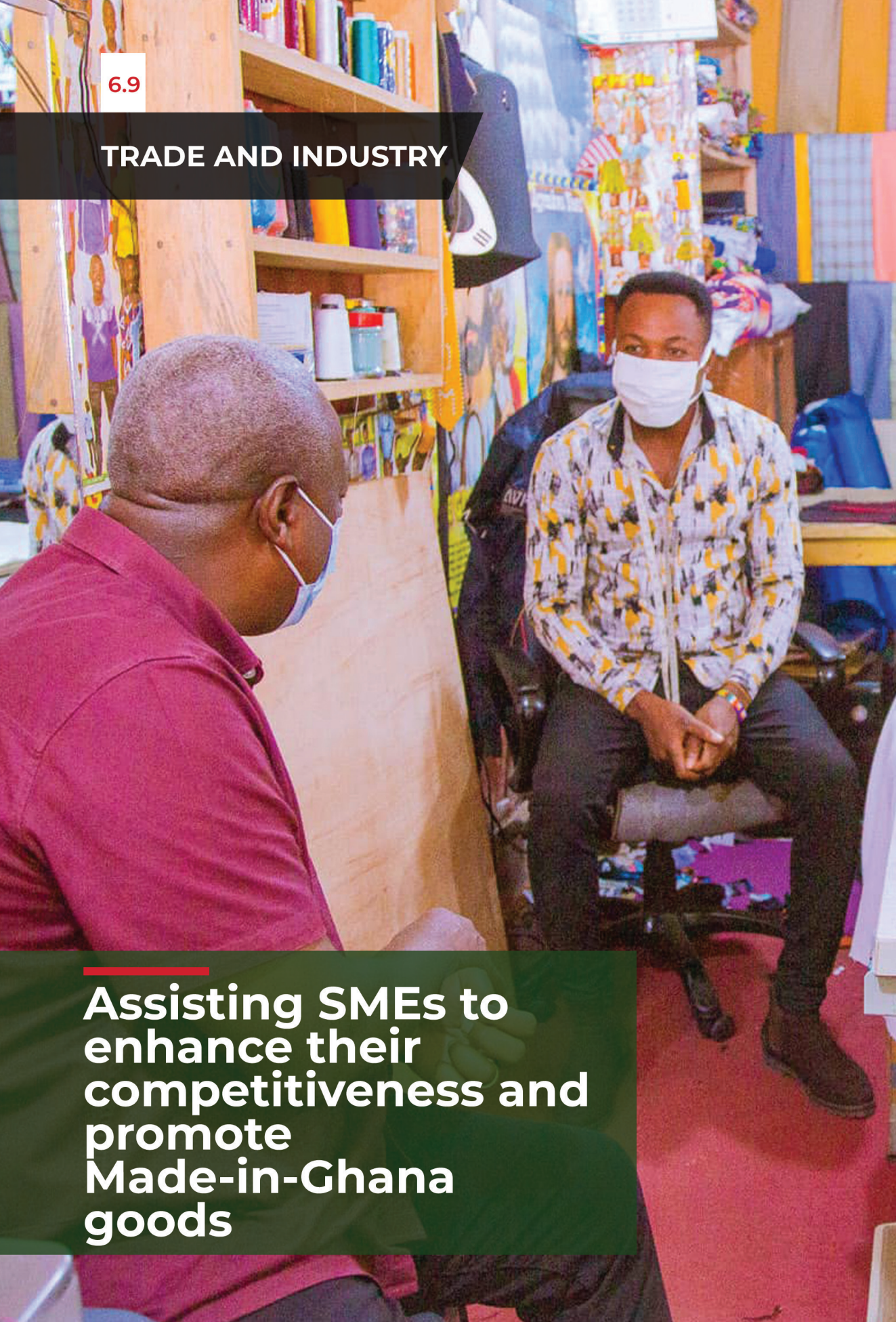
- i. set up a Gold Board (GOLDBOD) for the small-scale mining sector, to provide mining support services to the sector, ranging from concession viability, health, safety and efficiency in mine operations, equipment financing and mining input, research and standardisation, gold recovery optimisation as well as post-mining, and land reclamation services
- ii. 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
- iii. put a ban on the export of unrefined gold produced by the small-scale mining companies in Ghana, via the establishment of gold refineries in gold producing regions of the country in conjunction with the private sector.
- iv. GOLDBOD will issue licenses to Ghanaian companies and foreign companies with local partners, giving clear geographical boundaries as their catchment area for production
- v. introduce an off-taker system for the refined gold, with a buying program, where the Bank of Ghana, will refine gold as part of the Central Bank's newly introduced precious metal reserve purchasing programme
- vi. ensure that the Bank of Ghana's purchasing programme will be backed by a metal leveraging programme with international bullion holders
- vii. hold a portion of our international reserves in Gold to help stabilise our economy and currency.

6.8 LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY SUPPORT FOR THE REAL SECTOR

The next NDC Government will:

- a. develop standards covering materials, skills and procedures/processes for the construction industry
- b. enact a public-private partnership (PPP) law to attract investment capital
- c. develop and implement a policy for the procurement of locally produced agro-based products by state institutions
- d. enact Corporate Social Responsibility Law to foster investment in strategic and human development needs of the country
- e. enact Unemployment Benefit and Intervention Act to cater for workers during times of acute economic disruptions
- f. enact laws to protect research findings and innovations. Encourage entrepreneurs and start-ups to leverage research outcomes to establish businesses.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY



**Assisting SMEs to
enhance their
competitiveness and
promote
Made-in-Ghana
goods**

6.9 TRADE AND INDUSTRY

6.9.1 Domestic Trade

The next NDC Government will work together with related sectors and stakeholders to increase demand for locally manufactured goods by:

- a. encouraging the private sector to establish marketing companies to service local SME manufacturers
- b. assisting SMEs to upgrade technology to enhance their competitiveness.
- c. actively promoting Made-in-Ghana goods
- d. directing Ministries, Departments and Agencies to patronise Made-in-Ghana goods
- e. modernising our markets using the Kejetia market complex model.

6.9.2 Export Trade

The next NDC Government will work together with related sectors and stakeholders to increase the export of locally manufactured goods by taking advantage of the Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). Specifically, we shall:

- a. assist SMEs to upgrade technology to enhance their competitiveness.
- b. support SMEs to implement quality assurance systems
- c. facilitate the development of the packaging industry to support the export sector
- d. remove bottlenecks in shipping and transport of goods, especially in the ECOWAS Region in cooperation with member states
- e. develop the overall logistics system of the country to facilitate domestic and international trade.

6.9.3 Manufacturing

The next NDC Government will:

- a. promote local production of hygiene products for women including sanitary pads through training and support for start-ups to support the free distribution of sanitary pads to school girls.
- b. revive the textile industry by providing support to Akosombo Textiles Limited and Juapong Textiles
- c. promote Night- Life Economy to enhance productivity and job creation
- d. collaborate with research institutions to create new businesses
- e. establish agro-processing and manufacturing fund to facilitate investment in the subsector
- f. establish agro-processing factories in various districts in collaboration with the private sector such as fruit processing in Lower Manya, cashew processing in Bono and Bono East Regions and Pito Brewery in the Upper East and Upper West Regions etc.
- g. provide farmers co-operatives with small processing plants and mechanisation.

6.9.4 Formalising the Informal Economy

The next NDC Government will work towards formalising the informal economy, which accounts for about 90.0 per cent of employment but only about 30.0 per cent of overall economic output or GDP. Various policies will aim primarily at small-and-medium-scale enterprises in order to help them (1) raise their productivity, (2) get access to business support services, and (3) create more and better jobs with various degrees of legal and social protection as well as compliance with health and safety regulations.

We will:

- a. encourage the creation of small business associations (SBAs) to help disseminate and promote good business practices that contribute to high efficiency, increased profits, and expanded opportunities for job creation by SMEs
- b. assist the sector through continuous simplification of compliance processes, such as registration, environmental regulations and tax payment
- c. strengthen the capacity of the National Board for Small-Scale Industries (NBSSI) to assist SMEs by facilitating their growth and development in every corner of the country
- d. provide special financial support to market women and entrepreneurs
- e. grant tax holidays to start-ups and SMEs to facilitate their growth and expansion
- f. require district assemblies to provide markets, lorry parks, and other areas of local business activities monthly reports of revenue collected and how they spent them for the benefit of the tax payers.

6.9.5 Non-Agricultural Raw Materials Development

The next NDC Government will harness and fully utilise mineral deposits available in the country to support rapid industrial development. To achieve this, we will:

- a. provide incentives for the extensive exploitation of mineral deposits, such as limestone, kaolin, iron ore, clay, salt, aluminium sulphate, oil and natural gas, in ways that respect the environment while ensuring sustainable development
- b. stimulate and attract investments into the non-agricultural raw materials sector.

6.9.6 The African Continental Free Trade Area – ACFTA

The next NDC Government will take advantage of the African Continental Free Trade Area to export manufactures, such as agro-products, pharmaceuticals, vehicle assembly and automotive goods and services, financial services, and health services to African countries.

6.9.7 Institutional Reforms

The next NDC Government will realign the Ministry of Trade and Industry (MOTI) with critical institutions like the Ministry of Finance (MOF), Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MOFA), Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development (MLGRD) and the Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation (MESTI) to deliver critical services to the private sector as part of a comprehensive effort of creating a business- responsive and competitive environment.

The next NDC Government will also:

- a. establish a Plant Protection Authority to replace the Plant Protection and Regulatory Services Directorate (PPRSD) of MoFA to:
 - expand crop exports into the international market and crop-related imports into Ghana with emphasis on value addition
 - comply with international standards and regulatory statutes,
 - address funding challenges
- b. upgrade the Ohawu Agriculture College to University of Agriculture and Agribusiness
- c. restructure institutions responsible for grains warehousing to link farm produce from aggregators to grain warehousing facilities and eventually to the Ghana Commodity Exchange
- d. strengthen the Fisheries Commission to develop the sector in accordance with international law.

6.10 ENERGY

Aggressively develop, modernise, and expand petroleum products delivery infrastructure to make Ghana an attractive oil and gas hub

Expand thermal and renewable power generation to match the growth demand

Provide incentives for investment in the manufacture of solar panels and accessories in Ghana, including removal of import duties on solar equipment and accessories

Review gas pricing to remove inflated charges

Accelerate the development of grid-connected solar, wind and biomass plants

Steadily expand mini-hydro, thermal and renewable power generation to match growth

The Light Up Ghana initiative will enhance public safety, security and boost the night economy by ensuring that every city, town or village has access to street lights



6.10.1 Indigenisation & Social Inclusion

The next NDC Government will:

- a. aggressively support Ghanaian entrepreneurs, especially women, to build world-class energy businesses
- b. review the implementation of the local content measures in the upstream oil and gas sectors and expand it to the power and renewables subsectors
- c. use the energy sector to drive the productivity of our agriculture, industry, minerals, and transportation sectors by providing fuel, power, and feedstock in line with our integrated national planning framework.

6.10.2 Power Generation

The next NDC Government will:

- a. steadily expand mini-hydro, thermal and renewable power generation to match growth in demand, especially for heavy industries such as aluminium, iron and steel smelting and for export
- b. work to ensure the supply of affordable, reliable and sustainable supply of power for economic growth
- c. administer the implementation of the Energy Sector Levy Act (ESLA) and the Cash Waterfall mechanism transparently to restore financial viability.

National Electrification

The next NDC Government will:

- a. work to achieve universal access by 2025 by accelerating the rate of connectivity to the national grid where possible and deploying renewable energy systems where grid access is unrealistic
- b. use proceeds from ESLA to boost the capacity of Ghanaian companies to achieve universal access by 2025
- c. promote sustainable and productive use of electricity to support rural industries

Reliability and Affordability of Power

The next NDC Government will:

- a. prioritise cheaper hydropower for heavy industries (job creation) and vulnerable homes (social safety nets) and use the rest to further lower average thermal tariffs
- b. provide tax and other incentives to encourage thermal generators to lower tariffs
- c. deploy smart technology to reduce power losses.

Universal Street lighting

The next NDC Government will:

- a. resume universal street lighting programme to enhance public safety, security and boost the night economy starting with major cities and district capitals by leveraging the streetlight component of the ESLA
- b. progressively light every village in the country through the 'Light Up' Ghana initiative.

Upstream Petroleum

The next NDC Government will:

- a. prioritise the use of our oil and gas resources to propel accelerated economic growth, job creation and rapid industrialisation
- b. set Ghana on the path to achieving production of one million barrels of oil per day (1mbpd) by 2030
- c. adopt policies and programmes that will ensure that all Ghanaians derive maximum benefits from our petroleum resources
- d. restore investor confidence and ensure transparency in the sector
- e. ensure strict adherence to the provisions of the petroleum sector regulations and laws
- f. make the allocation of exploration and production rights transparent and commercially effective

Downstream Petroleum

The next NDC Government will:

- a. ensure value addition to our petroleum resources
- b. reposition the Tema Oil Refinery to process our own crude oil
- c. restore BOST to its core mandate of holding a national strategic stock in order to cushion the erratic price increase associated with the absence of fuel stock in the country
- d. expand the Atuabo Gas Processing Plant to meet the national demand for gas-related products
- e. aggressively promote LPG use as a substitute for wood fuel
- f. revert to the use of Landing Beach Committees for pre-mix fuel distribution and management to ensure transparency.

Renewable Energy

The NDC is committed to renewable energy as a clean, climate-friendly, electricity solution for households, remote communities and light industries. The next NDC Government will deliver a golden age of renewables. We will surpass the ten (10) per cent of the energy mix specified in the Renewal Energy Act by:

- a. establishing a Renewable Energy Commission to give focus to our campaign on renewables
- b. accelerating the development of grid-connected solar, wind and biomass plants
- c. encouraging the use of Roof-Top Solar by artisans and small businesses
- d. requiring all new government buildings to incorporate solar systems in their designs, cost and implementation
- e. retrofitting existing government buildings with solar systems
- f. providing incentives for investment in the manufacture of solar panels and accessories in Ghana, including removal of import duties on solar equipment and accessories
- g. encouraging private businesses and public institutions to use solar power
- h. promoting the teaching of courses in renewable energy in TVET institutions.



6.11 AGRICULTURE AND AGRIBUSINESS

Agriculture remains the backbone of the Ghanaian economy. The NDC implemented several programmes and initiatives to enhance Agriculture. These included irrigation and mechanisation, credit facilities and incentives to farmers and fishermen, among others. However, the potential of the sector has not been fully harnessed thereby contributing less to economic growth.

The next NDC Government will:

- a. reposition agriculture and agribusiness as the key driver for Ghana's economic growth and development
- b. establish a cashew development board to coordinate cashew-related issues
- c. use coordinated strategies and investments in agriculture and agribusiness to secure livelihoods and increased prosperity for all Ghanaians
- d. set agriculture as the central focus of the economic policy by:
 - using agriculture as a tool to contribute to managing the exchange rate
 - increasing direct budget expenditure on agriculture as a share of total budget expenditure from the present seven (7) per cent to at least ten (10) per cent
 - doubling the value of domestic, and intra-regional and global export demand in agricultural services, commodities, and manufactured products
 - taking advantage of the emerging opportunities in ECOWAS and the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) to expand our market
 - enhancing foreign direct investment (FDI) and domestic direct investment (DDI) in agriculture and agribusiness
 - reducing the cost of capital in agricultural investment using creative programmes
 - encouraging senior public and civil servants, the middle class and heads of private institutions to personally invest directly in agriculture
- e. attract 30 per cent of school leavers into primary agriculture and agribusiness entrepreneurship by:
 - providing agronomic and extension services support for production and agro-processing for the youth
 - operationalising 60,000 ha of YEA supported commercial farms across agricultural districts
 - collaborating with TVET institutions to activate agriculture-related entrepreneurship training and skills development
- f. incentivise the financial sector to devote a sizeable amount of credit to primary agriculture and agribusiness
- g. restructure rural credit and the Ghana Eximbank to improve credit to strategic agriculture, agribusiness activities, and related infrastructure
 - minimise credit risk to the agriculture and agribusiness sector
 - reduce the cost of credit
 - improve the security required for accessing credit.
- h. align infrastructure development to key agro-productive zones by:
 - developing the agro-productive zones and align appropriate infrastructure to facilitate agriculture and agribusiness using PPP models
 - establishing agro-industrial parks to support backward and forward linkage industries
 - rehabilitating and modernising transport systems in agricultural commodity-producing areas
 - increasing access to key utility services, in the agricultural production and processing zones.

The next NDC Government will ensure the consistent annual increment of the cocoa price to make cocoa farming more attractive, especially to the youth



Increase beef cattle production by improving the production of silage, hay and fodder banks to support ranching of cattle

Construct irrigation dams across the country



Complete the construction and operationalisation of the Fisheries College at Anomabu

Work with Poultry Farmers Association to increase capacity to meet domestic market demands and for export



Restructure rural credit and the Ghana Eximbank to improve credit to strategic agriculture, agribusiness activities

The next NDC Government will hand over the management of pre-mix fuel to Pre-mix Committees under the supervision of Landing Beach Committees



Align infrastructure development to key agro-productive zones

- i. implement national spatial zoning with strategies to acquire and reserve land for commercial farming and agribusinesses by:
 - facilitating the acquisition and financing of private sector commercial farmland
 - utilising National Land Suitability Analysis results for priority crops
 - facilitating market linkages in key production clusters
- j. streamline fisheries policies and incentivise fishers for increased productivity
- k. restore the distribution of free fertiliser and chemicals to cocoa farmers.

6.11.1 Priority National Crop Commodities

The food security, cash and industrial crops development as envisaged by the national Food and Agricultural Sector Development Policy (FASDEP) will remain the defining framework for the development of the crops and livestock sectors in the short to medium term. Hence, all policy, programme and project objectives and activities will be targeted at increasing and sustaining the production and productivity of the various crops as follows:

- a. cereal crops: maize, rice, sorghum and millet
- b. starchy staples: yam, plantain, cassava, sweet potato and cocoyam
- c. legumes: soya bean, groundnuts, beans
- d. vegetables: tomato, pepper, okro
- e. work with stakeholders to develop reliable markets for primary agricultural produce
 - tree crops: cocoa, shea nut, oil palm, cashew and coconut
 - industrial crops: rubber, cotton and jute/kenaf
 - fruit crops: pineapple, mango, citrus and watermelon.

The cereals, legumes and starchy staples contribute significantly to our national GDP and food security. For some commodities - cassava, plantain and yam, the country produces tonnages above national requirements. Postharvest management of these commodities, through value addition, to increase their nutritional value and generate industrial products will enhance the availability of jobs for women and the youth.

To enhance sustainable domestic rice production and productivity in the short term, the challenges of quality seed, inputs, farm machinery, irrigation infrastructure and marketing, within the rice value chain, will be tackled head-on in order to achieve and sustain national self-sufficiency in rice.

Also, a collaborative programme with stakeholders in the poultry industry will be put in place to promote the production of yellow maize and soya bean to support the poultry industry. The necessary infrastructure and logistics will be mobilised within the vegetable production zones and at irrigation sites to ensure sustainable production all year round and reduce importation of same. As a priority, the development of vegetable varieties of high nutritional, processing and shelf life qualities will be developed and supplied to producers.

6.11.2 Cocoa Sector Strategic Policies and Interventions

6.11.2.1 Free Healthcare for Cocoa Farmers

The next NDC Government will:

- a. provide Free Primary Healthcare for all cocoa farmers
- b. exempt all cocoa farmers from NHIS premium payment for secondary and tertiary care
- c. create a biometric database of all cocoa farmers and made available at all cocoa clinics so that at any point in time, cocoa farmers and their dependents can have access to free healthcare at the cocoa clinics in the various cocoa growing regions in Ghana.

