



2012 MANIFESTO

**ADVANCING
THE BETTER
GH★NA
AGENDA**



Jobs. Stability. Development.

NDC

**WORKING
FOR YOU**

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NDC

NATIONAL
DEMOCRATIC
CONGRESS

FOREWORD BY JOHN DRAMANI MAHAMA PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE & LEADER OF THE NDC

Events of the last few months have demonstrated more vividly and vindicated the assertion by our founder in 2008 that “Ghana is larger than all of us, and the NDC’s victory is the victory of ordinary and truthful Ghanaians guided by the proven history and performance of a Social Democratic Party and Government.” In four years since we begun our journey for a “Better Ghana” agenda, the NDC has kept faith with our people supporting them to work hard to produce the nation’s wealth, to uphold truth, abhor corruption, and distributing the benefits of hard work equitably for the greater, social and economic wellbeing of all Ghanaians.

Since we resumed office in 2009, our country has made significant progress, attaining and sustaining middle-income status for the first time in our history, maintaining a substantial growth rate and reducing inflation to single digit consistently. Our public and private sector policies and programs have been robust and successful in building the foundation for the sustained prosperity that we promised our people. This solid foundation has to be advanced in a manner that our growth trajectory is accelerated, our social and welfare initiatives for ordinary citizens is expanded, the opportunities to provide access and quality education to ALL our children is achieved, and our nation is able to feed itself and reap the benefits in expanded trade of our diversified agricultural produce.

The 2012 NDC Manifesto is therefore a bold, forward-looking agenda, which enumerates our solemn commitment to Advance the Better Ghana Agenda.

AS THE NEW LEADER OF OUR GREAT PARTY AND THE NDC’S PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE FOR THE 2012 ELECTIONS, IT IS MY PLEDGE TO:

- **Expand our economy** from its marginal middle-income status to a full-fledged middle-income status where growth and prosperity are spread equitably across the country and poverty is substantially reduced across the country;
- Ensure that **ENERGY FOR ALL** becomes the bedrock of socio-economic transformation by expanding production and intensifying regular and reliable access to electricity and energy including those who currently do not have access;
- Rapidly expand access to **quality education** at both the basic and secondary levels of education by ensuring that the 20% of children who are not in school gain access to schooling; and the nearly 50% who do not have access to secondary-level education gain access to JSS and SHS;
- Promote a thorough **decentralized governance** agenda in a manner that empowers regions and districts to acquire the needed resources and capacities to make decisions and be accountable to citizens;
- Provide the **needed leadership** to ensure that citizens’ voices matter in decision-making; their demand for accountability are fulfilled and their aspirations for a Better Ghana are reflected in the programmes and projects emanating from this Manifesto.



The Peace and Stability bestowed on us by our recently departed father, Professor John Evans Atta Mills, guided the preparation of this Manifesto; and God's spirit in him has already blessed it. I invite you to peruse this manifesto and see why it is important to give us another mandate to continue and Advance the Better Ghana Agenda.

John Dramani Mahama

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The National Democratic Congress (NDC) is presenting to the good people of Ghana, the 2012 manifesto that seeks to renew the covenant this party has with the people of Ghana in pursuance of our common and cherished goal of 'Advancing The Better Ghana Agenda' for all.

This Manifesto is based on the achievements over the last four (4) years during which period we established a firm foundation for delivering a program of economic recovery and sustained welfare for the people of Ghana.

The 2012 NDC Manifesto therefore underscores our commitment to build a prosperous and equitable society. Under the next NDC administration:

- Our economic performance will be deepened and diversified to provide a basis for the provision of the basic human needs of our people;
- Our governance will be more thoroughly decentralized to enable citizens to access resources and demand accountability for services;
- Our infrastructure development will be intensified to accelerate the transformation of Ghana into a full middle-income status;
- Our agriculture will be modernized to involve a strong partnership between private agricultural investors and peasant small-holders in a manner that introduces capital, technology and an expanded local and global market access; and above all,
- Our educational assets will be rapidly expanded to provide equitable access for every child to enter and complete basic education, enter and complete secondary school.

All of these will enable our economy to expand, creating the needed jobs that will propel prosperity for all and Advance the Better Ghana Agenda.

This journey will begin with a renewal and consolidation of the Social Compact we long established with the people of Ghana through years of sustained policies for the realization of social equity and developmental justice.

EDUCATION

- Eliminate the remaining 60% of identified 'Schools-Under-Trees' and provide decent facilities for all rural schools;
- Ensure 100% access for all children of school going age in compliance with the constitutional requirement of FCUBE;
- Work towards the attainment of universal access to secondary education by constructing two hundred (200) new Community Day Senior High Schools where these do not exist;
- Increase and expand infrastructure in existing secondary schools to enable them absorb the increasing numbers of qualified candidates;
- Establish ten (10) new Colleges of Education in the medium term to be located in areas currently not well-served and in anticipation of the increase in student numbers on account of our increased access to education programme;
- Introduce a one-year specialised programme in the Colleges of Education to train Teachers in early childhood care and development;
- Solve the problem of academic progression of polytechnic graduates by introducing degree programmes in all Polytechnics in the country;
- Establish a new public University in the Eastern Region to complete the NDC's vision of providing a public University campus in every Region of the country and also to expand academic and residential facilities on existing campuses.



HEALTH

The next NDC Government will:

- Double the number of Community-based Health Planning and Services (CHPS) compounds from about 1,600 to 3,200 to meet the needs of under-served communities;
- Establish Regional Hospitals in the Eastern Region at Koforidua, Upper East Region at Bolgatanga and Upper West Region in Wa to complete the NDC's grand plan of providing a modern Regional Hospital in each of the ten regions of Ghana.
- The newly passed National Health Insurance Bill has now given us the requisite legal impetus to vigorously broaden and expand our national health care scheme for the benefit of all Ghanaians.

YOUTH AND SPORTS

The next NDC Government will:

- Establish a GH¢10 million Jobs and Enterprise Development Fund to encourage and support young people to become successful entrepreneurs and create sustainable job opportunities;
- Job and Enterprise Centres (JEC) will be established in all regions to help unemployed youth and those about to enter or prepare for the world of work and entrepreneurship (starting and managing their own business).
- Support the various national football teams to qualify for the various World Cup competitions and in particular the World Cup for the senior teams involving the Black Stars to be held in Brazil in 2014 as well as achieving a decent participation in the 2016 Olympic Games;
- Develop Youth Recreation Centres in the districts to facilitate youth meetings, interactions, cultural programmes, conferences and inputs into the District Assemblies' deliberative mechanisms;

- Reserve 5% of admissions to Senior High Schools for talented sports and other creative students, to support the development of athletics and other lesser-known sports.

ECONOMY

The following will be the specific macro-economic targets to be pursued in the next four years:

- An average GDP growth rate of at least 8% per annum;
- A single digit rate of inflation;
- An overall budget deficit equivalent to 5% of GDP; and
- Gross international reserves that will cover not less than four months of imports.

Overall, our economic policies and programmes will aim at the attainment of a per capita income of at least US\$2,300 by year 2017.

JOB CREATION INITIATIVES

Activities in the under-mentioned areas will create thousands of jobs.

Manufacturing/Industry:

With the anticipated commercial exploitation of crude oil and gas, we are laying the foundation for:

- An integrated petroleum industry based on bauxite;
- A petro-chemical industry based on salt and natural gas;
- A fertilizer industry to give impetus to agro-development;
- A salt-based chemical industry for caustic soda;
- Allied consumer products and exports based on oil and gas; and
- An integrated iron and steel industry based on the iron ore deposits at Oppon Manso in the Western Region.

Cheap gas-fired energy will facilitate the full revival of the following industries:

- Volta Aluminium Company;
- Textile industries and ventures in their value chain;
- Ceramics, brick and tile manufacturing;
- Glass factories; and
- Steel mills.

Agriculture:

- Expanded role of the National Service Scheme in food production;
- Distribution of 20 million hybrid cocoa seedlings free of charge over the next six years;
- Intensification and extension of the mass spraying exercise to include brushing, pest and disease control, shade management, pollination and fertilization;

Public Sector:

- Implementation of a district-focused Public Works Programme under which socio-economic infrastructure projects such as town halls, community centres, district and town libraries, markets and others will be undertaken using labour intensive methods and the full deployment of local building materials;
- An accelerated Social Housing Scheme under the Rural Housing and Urban Renewal Programmes;
- The job creation programme under the “New Approach to Public Sector Reforms” where the facilitative power of the state will be used to create businesses and jobs in partnership with the private sector.

Roads:

- Eastern Corridor: Tema-Asikuma-Ho-Hohoe-Jasikan-Yendi-Nalerigu-Kulungugu with Nkwanta in the Volta Region as an inland port;
- Western Corridor: Elubo-Asemkrom-Enchi-Goaso-Sunyani-Bamboi-Bole-Wa-Hamile with Gambia No. 2 in the Brong Ahafo Region as an inland port; and
- Central Spine: Accra-Kumasi-Techiman-Tamale-Bolgatanga-Paga with Boankra in the Ashanti Region as an inland port.

Railways:

- Refurbishment and modernization of the Western Line;
- Rehabilitation of the Accra-Tema, Kumasi-Ejisu, Accra-Nsawam and Takoradi-Kojokrom rail networks;

Aviation:

- Upgrading of the Tamale Airport into Ghana’s second international airport;
- Commence feasibility studies for the establishment of an alternative International Airport to Kotoka International Airport;
- Expand and modernise the Kotoka International Airport and the Takoradi, Kumasi and Sunyani domestic airports to handle increasing commercial activities and passenger loads.
- Work towards the incorporation of a new national carrier.

Maritime:

- The construction of a modern deep seaport at a suitable location in the Western Region to serve the oil and gas industry;
- The rehabilitation of the Takoradi and Tema ports;
- The construction of two fishing harbours at Elmina and James Town and landing sites at Axim, Dixcove, Moree, Fete, Mumford, Winneba, Senya Beraku, Teshie, Ada, Keta, Abotoase and Dzemeni using part of the Chinese Development Bank loan.

Other sectors that will be expected to increase employment as a result of our initiatives in the next four years include the MMDAs, the Rural Enterprises Programme, the Northern Rural Growth Programme, the SADA Investment Schemes, the Western Corridor Development Authority, the Security Services, the Graduate Business Support Scheme, the Ghana Education Service, and ICT and Business Process Outsourcing.

INFRASTRUCTURE

The next NDC Government will implement the following programmes:

- Increase power generation from 2,443 megawatts to 5,000 megawatts by 2016;
- Launch an ‘Energy For All’ programme under



which universal access to electricity will be targeted by 2016;

- Increase social housing and improve sanitation and social facilities that promote secured settlements for the people's improved welfare;
- Continue the Western and Eastern Corridor Roads and modernise the Central Spine;
- Construct a new deep sea port in the Western Region;
- Use oil and gas development as a catalyst to diversify the economy;
- Target the development of the country's potential in mini hydro power projects with capacities below 100 megawatts, especially in the northern savannah zone, in partnership with SADA;
- Construct two National Science Parks to spread the benefits of technology across Ghana.

GOVERNANCE

The NDC Government will:

- Establish and implement a framework for collective and individual contribution to the peace, safety, security and stability of the country;
- Further to government's White Paper on the report of the Constitution Review Commission's Report, we will involve the people directly in the election of District Chief Executives and take responsibility for the payment of the remuneration of Assembly members;
- Hold Presidential meetings with leaders of the registered political parties to discuss critical national issues;
- Establish Commissions of Enquiry to

investigate matters related to public land acquisitions and empower the office of the Sole Commissioner responsible for the management of judgement debts to ensure the best interest of Ghana is served at all times.

- Work with the Legislature to prioritise the passage of the Freedom of Information Act, Broadcasting Act and the Affirmative Action Act;
- Continue to create a reformed, responsive and result-oriented public sector;
- Provide office and residential accommodation for the Armed Forces, Police, Prisons and Fire Services.

As social democrats, the NDC believes that it is the duty of the Government to pull the marginalized, disadvantaged and the poor into the mainstream of the socio-economic order. We believe that universal access to health care, education, affordable food, water, electricity and housing is the right of every Ghanaian. The next NDC administration will therefore harmonize existing social safety-net initiatives into one agency, to ensure that targeting is effective and the poor and vulnerable are involved in safety-net program decision-making.

Our 2012 Manifesto contains the policy initiatives that are required for building the new era of social justice and equity which has been our goal for the past two decades and which we share with many millions of Ghanaians.

Ours is to build 'A Better Ghana' for today's Ghanaian and future generations.

THEME ONE: PUTTING PEOPLE FIRST



INTRODUCTION

As social democrats, the NDC remains committed to the implementation of policies and investment in programmes that will enhance the productive capacity of our people, contribute to our collective and individual abilities and guarantee a better quality of life for all Ghanaians.

Since January 2009 when the NDC re-assumed office, we have invested in people and created a solid foundation for launching a SOCIAL COMPACT during the second term of the NDC administration. This social compact is based on a charter of commitments to Invest in People through Education, Health, Pensions, Social Protection, Persons with Disabilities, the Aged, Youth and Child Development, Women's Empowerment and Sports. Education is at the heart of the development of people. Under this charter, the NDC commits to "Quality Education for All," guaranteeing equitable access for ALL, from basic to secondary education.

NDC Charter for a Social Compact:

"People Matter, You Matter and Everybody Matters"

Between 2013 and 2017, the NDC will initiate a social compact with the people of Ghana in a manner that ensures equitable access to quality education; quality health care delivery and a harmonized social protection initiative that will ensure that the poorest and most vulnerable in our society are supported to move from destitution into active and productive lives. The social compact also contains a commitment to enhance sports and create conducive conditions for play and happiness.

This social compact will include an active citizen-based monitoring effort, to ensure that the services promised are delivered and to the satisfaction of citizens

EDUCATION: A RIGHT

The 1992 Constitution of the Fourth Republic of Ghana categorizes education into basic, secondary [including technical and vocational], higher (tertiary) education and functional literacy (Article 25 (1)). The Government of the NDC is committed to ensuring the fulfilment of the constitutional obligation to provide Free Compulsory Universal Basic Education (FCUBE) under Article 25 (1) (a) and Article 38 (2). It is equally committed to the progressive introduction of free secondary education under Article 25 (1) (b).

A programme for the free, compulsory, universal basic education (FCUBE) exists and is being implemented. The NDC government recognises that a programme for the progressive introduction of Free Secondary Education will require an implementation strategy involving concurrent actions on:

- Expansion of infrastructure and other logistics to enable access for all;
- Expanding and improving the human resource base by increasing the number of Teacher Training institutions to improve quality of teaching and learning.

All NDC administrations, conscious of this constitutional obligation, have worked and recorded significant strides in these two areas. The NDC in the next administration beginning January 2013 will accelerate the process of providing equal access to education by constructing additional Senior High Schools, Vocational and Technical Schools and Teacher Training Colleges as well as expanding existing ones.

While the Constitution requires basic education to be free, compulsory and universal, 20% of Ghanaian children of school going age presently are not able to go to school either because there is no space or there are no teachers. At the secondary (second cycle) level, only about 46% of those who qualify to enter Senior High School, Vocational or Technical schools are able to gain admission either because there is no space or there are no teachers. Resources for the creation of space and the provision of teachers at both the basic and second cycle levels therefore are the topmost priorities of the education system.

The NDC's education programme seeks to address these challenges of the FCUBE and continue the programme for the progressive introduction of free secondary education. The tertiary level will also engage our attention because we are conscious of the obvious linkages between education including tertiary and socioeconomic development. These provide the core of the Education section of our 2012 Manifesto, which is produced against the backdrop of our 2008 Manifesto in which we outlined education policy actions targeted at addressing the specific difficulties impeding the delivery of effective education.