In addition to the existing Cocoa Clinics in Accra, Tafo (Eastern Region) Debiso and Kumasi, the next NDC Government will ensure that the COCOBOD builds well-equipped hospitals in each of the cocoa-growing regions.

6.11.2.2 Cocoa Roads

The next NDC Government will:

- a. revive and broaden the scope of the Cocoa Roads Project implemented under the past NDC Government to cover more cocoa-growing areas. This will facilitate the easy evacuation of cocoa beans, as well as the rapid development of the cocoa-growing areas
- b. resume all abandoned cocoa road projects and pay all contractors whose certificates have not been honoured by the Akufo Addo's NPP Government.

6.11.2.3 Cocoa Farmers Pension Scheme

The next NDC Government will ensure the establishment of a pension scheme for cocoa farmers so they can enjoy pensions in their old age as already captured under the pensions sector.

6.11.2.4 Annual Increment in Cocoa Producer Price

The next NDC Government will ensure the consistent annual increment of the cocoa price to make cocoa farming more attractive, especially to the youth.

6.11.2.5 Free Fertilizer and Other Agro-Inputs

The next NDC Government will continue to provide free agro-inputs (fertiliser, insecticides, fungicides, etc.) and extension services to all cocoa farmers.

6.11.2.6 Additional Livelihood for Cocoa Farmers

The next NDC Government will institute additional livelihood programmes for farmers. Such programmes will include training on grasscutter rearing, bee farming, honey production, soap and pomade making, poultry farming, as well as cultivation of other cash and food crops.

6.11.2.7 Empowering Women Cocoa Farmers

The next NDC Government will:

- a. ensure that no female cocoa farmer is left behind
- b. support women in cocoa farming to have easy access to extension services, agro-inputs and also to actively participate in cocoa farming-related programmes that will be rolled out for the benefit of all cocoa farmers
- c. institute an award scheme for female cocoa farmers as a way of encouraging more women, especially young ones, to consider cocoa farming as a lucrative farming venture.

6.11.2.8 Local formulation and manufacture of fertilisers

The next NDC Government will support local companies to formulate and produce fertilisers locally to create more jobs and make fertilisers affordable.

6.11.2.9 Youth in Cocoa Programme

The next NDC Government will:

- a. continue to support and encourage the youth to consider cocoa farming as a lucrative farming business under the Youth in Cocoa Farming Programme
- b. resume the free Hybrid Seedlings Programme for cocoa farmers and scale it up to over 100 million hybrid cocoa seedlings a year for our cocoa farmers.

6.11.2.10 Establishment of additional Cocoa Colleges

The next NDC Government will establish another Cocoa College in the Western North Region for the training of cocoa farmers and extension officers in the Western, Western North, Bono, Ahafo and the western part of Ashanti regions. The Bunso Cocoa College will take care of cocoa farmers and extension officers in Eastern, Central, Volta and the remaining parts of Ashanti Region.

6.11.2.11 Child Educational Support Programme

The next NDC Government will resume the Child Educational Support Programme to eliminate the worst forms of child labour in cocoa-growing regions.

6.11.2.12 Provision of Social Amenities

COCOBOD will:

- a. support the Electricity Corporation of Ghana to provide electricity to cocoa-growing communities that are not connected to the National Grid
- b. support the provision of boreholes and small water systems in cocoa-growing communities that have no access to potable drinking water
- c. rehabilitate their over-aged cocoa farms, and farms that have been destroyed by the cocoa swollen shoot virus disease.

6.11.2.13 Programme to effectively tackle Fall Army Worms

The next NDC Government will resume a programme to effectively tackle the fall army worms invasion of cocoa farms.

6.11.3 Aquaculture

The next NDC Government will:

- a. support youth training in cage construction, breeding and management technologies for tilapia, shrimps and mudfish
- b. support and encourage the youth to engage in commercial cage culture on our lakes and rivers
- c. support the production of fingerlings
- d. train the youth in the construction of ponds for fish farming.

6.11.4 Marine and Riverine Fishes

The NDC Government will:

- a. establish modern fish markets and cold stores along the major fish landing sites such as Tema New Town, Cape Coast, Shama, Sogakofe, Yeji, Kpando Torkor, Biriwa, Asewewa, Discove, Kpong and equip them with smoking and processing facilities
- b. provide Echo Sounders and GPS to canoe fishers to facilitate the use of technology
- c. resource University of Cape Coast (UCC) to complete the construction and operationalisation of the Fisheries College at Anomabu which was started by the NDC
- d. strengthen quality assurance and inspection of feedstuff used by fish farmers as well as control and surveillance of fish pest and disease by the Ministry in collaboration with the appropriate faculties at the Universities and other research institutions
- e. Implement the fish health policy
- f. zone and spatially plan the Exclusive Economic Zone to enable Marine Protected Areas to be set up to protect fish breeding and spawning areas
- g. scientifically enhance the observer programme to properly administer the law on pair trawling and the Vessel Monitoring System
- h. review the closed season for all trawlers.

6.11.5 Poultry and Livestock

The next NDC Government will:

- a. work with Poultry Farmers Association to increase capacity to meet domestic market demands and for export
 - address the huge gap between national poultry meat consumption and supply
 - involve the youth in small to medium scale poultry production
 - deliver poultry products to the local market thereby lowering imports and save foreign exchange
 - liaise with the appropriate Centres of Excellence (CSIR-Animal Research Institute) to develop clusters of standard housing that can hold a minimum of fifty (50) birds at a time
 - establish processing plants to serve clusters of small poultry farms to process and package dressed birds and eggs for the market #
 - revamp the Ghana Broiler Revitalization Programme to locally produce and process two (2) million birds annually”
- b. increase beef cattle production by improving the production of silage, hay and fodder banks to support ranching of cattle and thereby reduce the perennial conflict between crop farmers and Fulani and other nomadic herdsmen.
- c. rehabilitate and upgrade the Turaku and Mayanka livestock markets in Ashaiman and Kumasi respectively to reflect their international market status.
- d. reduce herdsmen–crop farmers conflict through:
 - improving the workings of the bilateral committee between Ghana and Burkina Faso to implement the provisions of the ECOWAS Protocol on Transhumance, which was signed by Ghana in 1998
 - establishing local multi-stakeholder Arbitration Committees to help resolve conflicts as they arise.
 - operationalising the NDC constructed paddocks and fodder banks in Afram Plains South and North and ensure that additional paddocks and fodder banks are established nationwide and equipped with veterinary health posts
 - developing water points along the migration route with dips and vaccination services.
 - promoting harmonious co-existence between the herdsmen and communities and make it possible for them to open bank accounts and trade their cattle in Ghana
 - launching a programme to determine the carrying capacities nationally in order to know the population of cattle that can be held in various Districts per acre
 - determining cattle populations through agricultural census in order to prevent overgrazing and culling of excess cattle for meat and hides
 - encouraging poultry farmers to produce fertiliser from chicken droppings.
- e. increase pig production and marketing through:
 - promoting a Pig Production Programme to ensure efficient and effective production, distribution and marketing of pigs and related products at affordable prices.
 - selecting sites and provide piggery housing structures to potential farmers
 - specialising in the trade of piggery products and provide consultancy services to the farmers
 - providing marketing solutions for farmers by establishing an off-taker system to grant access to ready markets
 - constructing and operating abattoirs within the clusters to ensure piggery products are handled under hygienic conditions for safe human consumption

- encouraging research into quality of breed and best management practices that guarantee returns on investment
- constructing, managing and operating livestock multiplication and demonstration farms in selected district assemblies which will be used as training grounds for farmers.

6.11.6 Management of Pre-mix Fuel

The next NDC Government will hand over the management of pre-mix fuel to Pre-mix Committees under the supervision of Landing Beach Committees as established by the Fisheries Management Act and ensure affordability and availability for fishing communities.

6.11.7 Horticulture

The next NDC Government will collaborate with the private sector to facilitate the development of the needed infrastructure to support the entire horticulture value chain.

6.11.8 Special Programmes

The next NDC Government will also implement the following programmes:

- a. District Land Banks Programme (DLBP)
- b. Youth Agric-Estate Programme (YAP)
- c. New Strategic-Crop Programme (NSP)
- d. Dairy Hub Programme (DHP)
- e. Vegetable Development Programme (VDP)
- f. Peri-urban Agriculture for Vegetable Production (PAV)
- g. Poultry: Farm to Table Programme (FTP)
- h. Aquaculture/Cage-culture Programme (ACP)
- i. Cassava Processing Programme (CPP)
- j. Grains/Legumes Development Programme (CDP), and
- k. Tree Crop Development Programme (TCDP).

6.11.9 Irrigation development

The next NDC Government will:

- a. transform and modernise agriculture to respond to the seasonal and unreliable natural rainfall and to ensure all-year-round farming
- b. restructure the Ghana Irrigation Development Authority
- c. construct the following irrigation dams in addition to what we initiated in Tamne in the Upper East Region:
 - Accra Plains- Ningo-Pram pram, Dodowa and Ada
 - the Kamba in the Upper West
 - Kpli in Volta Region
 - Amate in the Eastern Region
 - Mpruem in the Central Region
 - Dekpor-Weta-Afife enclave
 - Nasisa, Libga and Paga Zaa in the Northern Region
- d. These irrigation dams will be financed by EXIMBank.





6.12

PROMOTE GHANA AS A PREFERRED TOURIST DESTINATION

6.12 TOURISM, CULTURE AND CREATIVE ARTS

6.12.1 Tourism

Ghana has rich natural scenic beauty and heritage sites which have the potential to attract tourists across the globe all year round. Our warm hospitality, rich cultural heritage, sterling contributions to Pan-Africanism and central location on the globe position our country as a destination of choice. This must be harnessed as a significant component of GDP to create jobs, improve domestic tourism and attract tourists and investors.

The next NDC Government will:

- a. aggressively promote Ghana as a preferred tourist destination through the mass media, new media and Ghana's missions abroad
- b. promote domestic tourism in partnership with other stakeholders
- c. collaborate with schools to implement programmes that promote tourism in our schools
- d. support industry participation in trade and tourist fairs
- e. collaborate with the private sector to develop and upgrade strategic tourist attractions to world-class facilities
- f. facilitate the improvement and establishment of world-class hotels and hostels within reasonable distance to tourist attractions across the country
- g. involve operators in the hospitality value chain (e.g., tour companies, tour bus operators, hoteliers, restaurant operators, domestic airline) in the development of theme parks, historical sites, water sports etc.
- h. improve governance and regulation in the sector to ensure compliance with standards and guarantee quality assurance and customer satisfaction
- i. enhance the capacities of the workforce in the industry through various capacity building programmes at all levels
- j. improve access to tourist attractions across the country
- k. provide stimulus packages to support the private sector to revive their tourist businesses
- l. encourage investments in the sector through various incentives such as tax holidays
- m. support the creation of a private sector-led national carrier to facilitate mutually beneficial and profitable package tours
- n. aggressively promote and support a campaign for the full recognition of UNESCO Heritage status for a number of selected high-profile tourist sites
- o. promote the development of tourism through Public-Private Partnerships.

6.12.2 Culture

The next NDC Government will:

- a. renovate, equip and fund existing Centres for National Culture across the country, and ensure efficient and competent management
- b. commence a programme to construct and resource Centres of National Culture in regions where they do not exist
- c. revisit and restructure the National Festival of Arts and Culture (NAFAC) to meet its original objective as a hunting ground for creative and art talents for nurturing and exposure, and to celebrate the arts and culture
- d. resource the National Dance Ensemble to perform dances in school settings to show the beauty and unity in diversity to help students appreciate the performing arts and to groom potentials for the future
- e. resource the National Commission on Culture to organise effective programmes
- f. partner various traditional authorities to promote various festivals in partnership with the media

- g. promote cultural festivals in schools
- h. empower the Bureau of Ghanaian Languages to preserve, promote and regulate the publication of Ghanaian languages.

6.12.3 The Creatives Industry

The next NDC Government will:

- a. implement programmes to support the growth of the film, music and the creative industry to drive job creation and economic growth
- b. resource nationally recognised creative arts bodies like the Ghana Association of Writers, MUSIGHA, National Film Authority, Ghana Union of Visual Arts (GUVA), among others
- c. strengthen regulation to protect the copyright of artistes and ensure that they get value for their works by enforcing the payment of user fees under the Copyright Regulations, 2010 (L.I. 1962)
- d. set up a system of legal aid for creative artistes to help fight creative/intellectual theft and plagiarism by others
- e. pass the Creative Industry Bill into law and implement it to promote the development of the industry
- f. resource the national museums and empower them to function properly and create space for exhibitions
- g. promote local patronage of various creative products
- h. partner with GUVA and other fine art associations to purchase their finished works to furnish and decorate public offices to support the fine art businesses
- i. through the National Film Authority, encourage our embassies overseas to purchase and periodically show appropriate Ghanaian films on Ghana Day and other special occasions
- j. in collaboration with the Ghana Association of Writers, establish a National Writing Contest and support the promotion of the best literary works
- k. provide seed money for the creation of a special fund for artists including aged and needy creative artists
- l. make available scholarship packages for disadvantaged creative artistes to pursue courses or programmes for self-development in the national interest
- m. facilitate the enrolment of creative artists unto the informal pension scheme
- n. develop programmes to harness talents and potentials in the industry
- o. structure the educational curriculum to allow students to appreciate the relevance of culture and creative arts in life and national development
- p. promote district, regional and national competitions in the creatives among the youth in tertiary institutions
- q. facilitate the placement of creative art products on digital platforms for promotional purposes.



6.13 ENVIRONMENT, SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION

Investment in Science, Technology and Innovation will be an essential part of national development and economic management. The next NDC Government will:

- a. set up a Science Technology and Innovation Fund (STI Fund)
- b. ensure those responsible for environmental damage and corruption are held liable for the damage caused both to the physical and human environments
- c. integrate environmental considerations with social, political and economic justice in addressing the needs and rights of all communities, sectors and individuals
- d. recognise and protect the right of workers to refuse work that exposes them to health hazards
- e. transform waste into value to ensure a clean Ghana and create jobs by converting waste to energy
- f. ensure gender mainstreaming in environmental issues and develop targeted solutions for implementation
- g. reintroduce ZOIL to involve the youth in planting coconut for coastal protection against climate change and job creation.

6.13.1 Science, Technology and Innovation

The next NDC Government will:

- a. mainstream STI in all sectors in economic management
- b. invest in the virtual infrastructure to promote enhanced entrepreneurship
- c. promote and protect research findings for the creation of new businesses
- d. create incentives for the study of Basic Sciences at all levels of education
- e. motivate talented STI personnel and honour exceptional Ghanaians working locally
- f. promote the establishment of entrepreneurial and business incubation centres in regional capitals and districts
- g. support research Institutions and Universities to promote the development of the blue and green economy
- h. integrate planning technologies in the control of urban sprawl.

6.13.2 Land and Natural Resources

6.13.2.1 Land

The next NDC Government will work to end the crisis of access to secured and affordable land for residential and business purposes.

We will:

- a. review the principles underlying Land Administration Project in collaboration with our Development Partners and restructure it to make it more responsive to national needs
- b. examine the land administration system and develop a comprehensive policy to make land acquisition simple, less cumbersome, investor-friendly and affordable to the average Ghanaian
- c. decentralise land management services as required by the Lands Commission Act
- d. develop a Land for Wealth policy for the youth and vulnerable groups to make land cheap and accessible for their economic activities and wealth creation
- e. create land banks
- f. invest in the acquisition of lands in various parts of the country to support youth entrepreneurship in agriculture

- g. accelerate the implementation of the digitisation of land records as commenced under the previous NDC Government.

6.13.2.2 Forestry

The next NDC Government will implement the following:

- a. reduce the rate of deforestation and forest degradation
- b. create and maintain healthy and resilient forests to support habitat for wildlife, carbon sequestration and opportunity for outdoor recreation
- c. increase participation of the private sector, civil society, local communities and individuals in reforestation
- d. employ new technologies to convert small-diameter trees mainly from plantation into new products
- e. increase forest reserve patrolling and enforcement activities in critical forests areas, supported by improved staffing, staff training, transportation and communications
- f. develop forest plantation on de-forested lands, enrichment planting of degraded natural forests, and planting to protect water bodies and enhancing water quality
- g. allocate portions of degraded forest lands to timber concessionaires as part of their social responsibilities to aid in the national forest plantation programme with an emphasis on engaging women and youth from the forest fringe communities in which they operate
- h. establish a new Plantation Division within the Forestry Commission to be solely in charge of developing forest plantation
- i. establish a National Mining and Forestry Initiative to help tackle illegal logging and illegal mining (Galamsey)
- j. improve seedling production and distribution through:
 - training of nursery supervisory staff supported by an expert in forest nursery management and operations as well as establish regional nurseries to distribute seedlings
 - the establishment of a women's only co-operatives for nursery establishment and management to produce seedlings for distribution at the district level
 - the establishment of a research unit within the Forestry Commission to research into silvicultural, productivity and utilisation characteristics of candidate species in collaboration with the Forestry Research Institute of Ghana (FORIG-CSIR)
- k. promote the development of new products using modern technology and promoting regional clustering of SMEs in the development of the domestic market and for exports
- l. establish regional or zonal clusters for legal wood processing, marketing and sales for both the domestic markets and for export
- m. create a Youth in Climate Change and Afforestation Programme (YiCCAP) in partnership the private sector for afforestation and job creation.

6.13.2.3 Mining



The next NDC Government will;

- a. partner with mining equipment owners to support small-scale miners due to equipment challenges of the small-scale mining sector
- b. establish mini-processing plants in strategic mining locations to support and improve metallurgical recovery of mined ore, leading to increased revenue generation
- c. take stock of existing large-scale mining concessions to make abandoned lands available for small and medium scale mining operations
- d. promote legal and properly regulated and operated medium and small-scale mining to become attractive and well-paid business ventures, creating jobs for the youth
- e. re-issue confiscated legitimate mining licenses to miners
- f. return seized legitimate concessions to their owners”
- g. promote environmentally friendly small-scale and community mining operations
- h. ensure that licensed small-scale mining companies operate strictly in accordance with improved operational procedures to minimize negative environmental impacts
- i. encourage chiefs in mining areas to take an interest in in community mining processes to ensure that the environment is preserved, and local communities benefit from the revenue
- j. link royalty payments to targeted community developmental projects to address the increasing demands by host communities
- k. review the structure of the Mineral Development Fund to ensure that mining communities benefit from social responsibility practices
- l. engage trained earth science graduates, including mining engineers, geological engineers, geomatic engineers, metallurgical engineers and environmental engineers
- m. ensure restoration of water bodies and the reclamation of lands
- n. keep abreast with enhanced technology by promoting the use of industry 4.0 imperatives like robotics, automation and digitization
- o. put an immediate end to the intimidations, victimization, physical attacks and monetary extortions of monitoring teams towards miners”

6.13.2.4 Microfinance and Small Loans Centre (MASLOC)

Enhance the operations of the Microfinance and Small Loans Centre (MASLOC) to create jobs as part of our One Million Jobs plan:

- a. commit at least Ghc 200 million to MASLOC each year
- b. form co-operatives of small artisans and traders and assist them with implements and small appropriate technological equipment for their trade e.g., corn millers, coconut sellers and oil palm producers
- c. increase the minimum group amount to market women by one hundred percent (100%)
- d. work to increase the percentage of men who access loans from 10% to 40%
- e. establish a MASLOC office in each district.



7

PROMOTING HUMAN DEVELOPMENT



7.1 HEALTH FOR ALL

Every Ghanaian deserves quality, accessible and affordable health care – Health for All – Universal Health Coverage. In pursuit of Social Justice, the NDC has always initiated and contributed significantly over the years, to building a working health system for Ghanaians.

There have been unprecedented developments in the health sector under the last NDC administration. These include:

- a. development of codified conditions of service for doctors
- b. provision of ultramodern medical equipment to health facilities
- c. construction of new and the expansion of some existing facilities to improve easier access to quality healthcare across the country, for example, the University of Ghana Medical Centre, the Greater Accra Regional (Ridge) Hospital, the Shai Osudoku (Dodowa) Hospital, the Ga East (Kwabanya) hospital, and a string of completed polyclinics across the country
- d. establishment of Nursing Training Colleges.

These are just a few of the numerous strategic interventions the NDC has made towards providing quality health care for Ghanaians. We believe our past achievements are relevant in 2021 and beyond.

The NPP Government has eroded the gains made in Ghana's health care development by the NDC. To achieve the objective of providing preventive, quality and responsive health care for all Ghanaians, particularly the youth, women, the elderly and people with disability, Ghana needs to accelerate plans to deliver a resilient and adaptive health system. The country also needs to build a health system that motivates and adequately rewards current and yet-to-be-employed health workers.

As part of our social contract with Ghanaians, the NDC plans to employ more health workers, introduce and implement an efficient and well-funded Free Primary Health Care programme to benefit all Ghanaians. We will introduce innovative change management practices, implement financing and digital mechanisms, support the provision of assisted fertilisation for families especially women, build on our solid record of providing health infrastructure and medical equipment, and establish more health training institutions.

These are solemn promises, which we firmly believe will make Ghana attain the UN Sustainable Development Goal 3, which seeks to provide health for all Ghanaians. In this regard, the NDC's health care programme will target Ghanaians of all ages:

7.1.1 Health Policies

The next NDC Government will, therefore, implement the following policies:

- a. provide free primary health care
- b. encourage preventive care, health promotion and wellness
- c. reduce maternal mortality by half (50 per cent)
- d. introduce antenatal incentives
- e. amend the law to provide four months maternity leave, in addition to existing legal maternity provisions and grant seven days paternity leave
- f. provide free sanitary pads to girls in school
- g. train more personnel in domiciliary and palliative care for the elderly and the sick
- h. establish special exercise parks and recreational centres for the elderly

- i. establish a Patients' Protection Council to fully implement the Patient's Rights Charter
- j. reduce the cost of medicines by introducing a policy of 'framework contracting' for pharmaceuticals
- k. provide free anti-snake serum
- l. establish a Cancer and Kidney Disease Trust Fund to support Ghanaians who need assistance for such conditions
- m. declare renal (kidney) failure, diabetes and hypertension a national health emergency and provide better access to affordable treatment for persons suffering from these illnesses
- n. reward healthcare workers who accept postings to rural communities and underserved areas with a five-year work abroad programme
- o. amend the National Health Insurance Act to provide an exemption to persons aged 65 years and above
- p. resource the Mental Health Fund
- q. introduce a co-share payment arrangement for the cost of treatment and drugs for all pensioners
- r. ratify the ILO Maternity Protection Convention
- s. strengthen public health education and promotion
- t. promote healthier sexual behaviours, including family planning practices among persons in reproductive age

7.1.2 Health Infrastructure

Regarding the upgrade of our health facilities to meet national and global standards, the next NDC Government will:

- a. progressively transform all regional hospitals into Teaching Hospitals
- b. continue and complete health facilities abandoned by the NPP Government, e.g. Tapa, Akatsi, Kumawu, Abetifi and Garu Hospitals
- c. construct two (2) Police hospitals in the middle and northern zones
- d. expand the 37 Military Hospital
- e. construct CHPS compounds in electoral areas and equip them to screen for non-communicable diseases (hypertension and diabetes)
- f. equip CHPS compounds with ultra-sound scans and train personnel for better anti-natal monitoring
- g. establish blood banks in all district hospitals
- h. establish infectious disease units in all district hospitals
- i. equip all regional hospitals and district referral hospitals with ultramodern equipment such as CT-Scan, MRI Mammogram, and oxygen plants
- j. set up a stroke unit with imaging and other necessary facilities in each regional hospital
- k. complete Phase III of the flagship University of Ghana Medical Centre
- l. complete Phase II of the Greater Accra Regional (Ridge) Hospital
- m. establish, in collaboration with the private sector, state-of-the-art rehabilitation centres to cater for addiction, emotional trauma among others
- n. scale up the training of emergency physicians by extending training to Korle Bu, Ridge Hospital, Cape Coast Teaching Hospital, Tamale Teaching Hospital, etc.

7.1.3 Capacity Building for Health

To motivate health workers and provide additional capacity for service provision, the next NDC Government will:

- a. employ the backlog of qualified health professionals
- b. support health professionals with insurance to cushion them from unintended consequences of their practice
- c. support bilateral and other exchange programmes for our health personnel to expose them to best practices around the world
- d. institute a National Health Workers' Day and establish an award scheme for deserving individual workers and best facilities (including private sector facilities)
- e. ensure safety and protection of health care workers and patients;
- f. establish a Professor Jacob Plange-Rhule Endowment Fund for medical and surgical specialists training
- g. initiate a plan to establish the Ghana College of Nurses and Midwives
- h. improve the skill-mix, numbers, distribution and provide additional incentive packages for health professionals to work in underserved and unserved communities
- i. implement tax waivers in order to assist health workers to acquire means of transport to respond to emergency calls
- j. establish a housing scheme for health workers and provide residential facilities at all health facilities for health workers
- k. scale up the training of Physician Assistants and emergency physicians
- l. expand the National Ambulance Training School to produce more paramedical staff
- m. develop a comprehensive Public Health Emergency Preparedness Policy
- n. establish an oncology centre to serve the five (5) regions in the northern belt
- o. establish a National Imaging Reporting Centre (NIRC) to provide electronic reports for hospitals without radiologists
- p. construct Regional Hospitals in the six new regions, and the Western Region
- q. provide District Hospitals in districts where there is none
- r. establish two National Infectious Disease Centres
- s. adequately integrate psychiatric care supported with funds in regional hospitals where there is none
- t. develop the Pantang Mental Hospital into a first-class mental health facility
- u. develop strategies to reduce the cost of health care by promoting local production of pharmaceuticals, medical devices and diagnostic test kits
- v. empower the local pharmaceutical industry to produce more generics to feed the domestic drug market as we began while in office
- w. collaborate with Traditional Herbal Medicine Producers for rapid integration of herbal medicine in Ghana's health system
- x. establish a Medical Laboratory Science Council
- y. redeploy the abandoned 'Onua Dor' Mobile Clinic Vans to take healthcare to the underserved and the hard-to-reach communities
- z. build and reintroduce the 'Onipa Nua' Hospital Ship to provide medical services to the inaccessible riverine and fishing communities along the Volta river.



Every Ghanaian deserves quality, accessible and affordable healthcare, the NDC has always initiated and contributed significantly over the years, to building a working health system for Ghanaians.



JOHN DRAMANI MAHAMA
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7.1.4 Health Financing

To increase domestic financing for health, the next NDC Government will:

- a. enforce the provisions of the National Health Insurance Act, 2012, Act 852, section 54 which requires the Minister for Finance to pay directly into the National Health Insurance Fund the National Health Insurance Levy collected within thirty days after the collection of the levy – No Capping; No Realignment
- b. eliminate the cap on Internally Generated Funds in the health sector and ensure Departments in hospitals are given significant financial freedom for effective health care financing and staff motivation
- c. exclude the NHIL from all VAT exemptions granted

7.1.5 A Programme of Action for COVID-19

The Coronavirus pandemic has exposed deep cracks in Ghana's health system and emergency preparedness. Health planning and financing has been poor, and discrepancies in data, including the inability to test many affected people have hindered the fight against COVID-19.

The NDC will lead the country to develop a National Strategy to Combat COVID-19 (NSCC). Local Governments, doctors, nurses, allied health professionals, scientists, traditional healers, traditional authorities, community leaders, youth leaders, leaders of women groups, religious leaders among others from across the country will be consulted.

The National Strategy to Combat COVID-19 will consider:

- a. epidemiology of the virus – the rate of spread, hotspots, strong areas of resistance due to solid community mobilisation, infection positivity rates and the rate at which the virus is reproducing itself
- b. the ability of the health care system to respond to the crisis including ICU occupancy rates, hospitalisation rates, the extent of backlogs for tracing and testing, availability of medications
- c. collaboration with key stakeholders to provide mass education and to take feedback from Ghanaians
- d. modalities for closure and reopening of national borders during pandemics
- e. increasing contact tracing capacity to a minimum ratio of fifteen per one hundred thousand population
- f. enlistment of unposted or unemployed healthcare and public health graduates who meet minimum requirements into a contact tracing force of ten thousand across the nation;
- g. decentralization by establishing regional Emergency Operations Centres as part of expansion, completion and construction of new health facilities in the regions
- h. supply of the latest IT techniques to scheduling and task management to enhance the speed of information flow and timeliness of case management via quarantine or isolation.

The National Strategy will also strengthen testing capacity by:

- a. introducing national, regional and district testing centres together with accredited private laboratories
- b. procuring the necessary equipment and reagents and training staff so that by the end of March 2021 Ghana can test at least 40,000 people a day across the country
- c. purchasing additional RT-PCR platforms for both Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research and the Kumasi Centre for Collaborative Research
- d. upscaling the Navrongo Health Research Centre and the Kintampo Health Research

Centre to the standard and status of Noguchi and KCCR

- e. immediately deploying an additional testing approach (the GeneXpert approach) to regional hospitals
- f. improving results turnaround time at all facilities
- g. creating a dedicated testing channel for inpatient COVID-19 cases to maximize the speed of information flow to support protective clinical decision making.

7.1.5.1 Supporting frontline workers

The next NDC Government will:

- a. revise and expand the definition of frontline workers, whilst ensuring full attention to the needs and priorities of medical personnel
- b. pay for insurance for all frontline staff
- c. reduce the load on frontline staff by creating two thousand additional isolation/ treatment beds
- d. expand ICU capacity and personnel at UGMC to sixty beds by the end of March 2021
- e. create a specific high-speed testing channel for frontline workers so they can test twice a week if necessary.

7.1.5.2 Increasing national supplies of PPE

The next NDC Government will:

- a. waive import fees, provide tax waivers and guarantee credit to manufacturers to increase the production of PPE
- b. waive import fees, provide tax waivers and guarantee credit to private health facilities which are importing their own PPE
- c. remove all taxes on wages and salaries of workers/employees in the PPE production sector for 2021.

7.1.5.3 International Actions

The next NDC Government will:

- a. leverage the Trade-Related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) safeguards to provide COVID-19 vaccines and drugs for Ghanaians
- b. urgently improve Ghana's ability to purchase equipment, PPE and inputs on global markets by championing and implementing the Partnership to Accelerate COVID-19 Testing (PACT), which is an initiative of the African Union Commission and the Africa Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) to pool continental resources for procurement
- c. propose and champion a regional PPE production and procurement strategy for ECOWAS states in order to increase market power in global markets
- d. engage international allies to provide additional specialist ICU staff to complement low numbers in Ghana as we train more Ghanaians in ICU care.

7.2 PROVIDING GLOBALLY COMPETITIVE AND QUALITY EDUCATION

The NDC reaffirms its unwavering conviction to the cardinal role of education in moulding the human resource of our nation and shaping a progressive and transformative destiny.

As a Social Democratic party, which puts people first, it is our firm belief that the human resource of our great nation is the most valuable asset. It is, therefore, our resolve that no child is left behind. We shall place emphasis on quality, access, affordability and relevance with our new approach to delivering education to all Ghanaians.

The NDC is keenly aware of the presence of the COVID-19 pandemic and is, therefore, committed to providing a compliant and resilient education system. Hence, we will complement the current teaching and learning system by increasing the use of educational technologies. E-learning in all educational institutions will be a major priority. We will embark on an aggressive programme of retraining both instructors and learners.

We will invest massively in attaining the three (3) Rs- Reading, wRiting and aRithmetic - at all levels with special emphasis on bridging the gap between private and public basic schools. Skills development, blended learning and the Internet of Things (IoT) shall be at the heart of our modern educational reforms.

We will boldly confront the vexed issue of legal and medical education and introduce far-reaching reforms, which will create more opportunities for the youth. This will be done by expanding access while ensuring that quality is not compromised. We will realign education with the medium to long-term human resource development vision of the country.

Furthermore, the next NDC Government will usher in a new dawn for teachers through restoring the dignity of teachers and make them integral partners in national policy reforms. The intimidation and harassment of teachers who speak out will cease forthwith. Improved teacher conditions of service, incentives and all-round availability of Teaching and Learning Materials (TLMs) will be a priority. We will deepen engagement with all schools through the community, unions and Parent-Teacher Associations (PTA) for efficient running.

The gains made by the previous NDC administration in quality outcomes, with all-time best performances in the Basic Education Certificate Examinations (BECE) and West African Secondary Schools Certificate Examinations (WASSCE) have been eroded. In addition, efforts at expanding access and decongesting, particularly, Community Day School projects, have largely been deliberately abandoned by the Akufo-Addo Government.

As a result, without proper planning, the NPP introduced the Free Senior High School (SHS) Programme which was to come at no cost to parents, as promised. Unfortunately, it has rather increased the cost burden on some parents. Confronted with the challenge of lack of space due to abandoned Community Day Schools, this Government resorted to the double-track system that has brought untold inconvenience to students, teachers and parents and negatively impacted quality teaching and learning.

We are committed to implementing a better and improved Free Secondary Education Programme and will consequently end the dreaded double-track system which has increased cost of SHS education for some parents. We will further work towards eliminating the unfavourable conditions that have caused deaths in secondary schools.

At the tertiary level, the next NDC Government will reverse the current efforts at undermining academic freedom and the autonomy of our reputable public universities. The Public Universities Bill will be discontinued if not passed by January 7, 2021. It will be repealed if passed by then. Students' welfare will be prioritized because the NDC believes education is a right not a privilege.

The automatic posting of teachers without National Service and licensure exams will be reversed under the John Mahama Administration in 2021.

The next NDC Government will partner the private sector to provide educational infrastructure in the form of housing, hostels, transportation, recreational facilities and access to educational technologies for teachers, support staff, administrators, students and pupils. It will also improve the quality and relevance of service delivery, and education will be refocused on confidence-building, knowledge generation and acquisition, skills development for jobs as well as responsible citizenship. The specific sub-sector policies are listed below.

7.2.1 Teacher Motivation

The next NDC Government will:

- a. revisit and make functional the agenda of providing special incentives for teachers who accept postings to rural and deprived communities
- b. increase teachers retention premium
- c. train and motivate teachers and caregivers in special schools
- d. abolish the mandatory national service and teacher licensure examinations for graduate teachers
- e. restore automatic employment of newly trained teachers
- f. fast track promotions and applications for academic progression
- g. open special credit lines to facilitate access to loans
- h. provide teachers with free tablets to facilitate teaching and learning
- i. restore the automatic employment of newly trained teachers to improve the teacher-student ratio
- j. collaborate with teacher unions to implement a special regime allowing teachers to own vehicles under affordable terms
- k. reinstate the payment of responsibility allowances to teachers.

7.2.2 Basic School Education

The next NDC Government will:

- a. expand and refurbish educational facilities to make them fit for 21st century education
- b. provide all eligible children especially those in under-served areas, with the necessary support and incentives to remain in school,
- c. increase budgetary allocation to basic education to enhance teaching and learning activities
- d. provide pre-school facilities closer to markets, ministries and city centres to ease the burden of child-care on mothers and promote productivity while the children learn
- e. encourage the private sector to invest in pre-schools and recreational facilities for their workers
- f. ensure quality learning through the allocation of teachers, improved pedagogy, appropriate learning spaces, provision of teaching and learning materials and effective supervision, and motivation and support of teachers
- g. expunge Comprehensive Sexuality Education from the school curriculum
- h. create opportunities for early visual and audio screening of pupils to detect and support children with special needs
- i. create opportunities for out of school children to receive education while encouraging

- the application of the right entry age to school
- j. raise levels of numeracy, literacy, self-esteem and responsible citizenship by extending opportunities to market women, commercial drivers, labourers and head porters 'kayaye' through an extended Complementary Basic Education based on more flexible school hours
 - k. increase engagement with schools through community (regional and district offices, traditional and religious leaders, unions, among others) commitment and more efficient use of existing structures
 - l. set up a panel of experts to conduct a thorough assessment of the current curriculum and make recommendations on the way forward with the view to improving standards, addressing distortions and bridging the quality gap between public and private basic schools
 - m. embark on a rapid roll-out of modern technological learning tools (including blended learning and IoTs) to transform the scope and nature of education at this level acknowledging challenges exposed by the COVID-19 pandemic
 - n. restore Arabic studies which have been taken out of the new curriculum by the NPP, and proceed to recruit Arabic teachers, thereby, lifting the current ban.

7.2.3 Secondary Education

The next NDC Government will:

- a. make the Free Senior High School Programme better by ensuring that its numerous challenges are addressed, and higher standards introduced
- b. expand the Free SHS programme to cover students in private Senior High Schools in underserved/deprived areas
- c. abolish the double-track system
- d. complete abandoned structures for secondary and technical education including abandoned E-Blocks to cater for current students and expected increase in admissions
- e. strengthen and sustain private participation in the delivery of secondary education
- f. ensure newly created regions have functioning directorates of education
- g. commence the construction of at least one Senior High School in districts without same
- h. set up schools in disadvantaged, over-populated and under-served areas including Zongos and other deprived communities
- i. expand existing and well performing schools to admit and accommodate more students including Ghanaians abroad who wish to imbibe our culture
- j. promote the use of IT and provide free Wi-Fi in schools to enhance the performance of students
- k. provide students and teachers with free tablets loaded with relevant content to facilitate teaching and learning
- l. provide computer laboratories for all secondary schools
- m. address challenges with the Computerised School Selection and Placement System (CSSPS)
- n. decentralise and strengthen procurement of food and other materials to the heads of the SHSs and their bursars
- o. provide residential facilities in schools to accommodate teachers and educational staff
- p. restore free expression and eschew intimidation among stakeholders
- q. revisit and scale up our intervention of providing free sanitary towels to needy and vulnerable females with the aim of keeping all girls in school throughout the academic calendar as we improve on their health and general well-being.

A BETTER AND IMPROVED FREE SECONDARY EDUCATION PROGRAMME UNDER NDC

2017-2020
NPP



- Lack of infrastructure to contain increased enrollment.



- Financial burden on parents due to hidden costs.



- Fatigue on students and teachers due to double track system.

2021 - 2024
NDC



+ Complete abandoned structures and E-Blocks to cater for current students and expected increase in admission.



+ Abolish the double-track system.