OUR 2008 MANIFESTO ACHIEVEMENTS IN EDUCATION

Under the 2008 Manifesto, we have achieved the following:

- A National Strategic Plan to ensure that Kindergarten Education becomes an integral part of Basic Education delivery in Ghana has been initiated;
- Three million school uniforms have been provided to children in needy and deprived communities across the country. With a total population of 5.2 million school children, this means that 3 out of every 5 school children have been supplied with school uniforms;
- Over 40 million exercise books per year have been distributed to about 4.8 million pupils in Basic Schools nationwide as part of our commitment to investing in our people;
- Eliminated 40% of the “Schools Under Trees” in less than 4 years with the construction of over 1,700 new Basic school buildings out of a total of about 4,300
- In the Greater Accra Region in particular, we are on track to completing the construction of 48 three-storey 18-unit classroom blocks to end the shift system;
- Over 100,00 laptop and desktop computers have been supplied to various institutions and students across the country through the Ministries of Education and Environment, Science & Technology, and GIFEC;
- Under the School Feeding Programme we have more than doubled the number of beneficiary school children from about 600,000 pupils in 2008/2009 to over 1.4 million in 2011/2012;
- We have increased the Capitation Grant by 50%;
- We have provided additional facilities for schools in deprived communities with a \$75 million Schools and Districts Grant Facility;
- Fifty-nine (59) out of the one hundred and ten (110) Science Resources Centres nationwide have been rehabilitated;
- Five Thousand (5,000) scholarships have been provided to Mathematics and Science students from Second Cycle and Tertiary institutions under the Mathematics, Science and Technology Scholarship Scheme (MASTESS);
- Three Hundred (300) emergency classroom blocks were constructed to cater for the unplanned infrastructure and logistics for 4th year SHS students;
- A National Apprenticeship Programme has been introduced to enrol over 13,000 apprentices annually in 25 different skills areas for JHS students who are unable to access Senior High Schools;
- With the introduction of the Local Enterprises and Skills Development Programme (LESDEP), provision has been made for short-term training and employment programmes for the youth as part of the out-of-school Technical & Vocational Education & Training activities;
- Study leave has been granted to over 9,000 teachers as part of our commitment to quality human capital development and for improving the quality of teaching and learning in our schools;
- To enhance the quality of teachers and provide incentives for their career progression, the College of Education Act has been passed, marking a successful transition of the 38 Training Colleges to the tertiary level of education;
- Twenty Four Thousand (24,000) trained and untrained teachers were recruited as a stop-gap measure for the shortage of teachers in mostly deprived areas and these have been trained to enhance their pedagogical skills;
- Eight Thousand (8,000) additional untrained teachers out of an intended 16,000 are currently enrolled in selected Colleges of Education for the Untrained Teachers Diploma in Basic Education (UTDBE);
- Two new Public Universities have been established in the Brong Ahafo and Volta Regions. The University of Energy and Natural Resources and the University of Health and Allied Sciences have commenced enrolment and admitting students for the 2012/2013 academic year;

- As part of the promise to improve academic work at the University for Development Studies (UDS), a housing facility for House Officers at the Tamale Teaching Hospital has been constructed. A four-storey Lecture Theatre has also been completed at the Wa Campus;
- GETFund resources have been used to provide residential facilities, classrooms, laboratories, libraries and administration blocks in every region and at every level of education towards the improvement of education delivery.

OUR 2013-2017 PROGRAMME

Our programme for the 2013-2017 period covers Basic Education (comprising Early Childhood Care and Development, Primary and Junior High Schools), Secondary Education (comprising Senior High Schools, Vocational and Technical Schools) and Higher Education (comprising the Universities, Polytechnics and the Colleges of Education) as dictated by the 1992 Constitution.

The programme also covers distance learning and open schooling, non-formal education, teachers, the quality of teaching and learning, science and technical education and linkages between education and industry.

BASIC EDUCATION

Early Childhood Care and Development

The next NDC Government will pursue the following programmes:

- Encourage the establishment of conventional and non-conventional facilities that promote the survival, growth and protection of all children;
- Review and implement the National Policy on 'Early Childhood Care and Development' and broaden parental participation in the implementation of the policy;
- Promote and strengthen collaboration between the Ministry of Education and the Department of Social Welfare in the provision of pre-school and kindergarten education including the training of teachers for that level of education;
- Allocate more resources for the rehabilitation of kindergarten facilities throughout the country to provide the essential resources necessary for the training of children at that level of education.
- We will introduce a one-year specialised skills training programme in the various Colleges of Education for the training of teachers for the kindergarten and day care classes. In the long term, we will establish Special schools in designated Colleges of Education to train and graduate teachers solely on early childhood care and development.



Primary and Junior High School Education

Our programme for Primary and Junior High School education is aimed at attaining the constitutional objective of a Free, Compulsory and Universal Basic Education. It is anchored on the three major outstanding issues of Free, that is cost involved, Ensuring access, that is, there are enough spaces and teachers for all children of school-going age; and Ensuring compulsion, that is, Government, parents and guardians ensuring that all children of school-going age are sent to school.

The measures that will be taken include the following:

- Eliminate the remaining 60% of identified 'Schools-Under-Trees';
- Progressively expand coverage of the School Feeding Programme to all public basic schools in rural and needy communities;
- Continue the construction programme to eliminate the "Shift System" from the public school system;
- Review the Capitation Grant periodically to keep pace with cost levels;
- Ensure improvements in Special Needs Education;
- Accelerate ICT education by training more teachers in the subject area and continue the free supply of computers to Primary and JHS as well as establishing ICT laboratories for clusters of schools;
- In this administration we have provided free uniforms and free textbooks. In the next administration, we will review all costs currently burdening parents, and ensure that basic education is free as the Constitution mandates.

Secondary (Second Cycle) Education

The 1992 Constitution does not make second cycle education part of the basic school system and is therefore not required to be made free immediately. On the contrary, it clusters secondary, vocational and technical education together as "secondary education" and provides that there shall be progressive introduction of free education at that level (Article 25 (1) (b)).

Our programme for the progressive introduction of free secondary education will continue with the system of free tuition for all students, which has been the norm since independence. We will also make good the promise in our 2004 Manifesto for the Government to assume responsibility for the payment of water and electricity bills for all Secondary Schools because we consider these to be associated costs in our second cycle institutions and that cost must be socialized.

Senior High Schools

The major policy thrust would be the attainment of universal access to secondary education by 2016. In pursuance of this goal and the increasing number of students at this level, the NDC Government will increase infrastructural facilities as follows:

- Construct two hundred (200) new Community Day Senior High Schools across the country with emphasis on districts where there are no such schools;
- Provide capitation grant to all students in the new Community Day Senior High Schools to be built by government;
- Increase the subsidies currently paid to existing secondary schools with a view to reducing the burden on parents;
- Aggressively expand infrastructure including classrooms, dormitories, laboratories and teachers accommodation in existing secondary schools to enable them absorb the increasing numbers of qualified candidates;
- Continue the rehabilitation of Science Resource Centres
- Strengthen the Computer School Selection and Placement System (CSSPS) to place all JHS graduates into second cycle institutions and other skills development programmes, including apprenticeship programmes;
- Provide facilities for students with disability to pursue their academic programmes effectively.

Vocational and Technical Schools

To address educational options for out of school youth and workers seeking to train in new employable skills, the next NDC Government will continue to support skills training using the Vocational and Technical Schools. The new National Apprenticeship Policy, which is already being implemented, will be continued.

The Council for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (COTVET) will be empowered to provide a more skills competency-based technical and vocational education. The Vocational and Technical Schools will be restructured and rebranded to provide a well-defined education stream, which will terminate at the tertiary level.

Other specific initiatives include:

- Expansion of equitable access to technical and vocational education and training (TVET) by locating such institutions in the zongos and under-served areas of urban communities and increasing the participation of disadvantaged groups through a bursary scheme for disadvantaged students with

special focus on female students and the provision of stipends for identified apprentices;

- Improvement of the teaching and learning environment through the provision of facilities and equipment for the ten (10) existing Technical Institutes, the College of Technology Education, Kumasi of the University of Education, Winneba, and the Accra and Kumasi Polytechnics;
- Building the human and institutional capacity of COTVET and the training institutions involved in the delivery of TVET;
- Improvement in the quality and relevance of TVET including the introduction of compulsory basic training (CBT) in three trade areas namely welding, electronics and plant engineering.
- Conversion of GRATIS Foundation into a College of Vocational Technology by 2016. The Regional Technology Transfer Units will become regional campuses with the main campus at Tema and the administrative headquarters in the Eastern Region to train middle level vocational and technical manpower.



TERTIARY (HIGHER) EDUCATION

Colleges of Education

- Expand and upgrade the facilities in all Colleges of Education to befit their new status as tertiary institutions;
- Increase the admissions of teacher trainees in the existing Colleges of Education by over 30% from 9,000 to 12,000;
- Establish at least 10 new Colleges of Education in the medium term to be located in areas not well served currently in anticipation of the increase in student numbers on account of our increased access to education programme.

Polytechnics and Universities

Recognising that most people who acquire tertiary education whether through attending Colleges, polytechnics or universities are aspirational and have a desire to improve their educational status for development:

- The NDC government will upgrade all Polytechnics into degree awarding institutions that will award both HND and Degrees;
- We recognize that on a case-by-case basis, the polytechnics may have to upgrade their facilities and qualification of faculty in order to become degree awarding institutions;
- Continue the provision of infrastructure for the Universities of Health and Allied Sciences and Energy and Natural Resources;
- Establish a new public University in the Eastern Region to complete the NDC's vision of providing a public University campus in every Region of the country;
- Continue to upgrade both residential and academic facilities in the other existing public Universities, particularly the University for Development Studies, to address the current deficit;
- Provide facilities to augment the operations of the Medical Schools of the University for Development Studies and the University of Cape Coast;

- Continue the on-going new campus development programmes of the Ghana Institute of Journalism, the School of Translators and the National Film and Television Institute (NAFTI).
- Continue to make allocations from the GETFund for the training of faculty members of tertiary institutions and provide scholarships for the training of critical manpower needed to drive Ghana's transformation agenda;
- Review the number of private universities and encourage existing institutions to expand and consolidate.
- Examine mechanisms for extending the Student Loan Trust to students in private tertiary institutions.
- Engage private tertiary institutions to identify the relevant Government support required to ensure that their products are aligned with the manpower requirements for critical national development.



DISTANCE LEARNING AND OPEN SCHOOLING

The NDC Government will support the Centre for National Distance Learning and Open Schooling (CENDLOS) to harmonize open and distance learning activities in the country. The Centre will concentrate on expanding what has been attained at the tertiary level and replicate it at the pre-tertiary level through the use of appropriate technologies and approaches.

NON-FORMAL EDUCATION

The next NDC Government will actively support the Non-Formal Education Division (NFED) and its programmes and carry out the National Literacy Programme with greater urgency and expanded coverage. We will convert the Division into an Agency and empower it to make the necessary interventions for life- long education.

TEACHERS

The NDC Government considers teachers as partners in national development and will continue to implement a policy mix that will elicit maximum co-operation from teachers in the attainment of its education policy objectives.

In pursuing our strategic goals, we will:

- Expand the Untrained Teachers Diploma in Education (UTDBE) Programme to reduce the number of untrained teachers by at least 50%;
- Institutionalize the In-Service Education and Training (INSET) Programme;
- Implement a diversified mix of incentives including housing, training and professional development;
- Continue to pay a special allowance to teachers in deprived communities; and
- Ensure the early processing of salaries of newly posted teachers as well as placement of newly promoted teachers on their correct salary levels.

QUALITY OF TEACHING AND LEARNING

The next NDC Government will make improvement in the quality of teaching and learning a major focus in the attainment of acceptable outcomes in the education sector. The policy measures will include:

- Effective operationalization of the newly created National Inspectorate Board;
- Provision of requisite learning and teaching materials to teachers
- Expansion of the distribution of laptop computers to teachers;
- Upgrading of qualification of staff;
- Establishment of career guidance and counselling units and the training of core counsellors for SHS, Vocational and Technical schools as well as in the tertiary sector.

SCIENCE AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

We will continue to promote science and technical education through:

- Incremental credits for science, mathematics, technical and vocational teachers;
- Upgrade of tools and equipment for teaching science, technical and vocational subjects;
- Rehabilitation of the remaining Science Resource Centres, that were for eight years abandoned by the previous administration;
- Continued use of the Mathematics, Science and Technology Scholarship Scheme (MASTESS) to support needy students to opt for mathematics, technical, science and science-biased programmes at both the secondary and tertiary levels; and
- Distribute 400,000 laptops and desktop computers to schools, teachers, students and pupils with an additional focus on software programmes.

LINKAGES WITH INDUSTRY

The next NDC Government will strengthen the linkages between tertiary education and industry as one of its strategies to address the problem of graduate unemployment.

The policy options include:

- Establishing university/ polytechnic/ industry collaborative programmes to increase opportunities for practical training and internship;
- Curriculum development to meet the skills and human resource demands of industry;
- Create opportunities for work and study;
- Making training in entrepreneurship a cardinal component of the school system;
- The Job and Enterprise Centres to be set up under the Office of the President will link up with Industry to provide opportunities for intensive internship, mentoring

HEALTH FOR ALL

We acknowledge that Ghana has a Double Burden of Disease – Communicable and Non-Communicable. Our policy will prioritize access, equity, affordability, and inclusion. The NDC believes that a good, efficient, and reliable health care system has a strong transformative economic impact on our nation and the lives of the citizenry.

In the NDC Manifesto of 2008, we made a number of crucial promises to assure a better health system for the people of Ghana. In fulfilment of those promises, the NDC government has:

- Established over 1,300 Community Health Improvement Planning and Service (CHPS) compounds;
- Constructed 19 Health Centers for areas with populations of over 500;
- Established 12 District hospitals;
- Commenced work on a 250-bed Ashanti Regional Hospital to reduce pressure on Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital;

- Commenced construction of Schools of Bio-Medical Sciences at the University of Ghana, Legon and the University of Health and Allied Sciences at Ho;
- Started the structural rehabilitation and upgrading of Tamale Hospital to serve as a Teaching Hospital;
- Established 10 polyclinics;
- Constructed a Diagnostic Centre for the School of Medical Sciences of the University of Cape Coast;
- Instituted a post graduate programme at the 37 Military Hospital;
- Refurbished the Regional Hospitals at Cape Coast, Ho and Sunyani;
- Strengthened the National Ambulance Service with the addition of 161 ambulances to facilitate rapid response to medical emergencies;
- Started the installation of magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) equipment in six hospitals across the country.

Other achievements are in the areas of human capacity development in health service delivery; health professional training infrastructure and facilities; and legislations for the Health sector. For its next term the NDC government proposes to:

- Increase resources for the training of medical doctors in order to reduce the patient-doctor ratio and the long waiting times in our hospitals.
- Double the number of Community-based Health Planning and Services (CHPS) compounds from about 1,600 to about 3,200 to meet the needs of under-served communities;
- Establish new district hospitals and more polyclinics in each of the ten regions;
- Establish new infectious diseases management centres;
- Establish Regional Hospitals in the Eastern Region at Koforidua and the Upper East Region at Bolgatanga; and complete the Regional hospital project in Wa, Upper West Region.
- Upgrade the Central and Volta Regional Hospitals into Teaching Hospitals to service the University of Cape Coast and the University of Health and Allied Sciences respectively.

TRAINING OF NURSES

The next NDC Government will:

- Expand the existing Midwifery and Nurses Training Colleges and establish new colleges in under-served areas.
- Work with the Nurses and Midwifery Council to re-introduce the Certificate in Midwifery Training Programme and in conjunction with the private sector establish more facilities for the training of auxiliary nurses to lower the current nurse-patient ratio.
- Provide opportunities for auxiliary nurses, including those under the National Youth Employment Programme, to move up the professional ladder.

HIV/AIDS

The NDC Government has taken appropriate measures to ensure that it will be in a position to provide anti-retroviral drugs to persons living with HIV/ AIDS even when donor funds dwindle further. To give meaning to this; Government is supporting the new National Strategic Plan with GH¢150 million.

Traditional Medicine

The NDC Government will continue to implement its policies on the integration of traditional medicine into the health care delivery system in compliance with the provisions of the Traditional Medicine Practice Act, 2000, Act 575. The Government will also actively support the proposed School of Traditional Medicine at the University of Health and Allied Sciences.

Malaria

For the effective control of malaria, the next NDC Government will:

- Extend the on-going free Insecticide Treated Nets (ITN) distribution programme to attain the 2005 Abuja target of 60% of children sleeping under insecticide treated nets.

- Continue the already initiated programme of Biological Control of Malaria through vector management

Expanded Programme on Immunisation

In April 2012, the Government added pneumococcal vaccine for pneumonia and rotaviruses for diarrhoea to the existing vaccines for the Expanded Programme on Immunization. These vaccines are serving as additional interventions by the NDC Government to ensure that Ghana attains the 4th Millennium Development Goal, which aims at reducing child mortality and morbidity.

Nutrition

We shall fully support the implementation of the 'Good Food for Good Life' campaign, which is targeted at improving feeding practices. To achieve this a multi-sectoral approach will be adopted to include key sector Ministers and other stakeholders.

Non-Communicable Diseases

The next NDC government intends to strengthen the Non Communicable Disease unit of the Ghana Health Service for the prevention, early detection and management of diseases, such as hypertension, diabetes, kidney failure, obesity, and also to roll out nationwide awareness programmes on screening for cervical cancer, breast cancer, cancer of the prostate and cancer of the colon.

We will support Teaching Hospitals and selected district hospitals to provide the necessary curative care for all identified early cases of cancer.

We will roll out an aggressive public education programme through mutually enhancing partnerships between Ministries of Health, Sports and Education in addition to leveraging the existing school health programme to address emerging childhood obesity.

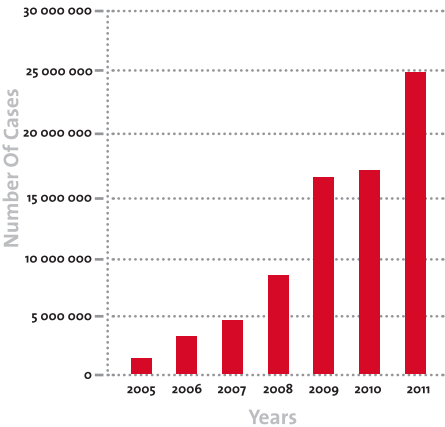
Mental Health

The next NDC administration will vigorously pursue the implementation of the Mental Health Act 2012, Act 846.

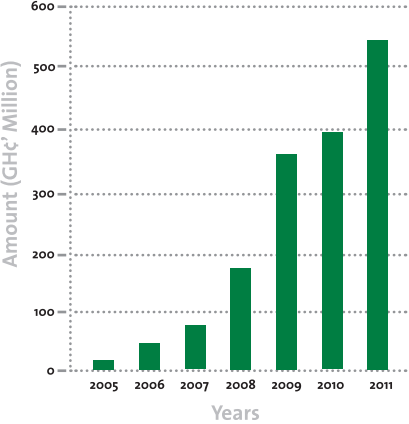
National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS)

The significant increase in the number of people who have registered and are utilizing the NHIS has also resulted in a quantum increase in claims payments. These trends are not only indicative of Government's commitment to widening access to healthcare, but are also proof of a health insurance scheme that is working for the people, as depicted in the graphs below.

Out-Patient Utilisation



Claims Payment Trend (GH¢ Million)



Source: Unaudited Financial Statements 2010/2011

In the next four years, the NDC Government will:

- Make the NHIS truly national by phasing out the District Mutual Health Insurance Schemes;
- Improve efficiency in the provider payment mechanisms and roll out capitation nationwide;
- The newly passed National Health Insurance Bill now gives us the requisite impetus to vigorously broaden and expand our national health care scheme for the benefit of all Ghanaians.
- Further strengthen the NHIS both in terms of coverage and effectiveness as well as administrative and operational efficiency in accordance with provisions of the new legislation currently before Parliament;
- Bearing in mind that the NHIS already covers breast cancer and cervical cancer the next NDC Government will expand the NHIS benefit package to possibly cover family planning, mental health, prostate cancer and the physically challenged;
- introduce instant NHIS Card issuance to address the inherent challenges in the current ID Card management regime.

National Ambulance Service

The next NDC Government will procure additional ambulances for the National Ambulance Service to establish an Accident Evacuation Service along the major road corridors.



PENSIONS FOR A DECENT RETIREMENT

The NDC is convinced that pension programmes, when well designed, provide secure, adequate and sustained incomes for the workforce and their families in their old age and also provides for those who would temporarily go out of employment.

For this reason, our 2008 Manifesto assured Ghanaians of the Government's readiness to design a suitable pension "options for all citizens" to secure a decent retirement. The NDC in government has delivered on this promise.

The NDC on assumption of office, and in consultation with the relevant social partners inaugurated the National Pensions Regulatory Authority (NPRA) to register and supervise the prudent management of workers pension contributions under the three-tier pension system.

The Authority, by the end of the first quarter of 2012 had licensed 9 Companies to operate as Corporate Trustees; 29 Companies as Pension Fund Managers; and 7 local bankers as Pension Fund Custodians.

The NDC, aware of the challenges confronting the pensions regime, proposes in its 2013-2017 term, to undertake the following measures:

- The establishment of a National Pension Benefit Guarantee Insurance (NPBGi) to protect plan participants against adverse market conditions and challenges associated with default by fund managers, custodians and trustees.
- A reduction in the number of pension service intermediaries for the second and third tiers.
- Ensuring Guaranteed Minimum Benefits to contributors.
- Provision of pension education and information service points to deal with problems associated with information management so that employees, contributors, and future workers can freely access pension fund-related information.
- Implementation of the provision in Article 37 (6) (b) of the 1992 Constitution which calls for the introduction of social pensions on the basis of citizenship or residence for the elderly in Ghana.

HARMONIZED SOCIAL PROTECTION

In the 2008 Manifesto, the NDC targeted its social protection programmes at the aged, children, people with disabilities and the vulnerable. This was to be achieved through identification of the most vulnerable in the Ghanaian society and the introduction of a range of interventionist policy frameworks to assist them live a meaningful and dignified life. In pursuance of these targets, the NDC Government undertook the following measures:

- Established the National Council for Persons with Disability (NCPD) as a Public Council to oversee and implement the Persons with Disability Act and all related regulations and programmes;
- Directed the use of 2% of the District Assemblies Common Fund by MMDAs to address the challenges facing Persons with Disabilities;
- Introduced a programme targeted at training 5000 persons with disability in ICT, computer assembling and repairs.
- Finalised the Legislative Instrument under the Disability Act for Parliamentary approval;
- Developed a national strategic plan for the implementation of the Disability Act;
- Captured persons with severe disabilities under the LEAP for cash transfers;
- Established harmonized committees at the District and Community levels to facilitate the implementation of social protection interventions;
- Developed a policy to protect, assist and integrate the elderly into the society;
- Increased beneficiaries of the LEAP from 10,000 in 2008 to 71,000 in 2012 and also increased the level of the LEAP grant by 200% from a range of Gh 8.00-Gh 15.00 to between Gh 24.00-Gh 45.00;
- Expanded coverage of the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) to all 71,000 LEAP beneficiary Households.

Having identified the challenges associated with the social protection schemes, the next NDC Government will pursue the following programmes to consolidate and make social protection more effective in targeting and measuring impacts on the poorest and most vulnerable:

- Consolidate the many social protection policies and programmes run by various Ministries (including LEAP, LESDEP, School Feeding Programme, Better Ghana ICT Project, Free School Uniforms) under a National Social Protection Agency that will harmonize the scattered social intervention programmes to enhance delivery, effectiveness and targeting;
- Develop an integrated programme for the registration of all persons above a specific age, school children and persons with disability as well as others facing chronic poverty into a common database for purposes of targeting them in the LEAP and other needed social protection initiatives;
- Establish a well-resourced Inspectorate and Enforcement division aligned to specific Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) to monitor the compliance levels with provisions in the various legislations that converge around social protection policies;
- Facilitate the implementation of the Ageing Policy to assist in protecting the aged and their overall integration into the society;
- Pioneer the passage of a Domestic Workers' Support and Protection Act to streamline domestic work and promote the rights of domestic workers.



PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

The next NDC Government remains committed to evolving policies to address the peculiar concerns of persons with disabilities. During its next term, the NDC Government will continue to mainstream issues of disability in the development planning process at all levels. In addition, we will:

- Ensure the passage of the required Legislative Instrument under the Persons with Disability Act, 2006, Act 215;
- Ensure the implementation of the provisions of the Disability Act, including universal access to infrastructure; and
- Increase the proportion of the District Assemblies Common Fund set aside to support the disabled under the Districts' Support Scheme for the Disabled (DSSD) –the Disability Fund- from 2% to 2.5%.

THE AGED

The next NDC Government will continue to integrate issues on ageing in the development planning process in conformity with the national ageing policy which was launched in December 2011. In addition to the full implementation of the National Action Plan (NAP), the NDC will aggressively implement all the social and health interventions targeted at the aged.

The NDC will institute a programme of “free-bus ride” for persons above 70 years of age on the Metro Mass transport system.

CHILD DEVELOPMENT

With the view to providing the platform for every Ghanaian child to develop to his or her full potential, the next NDC Government will:

- Review and implement the ‘Early Childhood Care and Development Policy’;
- Improve resource allocation for child development, survival and protection;
- Facilitate the implementation of the National Plan of Action (NPA) on Child Labour and the Worst Forms of Child Labour (WFCL); and
- Strengthen state institutions responsible for the implementation of the compulsory component of the FCUBE policy.

WOMEN’S EMPOWERMENT

In our first term, the NDC appointed the first female speaker of parliament and the first female commissioner of CHRAJ, among others, consistent with our commitment to advance the status of women in leadership. The next NDC government will continue to make progress on this commitment with the ultimate goal of attaining 40% women’s representation in all public appointments and at the Party’s Conferences and Congresses.

To accelerate the process, we shall develop leadership-training programmes for women, especially young women to manage public offices and exercise responsibilities at all levels. We shall also create a special fund to support the participation of women in national and district level elections, while measures will be taken to increase the number of women Presidential appointees in the MMDAs.

The key elements of our strategy will include:

- Amendment of the Local Government Act 1993, Act 462 to reserve 40% of the President’s appointees to the MMDAs to women;
- Increasing the proportion of female beneficiaries of the Mathematics, Science and Technology Scholarships Scheme to at least 40 per cent every year;

- Sustained public education, advocacy and sensitization on the need to reform outmoded socio-cultural practices, beliefs and perceptions that promote gender discrimination;
- Reformation of discriminatory provisions on the rights and duties of parties to a marriage including grounds of divorce under customary and religious laws and full implementation of the Spousal Bill when passed by Parliament;
- Expansion and sustenance of micro-finance schemes for women;
- Elevation of businesses managed by women from mainly micro to the small and medium scale level through the widening of their access to credit; and
- Provision of facilities and support for victims of violence and
- Expansion of the targeting of LEAP to include victims of domestic violence.
- Institute a special programme to deal with the peculiar hygiene needs of the girl child in order to retain them in school.

CHILD LABOUR AND STREET CHILDREN

The number of street children in the country has been rising over the past decades with the most recent survey indicating a significant increase in their population over the last two decades. To the extent that poverty is a major factor for the phenomenon, the next NDC Government will target some of its poverty mitigation strategies at breaking the intergenerational problems that it engenders.

YOUTH AND SPORTS

The NDC Manifesto of 2008 promised to re-establish a Ministry of Youth and Sports, prepare a non partisan National Youth Policy and provide a policy environment which will enable the youth to realize their full potential. We also promised to pursue a sports policy focused on sports infrastructure development, the identification of sporting talents especially through Inter-Schools sports competitions and a “Catch Them Young” programme.

Almost all these promises have been fulfilled.

There however remain outstanding challenges, which will be addressed through the following programmes:

Youth Development

- A GH¢10 million Youth Jobs & Enterprise Development Fund will be set up under the direct supervision of the Presidency. The Job and Enterprise Centre (JEC), which will manage the Fund, will identify good business plans, ideas and prospects from young people, provide financial capital, incubation opportunities and technical support and enable young people who want to become entrepreneurs to achieve their goals.
- Job and Enterprise Centres (JEC) will be established in all regions to help unemployed youth and those about to enter the world of work to prepare for the world of work and entrepreneurship (own business). They will learn interview skills and CV & business plan preparation. JEC will be equipped with internet facilities.
- A stimulus package targeted at increasing youth employment will be introduced in conjunction with the private sector;
- Further to the introduction of the National Youth Policy, the NDC Government will ensure the passage of the Youth Bill by Parliament as well as parliamentary ratification of the necessary regulations to ensure its speedy implementation;

- Development of Youth Recreation Centres in the districts to facilitate youth meetings, interactions, cultural programmes, conferences and inputs into the District Assemblies' deliberative mechanisms;
- Completion of the refurbishment of the Regional Youth Leadership Training Centres;
- Organisation of Youth Volunteer Work Camps annually in each district in partnership with MMDAs in order to foster the spirit of patriotism and nationalism;
- Increased recruitment under the self-employment modules of the NYEP to reach a target of 1 million youth in 4 years.

Sports Development

- Support for the various national football teams to qualify for the various World Cup competitions and in particular the World Cup for the senior teams involving the Black Stars to be held in Brazil in 2014 and also ensure effective participation in the Olympic Games in the same country in 2016;
- Provision of incentives for MMDAs to establish at least one well resourced sports and athletic infrastructure in districts to enhance the development of sporting talents of the nation's youth;
- Re-invigoration of the traditional inter-school and colleges sports competition programme;
- Provision of support to youth in sports and athletic programs across the country by allocating adequate resources for the supply of sporting equipment to schools and communities;
- Reserve 5% of admissions to Senior High Schools for talented sports and other creative students;
- Completion of the Cape Coast Stadium as promised by our late President Professor John Evans Atta Mills;
- Continuation of the programme of providing sports stadia to regional capitals;
- Restructuring and re-orientation of the National Sports Authority to enhance its efficiency and effectiveness in the discharge of its mandate;
- Improvement of community and institutional sports infrastructure by developing a further 20 multipurpose courts in selected districts

and educational institutions across the country in partnership with Corporate Ghana and donors;

- Development of the lesser known sporting disciplines in the country;
- Pursue the employment of qualified technical staff to be posted to the districts as Sports Development Officers to help develop sports at the grassroots levels and to identify and nurture potential talents for the promotion of sports at the national level.

COMPREHENSIVE POVERTY REDUCTION

The Government of the NDC has been faithful in discharging an aggressive and comprehensive attack on poverty, rapidly leading initiatives that address the root-causes and previous policy failures in the areas of development equity across the country.

Savannah Accelerated Development Authority (SADA)

In 2009, we promised and delivered the most far-reaching policy to establish a dedicated Authority that will bring about accelerated development and poverty reduction in the northern savannah ecological zone of Ghana, known as the poorest areas of the country. In the space of 4 years:

- We completed a comprehensive, long-term (25-year) strategy and program for accelerated development in the SADA areas;
- Enacted legislation to back the Authority, ACT 805, 2010;
- Provided core and seed funding of 200 million GHC as promised under the 2008 Manifesto and subsequently mandated by Parliament
- Provided an additional 30 million GHC per year in 2011 and 2012.

These funds have been utilized to establish the most far-reaching series of programs that are addressing the basic needs of the most vulnerable, while promoting accelerated development.

- In 2011, SADA supported 6,000 farmers affected by floods in 2010 with improved seeds and fertilizer to restore their livelihoods, destroyed by the floods.
- In 2012, this support to farmers increased to a coverage of 15,000 farmers, and the support package included tractor services, with the deployment of 100 tractors across the SADA regions;
- An afforestation program was initiated involving the planting of 5 million trees and the deployment of 5,000 youth employed to plant and nurture the trees;
- In partnership with public and private sector, SADA catalysed the establishment of the Shea-butter factory in Buiepe; a rice processing plant in Nyankpala; and an oil mill in Tamale;
- Through the Millennium Villages Project (MVP) sponsored by SADA and DFID, an additional 15 million British Pounds are being invested in the most deprived section of the northern savannah, known as the “overseas” for its remoteness, poverty and isolation.

In the next term of the NDC, SADA will expand its programs in climate-change mitigation by expanding its economic tree stock from 5 million to 10 million;

- Increase its service to small-holder farmers from a current 16,000 farmers to 40,000 in 4 years;
- Rapidly expand the economic assets of small-holder farmers by providing access and assistance for farmers’ groups to acquire tractors and other farm implements;
- Co-invest in leading agro-industrial establishments, including: increasing the number of shea-nut factories from 1 (in Buiepe) to 3 (one each in the Upper East and Upper West regions)
- Co-invest in mini-hydro-electric and multi-purpose irrigation dams in Pwalugu (with the VRA) and along Sissili-Kulpawn with private sector partners.

Spreading Development Dividends to the Western Corridor

Plans are far advanced to finalize the establishment of the Western Corridor Development Authority, along the lines of the SADA initiative. Through this effort, an integrated development strategy will link Western to Central Region, in a manner that will address an integrated infrastructure, social service delivery and business development that will enhance the competitive advantages of the two regions, long neglected by public policy and resource allocation.

CITIZEN MONITORING OF PERFORMANCE OF SOCIAL COMPACT

This social compact is one in which the State covenants to deliver on the key areas of social development outlined above. A mechanism of active citizen monitoring of the performance of the social sectors will be instituted, and organized civil society groups will be supported to conduct independent audits of service performance, in particular, in health, education and social protection. The results of such citizen-based performance assessments will be published and the service providers called upon to answer any notable grievances from the public.

Citizens will also be engaged to provide suggestions for feedback for service performance improvements and other reform measures needed, especially for the poorest sections of the population.

THEME TWO: A STRONG AND RESILIENT ECONOMY



THOUSAND CEDIS

INTRODUCTION

As a social democratic party the NDC is duty-bound to focus its economic development priorities on improving the lives of Ghanaians through investment and development policies that maximise inclusive growth and supports a responsive relationship between state and private sector in a manner that creates wealth without undermining the interests of ordinary Ghanaians and a sustainable environment.

Arising out of these we aspire to achieve the following targets during our next term:

- Maintain single digit rate of inflation;
- Ensure exchange rate stability;
- Reduce deficits significantly;
- Maintain an average annual growth rate of at least 8%

Fundamentals of our Economic Program

- Creating a macro-economic environment that promotes accelerated growth, and encourages both new domestic and foreign direct investment;
- Ensuring an economy supported by strong, responsive and development oriented capital market which is able to support the capital needs of both the public and private sectors;
- Ensuring an economic growth that yields equitable dividend to all who contribute to the growth and has sufficient safeguards for the vulnerable sections of the community;
- Developing an economy in which the productive sectors of the economy provide sufficient anchorage for a robust, growing and competitive services sector to thrive;
- Ensuring an economy with sufficient resilience that enables it to overcome domestic and external shocks supported by reserves in liquid and other assets;
- Ensuring an economy in which nationals play dominating, active and strategic roles;
- Managing the economy in such a way that science, technology and innovation enhances the attainment of progressively higher outputs from inputs;
- Ensuring an economy in which resources are not otherwise wasted or diverted through corruption and rent-seeking activities;
- Ensuring an economy which is sustainable and depends progressively less on foreign aid;
- Developing an economy that satisfies all sustainability criteria including climatic, environmental, natural resources management;
- Ensuring an economy that recognizes Ghana as a low middle income country that seeks to move to higher levels of middle income.