+ Construct at least one senior high school in district(s) without school(s)

7.2.4 Technical and Vocational Education and Training

The next NDC Government will:

- a. provide free Technical and Vocational Education at the secondary and tertiary levels
- b. implement a free National Apprenticeship Programme by establishing centres in TVET institutions in districts to provide free training and sponsor youth for free apprenticeship training with certified master craftsmen/women
- c. commence a programme for the establishment of ultramodern and fit-for-purpose Technical Institutes in all regions that do not have any
- d. review NABPTEX and COTVET standards and make them compliant with Smart Automation Certifications under the global Smart Automation Certification Alliance (SACA)
- e. rebrand Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) to promote interest and acceptability amongst the youth as a programme of first choice and provide incentives for TVET students and instructors
- f. re-launch the Skills Development Fund (SDF) to serve as an intervention fund to cater for TVET graduates and others who venture into self-employment
- g. encourage and provide packages for females to enrol and be retained in male-dominant vocations
- h. train more TVET teachers
- i. intensify practical and theoretical knowledge in technical and vocational training
- j. regularly engage stakeholders to narrow the gap between industry and training
- k. deepen life skills, technology, innovation and entrepreneurship in TVET curriculum to create more jobs.



THE PEOPLE'S MANIFESTO

7.2.5 Special Needs Education

The next NDC Government will:

- a. collaborate with the Paediatric Society of Ghana and parents to institute early medical screening for new-borns and pre-school children in order to identify children with special needs and address their challenges
- b. train more facilitators in specialized areas to effectively assist children with disabilities and monitor their growth
- c. provide modern assistive medical devices such as hearing aids and walking sticks to children with special needs
- d. expand existing areas of expertise beyond visual and hearing impairment
- e. incentivise qualified special educators and other multi-disciplinary team members to forestall their high attrition rates
- f. implement a programme to aggressively re-equip all special needs schools and improve the learning conditions of staff and students
- g. significantly increase the budgetary allocation to special schools.
- h. provide affordable special needs schools
- i. provide tax reliefs for working parents with special needs children to enable them pay for 24-hour care for the children while they are at work.



7.2.6 Tertiary Education

The next NDC Government will:

- a. repeal the Public Universities Act if enacted and allow public universities to exercise the autonomy the Constitution has clothed them with
- b. strengthen the regulatory role of the National Council for Tertiary Education
- c. absorb fifty per cent (50%) of fees of tertiary students for the 2020/2021 academic year as an incentive to mitigate the effects of COVID-19 on students and parents
- d. establish free Wi-Fi zones in all public and private tertiary institutions
- e. provide free laptops to tertiary students to facilitate participation in virtual classes
- f. encourage shared laboratory experiences especially for those in the science and technology programmes and include private tertiary institutions
- g. complete the conversion of all polytechnics into Technical Universities (TUs) in line with our original vision of creating opportunities for professional mobility of practitioners
- h. reposition the TUs to produce relevant manpower for national development
- j. equip all Amatrol labs and provide appropriate training both home and abroad for instructors
- k. operationalise the National Research Fund
- l. expand medical education, training of Physician Assistants, nurses and midwives and preventive health practitioners to sustain Free Primary Health Care for all
- m. enhance staff exchanges across/among public/private institutions especially among distinguished and experienced professionals
- n. encourage and support private investment in infrastructure especially for student accommodation and transportation
- o. create equal opportunities for females and individuals with special needs
- p. establish universities in the six new regions
- q. maintain the status quo with regards to payment of allowances for teacher and nursing trainees
- r. abolish the mandatory national service and teacher licensure examinations for graduates of the Colleges of Education
- s. restore automatic employment of newly trained teachers
- t. provide free tertiary education for persons with disabilities
- u. support tertiary institutions to invest in virtual infrastructure.

7.2.7 Legal Education

- a. vigorously reform and expand access to professional legal education and provide opportunities to all qualified LLB holders by granting accreditation to certified law faculties to undertake the professional law qualification course
- b. review the Legal Profession Act in consultation with stakeholders, and establish a Council for legal education and training, to accredit certified law faculties to run the Professional Law Course subject to the oversight supervision of the Council
- c. establish a faculty of law in the Northern Region to serve the northern sector

7.2.8 Student Loans

The next NDC Government will:

- a. resource the Student Loan Trust Fund to make timely and adequate payments to students
- b. increase students' loans to be commensurate with prevailing educational costs
- c. abolish the requirement of guarantors as a pre-condition for accessing student loans to enable more students who need financial assistance access the loan
- d. replace the guarantor eligibility system with possession of a recognised National Identity Card to facilitate tracking post-school tracking and loan recovery

- e. extend loan repayment period to ten years including a three year moratorium to commence repayment
- f. remove all impediments to the ability of students to easily access the facility
- g. extend coverage to students in public and private tertiary institutions.
- h. reintroduce the *SLTF Plus* to enable students access loans upon admission.

7.2.9 Life-long Learning

Promote life-long learning by providing free literacy skills for market women, commercial drivers, labourers and head porters 'kayayei' etc. in collaboration with other relevant institutions

The next NDC Government will:

- a. modernise and rebrand the non-formal education sector to make it more attractive
- b. improve digital literacy
- c. promote closer collaboration between the Non-Formal Education Division of the Ministry of Education, the Bureau of Ghana Languages and the NCCE for comprehensive and effective continuous public and adult education on responsible citizenship
- d. reposition the Ghana Bureau of Ghanaian Languages to efficiently promote the development of Ghanaian languages.

7.2.10 Restoring Credible Examinations

The NDC recognises that conducting credible examination is sine qua non to globally competitive and respected education. There is an urgent need to protect the sanctity of examinations conducted by the West African Examinations Council following recent reports of widespread leakage and alarming malpractices particularly during the 2020 WASSCE which threatens the very foundation of Ghana's education and the certificates issued therefrom.

The next NDC Government is determined to boldly confront this canker by conducting a surgical inquiry into the causes and the factors that have brought us to this unacceptable point after which comprehensive reforms will be carried out to restore the credibility and good image of examinations.



7.3

SOCIAL PROTECTION, GENDER AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

7.3 SOCIAL PROTECTION, GENDER AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

The year 2020 marks twenty-five years since the Beijing Platform for Action on Gender Equality was adopted. Ghana has made strides in ensuring gender equality and equity, protecting children's rights, and creating a conducive environment for empowering persons with disabilities and elderly persons.

As a social democratic party, we made significant gains in institutionalising and creating a social protection system at all levels of governance. We raised social protection to Cabinet status in 2013, adopted a Social Protection Policy, Gender Policy, Justice for Children Policy as well as Child and Family Policy. Social protection structures were created at all levels. The Ghana Household Registry was established for targeting vulnerable populations, Persons with Disabilities (PWD), Orphan and Vulnerable Children (OVC) and marginalised groups.

The NPP Government has failed to pass the Affirmative Action and Social Protection Bill, which the NDC developed. The NPP has failed to put in place, a Social Protection Emergency Response policy adopted by the NPP. Unfortunately, the NPP has politicised targeting beneficiaries of social protection interventions as manifested in the chaotic, partisan and selective distribution of food and other relief items during the COVID-19 lockdown.

7.3.1 Social Protection

The next NDC Government will:

- a. continue to strengthen the legal and policy framework for the protection of the rights of women, children and persons with disabilities and vulnerable persons
- b. strengthen the institutions created to coordinate social protection at all levels, build a more efficient system for social protection delivery, ensure sustained financing, increase access, and enhance targeting of vulnerable groups as beneficiaries of social protection by completing the Ghana Household Registry
- c. re-orient social discourse and develop the socio-economic capital of our Ghanaian marginalised populations through social protection
- d. strengthen the legal framework by passing the Social Protection Bill and Aged Persons Bill to take care of the vulnerable and marginalised groups
- e. promulgate the School Feeding Bill
- f. ensure sustained finance for social protection
- g. establish a Centre of Excellence for training social workers to take care of the vulnerable including the elderly
- h. offer employment opportunities for graduates from the School of Social Work through the Local Government Service
- i. establish an Emergency Response LEAP Grant Programme
- j. introduce a Coastal Livelihood Empowerment Programme
- k. complete the Ghana Household Registry by the first quarter of 2022
- l. implement the following capacity building programmes and social services:
 - introduce skills training and social assistance programmes through the National Apprenticeship Programme (NAP) to Kayayei and their source communities
 - provide day-care centres, skills training, micro-entrepreneurship training, school enrolment for children, out of school adolescents, and survivors of gender-based violence
 - expand the School Feeding Programme
- m. implement the programmes targeting street children, including kayayees, the vulnerable and unemployed youth

- establish an Orphan and Vulnerable Child Support Scheme as a special vehicle
- implement Labour Intensive Public Works to urban-poor settlements
- promote the construction and upgrading of shelters for vulnerable persons such as survivors of gender-based violence and trafficked persons
- create a safe environment for street children, including kayayees, by providing safe accommodation for them.

7.3.2 Gender

The next NDC Government will:

- a. work towards the attainment of a minimum 30 per cent quota of appointments for women
- b. facilitate easier access to land for women for their maximum participation in agriculture
- c. implement the Strategic Plan of Action to address gender-based violence by prioritising the following:
 - providing mental healthcare for gender-based violence survivors
 - creating a national hotline to address gender-based violence
 - harmonising the law to ensure survivors of gender violence, especially rape survivors are able to access free healthcare services
 - enforcing the Trafficking against Persons Act
- a. prioritise Early Childhood Development and ensure crèches, day-care centres and nurseries for children are established in formal and non-formal workplaces, e.g. markets, the Ministries complex etc.
- b. promulgate an anti-sexual harassment law
- c. to improve access to justice in the rural and urban poor areas
- d. work towards establishing two shelters- one in the northern sector in Tamale and the other in the middle belt in Sunyani.
- e. support and empower vulnerable women and victims of socio-cultural practices including inmates of the witch camps in the North of Ghana by;
 - promoting public education against lynching and accusation of elderly women as witches,
 - providing humanitarian support
 - collaborating with the traditional authorities and communities to close down the witch camps
- f. pursue objective policies aimed at achieving gender parity in education at all levels
- g. establish a Community Female Mentorship Programme and an agency for the protection of Street Children under the Department of Social Welfare
- h. promote Market Women Savings & Credit Schemes in the marketplaces
- i. support the creation of a Chamber of Women Entrepreneurs in the private sector
- j. strengthen the legal and policy framework by enacting:
 - the Affirmative Action Bill
 - the Property Rights of Spouses Bill
 - the Intestate Succession (Amendment) Bill
 - the Domestic Workers Law
- k. resource and operationalise the Victim Support Fund under the Domestic Violence Act
- l. elevate DOVVSU to the status of a Directorate to be headed by a Director-General
- m. complete construction of the DOVVSU Headquarters
- n. create DOVVSU units in police stations where there are none
- o. provide income support to the Kayayees during humanitarian emergencies and crisis
- p. ensure automatic registration of Kayayees onto the NHIS for those living in emergency disaster areas.

7.3.3 Persons with Disabilities

NDC is firmly committed to upholding the rights, dignity and self-respect of persons with disabilities. As a social democratic party, we prioritise the development of persons with disabilities, focus on inclusiveness, and seek to create opportunities for their advancement. As a valuable human resource for Ghana, we promise a fair deal for persons with disabilities, greater opportunities for employment, productivity and the ability to contribute to the welfare of their families and the progress of our nation. We are committed to implementing the Disability Act and the UN Convention on Persons with Disability.

The next NDC Government will:

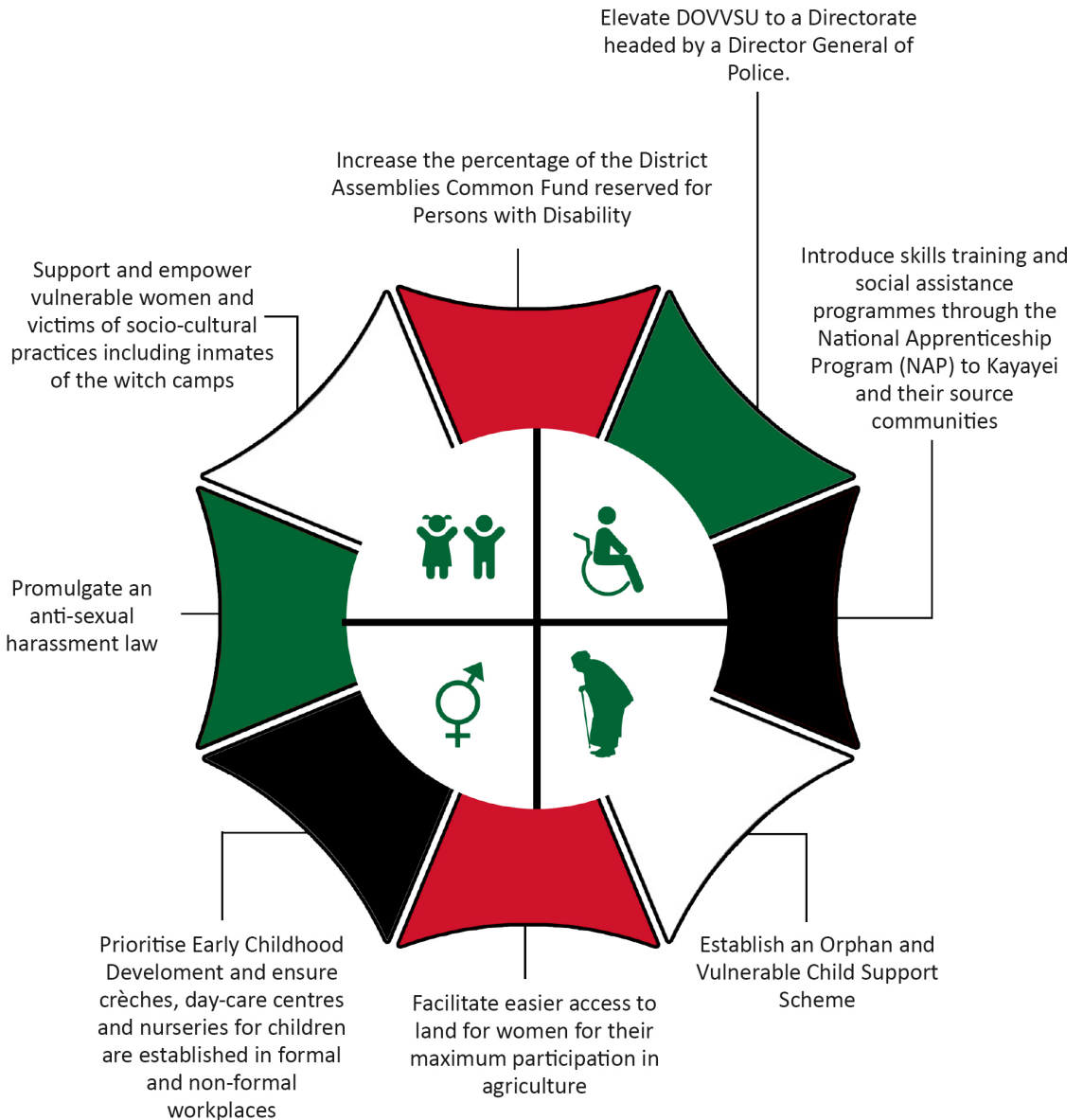
- a. increase the percentage of the District Assemblies Common Fund reserved for Persons with Disability
- b. establish a Disability Fund in the Districts to be managed by relevant stakeholders and review Guidelines for disbursement and management of this Fund to ensure strict compliance with the aims of the DACF
- c. include in the yet to be conducted Population Census, a National Disability Census, to determine the full extent of disability in Ghana to provide credible data on the socio-economic profiles of PWDs in Ghana
- d. modernise education facilities for Persons with Disability and the use of customised ICT learning, including the creation of an information hub/portal
- e. strengthen and resource the National Council on Persons with Disability
- f. create disability desks at all MMDAs to facilitate mainstreaming of disability issues into local governance
- g. give priority access to PWDs in registration and subsequent renewals with the National Health Insurance Scheme
- h. modernise special and inclusive education by increasing quality tutoring and establishing a Centre of Excellence for Special Education to ensure quality education for children with special needs and children with disabilities
- i. adopt a plan of action to establish rehabilitation centres in the six new regions and regions that do not have them, and renovate existing rehabilitation centres
- j. provide special support for Women with Disabilities for promotion of their welfare, empowerment and equalisation of opportunities
- k. support para-sports and recreation by strengthening the technical programmes for the various disciplines, making resources available and making it accessible
- l. institute a National Para Sports Festival
- m. promote road safety for PWDs by making road transport safe and creating a barrier-free environment for independence, convenience and safety
- n. provide incentives for teachers in special needs educational institutions
- o. introduce a percentage of affirmative action for PWDs for all jobs created during our tenure
- p. promulgate a legislative instrument to the Disability Act, 2007
- q. operationalise the Ghana Accessibility Standards on Built Environment adopted in 2016 to facilitate access to public places for Persons with Disability

7.3.4 The Aged

The next NDC Government will:

- a. support the Department of Social Welfare to create Day Centres and Homes for the Aged
- b. reactivate the Eban Elderly Welfare Card to enable Ghanaians above sixty (60) years have priority access to social services
- c. amend section 29(h) of the National Health Insurance Act, 2012 (Act 852) to enable

all persons aged sixty (60) and above to be exempt from premium payment under the National Health Insurance Scheme.





The NDC recognises the historical inequalities between Zongo, deprived Urban Settlements and other communities. Together with members of our Zongo Communities, we have outlined strategic measures to bridge this gap.



7.4 ZONGOS AND DEPRIVED URBAN SETTLEMENTS

The NDC recognises the historical inequalities between Zongo, Deprived Urban Settlements and other communities, including the negative effects of the Alien Compliance Order implemented by the Danquah-Busia tradition on Zongo communities. It is on record that the NPP Government has not lived up to its promise of improving the lives of people in the Zongos.

To this end the next NDC Government will:

- a. provide regular funding through the District Assembly Common Fund (DACF) for the development of the Zongos and Deprived Urban Settlements to bridge the inequality gap
- b. strengthen and resource the Islamic Education Unit under the Ghana Education Service to enable the unit to monitor and recruit more Islamic/ Arabic tutors
- c. establish two Islamic Senior High Schools in the southern and northern sectors for the Zongo communities
- d. support Islamic Colleges of Education with more infrastructure and logistics to enable them recruit and train more teachers
- e. award scholarships to brilliant but needy students in Zongo communities at the basic level to the tertiary level, with special focus on girls and medical and nursing students
- f. provide mentorship programmes and opportunities to the youth
- g. support Arabic teachers in the Makaranta with monthly allowances
- h. enrol youth in Zongo and Deprived Urban Settlements into the National Apprenticeship Programme as well as the free technical and vocational education and training (free TVET)
- i. establish plastic recycling factories to create jobs for the youth
- j. provide start-up capital for business owners and earmark funds for the 'Soyayya Development Fund'
- k. work with the Hajj Board to make Hajj more affordable to prospective pilgrims
- l. ensure that Hajj is effectively organised to eliminate inconveniences
- m. give representation to Zongo Chiefs and other denominations on the Hajj Board to ensure easy facilitation of Hajj
- n. introduce a programme to ensure regular interactions with key stakeholders in Zongos and Inner Cities
- o. ensure that a representative from the Muslim Umma is placed on the board of the Ministry of Chieftaincy and Religious Affairs
- p. strengthen the coordinating capacity of the office of the National Chief Imam and other denominations like the Ahlussuna, Jallo, Ahmadiya Mission Shia communities to enhance peace, unity and harmony amongst Muslims
- q. facilitate the establishment of morgues in accordance with Islamic customs and practices and collaborate with the Ministry of Health to set up focal teams responsible for procedures that are compliant with Islamic customs and practices at all state morgues
- r. liaise with some banks and other financial institutions to launch the Zongo Housing Scheme to provide support for affordable housing in Zongos and Deprived Urban Settlements
- s. work with district assemblies to provide recreational centres in Zongo Communities for social events
- t. work closely with NGOs to help provide other social needs/infrastructure in the communities
- u. commence a programme to address the drainage challenges and to construct and

7.3.6 YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Establish Young Entrepreneurs Development Programme (YEDEP)

Create a Ministry for Youth Development

Create a Youth Co-operatives Development Programme



Increase the loan repayment period to 10 years

Resource the Student Loan Trust Fund to make timely and adequate payments.