MAINTAINING ROBUST MACRO-ECONOMIC FUNDAMENTALS

In just 4 years of prudent macro-economic management, the NDC Government (2009 – 2012) achieved:

- Sustained single digit inflation for more than 24 months since June 2010, the lowest annual average single digit rate since 1970;
- Restored relative exchange rate stability;
- Maintained an unprecedented GDP growth rate of 14.4% in 2011 from 8.4 % in 2008;
- Reduced the fiscal deficit to 6.1% in 2011 from 14.5% in 2008;
- Improved tax revenue/GDP ratio from 13.9% in 2008 to 19.7% in 2011;
- Improved investor confidence resulting in increased foreign direct investment of US\$2.5 billion worth of projects in the first half of 2012;
- Increased the Gross International Reserves of the Bank of Ghana from 1.8 months of import cover in 2008 to 3.8 months import cover in 2011.

In spite of this impressive overall macroeconomic performance, some of the classical challenges associated with low-income countries still remain to be adequately addressed on a sustainable basis to enable Ghana's movement from a low-middle income country to the upper-middle income bracket.

By a combination of macro and micro-economic policies, the NDC, in the Sixth Government of the Fourth Republic, intends to complete the unfinished agenda in order to attain growth with enhanced equity, which will Advance the Better Ghana that we have promised.

In this regard, the following will be the specific macro economic targets to be pursued in the next four years:

- An average GDP growth rate of at least 8% per annum;
- A single digit rate of inflation;
- An overall budget deficit equivalent to 5.0 per cent of GDP; and

- Gross international reserves that will cover not less than four months of imports.

Overall, our economic policies and programmes will aim at the attainment of a per capita income of at least US\$2,300 by year 2017.

The NDC government will pursue the following specific policy initiatives:

Monetary Policy

- Monetary policy will continue to emphasize low and stable inflation rates, a flexible exchange rate regime that enhances export competitiveness and import competition. Government will also continue to implement complementary measures that will assist the Bank of Ghana improve financial intermediation;
- The Government will support the Bank of Ghana to reduce the current very high level use of cash and to move progressively towards a cashless economy;
- Implement pragmatic policies that will encourage banks to reduce their lending rates and make savings products more attractive.

Fiscal Policy

Government will continue to resource the revenue collection agencies to improve their efficiency in the collection of revenues to enable it meet its developmental objectives. Fiscal policy will focus on:

- Ensuring transparent, effective and efficient natural resource revenue management, including oil and gas revenue management;
- Providing further tax incentives for investments in strategic businesses;
- Increasing the government's low revenues from the mining sector by reviewing the royalty regime in the mining sector and introducing measures that will enable the state and other stakeholders to fully benefit from the upside in the prices in the sector;

- Continuing with the on-going reforms to strengthen public financial management to ensure value for money and efficient delivery of public service;
- Providing tax incentives to make long-term savings products more attractive and to encourage the growth of a local pool of funds for increased domestic investments.

AGRICULTURAL MODERNIZATION

Recognizing the key role agriculture plays in the Ghanaian economy through its contribution of 35% to the GDP and employment for over 60% of the working population, the NDC promised in its manifesto of 2008 to accelerate agricultural modernization and the transformation of the rural economy. This was to quicken the pace towards full domestic food security, increased agricultural exports, improvement in farm incomes, production of raw materials for value addition through processing, generation of employment and alleviation of poverty. This was to be achieved through a number of productivity-enhancing strategies including timely availability of needed farm inputs, opening up marketing opportunities for farmers, fishermen and up scaling credit support for agricultural processes.

Much has been achieved through the deliberate programmes implemented during the first term of the NDC (2009-2012) consistent with the promises made in the 2008 Manifesto. Some of the major successes achieved include the following:

- Ghana became self-sufficient in food production in 2010 and 2011 as total food production exceeded national demand;
- Domestic maize production recorded surpluses in 2010 and 2011 in spite of adverse weather conditions in 2011;
- Rice output doubled from the 2008 level in 2011 resulting in a corresponding 50% reduction in rice imports;
- Cocoa production exceeded one million tonnes for the first time in 2010/2011;
- Cotton production which had reduced substantially to less than 1000 tonnes in 2008 increased ten-fold;
- Total fish production including marine fisheries saw substantial increases due to the NDC Government's support to subsidized premix fuel, outboard motors and technical backstopping to artisanal fishermen and through deliberate policies to promote aquaculture;
- Agricultural productivity generally increased through uptake of fertilizers by farmers, the use of agrochemicals, pesticides and improved planting materials;
- Ghana achieved the lowest annual food price inflation over a twenty- year period in 2011.

The accelerated modernization of the agriculture sector is one of the major pillars in our economic transformation agenda. It will be propelled by two main strategies. The first involves the implementation of the Food and Agricultural Sector Development Policy (FASDEP) II and the corresponding investment plan as detailed in the Medium-Term Agriculture Sector Investment Plan (METASIP). The key elements of the strategy include:

- Transformation of the agriculture sector from a resource-based to a technology-based industry;
- Provision of subsidies for improved seeds, grade breeders and stocks, pesticides, fertilizer, machinery and other inputs;
- Promotion of selected crops for food security and exports;
- Enhanced returns, particularly for small scale farmers through equitable access to resources and services and promotion of high-value crops, value-added processing and agro-industrialization;
- Encouragement and support for farmers' groups such as co-operatives, farmer based organizations (FBOs), nucleus-out grower schemes, block and contract farmers;
- Promotion of rural industrialization through the provision of incentives for the establishment of industries that have backward linkages to our agriculture resource base;
- Construction of storage facilities including

silos and cold storage units at strategic locations to minimize post-harvest losses; and

- Implementation of the Ghana Commercial Agriculture Project (GCAP) particularly as it relates to strengthening investment promotion infrastructure, facilitating secure access to land, and securing public-private-partnerships and smallholder linkages in the Accra Plains and the savannah zone.

The other strategy will aim at the expanded role of the National Service Scheme in food production. Under the strategy, the National Service Scheme will be supported to expand its food production programme to cover the establishment of demonstration farms across the various ecological zones. The demonstration farms will operate out-grower schemes under which local farmers will be taught the application of modern methods in food production. In addition, the farms will constitute 'open' junior farm schools for the training of school leavers in agriculture in the long-term, dormitories will be built on the farms to provide accommodation for National Service personnel. At the end of their national service programmes, personnel who opt to go into commercial agriculture will be provided with start-up facilities that will include land acquisition and preparation, planting material, chemicals and fertilizer.

Fisheries

The NDC Government will introduce a Fishermen's Life Insurance Scheme (FLIS) to cover the loss of lives of both marine and inland fishermen when they go on fishing expeditions. The premium for the Scheme will come from the contributions of Government, fishermen, boat owners, fish importers and exporters and fines for infractions of L. I. 1968 of 2010.

Other policy measures will include:

- Investment in sanitation and other community enhancing projects by the Landing Beach Committees;
- Enhancement of the operations of the Marine Police Unit of the Ghana Police Service and recruitment of 2,000 young men and women

into the unit over a four-year period;

- Provision of eco-sounders to fishermen at affordable prices;
- Construction of two fishing harbours at Elmina and James Town and landing sites at Axim, Dixcove, Moree, Fete, Mumford, Winneba, Senya Beraku, Teshie, Ada, Keta, Abotoase and Dzemeni using part of the Chinese Development Bank loan;
- Completion of the University of Cape Coast Fisheries College at Anomabo; and
- Introduction of alternative livelihood programmes in the coastal communities.

Aquaculture

Against the background of the over 240% increase in production over the past four years, from 5,600 tons in 2008 to 19,000 tons in 2011, the NDC Government will continue to ensure the accelerated growth of the sub-sector through:

- Development of aquaculture infrastructure including hatcheries;
- Development and multiplication of breeding stock through research;
- Improvement in fish husbandry practices and fish health management;
- Supporting the expansion in cage fish farming from the Volta Lake to the Bui Lake and to other major rivers including Oti, Pra, Ankobra and Tano;
- Harnessing of the fish production potential at Pwalugu; and
- The full implementation of the new Ghana National Aquaculture Development Plan, 2012-2017 to increase production from 19,000 tonnes in 2011 to 100,000 tonnes in 2017.

Staple Crops

In the next four years, the NDC Government will target self-sufficiency in rice production to be followed by entry into the export market. Projections in the crops sub-sector based on the outcomes over the past four years relative to the targets set in the 2008 Manifesto are:

- Raising output of other grains, particularly maize, sorghum and millet by 60%;
- Increasing output of roots and tubers by 50%; and
- Raising production of fruits, vegetables and oil seeds including soya bean by 25%.

The policies that will drive the attainment of the targets include:

- Promotion of selected staple crops in each ecological zone, with SADA and MoFA embarking on an aggressive promotion of rice, maize, sorghum and soya bean production through commercial and out-grower partnerships;
- Promotion of selected traditional and exotic vegetables for exports, including mango, cashew and shea-nuts;
- Extension of the concept of nucleus-out grower and block-farming schemes and contract farming to cover staples and cash crops;
- Modernization of agriculture involving the expanded involvement of the National Service Scheme in agricultural activities;
- Promotion of small-holder productivity in partnership with large-scale nuclear-farm production; and
- Facilitation in the training of out grower farmers in all processes required under Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) with emphasis on the harvesting and handling of horticultural crops and exotic vegetables.

Cash Crops

Cocoa

Having attained a 50% increase in the output of cocoa in 2011 based on the output for 2008, the NDC Government will focus on sustaining the production of one million tonnes of cocoa attained in 2011 and improving on it. Measures that will propel the attainment of the targets include:

- Distribution of 20 million hybrid cocoa seedlings free of charge over the next six years;
- Continued payment of at least 70% of the world market price of cocoa to farmers; and
- Continued application of the hi-tech system to increase yield per hectare;

Other policies and programmes will include:

- Intensification and extension of the mass spraying exercise to include brushing, pest and disease control, shade management, pollination and fertilization;
- Construction of all-weather roads using sealing materials/chemicals in the cocoa growing areas and other rural communities to facilitate the evacuation of cocoa and food crops;
- Provision of warehousing facilities and a crop financing scheme; and
- Processing at least 60% of the cocoa beans produced in Ghana by supporting all the major chocolate manufacturing companies to establish processing plants in Ghana.

Shea nuts

With the establishment of the 40,000-ton capacity shea nut processing plant at Buipe, the main focus of the NDC Government will be the use of research and extension to support expansion in output. The Shea nut Development Board promised in our 2008 manifesto and which was established in December 2011 will formulate policies and initiate activities for the sustainable growth of the industry.

Cotton

- Promotion of cotton research and development for Ghana to become a market leader;
- Increased support for cotton farmers to produce adequate quantities for the underutilized capacities in the existing cotton ginneries and by extension for the revival of the textile factories;
- Establishment of a legal framework to support the restructuring of the industry; and

- Reviving the Cotton Board to co-ordinate activities in the industry and streamline the production and marketing of cotton.

Other Cash Crops

The NDC Government will use part of the oil and gas revenue to develop oil palm and rubber in the south, and bast fibre in the transitional zone in addition to the cotton and shea nut earmarked for the northern regions. The long-term goal of the strategy will be the diversification of Ghana's economy.

Irrigation

Besides the 11,000 hectares of land that are to be irrigated in the Accra Plains with part of the funds from the China Development Bank loan, the following policies are also slated for implementation:

- Promotion of the efficient utilization of existing irrigation facilities especially in drought prone areas;
- Rehabilitation of viable irrigation infrastructure;
- Development of appropriate and affordable irrigation schemes, dams, boreholes and other water harvesting techniques for different categories of farmers and ecological zones; and
- The irrigation of 150,000 hectares of land under the Pwalugu multi-purpose hydroelectric scheme.

Agricultural Mechanization

The remarkable increase in equipment and machinery to support the agriculture sector through the import of combined harvesters, maize harvesters, tractors and grains-cocoon storage facilities among others as well as the creation of 77 new Agricultural Mechanization Service Centres will constitute the foundation on which the NDC Government will build the new initiatives in the sub-sector. The initiatives include:

- Expansion of the Agricultural Mechanization Service Centres to cover the remaining old districts as well as the new districts;
- Collaboration with the private sector to build the capacity of individuals and companies to produce and/or assemble farm equipment;
- Promotion of the production and use of small multi-purpose machinery along the value chain, including farm level storage facilities, appropriate agro-processing machinery/equipment and intermediate means of transport; and
- Establishment of hire purchase/lease schemes with backup spare parts for all machinery and equipment.

Poultry and Livestock

The main policy focus will be on averting the frequent violent clashes between nomadic herdsmen and food crop peasant farmers through the creation of fodder banks. The Government will therefore replicate the 245-hectare fodder bank to be established at Wawase in the Kwahu North District in other parts of the country. The NDC Government will also initiate a scheme for the importation of cattle from the neighbouring countries, particularly those in the Sahel region to support the sustainable development of the livestock sub-sector.

Other targets include:

- Support for the large scale breeding and production of guinea fowls to boost the poultry industry;
- Supply of improved goats, sheep and pigs to farmers as breeding stock;
- The launch of a national campaign on the production of grass cutters and rabbits;
- The targeted output increases of maize and soya beans over the next four years which will substantially benefit poultry production as excess over human requirements will be used in poultry feed;
- Promotion of private sector investment in poultry through support to enable the leverage of funding from EDIAF for the procurement of poultry and piggery

infrastructure, equipment and other facilities including slaughtering and packaging;

- Provision of Veterinary Health Support and extension services to farmers;
- Support for private sector enterprises involved in animal feed formulation as well as hatcheries;
- Sensitisation of the various poultry and livestock associations to actively take advantage of the above programmes.

Seed Production

Further to the promulgation of the Plants and Fertilizer Act, 2010, Act 803, which regulates, monitors and ensures the use of quality seeds, our policy actions will:

- Support the development and introduction of climate- change resilient, high-yielding, disease and pest-resistant and short duration seed varieties, taking into account consumer health and safety;
- Build the capacity to develop more breeders; and
- Support the production of certified seeds and improved planting materials for both staples and industrial crops.

Agriculture Finance

Following the amendment of the EDIF law and the passage of the Export Development and Agricultural Investment Fund Act, the tight spigot on the flow of funds to the agriculture sector has been loosened. With more resources available for channelling into agriculture financing, the NDC Government will:

- Provide the framework to ensure adequate flow of funds to the agriculture sector;
- Accelerate the provision of farming and fishing inputs and agriculture-related infrastructure and services; and
- Provide incentives for the Youth-in-Agriculture Programme to become more commercially oriented as agriculture is made more profitable.

In addition, we will:

- Provide selective subsidies for the procurement of improved technologies for poor farmers and women;
- Initiate a pension scheme for farmers as well as an agriculture insurance scheme to cover agriculture risks; and
- Target the implementation of the recommendation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) for a minimum of 10% of discretionary budget to be committed to strategic areas to improve agriculture production and productivity.

Research, Extension Services and Agriculture Education

The NDC Government will improve the effectiveness of the Research-Extension to Farmer linkages and integrate the concept into the agricultural research system to increase participation of end-users in technology development.

We will also put emphasis on the use of extension methods such as farmer field schools, nucleus-farmer-out-growers and extension fields in the districts through mass education. We will also formulate an agriculture education syllabus that promotes agriculture as a business.



THE PRIVATE SECTOR IS KEY

The NDC Government continued to partner the private sector for the accelerated growth and development of the economy. Even though Ghana improved from the 92nd position in 2009 to the 63rd in 2012 on the World Bank's "Ease of Doing Business Index", the next NDC Government will continue to work with the private sector to further improve the business environment. The private sector will be expected, among other things, to innovate and increase productivity and provide an increasing share of the investment required in the country. The Government will intervene in the market as and when appropriate to ensure equitable spread of investment and employment opportunities within the whole economy.

In furtherance of the above the NDC government in the past four years has:

- In consultation with the private sector, developed a blueprint document, the Private Sector Development Strategy II (PSDS II), covering all major aspects of private sector development currently under implementation;
- In consultation with stakeholders has also put together the Industrial Sector Support Programme (ISSP), which is the implementation framework for Ghana's industrial policy;
- Established a Tariff Advisory Board as a precursor to the establishment of the Ghana International Trade Commission as an investigative body into unfair trade practices;
- Developed programmes and budgets to significantly improve on infrastructure provision;
- Established a Private Sector Advisory Council;
- Developed the Public-Private-Partnership (PPP) policy which has provided opportunities for the private sector to participate in the delivery of infrastructure;
- Established the PPP unit at the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning;
- Converted the Rural Enterprises Project into a nation-wide Rural Enterprises Programme launched with funding from the AfDB and IFAD; and
- Expanded the scope of EDAIF to cover not only exports, but also agriculture not necessarily related to exports.