Increase student loan by 100 per cent

Provide training and start-up kits for young Artisans



Vigorously reform and expand access to professional legal education

Co-ordinate inter agency partnership for youth health, adolescent reproductive health, and substance abuse.

- refurbish public places of convenience.
- v. facilitate the construction of own places of convenience for households.

7.5 YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

The NDC is committed to prioritizing youth development through various youth empowerment and entrepreneurship policies and programmes. We take cognizance of the growing disappointment and frustration among the youth as a result of high unemployment which has been worsened by the ill-conceived and poorly implemented policies of the failed Akufo-Addo administration.

The next NDC Government will harness the potential of our youth by implementing comprehensive, multifaceted and innovative programmes. We will also provide a more effective institutional framework for empowering our youth for national development.

The next NDC Government will implement the following policies:

1. Create a separate Ministry for Youth Development to advance our youth empowerment agenda. The Ministry for Youth Development will:
 - a. mainstream and prioritize youth issues
 - b. coordinate the implementation of comprehensive youth development policies and related agencies;
 - c. address the multifaceted issues confronting the various categories of youth in the country;
 - d. coordinate entrepreneurship and skills training opportunities for all young people especially vulnerable youth groups;
 - e. facilitate youth participation in decision-making at all levels for national development.
 - f. Implement the National Youth Authority Act.
2. Young Entrepreneurs Development Programme (YEDEP): This will be established to support young entrepreneurs with technical and financial start-ups and to expand their business with zero per cent interest. This will, in the future, expand into a micro-credit scheme for young people.
3. One Million Coders Programme (OMCP): This initiative will be implemented through a public-private partnership to provide free training to one million (1,000,000) youth with knowledge and skills for:
 - a. coding and programming
 - b. web developing, apps development, etc.
 - c. expand opportunities in the knowledge and ICT based economy.
4. Build the capacities of the youth and create more employment through the Youth Employment Agency (YEA)
5. Decentralise and convert the Labour Office into the National Employment Bureau equipped with state-of-the-art systems
6. Grant tax-waivers to employers who employ through the National Employment Bureau
7. Establish desks to provide a one-stop-shop for business advisory services such as business registration and filing of tax returns etc. for start-ups at the district level through NBSSI.
8. Implement a programme to select and support at least five (5) youth ICT champions in every region in Ghana

Public Employment Programmes

The next NDC Government will implement the following policies:

- a. establish military, police and prisons youth farms;

- b. develop a full supply chain module to include processing of farm produce from the various youth farms
- c. support graduates from our Technical Institutes and Universities as well as those from the National Apprenticeship Programmes to form cooperatives and bid for Government and private contracts and provide technical support to MMDAs
- d. develop the Youth Enterprise Tax Waiver Policy for start-ups
- e. institute the Youth Cooperatives Development Programme to encourage graduates from Technical Institutes and Universities as well as those from the National Apprenticeship Programmes to form cooperatives to provide technical support to our MMDAs and to bid for and execute Government and private sector contracts
- f. establish a one stop-business start-up services for young entrepreneurs to provide services of the Registrar General's Department, Ghana Revenue Authority and other start-up related services at the district level
- g. commence the establishment of the Youth Internship Scheme to facilitate the placement of young persons in various industries
- h. promote youth-friendly local content policies in the energy, mining, telecommunications and manufacturing sectors
- i. extend training and start-up kits for artisans in each district across the country based on the LESDEP model
- j. develop a comprehensive supply chain module to include processing of farm produce from the various youth farms
- k. develop an interagency partnership programme to address critical issues related to youth health and other needs such as adolescent reproductive health and substance abuse.

7.6 SPORTS DEVELOPMENT AND PROMOTION

Sports remains an integral part of our social interactions and an avenue for national cohesion. It has and will continue to offer opportunities to project our nation internationally and a tool for economic empowerment and development. The NDC invested tremendously in sports development leading to Ghana's participation in major international competitions and tournaments.

The Akufo-Addo led Government has failed to continue the several initiatives of the NDC in the sports sector and has also failed to implement any comprehensive policy on sports.

We shall continue to support the development of well-known sports and also invest in lesser-known ones to build a vibrant sports industry.

We will:

- a. establish a Sports Development Fund to promote sports in Ghana
- b. develop a comprehensive National Sports Policy to outline the vision and strategies for sports development in Ghana with an emphasis on female sports and remuneration of sports persons
- c. provide opportunities for training in sports medicine, sports science and management/administration in sports through the proposed Sports University
- d. revive and invest in the inter-schools and colleges games
- e. support sports persons to win trophies in international competitions
- f. facilitate tax exemption/relief regimes to motivate private sponsorship and promotion of sports in the country
- g. promote and provide funding and invest in the development of the lesser-known and

- indigenous sports
- h. promote and develop Beach Soccer
- i. develop a framework with the various Sports Associations for promoting and marketing our domestic sports
- j. ensure the successful hosting and organization of the 13th Africa Games to be hosted in Ghana in September 2023
- k. develop a sustainable framework for sports financing in Ghana including the facilitation of financing reliefs to motivate public and private sector sponsorship and sports promotion in the country
- l. transform football from a large social entertainment enterprise to a strategic business with both Government and private sector investment
- m. encourage and support youth (colts) football and, by extension, youth sports as a cornerstone of Ghana's sporting regime.

7.6.1 Sports Infrastructure Development

We will:

- a. develop specific Sports Centres of Excellence in the three geographical zones of Ghana
- b. develop a strategic framework for the construction of stadia in all districts across the country to scout for sports talents
- c. upgrade the Winneba Sports College into a state-of-the-art Sports University with campuses in selected regions to enhance the human resource base and development of sports in the West African sub-region to provide opportunities for training and capacity building in sports management and administration as well as sports management and science
- d. continue and complete the New Edubiase Stadium started by the NDC Government
- e. establish sports recreational facilities in communities in every district
- f. use the Sports Development Fund to assist the Sports Associations to provide and improve remuneration and welfare of local sportsmen and women

THE BIG PUSH

\$10 BILLION INFRASTRUCTURE
PLAN



8

PROVIDING INFRASTRUCTURE FOR ACCELERATED GROWTH

Infrastructure development has always been important to the NDC as the foundational blocks needed to stimulate economic growth and improved quality of life. We have proven this beyond doubt, with the massive infrastructure drive we embarked upon in the last NDC administration. Schools, universities, roads, interchanges, bridges, water supply, electricity expansion, health facilities, transportation and communication installations, among many others, were provided by the John Mahama administration to the admiration of all.

These projects impacted positively on national life. Economic activities picked up in many towns and villages to which roads, electricity and water supply had been extended. Farmers were able to reduce post-harvest losses due to easier road networking and access between them and off-takers. This led to the economic empowerment of farmers and others along the distribution chain. The expansion in electricity supply also caused a chain of smaller businesses to spring up.

The next NDC Government will:

- a. accelerate further the provision of relevant infrastructure, especially in the six newly created regions
- b. embark on a US\$10 billion accelerated infrastructural plan, dubbed the 'Big Push', which will drive jobs and the entrepreneurial agenda
- c. establish new universities and hospitals in regions that do not have any
- d. ensure well-oiled coordination between the various projects established to guarantee sustainable and integrated development
- e. link road construction, electricity and water expansion, as well as communication installations to the siting of health, educational, tourism and other relevant infrastructure.
- f. prioritise the implementation of a railway network in line with our Railway Master Plan, developed in 2013 and launched in 2014. The ongoing Tema-Akosombo-Mpakadan railway project for which we secured funding and awarded the contract before 2016 is a testament of this Master Plan. The Master Plan also saw the completion of the Sekondi to Takoradi via Kojokrom suburban line, and the development of a Front-End Engineering Design (FEED) of the Western Railway Line through Awaso, Dunkwa and Boankra to Kumasi
- g. roll-out a Social Housing Plan aimed at effectively reducing the increasing demand for affordable housing by lower to middle-income earners to either enable them to buy or rent them.

8.1

THE \$10BN 'BIG PUSH' FOR INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT AN ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION

The Big Push Initiative will involve an investment of ten billion US Dollars (\$10bn) over five (5) years to achieve that critical upgrade in social and economic infrastructure to create a platform for the transformation of our economy in furtherance of our One Million Jobs Plan.

These investments will be financially structured to ensure that there will be no additional burden on the public debt.

Projects under the Big Push will be executed in all cases by Ghanaian-owned companies. Exemptions will be made only in cases where local contractors do not have the technology or intellectual

property rights. These investments will stimulate and grow indigenous Ghanaian businesses. The implementation of the Plan will also focus equitably on rural as well as urban communities. The \$10 billion investment will be directed to stimulate the economy by sourcing locally available materials and products such as cement, culverts, iron rods, wood, bitumen, and quarry materials for the execution of projects.

Under the Big Push the next NDC Government will:

1. provide infrastructure for agriculture and agribusiness- warehouses, silos, irrigation dams, farmers service centres
2. develop regional digital and innovation centres
3. develop 5G technology
4. upgrade major national roads into dual carriage ways
5. complete the Eastern and Western Corridor Roads
6. upgrade major national highways, urban and feeder roads
7. expand the railway network
8. construct a domestic airport in the Upper East Region
9. extend the runway of the Kumasi International Airport to accommodate bigger aircraft
10. engineer and construct major markets, starting with Aflao, Mankessim, Techiman Kintampo, Sampa, Elubo, Nima, Madina and Asesewa
11. construct social housing including the Soyayya Housing Scheme
12. expand rural electrification
13. water supply, sewage and sanitation systems
14. complete abandoned health projects
15. construct new district and regional hospitals, polyclinics, health centres and CHPs compounds
16. construct two new Infectious Disease Centres
17. expand the 37 Military Hospital
18. complete of all abandoned Community Day Secondary School projects
19. construct new TVET schools
20. construct new schools at the basic level
21. build universities in regions that do not have any
22. build modern theatres and centres for the development and promotion of the Creative Industry
23. construct a multi-purpose Convention and Exhibition Centre aimed at positioning Ghana as West Africa’s destination for Meetings, Incentives, Conferencing and Exhibitions (MICE)
24. refurbish the National Theatre
25. upgrade NAFTI into a fully-fledged multimedia university for film, arts, theatre and music
26. upgrade the National Sports College into a state-of-the-art Sports University to serve the West Africa sub-region
27. provide sports development facilities across the regions
28. upgrade infrastructure linking tourism sites
29. complete and operationalise the Suame and Dawa Industrial Parks
30. establish new industrial parks and free zones in industry-deprived regions
31. dredge and line (side) the Tema Newtown Chemu lagoon

8.2 TRANSPORTATION

The transportation sector is currently in disarray because of its segmentation into subsectors each with its own attendant Minister and Deputies, further bloating the size of Government and expenditure.

To introduce efficiency into the sector and cut down the number of ministries and reduce Government expenditure, The next NDC Government will:

- a. have only one Ministry of Transport to oversee all the subsectors - railways, aviation, ports and harbours
- b. work to develop a modally complementary system of transportation that is safe, cost-efficient, convenient and reliable with cutting edge technology.

8.2.1 Smart Urban Transit Service

Our urban areas are highly populated, and this is expected to increase in the coming years. This makes urban transit a critical transportation subsector. Working with the private sector, we will continue our collaboration with the various transport and driver unions to provide their members with comfortable and affordable mass transit buses with Wi-Fi services.

8.2.2 Ports and Harbours

As we have done in the past, the next NDC Government will implement a strategic plan for the development of maritime infrastructure and services along Ghana's coastline. We will:

- a. upgrade the Tema Shipyard and Drydock into a sub-regional service centre for vessels and the oil and gas industry as part of our local content policy
- b. position the Tema Shipyard and Drydock to build fishing canoes and small boats for our local fishing industry
- c. train and equip Ghanaians with the requisite skills to meet employment requirements in the maritime sector
- d. improve the operations of the GPHA in line with modern trends in seaport management
- e. partner with the private sector to re-establish a national shipping line
- f. establish a special purpose port at Keta
- g. develop a dedicated logistics base for the oil and gas industry
- h. construct fishing ports at the major fish landing sites including Dzemeni
- i. construct an inland port at Hamile to serve as the main port for Burkina Faso and the Sahel Region
- j. expand the Takoradi Port to Sekondi to accommodate the increase in traffic that will result from making Sekondi-Takoradi and Hamile dedicated ports for Burkina Faso and the Sahel Region.

8.2.3 Aviation

To realise Ghana's vision to become the aviation hub of West Africa, The next NDC Government will:

- a. immediately stop all plans by the failed Akufo-Addo Government to sell off the Kotoka International Airport
- b. continue our vision to fully operationalise the Kumasi and Tamale International Airports
- c. upgrade the Takoradi and Sunyani airports
- d. review the institutional and legal framework to ensure airport lands are reserved solely for aviation purposes
- e. partner with the private sector to establish a national airline.

8.2.4 Railways

In line with our 2013/2014 Railway Master Plan, we will:

- a. complete work on the Tema-Akosombo-Mpakadan railway line
- b. commence work on a railway line from Sekondi-Takoradi to Axim, Elubo, Enchi, Asawinso, Goaso, Sunyani, Wenchi, Bamboi, Bole, Sawla, Wa, Nadowli, and Hamile
- c. commence work on a railway line from Tema-Accra- Cape Coast-Takoradi; Tema-Accra-Kumasi-Kintampo; and Takoradi-Kumasi-Kintampo
- d. construct a Central Terminal connecting the Accra Central Business District with Eastern and Western parts of Accra and the Kotoka International Airport
- e. Amend the Railway Development Act and initiate policies to attract private investment into the building and management of railway infrastructure.

8.2.5 Ghana Railway Company

We will also:

- a. restructure the management of the Ghana Railway Company
- b. invest in rolling stock and new locomotives.

8.2.6 Inland Water Transportation

As part of the development of a multi-modal transportation network, the Volta Lake will be developed as a critical link between southern and northern Ghana (and the Sahel region). This will further facilitate economic and social integration for growth and job creation.

The Volta Lake Transport Company faces critical challenges which the NPP Government has not found solutions to. The next NDC Government will strategically tackle these challenges and make the operations of the company effective and efficient.

We will implement a set of policies aimed at supporting inland water transportation through the procurement of safe and reliable boats as well as safety equipment. This will provide safe and efficient inland water transport for inhabitants of communities along the Volta River, Black and White Volta like Afram Plains, Dzemeni, Kpando Tokor, Yeji, Kpandai, Dambai, Buipe, Kete Krachi, Tatabatoi among others.

8.2.7 Roads

The next NDC Government will:

- a. construct more bituminised roads to link and open-up rural and farming communities.
- b. improve existing feeder roads under our laudable Cocoa Roads Programme
- c. create an equitable development of both rural and urban roads to ensure that roads linking our food baskets and markets are constructed.

Other projects under roads will include:

- a. complete the Eastern Corridor Road
- b. Complete the Western Corridor Roads
 - Takoradi – Tarkwa
 - Gambia – Kyeremasu
 - Berekum – Nsawkaw
 - Menji – Bui
 - Jirapa – Nandom - Hamile
- c. complete the Accra- Kumasi dual carriage highway commenced by the previous NDC Government
- d. upgrade the following into dual carriage ways:
 - Accra- Cape Coast- Takoradi

- Tema-Afienva-Ho
 - Tema-Aflao roads
- e. upgrade the following:
 - Ho to Aflao road
 - Bolgatanga-Bawku-Pulmakon road
 - Kpasikpe-Kunkua-Wiesi road
 - Tatale-Zabzugu-Yendi road
 - Tamale-Karaga-Gusheigu road
 - Afram Plains roads
 - Tamale-Yendi road
 - f. complete dualisation of Ho town roads
 - g. Expand the Tema Motorway
 - h. dualise the Tema Newtown fishing harbour road
 - i. construct Volivo Bridge
 - j. bridge small communities currently separated by streams/rivers
 - k. improve access between national, regional and district capitals
 - l. improve access between major health and educational facilities
 - m. improve the technical and financial capacity of local contractors
 - n. upgrade the capacity of the technical staff of road agencies
 - o. improve access to farming areas
 - p. implement a better road maintenance regime
 - q. develop a new district road maintenance policy that allocates funds to each district to maintain roads linking health facilities, major educational institutions, and places of historical, cultural and tourism interest
 - r. equip the 48 Engineers Regiment to assist with road maintenance
 - s. adopt the 5Es approach to road safety (Engineering, Education, Enforcement, Emergency Services and Engagement).

8.2.8 Road Safety

Road traffic accidents remain a major public health concern to many Ghanaians. According to the National Road Safety Authority, over two thousand (2,000) lives are lost to road crashes each year with some thirteen thousand (13,000) injuries. This phenomenon can be attributed to failure to adjust speed to road conditions and traffic, driving under the influence of alcohol, disregard for road traffic regulations untrained drivers, wrong overtaking and physical conditions such as poor design and poor quality of roads, faulty vehicles, among others.

The next NDC Government will utilise a mix of Engineering, Education, Enforcement, Emergency Services and Engagement (5Es) to drastically reduce road traffic crashes by implementing the following policies in line with regionally specific road safety issues:

- a. pursue an aggressive public education and sensitisation programme through close collaboration with key stakeholders including the media
- b. rigorously enforce road safety laws to save lives and property
- c. strengthen the driver licensing and vehicle management protocols in line with the requirements of the road traffic regulations and enforcing sanctions for breach
- d. redesign and construct roads to ensure pedestrian safety and vehicular movement in urbanised environments
- e. retool the National Road Safety Authority with sustained funding to undertake its mandate in line with the newly promulgated National Road Safety Authority Act
- f. redesign and reconstruct accident-prone spots on major highways to reduce accidents
- g. establish accident and trauma centres in communities to be identified along the accident-prone areas.

8.2.9 Commercial Drivers Support Scheme

We will collaborate with the Ghana Private Road Transport Union (GPRTU), Progressive Transport Owners Association (PROTOA) and other Road Transport Unions to develop an appropriate Income Security Framework for all commercial drivers.

8.2.10 Legalisation of 'Okada'

Legalise the use of commercial motorcycles known as Okada, and tricycles and regulate the industry to make it safer by training the riders, ensuring they observe necessary safety precautions and mandating them to provide helmets for their passengers.

8.3 WATER AND SANITATION

The next NDC Government will:

- a. develop Ghana's water & sanitation sector to improve all citizens' health, optimise agricultural and industrial production to create employment, and build national climate change resilience
- b. build the capacity of Assemblies to manage water provision and sanitation services with technical support from the Ministry of Water Works and Housing and our Technical Universities
- c. develop technical and managerial training programmes for Assembly Sanitation Officers to properly manage and supervise the operation of all water resource infrastructure
- d. ensure the sustainability of water sources by halting reckless projects like the proposed mining of the Atiwa forest that is rapidly depleting our natural water reservoirs through evapotranspiration
- e. enforce the Water Buffer Policy to reduce the pollution of our water bodies.

8.3.1 Rural water

The next NDC Government will:

- a. achieve one hundred per cent (100 %) rural water coverage by 2025
- b. diversify scientifically using available data to construct groundwater, small dams, rainwater harvesting, and floodwater harvesting systems as appropriate in different areas based on the specific resources and needs.