To further improve the environment in which the private sector operates, the next NDC government will ensure full implementation of the PSDS II which defines interventions to resolve some of the challenges facing the private sector including:

- Improving the investment climate by reducing the cost and risk of doing business, accelerating infrastructure development and making the financial sector more efficient and relevant to the needs of the private sector;
- Supporting the movement into a diversified economy by providing support for industries that are increasing growth, helping the private sector discover new opportunities and promoting innovation and helping the private sector to increase efficiency of key goods and service markets through the establishment of PPP;
- Increasing productivity by greater outsourcing, stronger supply and distribution chains, trade and development services and strengthening clusters;
- Increasing the incentive to create formal jobs by making technical and vocational training more relevant to the needs of the private sector and increasing labour market efficiency through policy and institutional reforms;
- Increasing opportunities for the poor especially in the underdeveloped regions through increasing the productivity of agriculture and the efficiency of agricultural value chains and promoting non-farm enterprises and employment;
- Re-organising the Venture Capital Trust Fund to better serve the interest of start up businesses by young entrepreneurs by providing new seed capital to finance start ups in selected areas such as pharmaceuticals, ICT and agricultural technologies by young people and persons with disability.

- Preparation of a national framework covering all sectors of the economy for the promotion of local content and local participation.
- Promulgation of laws promoting local content in critical sectors such as Telecoms and Oil & Gas currently under consideration. Implementation of capacity building initiatives to ensure that the local teams are reliable and ready to take part in the on-going participation arrangements.
- Government will promote ownership by Ghanaians of significant stakes in the emerging industries and services by acquiring, in the first instance, stakes in these enterprises with a view to offloading them to Ghanaians in the future.
- The NDC government will continue its support for the Brand Ghana programme, which it launched in partnership with the private sector.
- The NDC Government will continue to mobilize resources from existing financial and technical sources such as EDIAF, AfDB and IDA to support Micro and small-scale enterprises in all sectors of the economy.
- Develop the Ghana Commodity Exchange to provide efficient market mechanisms for price discovery in the trading of agricultural commodities.
- Continuation of the programme for releasing land acquired by the state for which no compensation has been paid to the land owners when the state decides not to utilize the land for the purpose for which it was acquired;
- Promotion of technological and legal reforms under the Land Administration Project/ Town and Country Planning Development-Land Use Planning and Management Project (LAP/ TCPD-LUPMP) in support of land use planning;
- Ensure the passage of the Ghana Geological Survey (Amendment) Bill to transform the Department into a semi-autonomous organization.

OUR FORESTS ARE ENDANGERED

Ghana is on the verge of losing her forest cover, which is currently estimated at about 1.6 million hectares, down from the estimated 8.2 million hectares at the beginning of the 20th Century. The NDC will pursue policies and programmes that will target the reversal of the trend and address gaps in the effective and efficient management of our forestry resources including:

LAND: THE ECONOMIC BASIS

The NDC Government remains committed to the on-going reforms in the administration of land in the country. We will develop a comprehensive land-use policy to facilitate the creation of land banks, efficient land-use including irrigation and serviced plots and management to ensure sustainable agriculture development as well as to facilitate investments in the economy. Our programmes and policies for the next four years will also entail the following:

- Review of the Accra Re-development Policy with a view to removing the abuses associated with it;
- Expansion of the national plantation development programme to cover degraded forests and off-reserve areas;
- Promoting the utilization of non-traditional tree species such as rubber wood, coconut and bamboo to supplement raw material supply from natural forests;
- Intensification of sensitization programmes on bushfire prevention, suppression and control;
- Introduction of alternative livelihood programmes for chainsaw operators;
- Promulgation of legislation to prevent mining activities in protected areas;
- Creation of specialized courts to adjudicate protected area offences;
- Development of the Achimota Forest into a publicly owned ecological theme park; and
- Review of the provisions of the Forestry Commission Act, 1999, Act 571, to re-align it with other Commissions dealing with natural resources.

MINING FOR NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The long-held position of the NDC is that the mining sector has to be re-organized to allow the nation and mining communities specifically to benefit more from their resources. In consonance with that position, our policies will hinge on:

- The amendment of the Minerals and Mining Act, 2006, Act 703 will be completed and implemented to reflect the principle of polluter pays as well as UN Conventions and ECOWAS Protocols on mining and the ECOWAS directive on the harmonization of the guiding principles and policies in the Mining Sector;
- Provision of a platform for a transparent engagement of major stakeholders to increase harmony in the sector;
- Implementation of the regulations for the payment of compensations and guidelines for the use of unutilized mining concessions;
- Continued review of the investment regime in the mining sector in order to maximize returns to the state;
- Review of the tax regime on other natural resources to ensure better financial returns to the state;
- Development of other industrial minerals to reduce overdependence on the few traditional minerals and promotion of greater value addition;
- Provision of legislative backing for the Minerals Development Fund and review of the royalties' distribution formula to address the concerns of communities, chiefs and District Assemblies;
- Completion of geological exploration in identified areas for small scale miners to reduce the incidence of illegal small scale mining (galamsey); and
- Ensuring transparency in the management of payments, receipts, disbursements and utilization of extractive sector resources in compliance with the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI);
- Vigorous implementation of the programme to transform galamsey operations into legitimate small scale mining activity on clearly demarcated areas;

- Aggressive continuation of the exercise started by Government to flush out foreigners who have invaded the small-scale mining sector since the sector is reserved for Ghanaians and will continue to be reserved for Ghanaians.

MANUFACTURING: ADDING VALUE TO OUR RAW MATERIALS

The NDC's commitment is to increase the contribution of the manufacturing and industrialization sectors to our economic development focusing on the establishment of agro-based industries and the exploitation of our newfound oil and gas resources to provide energy and industrial raw materials.

In this regard we promised in our 2008 manifesto the following:

- Strengthening of linkages between industry and research and development institutions including internships and sabbatical leaves;
- Establishment of an Industry Support Centre to assist firms to become internationally competitive;
- Strengthening of EDAIF and restructuring the National Investment Bank (NIB) to become key financiers of industry;
- Decentralization of industrial development to exploit the resource endowments of districts;
- Taking advantage of the oil find to ensure the establishment of new and emerging industries such as petro-chemicals, fertilizer and LPG cylinders;
- Duty free importation of production inputs on the same basis as for the Free Zones.

In furtherance of the above we promised to facilitate:

- The establishment of manufacturing enterprises to process agricultural produce, especially beans, fruits and sheanuts
- The exploitation of the limestone deposits at Buipe and Nauli for the production of cement as well as the utilization of the significant clay deposits in the country for the production of bricks and other building materials to

support our program for the construction of affordable housing units;

- Rejuvenation of the textile industry in an integrated manner from seed production to spinning, to ginning and printing;
- The establishment of integrated shea butter processing factories in the three Northern Regions, targeting the processing of shea butter for both local and international markets;
- The processing of salt leading to the establishment of a petrochemical industry in the Keta area;
- The rehabilitation of abandoned but potentially viable manufacturing enterprises such as the Kumasi Jute factory, the Aboso Glass factory, the Tannery and Coir Fibre factories and the Pomadze Poultry Enterprise;
- A review and possible implementation of the plans for an Integrated Iron and Steel Industry at Oppon Manso.

Our achievements during this period have been substantial and include the establishment of a Shea butter processing plant at Buipe; rehabilitation of the Wahome Steel Factory; establishment of a Cement factory at Buipe; rehabilitation of the Shoe factory in Kumasi by the Ministry of Defence; expansion of the scope of EDAIF to cover agriculture and SMEs; implementation of a new Industrial Policy and an accompanying Industrial Sector Support Programme (ISSP); and the finalization of a policy document for the establishment of an Industrial Fund.

In our next term we will concentrate on full implementation of the ISSP including the following:

- Provision of leadership, managerial and technical skills to industry players through increased support to existing training institutions and implementation of entrepreneurial skills training to new entrants;
- Establishment of the Industrial Development Fund to provide long term financing;
- Implementation of FINSAP II and other efforts to deepen financial inter-mediation and make credit more responsive and affordable;
- Establishment of Industrial Estates,

enforcement of zoning regulations and development of a Land Banks Website to publicize lands available for industrial and agricultural purposes.

We will also fully implement PSDS II covering the following:

- Increasing productivity and lowering production costs;
- Increasing uptake in modern technology;
- Improving business, technical, managerial and entrepreneurial skills;
- Increasing access to medium and long term financing;
- Improving institutional, regulatory and a competitive tariffs regime;
- Ensuring strong research and institutional support link to industry;
- Ensuring that other sectors such as energy and financial services deliver quality services to the manufacturing sector to spur productivity, quality and sustainable job creation;
- Setting up an effective consumer protection unit to collaborate with the public and civil society groups to ensure quality of life and value for money for citizens.



INDUSTRIALIZATION: BUILDING ON OUR OIL WEALTH

Oil and Gas and Natural Resources

With the anticipated commercial exploitation of crude oil and gas, we are positioning Ghana for a major industrial take-off. We are laying the foundation for:

- An integrated petroleum industry based on bauxite;
- A petro-chemical industry based on salt and natural gas;
- A fertilizer industry to give impetus to agro development;
- A salt-based chemical industry for caustic soda; and
- Allied consumer products and exports based on oil and gas.

The oil and gas discovery also now makes the late Dr. R. P. Baffour's long cherished dream of an integrated iron and steel industry based on the iron ore deposits at Oppon Manso in the Western Region a real possibility.

WORKING FOR HAPPINESS

In 2008 we promised to:

- Implement a program of lifelong learning to benefit those already in employment;
- Encourage labour intensive programmes and stimulate small businesses which potentially offer sustainable employment opportunities;
- Initiate and launch an Employment Policy that would seek to reduce unemployment to the barest minimum;
- Launch a major housing and public works scheme involving urban roads, drainage construction and environmental sanitation;
- Design programmes to provide unemployed graduates with entrepreneurial skills and develop a new framework for cooperative development; and

- Develop and implement the Rural and Urban Entrepreneur and Artisan Project (RUEAP), which seeks to empower and realize the full potential of artisans.

We also promised to review and streamline public sector wages with the view to boosting productivity and paying living wages to the working people.

The following are some of the achievements of the NDC government in this area:

Training and Capacity Building

- A Fisheries College is being established at Anomabo as an integral part of the University of Cape Coast;
- ICT training programmes for unemployed and physically challenged youth are being undertaken in a number of institutions and organizations;
- The Rural Enterprise Programme involves training and equipping artisans to enable them establish their own businesses;
- A pilot scheme for bamboo and cane farming has commenced;
- Work continued on a new Cooperative law to address the inherent challenges to cooperative organisation and is going through stakeholder consultations;
- The Single Spine Pay Policy has been implemented;

Job Creation

An average GDP growth rate in excess of 8% has contributed to the creation of jobs in all sectors of the economy. In addition to this, specific targeted job creation interventions have been undertaken. These have included:

- The Eco-Brigade Project; the establishment of forest plantations; labour-based road maintenance projects; and the revival of the Youth in Agriculture Programme;
- Increased recruitment into the security services;
- The launch and implementation of the Job Creation programme under the "New Approach

to Public Sector Reforms” where the facilitative power of the state is used to create businesses and jobs in partnership with the private sector.

The 2013-2017 Programme

The central plank of the NDC Government’s policies in the next four years will be the use of our oil and gas endowments to leverage the leap in economic growth and social development required for the creation of sustainable jobs in all sectors of the economy. We will adopt employment-centred, cross-sectoral strategies to mainstream job creation in all national and decentralized development planning processes.

Key initiatives to be undertaken include:

- Promotion of a district-focused Public Works Programme under which socio-economic infrastructure projects such as town halls, community centres, district and town libraries, markets and others will be undertaken using labour intensive methods and the full deployment of local building materials;
- Implementation of the Graduate Business Support Scheme contained in the 2012 budget statement;
- Full implementation of the “New Approach to Public Sector Reform” job creation programme;
- Implementation of the incentive element of the Single Spine Pay Policy (SSPP) to take care of public sector employees in deprived areas;
- Vigorous implementation of the linkage of the “pay-to-productivity” aspect of the SSPP by establishing a sustainable performance management system;
- Overhaul of the human resource management of the public service as a basis for improving service delivery;
- Establishment of a labour information database to provide regular and reliable data on new job opportunities, unemployment numbers and vacancies;
- Continuing support to SMEs to ensure they grow to support job creation;

- Enactment of a new Cooperative Act;
- Establishment of a GH¢10 million Youth Jobs and Enterprise Fund to support and encourage young people to become successful entrepreneurs.

Thousands of jobs are also expected to be created when the projects that are to be implemented with funds from the China Development Bank are rolled out.

These include:

- Western Corridor Gas Infrastructure Project;
- Western Corridor Infrastructure Renewal Project comprising the Takoradi Port Retrofit and the Western Railway Line Modernization;
- Western Corridor Petroleum Terminal Project;
- Western Corridor ‘Oil Enclave’ Toll Road Project;
- Sekondi Free Zone Shared Infrastructure and Utility Services Project;
- Coastal Fishing Harbours and Landing Sites Project comprising the construction of two fishing harbours at Elmina and Jamestown and landing sites in 12 other communities;
- Eastern Corridor Multi-Modal Transportation Project;
- Accra Plains Irrigation Project;
- Accra Metropolitan Area ICT-Enhanced Traffic Management Project; and
- SME Projects Incubation Facility.

Initiatives in the integrated aluminium industry envisage the creation of several other thousands of sustainable jobs in the following industries Building, Construction, Power and Food, Beverages and Packaging industries. Our job creation strategy also involves the full revival of the following companies or industries because of the availability of relatively cheap gas-fired energy and/or the increased output of raw materials:

- Volta Aluminium Company;
- Textile industries and ventures in their value chain;
- Ceramics, brick and tile manufacturing.
- Glass factories; and
- Steel mills

Sectors and/or industries that are expected to expand job opportunities include the following:

Agriculture

- Accra Plains Irrigation Project;
- Agriculture Modernization Scheme;
- Aquaculture Development Programme.
- Development of inland valleys for rice production by SADA; and
- The development of the multi-purpose hydro scheme on the Pwalugu River for power and agricultural projects.

Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies

- Filling of existing vacancies in the existing MMDAs and the staffing of the newly created ones;
- Conversion of post office buildings across the length and breadth of the country into Community Information Centres and utility bills payment and money transfer collection points.

Rural Enterprise Programme Phase 3

The implementation of the Rural Enterprise Programme Phase 3 is projected to create sustainable jobs in the micro, small and medium scale enterprises sector. The Programme covers 161 districts nationwide. Thirty rural technology facilities will be established under the Programme across the length and breadth of the country.

Rural and Agricultural Finance Programme

The Programme is to cater for smallholder farmers and rural enterprises with a special focus on women and vulnerable groups. Under it, Rural and Community Banks will engage young University and Polytechnic graduates to further improve their human resource capacity.

Northern Rural Growth Programme

The Programme, which is being implemented in the northern regions and contiguous districts in the Brong Ahafo Region, is to increase household incomes on a sustainable basis with a special focus on industrial crops such as sorghum, oilseeds, shea nut, fruits and vegetables and animal products.

SADA Afforestation and other Investment Programmes

The SADA afforestation programme will entail the planting of five million seedlings a year of assorted trees in the northern savannah zone over the next five years. In addition to these, SADA has initiated a guinea-fowl investment project, in partnership with private sector operators to support over 2,000 rural producer groups (mostly women) to produce and process about 200,000 birds for the market every year.

Through planned partnership with Guinness, Ghana Ltd., SADA will support over 10,000 out-growers to accelerate the production of sorghum for the beverage market, thereby increasing local content in beverage production by about 50%.

Western Corridor Development Authority

Plans are advanced to launch the Western Corridor Development Authority, serving the accelerated development needs of the coastal savannah areas of the Western and Central regions. This initiative is expected to expand strategic infrastructure and support the creation of jobs in the tourism and natural resource areas.

Road Safety Task Force

The Road Safety Task Force will encompass the recruitment of young people to support the police in the management of motor traffic and accidents.

Security Services

The security services particularly the Armed Forces and the Police Service are expected to recruit officers and other ranks due to the rising tempo of their existing programmes and the need to beef up personnel to man new facilities that are being provided by the NDC Government.

Graduates Business Support Scheme

The Scheme targets graduates to benefit from exposure and practical skills to support them to set up their own businesses every year.

It also envisages the grooming of top-level businessmen and women.

Ghana Education Service

In the Ghana Education Service, there are vacancies for thousands of teachers at the basic level alone. In addition, more openings will be available for teachers and other professionals for the new schools and other institutions that are to be built in all the three layers of the education ladder.