8.3.2 Urban water

The next NDC Government will:

- a. vastly increase urban water supply by diversifying from surface water to include rainwater harvesting, groundwater solutions that are clean, sustainable, and climate-friendly and standby desalination plants
- b. reduce the cost to consumers through appropriate investments, e.g. rainwater storage and transmission infrastructure and distribution systems.

8.3.3 Sanitation

The next NDC Government will:

- a. establish the Plastic Waste Recycling Fund provided for under the Customs and Excise (Duties and other Taxes) (Amendment) Act, 2013 (Act 863)
- b. formulate a National Sanitation Policy and strengthen the role of MMDAs in sanitation as enshrined in the Local Governance Act, 2016 (Act 936)
- c. re-introduce the National Sanitation Day
- d. launch an aggressive public education programme on water conservation

- e. improve liquid waste management working with indigenous businesses to build wastewater treatment and recycling plants first for public institutions that have common sewer systems and then for major industrial establishments, estates, and settlement areas
- f. empower the Sanitation Courts and enforce sanitation laws.

8.4 SOCIAL HOUSING

The next NDC Government will, over a four (4) year period roll out an aggressive social housing plan to deliver a minimum of twenty thousand (20,000) low-income houses in all 260 Metropolis, Municipalities and Districts.

We will also implement a National Mortgage Assistance Scheme and rent-to-pay agreements over fifteen to twenty years for public sector workers and workers in private employment.

The Social Housing projects will be constructed in all districts of the country. MMDA's will work with traditional authorities to acquire lands for the project. A number of the units will be allocated to the traditional authorities to compensate them for the value of land acquired.

As much as practicable, all materials for the housing project will be sourced locally. Companies contracted to work on these houses will be indigenous Ghanaian owned companies doing business in the districts where the projects are located. Workers will be drawn from the local community and training will be provided for these workers.

The next NDC Government will also;

- a. consistent with our 2016 Manifesto promise, establish a low-interest Rent Advance Scheme in partnership with financial institutions/banks holding for both formal and informal sector workers with regular incomes; and
- b. establish a regulatory body to set and enforce standards management, quality control and capacity development in the built environment.

8.4.1 Land

Access to land for business, farming and residential purposes is cumbersome, expensive, and time-consuming. This is also a major source of conflict across the country. However these problems were being steadily addressed within a National Land Policy framework and a 25-year Land Administration Project (LAP).

The NPP Government suspended LAP and dissolved the Project Co-ordinating Unit preferring to execute the project through a PPP vehicle rather than the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources. It has failed to develop any PPP framework resulting in a set back over the past four years.

The next NDC Government will work to end the crisis of access and cost of securing affordable land for residential or business purposes. We will:

- a. review the principles underlying LAP in collaboration with our development partners and restructure it to make it more responsive to national needs
- b. develop a comprehensive policy to make land acquisition simple, less cumbersome, investor-friendly and affordable to the average Ghanaian
- c. decentralise land management services as required by the Lands Commission Act
- d. develop a Land for Wealth policy for the youth and vulnerable groups to make land relatively cheap and accessible for their economic activities and wealth creation.



8.5 DEVELOPING A DIGITALLY FUNCTIONAL ECONOMY

The 21st Century presents unique opportunities, which allows Ghana to aggressively use Information and Communication Technology (ICT) for socioeconomic development. Over the years, in our quest to modernise and transform Ghana into a knowledge-based and information-rich economy, the NDC has invested heavily in both digital (ICT) infrastructure and its applications. Undoubtedly, digital infrastructure is the bedrock of every digital economy.

Among others, the NDC's achievements include:

- a. the largest Tier-3 National Data Centre in West Africa with backup in Kumasi
- b. the Accra Digital Centre
- c. over 800-kilometre Eastern Corridor Fibre optic project from Volta region through Oti, Northern, North East and to Bawku in Upper East region
- d. 300-kilometre radius Metro Fibre Network within the Accra and Tema enclave
- e. 4G/LTE network with over one hundred and nineteen (119) base stations
- f. several Community Information Centres (CICs) across the country, which equipped the youth, including girls, with digital skills
- g. the Digital Terrestrial Television platform, which is providing more television channels with clearer sound and pictures to Ghanaians.

The infrastructure has and continues to boost the use of ICT in all sectors of our economy and remains the anchor for E-Government projects such as E-Justice, E-Passport, E-Procurement, E-Health, E-Parliament, E-Education, E-Cabinet, National Identification.

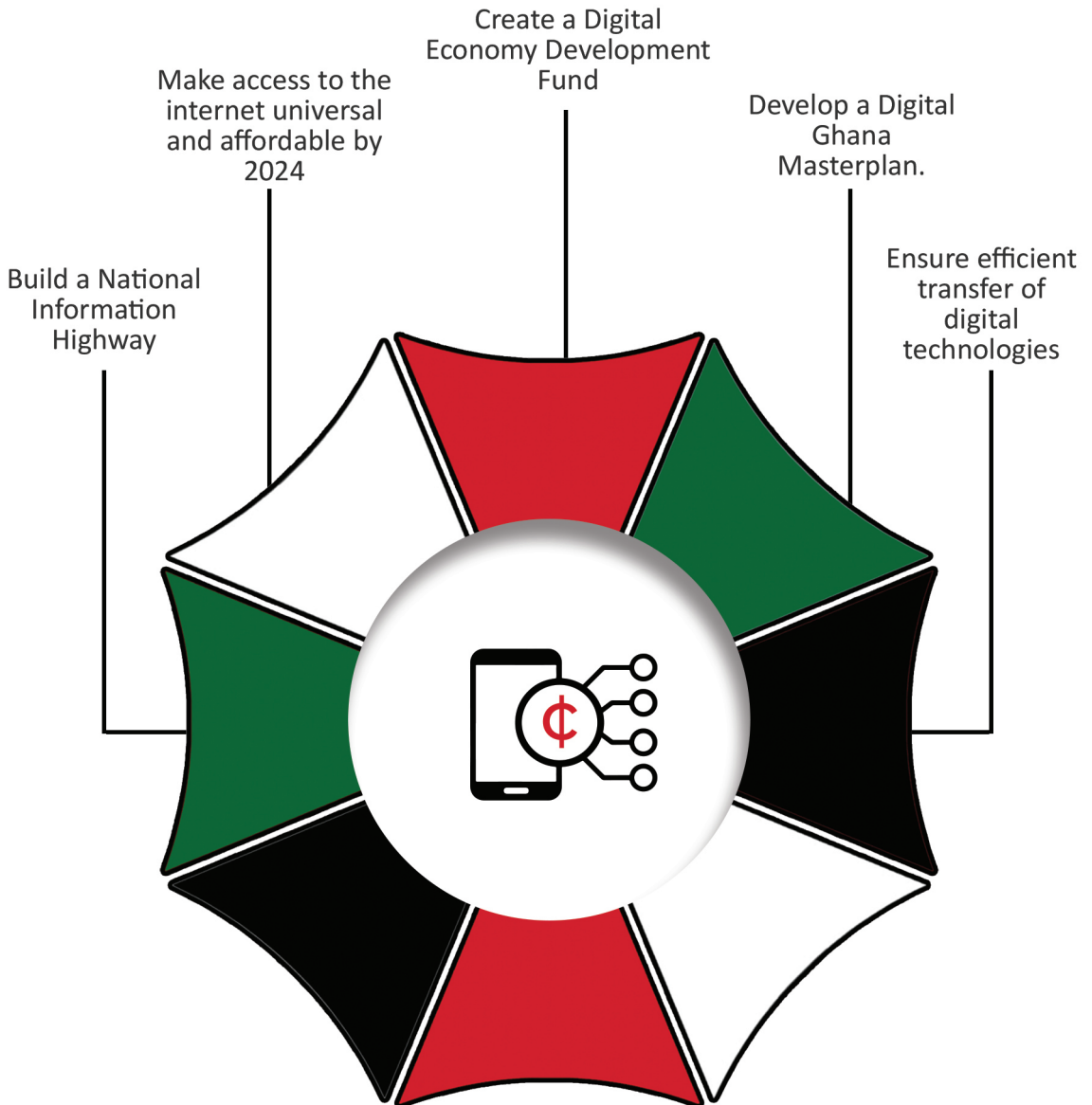
Similarly, digital applications, which include the 112 National Emergency Number, Government to Government (G2G), Government to Citizens (G2C) and Government to Business (G2B) initiatives, are also providing efficient and effective services to Ghanaians. Specifically, the Government to Citizens (G2C) initiatives such as the e-Services Portal, www.eservices.org.gh, which was deactivated by the failed Akufo-Addo Government, provided a one-stop-shop for all citizens to apply for Government services online without joining long queues.

In addition, to the e-Services portal, a complimentary electronic payment gateway (www.epay.gov.gh) was developed to facilitate payment of transactions. By 2016, over twenty-three thousand (23,000) transactions with revenue of GH¢168,973,528.54 had been collected for eight MMDAs.

President Mahama also successfully piloted E-Health in the Korle-Bu Teaching Hospital and its Polyclinic, Wa Regional and Zebilla District hospitals.

Presently, however, the COVID-19 pandemic has exposed, not only the weaknesses in Ghana's health system, but also its key digital deficiencies. These include the gaps between the served and underserved in health care and the delivery of other services. Ghana cannot be caught waiting. We must fully embrace digital technology, but with efficiency, in order to build a knowledge-based economy.

SMART BUSINESS, SMART GOVERNMENT SERVICES AND DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE



PROMOTING SMART BUSINESS, SMART GOVERNMENT SERVICES AND DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Under the NDC and John Dramani Mahama, Ghana has a historic chance to transition into a fully digitised, cash lite and advanced economy. We will:

- a. ensure the efficient transfer of digital technologies and skills
- b. make it our sacred mission to lead Ghana and Africa into this new world, as 5G technology beckons
- c. unleash the innovative and entrepreneurial potential of our youth in both rural and urban areas
- d. develop a Digital Ghana Master Plan (DGMP)
- e. build on our previous technological investments to roll out a solid digital infrastructure
- f. generate an incremental value of more than US\$5 billion in five years
- g. deploy state of the art applications – coding and apps development – with special emphasis on indigenous Ghanaians (local content) to build a more resilient and human-centred digital economy
- h. expand the Ghana Investment Fund for Electronic Communications (GIFEC) to create a Digital Economy Development Fund to promote entrepreneurs with an emphasis on the youth and females
- i. make access to the internet universal across the country and affordable for all
- j. build a Digital Innovation Ecosystem to support start-ups and encourage Ghanaian entrepreneurs to start, build and grow businesses in the digital space including, software development, hardware, platforms, cybersecurity, blockchain and artificial intelligence (AI)
- k. optimise the Accra Digital Centre, establish Regional Digital Centres and operationalise the Dawa Technology Park Project to encourage start-ups to create jobs for the youth
- l. 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
- m. support Ghanaian owned indigenous businesses with affordable spectrums
- n. move to an affordable universal licensing regime, including 5G, that allows flexibility for Telecom companies to tap into revolutionary technologies
- o. support local private sector entrepreneurs to build data centres in key cities of the country to ensure Ghana has enough storage and processing power to manage the digital economy
- p. encourage economies of scale in the purchase of software and also take steps to internalise resources being paid to external platform operators
- q. support local production of smartphones, laptops, batteries and other ICT devices
- r. provide tax incentives on devices and new technologies
- s. provide technical training to develop the skill of our digital entrepreneurs and professionals
- t. enhance Ghana's Cloud Readiness to encourage more significant investments in and use of data centres, and the availability of local content and local-language content to drive internet use
- u. encourage businesses to scale up the use of digital technologies to enhance efficiency and competitiveness
- v. enact and enforce a Critical National Infrastructure Act to regulate the laying of fibre, water pipes and electricity lines alongside road construction
- w. identify and support the youth to develop e-applications to support the delivery of public services.

The next NDC Government will also:

- a. complete the digital migration process from analogue to Digital Terrestrial Transmission (DTT)
- b. reduce industry costs by ensuring active infrastructure sharing
- c. work with operators to increase public Wi-Fi hotspots
- d. digitise and integrate diverse national databases to improve Government services and enhance customer satisfaction
- e. establish the National E-Services and Commerce Agency (NESCA) to oversee an online commodity exchange platform, which will accelerate online trading, promote local products and brands globally, create jobs and bring secure and reliable state services, including paying bills, to the doorstep of people
- f. review the national addressing system to improve its relevance and enhance the complementary role of Ghana Post in e-commerce
- g. support the Ghana-India Kofi Annan Centre of Excellence (KACE) to support indigenous research into ICT technology improvements and innovation including automation, machine learning, artificial intelligence, robotics, and big data, for practical application and utility in the domestic economy
- h. scale-up deployment of ICT to make our cities smart, deter crime and encourage widespread use of Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system to improve power and water supply
- i. strengthen the Data Protection Commission and the National Information Technology Agency (NITA)
- j. equip and motivate the Ghana Meteorology Agency for climate adaptation and mitigation for sustainable development
- k. encourage open Government data sharing to make information available to citizens.

8.7 FINANCIAL INCLUSION AND ELECTRONIC PAYMENTS (FINTECH)

A higher level of financial inclusion will not only benefit the poor, create jobs and reduce inequality but will also grow the formal financial sector.

Currently, Ghana's percentage of financial inclusion is estimated at 58 per cent (as at end-2017) and expected to increase to 75 per cent by 2023.

The next NDC Government will

- a. promote digital finance to drive financial inclusion, and financial development
- b. work with the various stakeholders in the financial and technology sectors to collaborate and design a resilient financial system through partnerships
- c. introduce a uniform transaction fee policy to guide the electronic payments industry
- d. work with merchants to encourage their clients to pay for goods and services electronically
- e. migrate and enforce all Person-to-Government (P2G) payments into the electronic payment ecosystem, and this will start with migrating all major revenue-generating ventures of Government into e-Payment platforms such as was envisaged under the e-Ghana Project and will be applicable in all sectors - financial and non-financial
- f. allow each institution to develop its own portal system where Government services by that institution will be conducted and payment made online. For a start, notable Government institutions such as the Passport Office, DVLA, Metropolitan Assemblies, Police Departments, Birth and Death Registry will be migrated
- g. enact a strict policy on cash-based bank transactions in order to regularise the volume

- of cash transactions that can be made at banks' branches and via the ATMs.
- h. ensure a strong protection regime by building strong safety measures for victims of fraud in the IT ecosystem.

8.8 NEXT-GENERATION SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE

We will move Ghana from its current 19th Century social services to a forward-looking 21st Century Next-Generation system that is egalitarian, efficient, affordable, accessible, relevant, scalable and sustainable.

The next NDC Government will:

- a. ensure proper linkages between the telecommunications sector and financial services to enhance financial innovation and cashless transactions to stimulate private sector growth and development
- b. establish a One Million Coders Programme (OMCP) through public-private partnerships in critical sectors such as security, education and health
- c. provide free training to one million (1,000,000) youth from varying disciplines to equip them for coding and programming; web and apps development etc.
- d. leverage ICT to mainstream science, technology and innovations (STI) in all sectors in economic management
- e. invest hugely in the virtual infrastructure to promote enhanced entrepreneurship at a reduced cost
- f. encourage the use of customised ICT learning and information hub/portals by Zongo youth and vulnerable groups such as persons with disability and street children.

8.9 NEXT GENERATION HEALTHCARE

The next NDC Government will leverage ICTs to bring Free Primary Health Care and urgent medical care to the doorsteps of all persons living in Ghana. There will be four levels of implementation of this policy:

- a. provide e-medicine at every CHPS compound to enable patients to consult with the best medical and health practitioners in Ghana in their local languages
- b. promote artificial intelligence for health to reduce the burden on health facilities and develop a platform that enables Ghanaians everywhere to access primary health care via phone, video or web at no cost and in local languages
- c. continue our programmed digitisation of the health system to improve the management and cost of healthcare services
- d. provide every health facility, including CHPS compounds with access to internet.

8.10 NEXT GENERATION EDUCATION

The next NDC Government will commence the Next Generation Education initiative to enable Ghana Education Service to provide Basic and Senior High School students access to interactive remote learning and web-based education. Implementation of this will include:

- a. enhancing the availability of digital learning resources for schools
- b. providing universal internet access to facilitate digital teaching and learning
- c. providing students and teachers access to devices that can keep them connected
- d. developing culturally and linguistically relevant learning applications and content
- e. upgrading teacher's ICT skills through teacher training programmes.

8.11 NEXT GENERATION AGRICULTURE

The next NDC Government will digitalise agriculture as a game changer to boost productivity and profitability because digital technologies can help farmers and marketers of their produce work more precisely, efficiently and sustainably. It will also drive greater engagement in agriculture for women and youth, create employment opportunities along the value chain and foster a new breed of young ICT 'agripreneurs'.

Implementation of this will include:

- a. developing and offering e-Agric services
- b. embarking on massive public education among farmers on the importance and advantage of digitalising agricultural services
- c. ensuring mobile money ecosystems in rural areas to incentivise farmers to switch from cash to digital payments
- d. integrating into the cocoa, cashew, coffee and cotton management system (farmer database) the biometric features of all farmers
- e. sustainably improving the crop yield of farmers by deploying, among others, precision irrigation
- f. deploying the National E-services and Commerce Agency (NESCA) to enable farmers speedily promote and market their produce and introduce them to buyers in real-time.

8.12 CYBER SECURITY

The next NDC Government will:

- a. develop smart cybersecurity policies to protect critical information infrastructure
- b. ensure a strong protection regime for victims of fraud in the IT ecosystem
- c. strengthen the Data Protection Commission to deepen confidence and trust in e-Commerce, digital finance and e-Government
- d. strengthen the National Information Technology Agency
- e. set up ultramodern Regional Cyber Crime Units (under the Ghana Police Service) with state-of-the-art cyber labs that are well-coordinated through a national hub
- f. support the Judiciary to create specialised cyber courts across the regions.

9

CREATING SUSTAINABLE AND DECENT JOBS “EDWUMA PA”

Among the biggest challenges facing any Government is the ability to create enough jobs that pay well enough to avoid the problem of “working poor”, where workers’ wages are so low that they cannot meet the basic necessities of life and remain poor even though they are working. *Edwuma Pa* will not only ensure the creation of enough employment opportunities for our youth but will also ensure that workers are paid decent wages.

We will also ensure the provision of legal and social protection, such as due process in resolving labour disputes, sick and annual leave, as well as a safe and healthy working environment. This will not only create a healthy and productive labour force, but it will also be in line with the Conventions of the International Labour Organisation, to which Ghana is a signatory.

9.1 JOB CREATION TARGET AND STRATEGIES

We will create a minimum of 250,000 jobs per year under the *Edwuma Pa* programme over the next 4 years.

Our job creation policies will be rapidly deployed through needed interventions that are applied to ensure that all sectors of the economy give priority to the creation of sustainable and decent jobs, with high levels of productivity that will be linked to wages. The main thrust of our interventions will be anchored on the following:

- a. aggressive training and skills development, through the Skills, Training and Employment Programme for Unemployed Persons (STEP-UP) and the Free National Apprenticeship Programme
- b. the Big Push – rapid infrastructure development for jobs
- c. support the private sector to create more sustainable jobs
- d. provide NABCo beneficiaries permanent and decent jobs
- e. establish a comprehensive mechanism of support for new start-ups and existing businesses in the priority sectors, including:
 - innovative development financing and equity injection
 - business advise and technical assistance
 - technology and equipment support, including long term credits for technology and equipment upgrades and replacement
 - exploration and discovery of product markets with a view to assisting in the penetration of Ghanaian goods and services in these markets
 - assistance to meet domestic and international quality standards, product certification and compliance regimes including health and safety regulations of countries importing Ghana origin goods
 - overhauling of the regulatory environment to make it more business-friendly;
 - reform of the tax, fees, and imports to make them less punitive and more incentive based
 - radical improvements in the provision of stable, reliable and reasonably priced utility services, such as electricity and water
 - continued improvement in communications infrastructure and pricing to facilitate business efficiency, the development and expansion of e-commerce, e-learning and the digital economy generally



WE ARE
SORRY,
NURSES NEED
YOU BACK

GHANA
ECONOMY IS IN
COMA!!