ICT and Business Process Outsourcing

On completion, the Science Parks in the Eastern and Central regions will create more job opportunities in ICT and Business Process Outsourcing – a field in which Ghana is already a leader in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Financial Services

The increased levels of profitability in the operations of firms in the financial services sector, particularly banks and micro-finance institutions, are expected to lead to increased hiring in the sector.

Accelerated Infrastructure Provision

The Accelerated Infrastructure Provision of the NDC Government, which has been propelled by the adoption of the PPP policy, will also be a source of significant job creation.



TOURISM AND THE CREATIVE INDUSTRY

Tourism

Ghana's tourism industry has been raised to a higher level for increased contribution to national development through the establishment of the Ghana Tourism Authority and the creation of the Tourism Development Fund for financing the development of the tourism industry and its related projects and programmes.

During its next term, the NDC Government will:

- Make Ghana a preferred and competitive tourist destination;
- Develop new, high-value options in the leisure market, particularly in the culture, heritage and eco-tourism components of the tourism industry while enhancing the attractiveness of existing products;
- Institutionalise the celebration of Panafest and Emancipation Day;
- Enhance tourism services and standards through inspection, licensing and classification of formal and informal tourism establishments;
- Design programmes to reduce the constraints of operators in the sector with a special focus on women entrepreneurs;
- Support the development of national parks and potential tourism sites in the Central Region, the Lake Bosomtwe area, the Volta Basin and on the Dodi Island;
- Expand the scope of the Kwahu Easter Paragliding Festival;
- Encourage health care providers to promote health tourism;
- Accord export status to tourism by granting the sector the benefits and concessions enjoyed under the Export Development and Agricultural Investment Fund; and
- Ensure the eradication of sex abuse and the spread of sexually transmitted diseases and HIV/AIDS associated with tourism.

The Creative Industry

The NDC promised in its 2008 Manifesto to develop and implement a robust and dynamic culture policy that would enable government to mainstream culture into Ghana's social and economic development agenda. The culture policy would take cognizance of the nation's cultural diversity and the basis for growing an entrepreneurial culture and a culture rooted in science and technology which will ensure that artisans will acquire the requisite skills to turn our cultural wares into globally competitive but locally affordable products.

Government would recognize and patronize local producers and their products. These were to be executed through the provision of appropriate legal and regulatory framework for the creative industry, the protection of intellectual property rights, the creation of opportunities for developing relevant human resources, support for the use of multimedia technology, the facilitation of access to finance and the export market for products of the industry.

The Manifesto also pledged that government would encourage artistes and cultural entrepreneurs to form an umbrella group that would regulate their own affairs and advice government on matters pertaining to policy and development of the creative industry. In pursuance of the above;

- The NDC Government facilitated the organization in Accra of an international conference on 'Heritage Matters' that brought together stakeholders to review and redefine what really constitutes the nation's heritage;
- The NDC Government developed and launched a Five-year Strategic Plan that will address the main Manifesto promise;
- The National Museums Decree, 1969, NLCD 387, has been amended and a National Museums Act has consequently been enacted to provide a stronger legal framework for the operation of the nation's heritage sector;
- A Ghana Culture Forum has also been organized and launched as an umbrella group of artistes, artisans and other stakeholders in Ghana's heritage sector;

- The National Festivals of Arts and Culture have been revived to foster national unity;
- The NDC Government provided Gh 2 million as a fund to support the creative industry;
- The creative industry is one of the key industries considered for support under the Ghana Shared Growth and Development Agenda.

The NDC Government will develop and strengthen the creative industry to enable the country actively engage in world trade in creative goods and services. To this end, the next NDC Government will:

- Commence the rehabilitation of abandoned Regional Centres of National Culture and establish District Centres of National Culture;
- Revive cultural festivals in basic and second cycle institutions to help nurture the nation's creative resources;
- Support art and craft works and other vocational skills in basic and senior high schools as well as the polytechnics and universities;
- Facilitate access to finance and the export market for products of the creative industry;
- Promote the establishment of a culture and business desk in Ghanaian Missions abroad;
- Promote the development of capacity in the sector;
- Support the establishment of an annual Accra Film Festival;
- Review and ratify UNESCO Conventions on cultural development including the Universal Copyright Convention, the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage and the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage; and
- Encourage private sector investment in the local music and film industry to raise their standards and use them to sustain and export the enduring values of our culture and tradition.



THEME THREE: EXPANDING INFRASTRUCTURE



INTRODUCTION

Notwithstanding our recent achievements in the infrastructure sub-sector, the NDC recognises that much of Ghana's competitiveness challenges can be traced to the fact that the current stock of economic and social infrastructure is both inadequate and generally not of the right quality. Serious efforts have been made to redress this situation but we are yet to achieve the critical mass of improvement required. In line with our records, the NDC government will aggressively continue with this effort under a higher sense of urgency to expand and modernize the infrastructure stock in a comprehensive manner in the next four years guided by a National Infrastructure Plan under preparation.

This vast Land....ours to harness

Ghana is bestowed with incredible natural resources whose development can only be maximised by a strategically-located infrastructure development that harnesses the sustainable development of these natural resources. A National Infrastructure Plan harmonizes the diverse infrastructure needs of energy, power, roads, water resources and transport, aviation and ICT into a coherent, seamless infrastructure strategy for accelerated national development

THE NDC DELIVERED A FIRM INFRASTRUCTURE FOUNDATION

Housing:

- Development by the Tema Development Corporation of Community 24, an area of 509 acres under the Site and Services Scheme, with approximately 2000 residential plots;
- Implementation of the Cocoa Farmers Housing Scheme by the Department of Rural Housing;
- Completion of the demonstration phase of the Amui Djor Housing project for squatters;
- Completion of construction works on storm water drainage at Gbawe, Lafa area, Kasoa Iron city, Madina/ Adentan, Lapaz, Haatso, Ningo, Prampram, Ada and Kpando.

Sustainable Water Provision:

The most significant of our achievements are:

- The adoption of a proposal for the establishment of a 'Water Fund' to insulate the poor and marginalized who cannot afford to pay for water;
- The expansion of the coverage level for rural and small towns water from 57% in 2008 to 63.34% in 2011;
- The expansion of the coverage level of urban water to 63.3% at the end of 2011

Sanitation:

The following initiatives were successfully undertaken:

- The adoption of the Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) strategy, implementation of which has started in the Northern, Upper East, Upper West and Central Regions as a response to poor attitudes and behaviours and the resultant waste management challenges;
- The procurement of 200 motorcycles, 5 pickups and computers for Environmental Health and Sanitation directorates for distribution to regional and district environmental health offices for effective facilitation of sanitation service delivery at the community level;
- The allocation of 700 assorted waste management equipment to all the MMDAs.

Transport:

Major achievements in the transport sector were:

- The enactment of several legislations to boost activities in the sector;
- The establishment of the National Drivers Academy to train and retrain drivers;

- The addition of 350 buses to the fleet of Metro Mass buses at a cost of US\$11m;
- The construction and rehabilitation of major roads and highways throughout the country;
- Major improvements in maritime and inland water transport;
- Extensive rehabilitation works in the railway sub-sector;
- A 76% increase in airlines from 17 airlines in 2008 to 30 in 2012.

Science & Technology for Development:

The Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology has been revived. A Science Technology and Innovation Policy with Implementation Plan has been developed flowing from which GHC 2million has been voted for the establishment of a Science, Technology and Innovation Fund (STIFund).

Energy:

The major achievements have been in the following areas:

- The Tema Oil Refinery debt which incapacitated the company and threatened the operation of Ghana Commercial Bank has been substantially paid off and is being sustainably managed;
- Government has supported VRA, NEDCo, GRIDCo and ECG to undertake the restructuring required to restore their finances;
- At the end of 2011, Ghana had earned a total of US\$444,124,724 from the sale of her 4 liftings totalling 3,930,189 barrels of crude oil;
- With electricity, a 376 megawatt generation capacity was added to the base capacity in 2011; an additional 258 megawatt is to be added by the end of 2012 to bring the total national capacity to 2,443.5 megawatts, an increase of 35% since 2008;
- Access to electricity has increased from 54% in 2008 to 72% in 2011;
- 1,700 communities have been connected to the national electricity grid since 2008, with a larger proportion of this increase representing poorer households who would otherwise not have access to energy.
- The Ghana National Gas Company has been established to ensure the sustainable development of the Gas industry and infrastructure;

The 2013-2017 Programme

The following specific programmes and projects will be pursued by the next NDC Government:

Energy for Growth

- Address systematically, the bottlenecks in production and transmission of power, and bring to an end the problem of infrequent power supply by the end of 2013;
- The launch of an 'Energy to Every Home' programme under which universal access will be targeted by 2016;
- Increase installed power generation capacity from 2,443 in 2012 to 5,000 megawatts by 2016;
- Complete all processes and accelerate the commencement of the second Millennium Compact (MCC) with Ghana, with a focus on energy generation, distribution and the aggressive support for Private energy generation;
- Ghana's energy development to be positioned as a major producer and net exporter to our neighbours while satisfying local demand by industry and homes;
- Speedy and efficient completion of the Gas Infrastructure Project including the provision of a Liquefied Natural Gas degasification plant to augment gas supply to provide reliable and cheaper fuel for energy generation;
- Enhancement of the transmission and distribution networks through continuous expansion and modernization of existing facilities to ensure effective national and sub-regional interconnectivity.



Oil and Gas Development

- Use of oil and gas development as a catalyst to diversify the economy;
- Strengthening the agencies in charge of the regulation of all activities related to all segments of the petroleum industry;
- Facilitating the intensification of oil and gas exploration and development;
- Provision of security for oil and gas installations and operations;
- Collaboration with the partners to remove all the obstacles that have hindered the smooth implementation of the West African Gas Pipeline Project (WAGPP);
- Making the Tema Oil Refinery (TOR) technically and financially efficient with an expanded capacity;
- Increasing the national strategic petroleum reserves; and
- Expansion of the pipeline infrastructure for the transportation of petroleum products.

Renewable Energy

- Enactment of the required Legislative Instruments for the smooth implementation of the Renewable Energy law;
- Targeting the development of the country's potential mini hydro power projects with capacities below 100 megawatts;
- Establishment of dedicated woodlots for fuel wood production and promoting the use of improved technologies for more efficient biomass utilization;
- Development of "Waste to Energy" and other useful products through an all embracing strategy for the conversion of organic, industrial and agricultural waste;
- Encouragement of local participation in the exploration, development and production of oil and gas and their spin-off economic activities; and
- Increasing linkages and funding for technical training and scientific research and development in the oil and gas industry. Prampram, Ada and Kpando.

TRANSPORT - A NECESSITY FOR GROWTH

Inter-Modal Network

The planning and development of the entire transportation sector will be based on the promotion of an inter-modal transportation system to produce an integrated transportation network that will connect all transportation components into a system that is efficient, safe, flexible, user-friendly and environmentally sustainable. The network will be designed to serve the purposes of the movement of persons and goods within Ghana and across the neighbouring countries of Togo, Burkina Faso and La Cote d'Ivoire.

The NDC government will work to attract cost-effective Public Private Partnership and Concession schemes into the Transport Sector as a strategy for an accelerated bridging of the infrastructure gaps in the sector.

Road Infrastructure

The next NDC Government will:

- Cause a review of the standards and specifications of the country's different road categories and ensure that they meet the standards comparable to those in middle income countries. In particular the review will ensure that the impact of climate change is factored in the new specifications;
- Ensure the maintenance of the existing road infrastructure in order to reduce costs associated with vehicle operations and road rehabilitation;
- Improve accessibility to major centres of population, production and tourism;
- Re-introduce labour-based methods of road construction and maintenance for employment creation;
- Implement the Ghana Urban Transport Project including the Bus Rapid Transport and School Bussing Schemes;
- Improve the capacity of local contractors and consultants; and

- Explore Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) and concession options in the provision of transport infrastructure and services.

Highways

The reconstruction, rehabilitation and modernization of the Eastern Corridor, the Western Corridor and the Central Spine will continue to be at the core of the programme for the highways sub-sector.

The roads are:

- Eastern Corridor: Tema-Asikuma-Ho-Hohoe-Jasikan-Yendi-Nalerigu-Kulungugu with Nkwanta in the Volta Region as an inland port;
- Western Corridor: Elubo-Asemkrom-Enchi-Goaso-Sunyani-Bamboi-Bole-Wa-Hamile with Gambia No. 2 in the Brong Ahafo Region as an inland port; and
- Central Spine: Accra-Kumasi-Techiman-Tamale-Bolgatanga-Paga with Boankra in the Ashanti Region as an inland port.

On-going rehabilitation and modernization of two East-West roads, the Bawku-Tumu-Lawra corridor in the Upper East and Upper West Regions and the Tamale-Fufulso- Sawla-Wa stretch in the Northern Region will be completed as scheduled.

Urban Roads

The Government will continue to assist the MMDAs in the construction, rehabilitation and maintenance of urban roads. In this connection MMDAs will be encouraged to explore the Public-Private-Partnership (PPP) strategy for the development of community and residential road networks with drains and street lighting to improve access, health and safety.

Feeder Roads

For sustainable improvements in rural livelihoods and access to markets and other social and economic facilities, the NDC Government will continue to focus on the construction, rehabilitation and maintenance of feeder roads. The Government will support the MMDAs to acquire the equipment they need to construct, maintain and rehabilitate feeder roads while special attention will continue to be paid to the construction, rehabilitation and maintenance of feeder roads in the cocoa growing areas. The construction and rehabilitation of bridges will continue to be high on the NDC's national infrastructure development agenda. A systematic programme will be developed to convert a major part of roads in this sub-sector into all-weather roads in the medium to long term. This will be necessary for purposes of reducing the high recurrent cost of maintaining these roads annually and also using this strategy to open up the hinterland for more comprehensive development.

Non-Motorized Transport

We will continue to facilitate the efficient and safe use of non-motorized transport such as bicycle lanes and pedestrian walkways in the major urban communities, particularly in their central business districts.

Railways

The NDC Government shall take a major step in the rehabilitation of the railways network when the programme to refurbish and modernize the Western Line with funds from the China Development Bank loan and a facility from General Electric Company Ltd. of the USA takes off. As part of our integrated transport plan, the Accra-Tema, Kumasi-Ejisu, Accra-Nsawam and Takoradi-Kojokrom rail networks will also be rehabilitated to support the development of a rail-based mass transportation system. We will prioritize the construction of the Tema-Akosombo rail line to facilitate multi-modal transport

links between the northern and southern sectors of the country.

Aviation

The upgrade of the Tamale Airport into Ghana's second international airport will continue. We will also continue to improve the physical infrastructure at the Kotoka International Airport and the Takoradi, Kumasi and Sunyani domestic airports.

In the particular case of the Kotoka International Airport, our objective is to make it the West African hub and gateway that will engender growth in exports and tourism receipts. Efforts will be made to attract critical aviation support services and businesses that will qualify it as a truly international aviation hub.

The NDC Government will ensure that Ghana complies with, and sustains international safety and security standards at all airports. Observing the positive development in the aviation industry over the past three years, we will commence feasibility studies for the development of a new International Airport in or around Accra, while beginning the process towards the incorporation of a new national carrier in collaboration with the private sector.



Maritime and Riverine Transport

Considering that maritime and riverine transportation offers very convenient and competitive transportation options and that in some areas of Ghana that mode is the only type available, an NDC government will continue to pay due attention to the development of this mode of transportation.

Our strategic national development plan includes the construction of a modern deep seaport at a suitable location in the Western Region to serve the oil and gas industry as well as the requirements of new processing industries. In addition, the Takoradi and Tema ports will be rehabilitated, with the Takoradi Port retrofit scheduled to begin with funds from the China Development Bank loan.

Under the multi-modal transportation project, the NDC Government will target the upgrade of Volta Lake ferries, pontoons and landing sites at Kpando-Amankwakrom, Kete-Krachi-Kwadokrom, Yeji-Makongo, Tapa-Aboatoase and Dzemini. Their adjoining roads will also be upgraded.

The removal of stumps from the Volta Lake will continue as scheduled to facilitate the movement of bulk haulage from Akosombo to the three northern regions. The on-going Debre Marine Project under which a mini-harbour is under construction at Debre will be completed as scheduled.

ICT: ENTERING THE KNOWLEDGE REVOLUTION

Science, Technology and Innovation are one of the key drivers of national development within the framework of the NDC Government's accelerated social and economic development. Policy objectives will focus on the following:

- Pursue the full implementation of the National Science Parks at Tema, Cape Coast, and on the Akwapim Ridge;
- Support for the scheduled completion of the KNUST Technology Park;
- Revamping of the Science, Technology and Innovation Fund to support research activities;
- Creation of linkages between research and industry to ensure full utilization of research outcomes;
- Completion of the Ghana Space Science and Technology Centre as well as the National Accelerator Facility;
- Diffusion and transfer of technology; and
- Use of the platform of the annual "Ghana Science Congress" to share appropriate technologies to support agriculture, climate change mitigation, and micro, small and medium scale enterprises.