WE ARE
SORRY,
NURSES NEED
YOU BACK

- significant improvements in access to land and the security of land holdings.
- f. Implement a National and Foreign Migration for Work Programme (NFM4WP)". This is designed to prepare and promote work opportunities abroad for qualified Ghanaians, especially the youth.

9.2 STRATEGIC GROWTH AREAS TO SUPPORT JOB CREATION AND RAISE LIVING STANDARDS

The following constitute the areas of priority to generate growth and expansion of the national economy to create jobs, secure and improve household incomes, stabilise and increase business profits and achieve significant increases in Government revenue.

| | Growth Areas | Criteria | | | |
|-----|---------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| | | Under-utilised capacity | Job-creation Potential | Export Potential | Economic Resilience |
| 1. | Agriculture and agro-processing | ☒ | ☒ | ☒ | ☒ |
| 2. | Pharmaceuticals | ☒ | ☒ | ☒ | ☒ |
| 3. | Light manufacturing (textiles, accessories, assemblage, etc.) | ☒ | ☒ | ☒ | |
| 4. | Educational services exports | ☒ | ☒ | ☒ | |
| 5. | Financial services | ☒ | ☒ | ☒ | |
| 6. | Furniture and furnishings | ☒ | ☒ | ☒ | |
| 7. | Health tourism | ☒ | ☒ | ☒ | ☒ |
| 8. | ICT, business services and logistics | ☒ | ☒ | ☒ | |
| 9. | Oil and gas sector | ☒ | ☒ | ☒ | |
| 10. | Strategic minerals (salt, etc.) | ☒ | ☒ | ☒ | |
| 12. | Tourism | ☒ | ☒ | ☒ | |
| 13. | Tree crops development | ☒ | ☒ | ☒ | |
| 14. | Coastal, landscape and forest management | ☒ | ☒ | ☒ | |
| 15. | Infrastructure/construction | ☒ | ☒ | ☒ | |
| 16. | Waste management | ☒ | ☒ | ☒ | |
| 17. | High-tech manufacturing, etc. (including chemicals, etc.) | ☒ | ☒ | ☒ | ☒ |

Table 2.

SOURCES OF EDWUMA PA UNDER NDC

9.3 EMPLOYMENT ACT

First of its kind in our history, the next NDC Government will pass the Employment Act to provide a comprehensive framework for job creation and labour market statistics. The Employment Act will also, among other things:

- a. **provide for a Labour Market Information System (LMIS).** This will be administered by the Ghana Statistical Service (GSS) and the Ministry of Employment in collaboration with the Ministry of Local Government and the Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies. This will measure the number of new jobs created through the periodic release of labour market reports similar to the monthly inflation reports released by GSS
- b. Labour economists will be trained and posted to all regional offices to work with district assemblies to track employment creation and monitor the impact of central and local Government policies on job creation.
- c. **Job Creation by District Assemblies.** All district assemblies will be required to have Integrated Employment Frameworks in their medium-term and annual development plans, with an emphasis on private-sector job creation. This will be based on a renewed effort to promote local economic development (LED) based on a new framework that makes aggressive development in, and maintenance of infrastructure the centrepiece of economic and social development of every district in Ghana.

9.3.1 Creating a Three-shift Economy

Given Ghana's small market size of only 31 million and a per capita income of \$2,200, there will be an aggressive promotion of exports, which will lead to a demand in labour to meet increased production for both domestic consumption and exports.

To accommodate this anticipated demand for Ghanaian goods and services, the next NDC Government will create a 3-shift economy, especially in manufacturing and other high-end services, that operates 24 hours non-stop. The additional two shifts will be a source of additional employment. Companies that currently operate 24 hours with only two shifts of 12 hours each in violation of the labour law (which specifies a maximum of 8 hours) will be required to run three shifts and thus create a third stream of jobs.

9.3.2 World of Work: Post COVID-19

The world of work after the post-COVID-19 crisis will not be the same as it was before the crisis, even after a vaccine, cure or treatment has been found. The crisis has fundamentally changed the way we work in many ways, leading to a rapid increase in offsite video-conferencing and work known as "telecommuting" where workers work from home without any loss in productivity; in fact, this has been shown to increase productivity in many cases.

9.3.3 Remote Working Opportunities

The next NDC Government will formalise the remote working opportunities created by the crisis by allowing some public sector workers whose work do not always require a physical presence in their offices to work from home. Such workers will only report to the office periodically, with emphasis on output and productivity and not necessarily their actual presence in their offices, which often requires long and costly travels to and from those offices. The private sector will be encouraged to explore the advantages of telecommuting and digitisation.



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**10 GOOD GOVERNANCE,
ANTI-CORRUPTION AND
ACCOUNTABILITY**

10

**GOOD GOVERNANCE,
ANTI-CORRUPTION AND
ACCOUNTABILITY**

The NDC makes a solemn promise to the citizens of Ghana who will be entrusting us with the sacred mandate to govern as a Social Democratic Party. Consistent with our national values of probity, transparency and accountability, the values of ethics, trust and integrity will be injected into our development as a nation.

The next NDC Government will address the canker of nepotism and growing corruption that has characterised our development over the last four years and will tackle this canker head-on by making and putting in place, bold measures to stem these twin evils.

Restoring the integrity and strengthening of independent anti-corruption institutions will be at the forefront of our affairs as a Government.

10.1 BUILDING STRONG INSTITUTIONS

The NDC resolves to build strong institutions by taking bold steps to ensure increased and adequate funding and engaging well-qualified and staff of proven integrity to manage and lead existing anti-corruption agencies.

These institutions include Parliament, the Audit Service, the Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ), Economic and Organized Crime Office (EOCO), and the Financial and Intelligence Centre, among others.

As part of our commitment to the fight against corruption, we shall adequately empower and resource the office of the special prosecutor and other anti-corruption agencies to do their work effectively.

10.2 NEPOTISM AND GROWING CORRUPTION

In line with this renewed focus to strengthen the fight against nepotism and corruption, the NDC will introduce legislation to regulate Agency Representation and the Conduct of Business Practices of multinational companies in line with international best practices. We will review and strengthen Guidelines for Political Office Holders developed and launched by the previous John Mahama administration.

10.3 TRUST AND INTEGRITY IN LEADERSHIP

As a party, we believe that personal trust and integrity in leadership is needed for the development of our country. We also believe that Ghana can fully progress if we make integrity and transparency the cornerstone of our workforce at every level.

10.4 PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY

The next NDC Government will consider it a civic duty of every Ghanaian to act as a watchdog. The State will give its backing to holding public office holders accountable, without fear of reprisal or attacks. The Presidency shall not act as a clearinghouse for corrupt appointees.

10.5 OPERATION STING

We will, as part of the Integrity for Development Action Plan, launch 'Operation Sting'. This is an anti-corruption crusade that will involve massive, far-reaching and practical Government reforms. It will be unrelenting against all corrupt political appointees, public sector workers and their collaborators.

The next NDC will live up to its ideals and dismantle the tentacles of this kleptocratic political octopus. We will:

- a. launch "Operation STING" as an anti-corruption crusade, which will involve massive far-reaching and practical Governmental reforms as part of our integrity for development action plan
- b. codify conflict of interest situations for the various categories of public officials and enforce applicable sanctions
- c. make single-sourced procurement (sole-sourcing) an exception and not the rule
- d. introduce conflict of interest, moral and civic education in the high school curriculum
- e. enact conflict of interest legislation for all Government officials including the executive and legislature
- f. increase support for EOCO, NACOB, Financial and Intelligence Centre and other the anti-corruption institutions
- g. strengthen collaboration between NACOB and the Food and Drugs Authority
- h. strengthen the Auditor-General's Office by safeguarding its independence.

10.6 GOOD GOVERNANCE

The impeccable record of good governance has been eroded by the NPP Government's numerous embarrassing scandals, indulgence in nepotism, state capture, suppression of freedom of expression and free press, a culture of silence, interference with constitutionally-protected institutions like the Electoral Commission and the Auditor-General's office over the past four years.

The NDC has always pursued good governance and accountability, having been borne out of the popular struggles for probity and accountability and in line with our firm belief in 'Freedom and Justice'. It is for these reasons that at the time we handed over to the NPP Government on 7th January 2017, Ghana had attained global recognition as:

- a. second in Africa on the 2015 Rule of Law Index of the World Justice Project (WJP)
- b. fifth in Africa in the 2015 Democracy Index by the Economist Intelligence Unit
- c. seventh in Africa on the 2015 Corruption Perception Index of Transparency International
- d. scored 15.5 in 2016 which was Ghana's highest score in World Press Freedom Index

The NDC is more determined than ever to restore and improve Ghana's Good Governance record in our next Government. To this end, we will implement the following:

The NPP Government's large 'family and friends' Government of one hundred and

twenty-five ministers and deputies with numerous special assistants and other appointees are a drain on the public purse that the failed Nana Akufo Addo had promised to protect.

Numerous corruption scandals, such as the Power Distribution Service (PDS), Bulk Oil Storage and Transportation (BOST) Company, Australian Visa Scandal, fraudulent National Youth Authority (NYA) Street Lighting contract, Kelni GVG fraud, Kroll & Associates, the Galamsey Fraud on Small Scale Miners, missing Excavators fraud, and the Agyapa Royalties Scandal are further testimonies to his tacit support and endorsement of corruption. The next NDC Government will thoroughly investigate all these acts of corruption.

10.7 STRONG, ACCOUNTABLE AND TRANSPARENT PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

The next NDC will:

- a. vigorously push through a review that creates a fairer emoluments system and removes the distortions between Article 71 office holders and other public sector employees
- b. reduce the current size of ministers and deputies
- c. reduce the number of political appointees in the Presidency and other institutions
- d. establish a framework of well-resourced, socially responsible, and accountable state institutions
- e. ensure a Public and Civil Service that is both proactive and committed to facilitate positive economic growth, entrench the rule of law, transparency and accountability
- f. protect and insulate state institutions from undue politicisation
- g. restore public confidence and integrity in governance and public administration
- h. offer effective guidance for meaningful public-private investment
- i. create and enforce a new culture of national discipline, time consciousness, result-oriented and motivated Public and Civil Service
- j. conduct regular audit inspections and sanction improper and unlawful conduct or activities
- k. establish strict accountability and ethical measures to regulate State and individual activities in the fight against corruption and state capture.

10.8 PARLIAMENTARY INDEPENDENCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

The next NDC will:

- a. encourage Members of Parliament to effectively prioritise and promote the collective interest of their constituents and the supreme interest of the State
- b. follow up the implementation of the Constitution Review Committee and NDC Government White Paper that seeks an amendment of Article 78 of the 1992 Constitution on the appointment of Ministers from Parliament.
- c. build consensus among political parties on national issues and avoid all forms of political vindictiveness and persecution
- d. build the capacity of Members of Parliament and Parliamentary Staff to improve oversight mechanisms.

Judicial Independence: Justice for All

The next NDC will:

- d. pass legislation to allow the Judiciary to use a percentage of its Internally Generated Fund to establish a Court Development and Rehabilitation Fund
- e. support the judiciary to establish High Courts in the six (6) newly created regions
- f. support the Judiciary to establish Courts of Appeal in the Western, Northern and Volta regions to facilitate justice delivery
- g. build digital and manual legal libraries
- h. increase resources and expand the Ghana Legal Aid Commission to increase access to justice for the poor and indigent
- i. resource the Council for Law Reporting to regularly produce the Ghana Law Reports.

10.9 JUDICIAL ACCOUNTABILITY

The next NDC will:

- a. work with the Judicial Council to build public confidence and improve the image of the Judiciary as a truly independent, transparent and unbiased public service
- b. improve the conditions of service of the Judicial Service
- c. support the Judicial Council to require Judges and Magistrates to implement the E-judgment project to publish their judgments electronically not less than seventy-two hours after the delivery of each judgment
- d. operationalise Article 158(2) of the Constitution by passing a Constitutional Instrument to make regulations for the efficient performance of the functions of the Judicial Service and the Judicial Council.
- e. support the judiciary to accelerate the automate of judicial and administrative functions of the Judiciary
- f. promote and resource Alternative Dispute Resolution mechanisms to minimise acrimonious and costly litigation.

LOCAL GOVERNANCE AND DECENTRALIZATION

Pay Assembly
Members

Upgrade Ho, Kasoa,
Ashiaman, Techiman,
Koforidua, Bolga,
Hohoe, Wa, Sunyani
into Metropolitan
Assemblies

Increase the DAF
from 5% to 7.5%

Establish a Royal
Institute for Chiefs
and Traditional
Authorities

Under the Fourth Republican Constitution, Ghana is committed to a decentralised local governance system. Under political decentralisation, there is a major problem with the fragmentation of the local Government sector and the allocation of its core functions to newly established Ministries. The sub-district structures are either non-functional or dysfunctional. Critical sectors, such as education and health, are yet to be decentralised.

There is an acute housing shortage, especially rental housing, and the absence of social housing policy has become a national embarrassment. The street-naming and property-addressing Programme started in 2012 is yet to be completed; the sanitation problem has assumed alarming proportions; there does not appear to be any solution to the problem of plastic waste; markets in the district capitals are in very poor shape.

The Akufo-Addo Government failed in many respects; the transfer of traditional local functions such as sanitation, inner cities development and regional organisation to newly created amorphous Ministries that has distorted the local governance sector and created serious overlaps and duplication of functions. In the process, the MMDAs are left confused as to what their functions are and where they take their policy directives from. There is no holistic resourcing package designed to ensure that the newly created regions are able to perform as expected. The NPP Government has deviated from many of the policy measures contained in the Decentralisation Policy/Plan 2016-2019. Instead, they have prepared their own National Decentralisation Strategy 2020-2024 and a Decentralisation Action Plan 2020-2024, but these are yet to be launched.

In order to strengthen our local Government system, we will therefore implement the following:

- a. pay Assembly Members
- b. upgrade Ho, Kasoa, Ashiaman, Techiman, Koforidua, Sunyani, Bolgatanga, Hohoe and Wa Municipal Assemblies into Metropolitan Assemblies within the first year of coming into office
- c. assess and upgrade selected District Assemblies to Municipal Assemblies
- d. increase the DACF from 5 per cent to 7.5 per cent of total national revenue
- e. assign the provision of certain administrative services; revenue, electricity, water to district assemblies and remunerate the assembly members accordingly
- f. implement the recommendations of the Constitution Review Commission relating to Local Government and Decentralisation as accepted in the NDC Government White Paper, including the election of MMDCEs
- g. re-assign and integrate the traditional local Government functions such as sanitation, community development assigned to the amorphous new Ministry of Special Initiatives and others back to the MMDAs
- h. build modern waste recycling facilities for both solid and liquid waste in all regions
- i. re-introduce and institutionalise the National Sanitation Day for mandatory observance
- j. set up a Municipal Bond for purposes of rural development
- k. establish a Waste Management Fund by amending the Customs and Excise (Duties and Other Taxes) (Amendment) Act, 2013 (Act 863), to garner the resources needed to address waste management and create green jobs as part of our response to the global climate change Agenda
- l. introduce a Housing Revolving Fund to provide affordable loans to individuals who want to build their own houses
- m. re-introduce and institutionalise the National Sanitation Day by legislation
- n. 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
- o. provide financial and other support to small-scale entrepreneurs, businesspersons, traders and other private sector operators to sustain them in their activities and expand where possible
 - p. improve and decentralise births and deaths registration at the local level by training and empowering assembly members to facilitate births and deaths registration
 - q. design a resourcing package for the newly-created regions to enable them to perform to expectation; in particular, we will commence the process for the establishment of a Regional Hospital, a Public University and a Public Technical University in each newly-created region;
 - r. amend the Constitution to cede the 30 per cent of appointed members of the MMDAs to the chiefs and traditional authorities and define specific roles for chiefs and traditional authorities in the local governance system;
 - s. work with the National House of Chiefs to establish a Royal Institute for Chiefs and Traditional Authorities to build the capacity of chiefs and traditional authorities on a continuing and sustainable basis
 - t. amend the DACF Act to make provision for block transfers to each of the 16 regions to accelerate the pace of development in the regions, especially the newly created regions.

A group of people, including several in white t-shirts with a red circular logo, are holding protest signs. The signs are white with red text on wooden frames. The background is slightly blurred, showing other people and what appears to be an outdoor setting.

**Vigilantism
is
backwardness**

**Disband
vigilante
groups**

**Vigilantism
is a mild form of
terrorism**

**Vigilantes
intimidate
voters**

**No to
Violence**

**need
atic
governance**

**Where is the
VRO Bill?**

10.11 SECURITY

The next NDC Government will focus on the wellbeing, the personal safety and the security of the people of Ghana. Internally, our security is seriously threatened by the presence of unlawful militia/vigilante groups who are being mobilised to intimidate, brutalise and disturb the peace of the country.

There has been a surge in kidnapping and armed robbery, especially on our highways, as well as criminal attacks on innocent citizens and “perceived contract killings”. During the NPP Government tenure, three girls residing in Takoradi, (the Takoradi Girls) were kidnapped and have since disappeared.

There are over two million illicit small arms and light weapons circulating in Ghana. This has fuelled the increased use of firearms in criminal activities and exacerbated inter-communal conflicts.

The current State of lawlessness and impunity has damaged the reputation of the country and has the potential of compromising internal security and economic activity as well as scaring away vital foreign investments. The continuous training, arming and indiscriminate deployment of NPP militia is dangerous and distasteful especially when such elements have been recruited into the security agencies.

The next NDC Government will:

- a. immediately disband the militia set up by President Akufo Addo
- b. re-open an inquiry into the Ayawaso West Wuogon vigilante incident
- c. commence a programme to establish a University for Security and Intelligence Studies
- d. empower the 48 Engineers Regiment to construct barracks and living accommodation for security personnel
- e. establish new military installations in all regions across the country, the focus being the borders and new regions, to prevent terrorist attacks and to ensure rapid response to security challenges
- f. establish a new military training and recruit academy in the northern sector of the country
- g. establish one police station and barracks in each district where there is none, to cater for increased population
- h. establish DOVVSU units and offices in police districts where there is none
- i. introduce a community police programme across the country enforce the existing Security and Intelligence Agencies Act (Act 526) which defines extensively the security architecture of the country in a manner that is consistent with constitutional provisions on Fundamental Human Rights and Freedoms
- j. re-structure national security in Ghana based on professionalism, meritocracy fairness, and competence
- k. invest adequately in information and communication technology infrastructure, training, modern equipment, mobility and other logistics to support intelligence

gathering purposes to make the country

- l. safe control the proliferation of small arms and light weapons in the country
- m. harmonise and address disparities in salaries and remunerations and other conditions of services in all the security agencies
- n. decentralise the security architecture and operations to bring security management closer to the people
- o. review and enforce the medical package for both serving and retired personnel and their families
- p. review the compensation package for personnel who lose their lives or get injured in the line of duty
- q. clear the backlog of promotions and ensure timely promotions based on meritocracy and transparency.
- r. We will reopen investigations into the disappearance of the three Takoradi Girls, killing of Silas Wulochamey, a teacher trainee graduate at Banda in July 2020, including similar unresolved killings and disappearances

10.11.1 NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

It has become obvious that the Secretariat has departed from its core mandate and assumed militarised operational roles undertaking by the so-called untrained AZUGO BOYS at the National Security. The operations of these embedded para-military forces are nationwide and will attract the serious attention of the next NDC Government

The next NDC Government commits to using the regular national institutions of State in the security delivery architecture as contained in the Justice Emile Short Commission of Enquiry into the Ayawaso West Wuogon by-election.