Information and Communication Technology

The development of our ICT infrastructure is a pre-requisite for the attainment of sustainable growth and development. The NDC Government will therefore:

- Promote the rapid development and deployment of the national ICT infrastructure;
- Strengthen the institutional and regulatory framework for managing the ICT sector;
- Rapidly accelerate the supply of 400,000 Laptops to tertiary institutions, including their students and lecturers by the end of the NDC's term of office in 2016;
- Upgrade the ICT infrastructure of Ghana's Parliament, and provide all Members of Parliament with laptop computers and access to the internet;
- Convert all under-utilized Post Offices into Community Information Centres as part of a nation-wide programme;
- Promote the establishment of a reliable national backbone with the capacity to carry high-speed voice, video, data and internet facilities to all districts;
- Ensure the completion of the National Data Centre;
- Improve the quality of telephone service nation-wide;
- Establish Innovation Incubation Centres;
- Promote the use of ICT in all sectors of the economy; and
- Make Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) a major foreign exchange earning industry.

The next NDC Government will also facilitate the application of ICT for:

- the provision of health service through the introduction of electronic health records;
- forging linkages with Ghanaians in the Diaspora to tap their expertise for national development;
- the provision of quality meteorological data and forecast in support of agriculture and other weather-sensitive sectors of the economy;
- the implementation of the various components of the ongoing national e-Government Project;

- creating the hub for the electronic linkage of all research institutions, universities, polytechnics, colleges, and second cycle institutions and their libraries to promote research and effective learning outcomes; and
- the establishment of a digitized content development bureau.

HOUSING: THE RIGHT TO SHELTER

The NDC Government's human settlements programme will focus on ensuring that all human activities organized in our communities are undertaken in a planned and spatially determined manner to guarantee equity for enhanced social and economic development. The NDC Government will:

- Develop planning models, simplified operational procedures and planning standards for land use planning;
- Integrate land use planning into the Medium-Term Development Plans at all levels;
- Ensure the use of Geographical Information System (GIS) in spatial and land use planning at all levels;
- Establish a National Human Settlements Commission as a multi-sectoral and multi-disciplinary agency; and
- Continue to support the creation of land banks in all MMDAs to ensure availability of serviced lands for the construction of housing units at affordable prices.



Urban Development

We will promote well structured and integrated urban development as follows:

- Provide a framework for a well coordinated approach towards urban development;
- Promote an integrated hierarchy of urban settlements throughout the country;
- Decongest and reverse the decline in productivity of primary cities and selected fast-growing settlements;
- Encourage through education, the greening of urban settlements;
- Upgrade low-income residential structures and depressed residential areas;
- Re-develop low-density inner city areas;
- Initiate a sustainable nation-wide urban renewal programme; and
- Pass the Town and Country Planning Bill and ensure its implementation alongside the National Urban Policy and the National Housing and Shelter Policy.

Rural Development

Our strategy on rural development will be to:

- Promote alternative livelihood programmes to develop skills among rural dwellers;
- Improve the qualitative supply of a critical mass of social services and infrastructure to meet the basic needs of the people and attract investments for the development and growth of the rural areas;
- Properly utilize rural and peri-urban lands by improving land use and land management schemes;
- Establish rural service centres to promote agriculture, non-farm enterprises and agro-based industries; and
- Provide incentives to attract direct private investments into the rural areas.

Social and Community Infrastructure

Urban Housing:

With an accumulated national backlog estimated at 1.5 million housing units which is increasing at an annual rate of over 100,000 units in both rural and urban communities, the need for the accelerated construction of housing units in all settlements is an imperative.

Our policy specifics include the:

- Promotion of brick and tile manufacturing using the opportunity offered by the availability of natural gas offshore Ghana to promote gas-fired kilns;
- Support for the use of pozzolana cement in the construction of both public and private housing units;
- Establishment of standards for local construction materials including landcrete blocks, adobe bricks, compressed earth bricks and wood to guarantee the appropriate use of these materials for construction;
- Setting up of standards for engineering infrastructure covering road designs, electricity, water, telephones and fire hydrants to suit all communities and income groups; and
- Provision of support for technical institutions and professional bodies to train more human resources for the construction industry.

Rural Housing:

Within the context of the short-fall in the availability of housing units nation-wide, attention will focus on the peculiar concerns of the residents of our rural communities.

The following interventions will be pursued:

- The review and subsequent implementation of the existing rural housing policy;
- The promotion of the orderly growth of settlements through effective land use planning and management;
- The promotion of erosion control and prevention schemes, and drainage construction programmes;
- Support for self-help building schemes organized by community and trade associations;
- Encourage the MMDAs to use their Common Fund to embark on the construction of rental housing units on a massive scale; and
- Partnering UN-HABITAT in the provision of housing units in our rural communities

Slum Upgrading and Prevention

Slum development which is becoming a feature of our urban development landscape is a manifestation of the failure of development policy over the past decades. With the slum upgrade project piloted at Ashiaman in the Greater Accra Region as the prototype of our upgrade scheme, the NDC Government will mobilize both internal and external resources and work alongside multiple executing agencies and professional associations to replicate the project nation-wide.

WATER FOR LIFE

Following the interventions made by the NDC Government over the past four years, Ghana is one of only four countries in Sub-Saharan Africa that are on track to attain the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) on water by 2015. The NDC Government will make even more interventions in the next four years with the goal of attaining “Water for All” by 2020.

Water Resources Management

Strategic measures will be rolled out to ensure the efficient management of water resources through the:

- Integration of water resources management and development with environmental management to ensure sustainability of water resources in both quantity and quality;
- Co-ordination of water resources planning with land use planning;
- Establishment of functional management schemes including reforestation programmes for all major river basins;
- Promotion of climate change adaptation measures;
- Promotion of re-use and re-cycling of water through the use of effective water treatment systems;
- Establishment of schemes to support, encourage and promote rainwater harvesting;
- Identification and assessment of ground water resources to enhance water availability.

Urban Water

The NDC Government will accelerate the provision of affordable and safe water in the urban communities through the:

- Mobilization of funds for the construction of new, and the rehabilitation and expansion of existing water treatment plants;
- Encouragement of Public Private Partnerships in water services delivery; and
- Establishment of a “Water Fund” to support the implementation of a pro-poor water pricing regime.

Rural Water

In addition to the 20,000 boreholes to be drilled nation-wide, the NDC Government will:

- Establish and operationalise mechanisms for water quality monitoring; and
- Introduce ultraviolet water purification schemes in rural communities where the new approach will be cost-effective.

Sanitation

Over the years, Ghana's commitment to providing modern sanitation facilities has been below expectation. The NDC will, however, put the provision of sanitation facilities at the core of Government's social policies and programmes over the next four years.

The key policy initiatives will include:

- Establishment of a National Sanitation Authority as autonomous agency under the Local Government Service to coordinate a harmonized sanitation policy and program, for implementation by the MMDAs and private

sector operators.

- Implementation of the "Sanitation for All Ghana Compact" managed sustainably by a new National Sanitation Authority to be a special body under the Local Government Service.
- The NSA will be provided with independent sources of funding and a strong enforcement mandate on issues of sanitation and waste management;
- Promotion of behavioral change for ensuring open-defecation free communities;
- Acquisition and development of land and sites for the treatment and disposal of solid waste in major towns and cities;
- Provision of modern toilet facilities in public basic schools;
- Establishment of new and renovation of old recycling plants;
- Enforcement of bye-laws on sanitation by all MMDAs, particularly the prosecution of landlords who fail to provide toilet facilities in their homes;
- Establishment of special courts to deal with persons or industries that do not comply with sanitation bye-laws.



THEME FOUR: TRANSPARENT AND ACCOUNTABLE GOVERNANCE



WE PIONEERED CONSTITUTIONAL REVIEW

Our late President, Professor John Evans Atta Mills, inaugurated a Constitution Review Commission (CRC) in 2010 to examine both the content and the operation of the 1992 Constitution in fulfilment of one of our 2008 Manifesto promises. Following a highly consultative and deliberative process, the CRC produced an impressive report that constitutes an excellent template for improving on the governance of Ghana.

The NDC Government has accepted virtually all the recommendations of the Commission as indicated in the Government White Paper on the subject.

In its next term in office, the NDC Government will ensure the enactment of the necessary amendments to establish an even better framework for governance for Ghana.

Responsive, Accountable & Democratic Governance

As the party that has led the establishment of an enduring and stable democratic and representative governance in Ghana since 1992, the NDC remains steadfast to the key tenets of our constitutional democracy. But as this democracy now needs to serve the needs of millions of jobless youth, the governance reforms we propose in this manifesto 2012 is one which focuses on decentralized governance; enhances skills and capacities of the under-served, notably women; protects the public through swift and decisive response to public concerns of corruption, poor service performance and immorality

WE ARE ENHANCING THE ROLE OF PARLIAMENT

Based on its Manifesto promises of 2008, the NDC in Government delivered on the following:

- The near-completion of “Job 600” to ensure that Members of Parliament would have decent office accommodation and other facilities to work with;
- The allocation GH¢50 million for the construction of constituency duty offices for all MPs;
- The commencement of the processes for the establishment of the MPs’ Constituency Development Fund to replace the MPs’ Constituency Common Fund;
- An increase in the budgetary allocation to Parliament from GH¢29.72 million in 2008 to GH¢64.38 million in 2011.
- The provision of National Service personnel as Research Assistants to MPs.

Despite these achievements, our Parliament nevertheless still faces challenges in the absence of sustained funding for the Committees, Research Department and

individual MPs to function effectively. The capacity of Parliament to legislate effectively, provide oversight for the budget and spending and generally to hold the Executive to account for its stewardship, and preserve and maintain its autonomy, are correspondingly compromised.

The NDC Government will in the next four years seek to strengthen Parliament in the following ways:

- Establish the “Democracy Fund” proposed by the CRC to provide sustainable funding for the Independent Governance Institutions (IGIs), Parliament and other pro-democracy governance bodies.
- Strengthen the Committees of Parliament by ensuring that the Chairpersons and Ranking Members of Parliament are accorded recognition consistent with their status and responsibilities as recommended by the CRC, whilst increasingly opening their proceedings to the public.
- Review the programme for the provision of Research Assistants and resources to Parliament to make it more sustainable.



WE ARE DEEPENING DECENTRALISATION AND LOCAL GOVERNANCE

During the period under review, the NDC Government managed to pull the decentralization programme back on track after the diversions towards re-centralization during the era of the previous administration. We also delivered on almost all the promises made in our 2008 Manifesto.

A number of challenges, however, still remain which we will work to overcome upon our renewed mandate in 2012. We will also pursue the following new programmes:

- Complete the implementation of the National Decentralization Action Plan;
- Ensure that the CRC-proposed constitutional amendments are passed to involve the people directly in the election of DCEs; the Office of the Administrator of the District Assemblies Common Fund is made constitutionally independent; the District Assemblies Common Fund Act is amended to stop the central withholdings, deductions and directives and to allow for the entire allocation of the MMDAs' shares of the DACF to be released to them;
- Review and consolidate the disparate legislations on local government and decentralization;
- Ensure that the MPs' share of the DACF is replaced with an MPs' Constituency Development Fund funded from the Consolidated Fund instead of the Common Fund;
- Strengthen the capacity of the MMDAs for accountable and effective performance and service delivery;
- Implement the decision for the CRC-proposed Independent Emoluments Commission, when established, to determine the remuneration of DCEs, Presiding Members (PMs) and Assembly Members and have these charged on the Consolidated Fund. In other words, Central Government will assume responsibility for the payment of the remuneration of Assembly members and the possibility of achieving this objective through the DACF as a tied grant

will be examined;

- Provide administrative, economic and social infrastructure for the new districts created in 2003, 2007 and 2012; and
- Ensure that the new districts are all provided with the 5 basic needs that accompanied the original decentralization programme namely electricity for the district capital, Senior Secondary (High) Schools, a District Hospital, potable water and a minimum second class access road to the district hospital.

Four critical important activities that will also engage the attention of the next NDC Government will be to:

- Mainstream the concept of Local Economic Development (LED) to facilitate, develop and implement employment creation programmes based on the natural resource endowments and the comparative advantages of every district;
- Continue and complete the street-naming project to enable the Assemblies to mobilise more revenue from property rates;
- Convert the major markets in the country into limited liability companies using the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) approach involving rural and community banks, market women's associations, farmer-based organisations, traditional authorities and landing beach committees, where appropriate, to ensure the efficient management and modernisation of the markets and increased revenue.
- Move beyond composite budgeting to the larger issue of fiscal decentralization and especially ensure the finalisation and implementation of the inter-governmental fiscal transfers.

WE ARE ENHANCING THE RULE OF LAW AND JUSTICE

The NDC Government delivered on the following promises:

- The Constitution Review Commission made far-reaching recommendations on many of the NDC's 2008 law and justice promises that required constitutional amendments which

have been accepted in the Government White Paper;

- The Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Act was passed in 2010 and is being effectively implemented, thus successfully decongesting the courts and ensuring the speedy and cost effective resolution of disputes;
- The NDC Government has accepted the recommendation of the CRC that the Legal Aid Board be established as an Independent Constitutional Body to incorporate a Public Defenders' Directorate and a Citizen's Advisory Bureau, all of which will be entitled to draw resources from the proposed "Democracy Fund".
- Many judges received training in many areas of the law, including the new area of Oil and Gas law; and many bright young law graduates have been given scholarships by the GETFund to study for advanced degrees in law;
- Many court buildings and accommodation for staff of the Judicial Service have been built or renovated, and construction of a Court Complex for the Judicial Service to replace courts located within the Cocoa Affairs premises was commenced.
- Computerization of courts increased from 16.3% in 2008 to 37.0% in 2011.

In spite of all these achievements, the law and justice sub-sector still faces challenges. Cases are slow to dispose of; conditions of service of Magistrates and Circuit Court judges are not the best; and accusations of corruption continue to bedevil the justice delivery system. Continuous training of judges, judicial service staff and lawyers also needs to be enhanced.

Between 2013 and 2017, the next NDC Government will implement the following programmes:

- The Legal Aid Board will be transformed into an Independent Constitutional Body with secure and adequate funding from the proposed "Democracy Fund", with a Public Defenders' Directorate and a Citizen's Advisory Bureau as affiliates and the coverage of the Legal Aid Scheme will also be expanded;
- The CRC's recommendation that the findings and rulings of the Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ) offices at the district, regional and national

levels be registrable and enforceable as judgments of the regular courts will be implemented after the necessary amendments have been made to the CHRAJ Act;

- The "Justice for All" programme will be enhanced with the introduction of weekend courts and Small Claims Courts;
- Facilitate specialised and post-graduate training for Judges and Judicial Service staff to enhance their knowledge and skills to improve the quality of justice delivery;
- Encourage the review of the content of legal training to take account of emerging and contemporary cross-cutting issues such as oil and gas, human rights, particularly minority rights, consumer rights and the role of specified regulatory bodies, law and development, including sustainable development, and social responsibility.
- Ensure that the Independent Emoluments Commission effectively deals with the conditions of service of Magistrates and Circuit Court Judges in accordance with the recommendations of the CRC.



WE ARE COMMITTED TO A NATIONAL RECONCILIATION AGENDA

In the spirit of reconciliation and to avoid a vicious infinite cycle of revenge, vengeance and vendetta, the NDC Government tried very hard during the 2009 transition to avoid repeating the harrowing excesses of the 2001 transition, even though there were still complaints of harassment and witch-hunting from the losing party in the latter transition.

It was still in the spirit of reconciliation that our late President, Professor John Evans Atta Mills, signed the Presidential Transition Bill into law to provide a more decent framework for future transitions and to avoid the real and perceived excesses of the 2001 and 2009 transitions.

The next NDC administration intends to take the national reconciliation agenda to a higher level. President John Mahama intends to hold regular quarterly meetings with leaders of the registered opposition political parties, at which meetings critical national issues will be discussed outside the partisan forum of

Parliament and the polarized environment of the media. Some lessons have been learnt from the inter-party collaboration for both IPAC and the IEA's Ghana Political Parties Programme (GPPP) which will inform the organization and conduct of the proposed meetings.

WE ARE STEADFAST IN COMBATING POLITICAL CORRUPTION AND IMMORALITY

In 2008, the NDC Government promised to deepen political accountability and transparency, enhance the disclosure of budgets, public expenditure and procedures, enact the Freedom of Information Act, strengthen CHRAJ for efficient and effective service delivery, re-organise the SFO into an independent Anti-Fraud Commission with prosecutorial powers and revise the law and format for Assets Declaration.