The next NDC Government will:

- a. ensure the National Security Council operates within its constitutional and legal mandate
- b. adequately equip and resource the National Security Council (Secretariat) to perform its mandated intelligence coordination activities efficiently and effectively
- c. digitise the operations of the Secretariat and invest in modern security infrastructure including ICT
- d. design, in collaboration with the Kofi Annan International Peace-Keeping Training Centre and other security experts, national strategies that ensure the security and peace of all Ghanaians
- e. prepare national emergency strategic plans for natural and humanmade disasters for implementation at the national and community levels
- f. design strategies for the protection and security of all national institutions

10.11.2 GHANA ARMED FORCES

The next NDC Government will create a highly conducive atmosphere for personnel of the Ghana Armed Forces to perform their assigned roles and responsibilities with professional excellence.

We will:

- a. aggressively resource the Ghana Armed Forces to improve their operational and combat readiness, swift mobilisation and firepower
- b. depoliticise the Ghana Armed Forces, restore discipline, loyalty to the State and establish mechanisms for transparency and meritocracy as the basis for all promotions in the Ghana Armed Forces

- c. encourage and expand the opportunities for non-commissioned officers (Other Ranks) to access officer cadet training, where appropriate
- d. construct housing units for the Ghana Armed Forces and refurbish dilapidated and abandoned housing units across the country
- e. systematically review salaries and allowances of troops and civilian employees upwards, to fall in line with economic trends in the country
- f. upgrade retirement benefits of personnel in consonance with realistic prevailing economic trends
- g. expand and improve accommodation for all ranks
- h. establish Armed Forces Home Ownership Schemes for all personnel and officers
- i. complete and equip the Kumasi Military Hospital (Afari) in the Central Command as a matter of urgency
- j. build a military hospital at Ho, Bolgatanga and Sefwi Wiawso
- k. build a Veterans' Referral Hospital at a suitable location in Accra
- l. revamp the defence industry to produce clothing, boots and accessories for the GAF and other Security Services
- m. establish Armed Forces Agribusiness and Processing Units and enlist suitably qualified Ghanaians
- n. 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

10.11.3 EXTERNAL PEACE KEEPING

The next NDC Government will:

- a. streamline peace-keeping operations in accordance with UN mandatory requirements and transparent personnel selection
- b. expand the inclusion of civilian employees from the units of the armed forces for peace-keeping operations
- c. use peace-keeping operations as a major source of youth employment and the earning of foreign exchange
- d. increase the security allowance given to security personnel for peace-keeping activities

10.11.4 THE GHANA POLICE SERVICE

The next NDC Government will:

- a. ensure that the Police Service has greater independence and is insulated from political interference
- b. undertake a complete human resource audit of the Ghana Police Service to enhance service delivery
- c. commence a plan to revamp the Police Public Order Management School in Pwalugu in the Upper East Region to retrain all Police personnel in internationally acceptable methods of handling public order situations in the country
- d. roll out a transparent and accessible Police Education and Scholarship Scheme for the acquisition of enhanced qualifications and technical competencies in the Police Service
- e. embark on an Emergency Redevelopment Project (ERP) of Regional and District offices of the Police Service, to increase office and residential accommodation for personnel of the Ghana Police Service
- f. commence a plan to build modern offices and accommodation for personnel especially

in the newly created regions

- g. introduce state of the art technology for the operations of the Ghana Police Service
- h. expand the level of involvement of the Police Service in UN/AU Peacekeeping Operations and streamline the disbursement of funds generated from police participation in these operations to ensure efficiency
- i. increase women representation in the Police Service
- j. create DOVVSU units in police stations where there are none
- k. create a directorate for DOVVSU to be headed by a Director-General with the rank of Commissioner of Police
- l. revamp, resource and equip the Police Driving School in Kumasi
- m. complete construction of the DOVVSU Headquarters
- n. complete the Police Hospital project
- o. construct a new police hospital
- p. review the police policy on promotion and use a yearly promotion plan to grant amnesty to police personnel who privately acquired additional qualifications from recognised tertiary institutions

10.11.5 GHANA PRISONS SERVICE

The next NDC Government will:

- a. implement the Ghana Prisons Decongestion Project
- b. modernise the prison system and make it more humane
- c. set up a Special Remand/Sentence Review Committee to review cases of persons on remand in various prisons in Ghana
- d. encourage community services and other non-custodial sentences for minor offences
- e. create well-equipped technical and vocational departments in all major prisons
- f. ensure proper health care facilities in the prisons
- g. commence a programme to establish open-camp prisons to undertake large scale agriculture activities
- h. improve the housing stock for prison personnel across the country
- i. increase the feeding rate for the prison inmates

10.11.6 GHANA NATIONAL FIRE SERVICE

The next NDC Government will:

- a. build accommodation for Fire Service personnel especially in the newly created regions
- b. increase the operational logistics for the Fire Service including fire tenders, rescue equipment, fire-fighting vests, boots and hydraulic platforms for high-rise buildings
- c. review the compensation package for personnel who lose their lives or get injured in the line of duty.

10.11.7 GHANA IMMIGRATION SERVICE

The next NDC Government will:

- a. provide Border Patrol Units with surveillance equipment and firearms
- b. resource and retool the Ghana Immigration Service to enable it to carry out its mandate effectively and efficiently
- c. build housing units for immigration personnel
- d. strengthen the use of ICT for the operations of the Ghana Immigration Service
- e. build border post accommodation at border towns
- f. maintain Cap 30 pension scheme for immigration service personnel.

10.11.8**CUSTOMS DIVISION OF THE GHANA REVENUE AUTHORITY**

The next NDC Government will fully implement the recent Supreme Court ruling and the recommendation of the Constitution Review Commission regarding the security status of the Customs Division, restore it to its rightful place among the security service and improve its conditions of service.

10.11.9**NATIONAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION**

The next NDC Government will:

- a. strengthen NADMO and establish the NADMO Fund as enshrined in the NADMO Act 2016 (Act 927)
- b. modernise the operations of NADMO and collaborate with relevant stakeholders to switch focus from response to prevention in its policy and operations
- c. mobilise a team of volunteers and first-time responders who will be specially trained and equipped with skills to combat emergencies.

10.12**FREEDOM OF THE MEDIA**

The next NDC Government will:

- a. grant amnesty to all radio stations closed down by the Akufo Addo Government and permit them to resume operations
- b. conduct investigations into the assassination of Ahmed Suale and other unsolved cases with the view to punishing the perpetrators and adequately compensating the dependents of the victims
- c. change the current climate of fear, intimidation and harassment of the media by President Akufo Addo
- d. continue the implementation of the Right to Information Act 2019
- e. continue with the processes towards passing the Broadcasting Bill into law
- f. empower the National Media Commission to exercise its oversight responsibility devoid of political interference
- g. establish a Media Development Fund to support journalists and media organisations as a post COVID-19 relief package
- h. make the Ghana Broadcasting Corporation economically viable and politically independent.

10.13**ENGAGEMENT WITH LABOUR UNIONS AND CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS**

The next NDC Government will regularly engage with our natural allies – labour unions and civil society organisations through the following:

- a. work closely with labour unions such as the Ghana Trades Union Congress (TUC), Industrial and Commercial Workers Union (ICU) and Ghana Federation of Labour (GFL) to advance the interest of the working class by promoting the principles of decent work
- b. work with CSOs to deliver a transparent, accountable and responsive governance
- c. create an enabling environment for CSOs to operate freely and independently in the spirit of partnership
- d. encourage Ministries, Department and Agencies to regularly hold consultations with CSOs for feedback on Government programmes and policies
- e. facilitate capacity building opportunities for CSOs.

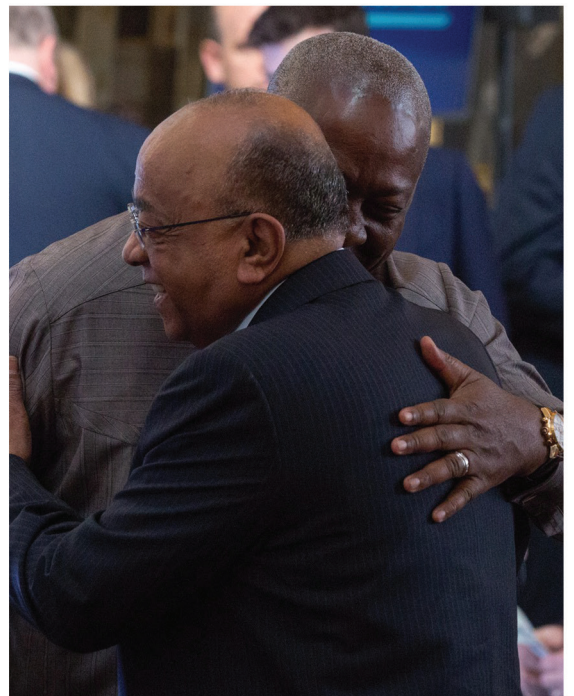
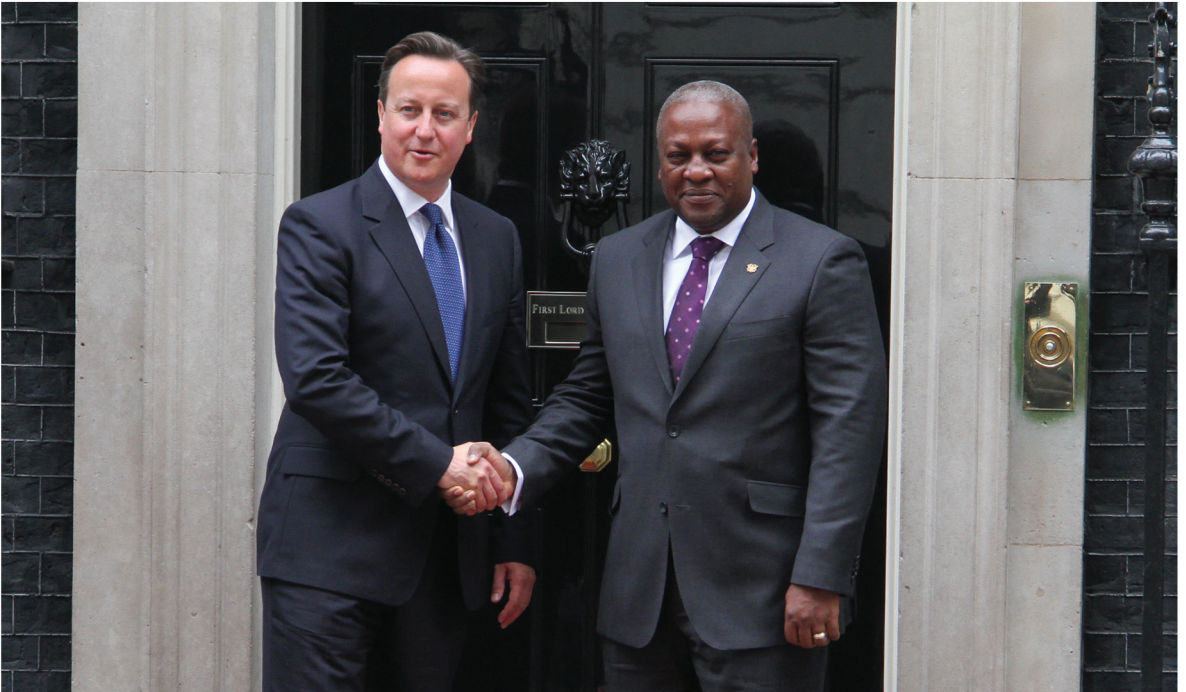
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Ghana provides a congenial environment for the enhancement of productive international relations both at bilateral and multilateral levels for the adoption and promotion of common, yet beneficial positions, encouraging mutual understanding and cooperation which inure to its overall national growth, security and political and socio-economic development.

Ghana's foreign policy will continue to be driven by our commitment to credible and sustainable international peace, security and development as necessary prerequisites for the effective promotion and protection of our enlightened national interest and aspirations as outlined in our domestic policies.

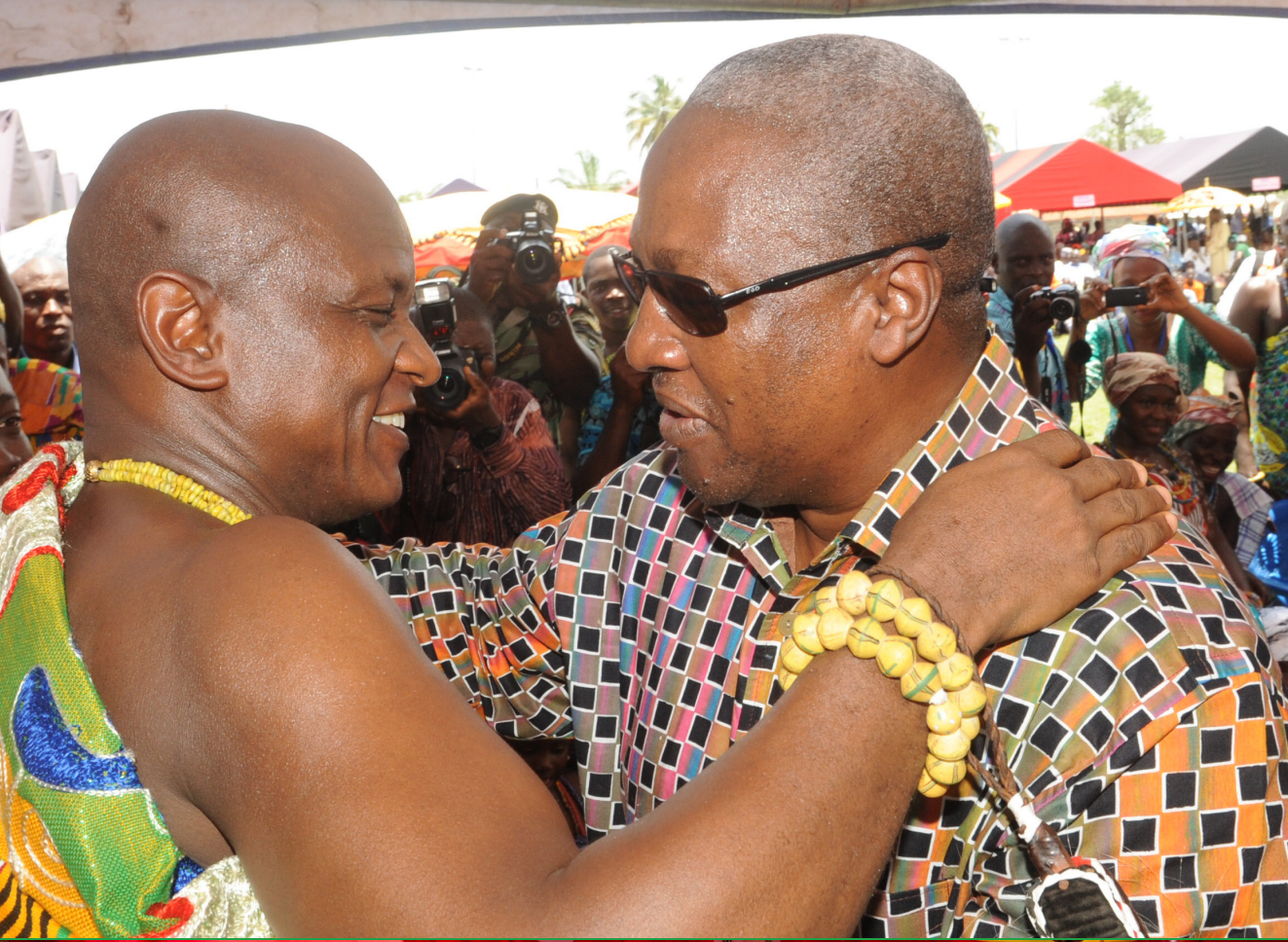
The next NDC Government will:

- a. formulate an economic diplomacy blueprint to serve as a policy guide to diplomats and all staff of the Foreign Service on clear deliverables under Ghana's economic diplomacy agenda
- b. enhance the general conditions of service for Foreign Service Staff including restoring duty waivers on vehicles for staff returning from postings
- c. leverage and place Ghana's hosting of the African Continental Free Trade Secretariat at the heart of our industrialisation drive by ensuring that Ghana becomes Africa's trade, transport and investment hub
- d. restore the high regard for career diplomats, enhance esprit de corps and meaningful career progression deserving of career diplomats by ensuring that majority of ambassadors and envoys are selected from the stock of career diplomats
- e. establish a Consular Support Fund as a line item in the budget of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration to cater for distressed Ghanaians abroad who may require urgent consular assistance
- f. conduct an asset inventory of all diplomatic properties with the view to pursuing an aggressive asset improvement and maintenance programme - this review will also seek to address the phenomenon of unsustainable expenditure on rent in favour of the more economically prudent option of owning our own properties
- g. deepen Ghana's famed Pan African credentials by putting forth a raft of policies targeted at forging stronger and concrete bonds with Africans in the diaspora and African Americans beyond the occasional visits afforded by "PANAFEST" and "The Year of Return" to a more permanent mutually benefiting relationship
- h. ensure that consistent with our track record, we will actively canvass for many more Ghanaians to assume high offices in reputable multilateral organisations
- i. renew our commitment to the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the AU's Agenda 2063 by fully domesticating and aligning our development goals across all sectors with these global imperatives
- j. further enhance Ghana's internationally renowned image in peace operations which marked a milestone this year in commemoration of sixty (60) years since Ghana's first peace operations deployment in the Congo
- k. improve conditions of engagement and also increase the number of females in troop deployment consistent with modern UN standards
- l. 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 in order to avoid the recent embarrassing spectacle



- which created a diplomatic stand-off between Ghana and Nigeria when the latter's properties were demolished in Accra
- m. reappraise the geographical representation and economic significance of our diplomatic and consular missions and establish new missions strategic to our national development especially in the areas of trade and investment, tourism, and educational opportunities
 - n. appoint trade officers to specifically designated Ghana diplomatic missions to aggressively market Ghana's competitiveness in trade and investment activity and spearhead the implementation of agreed strategies
 - o. 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
 - p. increase collaboration within the United Nations, the Commonwealth, and other multilateral organisations to fight existing and emerging threats to global peace, security, and sustainable development including climate change and global warming, international terrorism, cybercrime, piracy, money laundering, narcotics trade, human trafficking and pandemics
 - q. deepen our involvement in the affairs of the Francophone and UEMOA with a view to better understand those organisations and reaping the maximum benefits from them given our geographical position of being surrounded by three Francophone countries.













THE PEOPLE'S MANIFESTO

JOBS, PROSPERITY AND MORE



“I urge you to be part of the Victory Process. Having worked closely with H.E. John Dramani Mahama as former Minister of Education, I know he is a man of vision, a leader we can trust, a public servant of integrity and a courageous leader who makes the right decisions in the national interest at all times”.

PROFESSOR NAANA JANE OPOKU-AGYEMANG





NDC