The transparency and accountability record of the NDC Government has been sterling in the light of the following accomplishments:

- CHRAJ has been strengthened with the appointment of a substantive Commissioner and a substantive second Deputy Commissioner;
- The NDC Government in conjunction with CHRAJ and other key stakeholders has launched a National Anti-Corruption Action Plan;
- The NDC Government has taken a bold step to freeze the sale of public lands by the previous Government to individuals under circumstances that created conflict of interest situations;
- The NDC Government has established guidelines for the payment of judgment debts and monetary awards based on out-of-court settlements;
- The Freedom of Information Bill has been laid before Parliament;
- The Presidential Transition Act has been enacted to pave the way for smoother political transitions in the future;
- A new biometric voters register has been compiled by the Electoral Commission and similar technology is being used to eliminate ghost names on the public payroll;
- The Serious Fraud Office (SFO) has been re-organised into the Economic and Organised Crime Office (EOCO) with an expanded legal framework;
- The Ghana Policy Fair was introduced in 2010 to engage the public in a Government-Citizen dialogue that enhances transparency, accountability and good governance;
- Civil Society Organisations participation in and dialogue on national development policy formulation and implementation has been deepened within the framework of the Governance Sector Working Groups and the Ghana Monitoring and Evaluation Forum as mechanisms to negotiate the Multi-Donor Budgetary Support with development partners;

Ghana's ranking based on the Open Budget Index (OBI) scores sponsored by the International Budget Partnership's Open Budget Survey (OBS), which examines the extent of effective oversight by legislatures and audit institutions and relative transparency of each country's budget process, increased from 42 in 2006 to 54 in 2010, **the highest in all the West African countries surveyed;**

- The Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) regulations have been ratified;
- The Petroleum Revenue Management Act has provided an open and transparent system for disclosure and monitoring of petroleum revenues and the Public Interest and Accountability Committee is functioning effectively;
- Budgetary allocations to the Independent Governance Institutions who work on critical areas of transparency and accountability shot up considerably during the period.

In the next four years, the NDC Government will undertake the following activities:

The Accra Re-development Policy will be revised to provide a coherent and transparent policy on the acquisition of public lands;

A Committee of Enquiry will be set up to investigate untoward public land dealings in the past and sanctions applied against identified miscreants;

Another Committee will be set up or a sole Commissioner will be appointed to investigate all disputed judgment debts and financial settlements against the State and action taken to retrieve monies wrongfully paid out from the Consolidated Fund;

A comprehensive review of the Criminal Offences Act will be undertaken to define corruption to encompass all corruption-related offences and to cover all offences that fall under the scope of the United Nations Convention against Corruption and the African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption;

The Mutual Legal Assistance Act of 2010 will be strictly enforced in order to deal with cross-border corruption; Regulations under the Public Officers' Liability Act will be enacted in order to give legal force to the Guidelines on Conflict of Interest and the Code of Conduct for Public Officers prepared by the CHRAJ;

The Public Procurement Act will be amended to make it more user-friendly and capable of dealing with corruption in public procurement and the Regulations under the Act brought into force;

The internal audit system will be revamped under a revised Internal Audit Agency Act to make it more effective to combat corruption and wastage;

The Financial Administration Tribunal will be established and begin operation within the first year of the next NDC Government; The next NDC Administration will implement the Freedom of Information Act, once it is passed by Parliament.

FIGHTING NARCO-TERRORISM

In the past four years, the Narcotics Control Board (NACOB) has ensured that Ghana does not become a subsidiary of drug cartels as promised in our 2008 Manifesto. Various reports by international drug enforcement agencies indicate a significant decline in drug trafficking from Ghana.

More effort will be made to ensure that NACOB deals effectively and efficiently with the drug menace, even though the following identified challenges are considered unacceptable:

- Inadequate modern equipment such as itemizers, laptops and video recording equipment for preventive programmes, drug detection, surveillance and covert operations;

- Low morale arising from the de-confiscation of the confiscated assets belonging to convicted drug barons and couriers by the previous administration and the courts.

In this regard, the next NDC Government will:

- Intensify demand reduction and supply reduction methods of dealing with narcotic drugs;
- Empower NACOB to undertake campaigns to create awareness about the effects of drugs;
- Encourage collaboration between NACOB and the Food and Drugs Board for the close monitoring of the importation and use of ephedrine and pseudoisomerine;
- Make NACOB a security agency to enable it collaborate effectively with the other security

agencies in dealing with drug traffickers;

- Pursue the programme for the legislative conversion of NACOB into an autonomous Commission;
- Establish drug rehabilitation centres for treatment, rehabilitation and re-integration into society of drug addicts;
- Revive the Alternative Development Programme as a means of reducing or eliminating the cultivation of cannabis in the country.



ENHANCING PUBLIC SERVICE DELIVERY

In our 2008 Manifesto, we promised to revitalise the Civil Service as the centre of the public administration system, as a partner in governance and driver of national development. A further promise was to ensure a Civil Service leadership characterised by competence and provide a remuneration structure that would make civil servants more effective and efficient.

The three promises have been fulfilled. In the process, a “New Approach to Public Sector Reform” was conceived and applied which called for “business not to be done as usual”. It focused on targets to be pursued by all sectors of the economy with respect to three critical development requirements of the economy, namely creation of sustainable jobs, attainment of sustainable food security through improved production, processing, storage and distribution and organisational and institutional reforms required for the achievement of the two targets.

In September 2012, the President further reiterated his commitment to enhancing delivery, and called for the establishment of a Delivery Unit at the Presidency that will guide the implementation of delivery and the review of performance on a monthly basis. For the period 2013-2017, the NDC intends to pursue the following:

- Fully implement the “New Approach to Public Sector Reform” programme during which period bottlenecks which constitute barriers to the reform will be identified and removed;
- Rationalise the public service to rid it of duplication of functions and to enhance co-ordination.
- Fully establish the Delivery Unit in the Office of the President as a means of coordinating the achievement and delivery of the President’s strategic targets and programmes.

INTENSIFY PUBLIC SECTOR REFORM

The next NDC Government will ensure that all public sector Boards which oversee organisations of social and economic significance adopt best practices in corporate governance. The policy will require the following actions:

- Provision of an effective framework to give a clear and consistent approach to governance;
- Provision of adequate guidance on governance issues to Boards;
- Establishment of measures of performance;
- Creation of a time table for systematic and regular review of Boards; and
- Demand for annual audits and reports to ensure public accountability.

In addition, the State Enterprises Commission will be re-organised and retooled to offer guidance to all public Boards and ensure their accountability.



ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENT GOVERNANCE AND THE NDPC

The next NDC Government will revise the Government White Paper on the CRC Report to provide for a non-partisan National Development Planning Commission (NDPC) membership to safe-guard the continuity, stability and consistency of the country's development policies, plans, programmes and projects.

It will also take the following measures:

- Strengthen the planning and co-ordinating functions of the NDPC;
- Enact the required Legislative Instruments under the National Development Planning Commission Act, 1994, Act 479 and the National Development Planning (System) Act, 1994, Act 480, to ensure the effective execution of the Commission's mandate, and in particular, to relocate Planning in the NDPC, and not in the Ministry of Finance, as recommended by the CRC;
- Develop management information systems for tracking spatial investments to facilitate resource allocation and investment decision-making;
- Ensure improved coordination of development programmes and projects in a manner that secures fair and balanced allocation of national resources across ecological zones, gender and income groups; and
- Clarify the respective roles of the National Development Planning Commission and the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning in order to allow for a better synergy and synchronisation between the development plan and the budget, and between the planning cycle and the budget cycle.

DEEPENING COLLABORATION WITH THE MEDIA

The NDC promised in 2008 to maintain a cordial and responsible relationship with the media. The following was achieved during the period under review:

- The NDC extended the regular 'Meet the Press' series to the MMDAs and instituted the annual Presidential interaction with the media at the seat of Government;
- The Freedom of Information Bill was finally laid before Parliament after 12 years of procrastination;
- The NDC Government established the Media Development Fund with seed money of GH¢1 million for capacity building in the media;
- The media landscape has expanded under the NDC Government with the allocation of more radio frequencies by the NCA for the establishment of FM radio stations throughout the country and a quantum increase in the number of newspapers and magazines.
- The NDC Government supported the migration from analogue to digital terrestrial television by the national broadcaster.

Under our renewed mandate from 2013, the NDC Administration will:

- Work even harder to deepen media pluralism and independence;
- Encourage Parliament to enact the Broadcasting Act in order to set broadcast standards for the electronic media;
- Assist the NMC to enact the necessary Regulations to ensure media standards and the conduct of media practitioners as well as provide corresponding sanctions for breaches and mechanisms for enforcing those sanctions;
- Provide resources from the newly established Media Development Fund to continuously improve the capacities of journalists;

- Provide resources from the Media Development Fund for the NMC to decentralize its operations throughout the country in order to be more easily accessible to the general public and to strengthen its oversight and monitoring functions by increasing its staffing levels;
- Complete the permanent campus for the Ghana Institute of Journalism at Okponglo, Accra in order to expand and improve facilities for the training of journalists.

GENDER EQUITY & EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN

In 2008, the NDC Government promised to review the mandate of the Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs (MOWAC) in line with national development aspirations; work towards a 40% women in public service and at conferences and congresses of the party; to introduce major gender policy and legislation; to mainstream gender issues in all aspects of national development; and to revise, update and implement its Affirmative Action Policy for Women issued in 1999.

The following have been achieved:

- Women were appointed to the positions of Speaker of Parliament, Minister of Justice and Attorney-General, Minister of Trade and Industry, Commissioner for CHRAJ, Chairperson of the NCCE, Government Statistician, Chief Executive of the Ghana Youth Authority, and Chairperson of the Ghana Aids Commission while women in the following positions were retained in office: Chief Justice, Director-General of the NDPC, Chief Executive of the National Insurance Commission;
- The NDC Government launched the "Women in Local Governance Fund" in 2010 to support women participating in local government elections;
- The NDC Government also established the Domestic Violence Fund;
- The Constitution Review Commission has made extensive proposals for improving the status of women in Ghana, which the NDC Government has accepted in its White Paper;
- An Affirmative Action Bill has been drafted and regional consultations conducted on the draft, which is now being finalised by the Attorney-General's Department;
- The "Property Rights of Spouses" and "Intestate Succession (Amendment)" Bills are in advanced stages of consideration in Parliament;
- Construction of a 5-storey office building for the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs has commenced.

The following measures are proposed to be implemented by the next NDC Government:

- Address gender inequality by ensuring the expeditious enactment of the Affirmative Action Act to provide a framework for addressing historical gender related injustices;
- Work with political parties and Civil Society Organisations to take the provisions of the Affirmative Action Act into account in sponsoring candidates for elections;
- Enact legislation to cover women's rights, including reproductive rights, more comprehensively;
- Ensure that all public institutions adopt gender policies, including recruitment policies, aimed at achieving a balanced human resourcing of their institutions in terms of gender;
- Work with the sponsors of the Women's Manifesto to ensure that all MDAs and MMDAs mainstream gender into their programmes as well as strategic plans;
- Implement the policy of gender responsive budgeting that has been adopted by the Ministry of Finance;
- Improve women's representation on all public Boards

A NATIONAL SECURITY THAT BINDS THE NATION

In 2008, the NDC promised to provide adequate security for all of the citizenry, provide courageous security services with the requisite logistics to enhance their effectiveness, increase recruitment of security personnel and manage ethnic, religious, political and other conflicts more effectively.

The party also promised to ensure the maintenance of internal security in the country for safe and secure environment for socio-economic activities to thrive and to formulate policy and strategic plans relating to the protection of life and property, the maintenance of law and order, crime prevention and detection, safe custody and reformation of prisoners, preventing and mitigating the effect of disasters, immigration control, management of narcotic drugs and of refugees.

The NDC Government has delivered the following in pursuant of its promises:

- For the Ghana Police Service, the NDC Government provided vehicles, mobile clinics, a Dialysis Centre and an Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS). The NDC Government also established a Document Section, an Electrostatic Detection Apparatus and a modern Ballistics Section. The Police Service itself established a Marine Police Unit and increased its personnel strength by 4,000 recruits.
- For the Ghana Prisons Service, prisoners' feeding was increased from 60Gp to Gh¢1.80, ultra-modern ICT Centres with internet connectivity were provided, a Diagnostic Centre was established at the Nsawam Medium Security Prison and an ultra-modern Maximum Security Prison was opened at Ankaful in the Central Region.
- The Ghana National Fire Service benefited from 152 new fire-fighting vehicles and equipment and officer training programmes in the USA, United Kingdom and Belgium. Almost 2,000 new personnel were recruited into the Service.
- For the Ghana Immigration Service, a Digital Border Surveillance System (CCT and Wi-Fi systems) was introduced and an e-immigration project was implemented. A Document Fraud Expertise Centre was set up and the Immigration Act, 2000, Act 573, was amended to criminalise human smuggling.

Upon the renewal of its mandate in 2012, the next NDC Government proposes to undertake the following programmes:

- The Ghana Police Service will procure and install communication equipment in patrol vehicles and at Operations Command Centres, provide specialised training for the Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) Unit and construct extra residential and office accommodation for the Police.
- The Ghana Prisons Service will convert the James Camp Prison into a Remand Prison, embark on a Prisons infrastructure and logistics supply programme, pursue, in collaboration with the other stakeholders, the "Justice for All" and "Access to Justice" programmes to cover all central prisons, and improve security networks of the prisons by providing hi-tech security equipment to all central prisons and create a database of prisoners which will make inmate identification easier.
- The NDC Government will also ensure the enactment of a Prisons Act which will provide, among other things, for the introduction of alternatives to imprisonment such as community service, parole and probation and improve health care facilities in the prisons, the ultimate objective being the establishment of a Prisons Hospital.
- be provided with adequate fire hydrants, and ensure that MMDAs improve market fire safety to prevent most of the fires that occur in the markets, pursue a comprehensive expansion policy to construct additional fire stations and construct additional office and residential accommodation.

- For the Ghana Immigration Service, the NDC Government will review existing Immigration laws and regulations to reflect the current mandate of the Service and the Service itself will improve border management systems by providing and installing modern border management technology and infrastructure. Efforts will also be made to engage and involve migrants in national development.
- The National Disaster Management Organisation (NADMO) will organise training for at least 2,000 Rapid Response personnel at the national, regional and district levels and take appropriate steps in conjunction with the National Security Council and the Ministry of Food and Agriculture to address comprehensively and in a sustainable manner the menace posed by alien herdsmen, especially the Fulani herdsmen, within the framework of the ECOWAS Protocol.
- Peace, safety, security and stability are prerequisites for the development of all sectors of the nation and for the accelerated socio-economic development of the country. The next NDC Government will establish the framework for collective and individual contribution in assisting the security agencies of Ghana to maintain and sustain peace, security and stability for development.



GOVERNANCE INFRASTRUCTURE

Considering the importance of basic infrastructure to the performance of governance institutions, the next NDC Government will focus investment in the following areas:

- Modernize technology, equipment and housing infrastructure for Parliament and the Judicial Service.
- Build new prison infrastructure and modernize existing prison facilities to become fit for purpose.
- Provide e-governance infrastructure networking the Presidency and the Ministries, Departments and Agencies to improve communication and loss of man-hours spent on huge tons of paper work.

IN DEFENCE OF OUR TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY

The next NDC Government promises to undertake the following in relation to the Ghana Armed Forces and the nation's intelligence agencies:

- Continue to improve on the operational effectiveness of the Ghana Armed Forces;
- Sustain infrastructure development efforts in the Armed Forces;
- Provide and rehabilitate medical facilities in all Garrisons to make them self-sufficient in Primary Health Care so that the 37 Military Hospital can function as a referral hospital;
- Adequately resource the Armed Forces to participate in the national development agenda in areas such as housing, road construction and rural development;
- Improve the Ghana Navy's capacity to effectively control the maritime environment;
- Establish a second Field Engineers' Regiment military base at Kintampo and Forward Operating Bases in the Western Region.

GHANA'S ROLE IN THE WORLD

In 2008, we promised to pursue a policy of good neighbourliness; honour all international obligations legitimately entered into by previous governments; pursue economic diplomacy to attract foreign direct investment; participate in peacekeeping operations in the sub-region in particular and the world at large; integrate consular work with economic diplomacy; strengthen Government agencies to implement ECOWAS Protocols and integration programmes; and participate in and adopt programmes to achieve sustainable peace and stability in West Africa in particular and Africa as a whole.

In the next four years, we will continue to follow the principled path of positive neutrality chartered by the Founder of our Nation. We will participate in international affairs with a focus on championing the causes of economic integration, continental unity and Pan-Africanism. In that regard, our immediate focus will be on activities within ECOWAS, which are likely to stimulate a more vigorous interaction at the level of our people. Free movement of persons and goods throughout our respective countries must progress from mere paper protocols to results-oriented actions that will encourage integration and economic development within the sub-region.

Ghana will, under the next NDC Administration, continue to be engaged vigorously with the world beyond the African Union. We will maintain an active role in the United Nations and its specialised agencies as well as in other multi-lateral organisations such as the Commonwealth and the Non-Aligned Movement.

We have taken such a position because our governance model and service to the international community will continue to be defined by an unflinching support for world peace as well as social and economic justice for all. To these ends, we will continue to re-assess Ghana's diplomatic representation around the world in order to make our diplomacy efficient and cost effective.

CONCLUSION

The NDC is 20 years old.

We have been in government for three terms and in opposition for two terms. Our experience and resilience has been fortified.

Our performance in the last four years has been unprecedented and confirmed to Ghanaians that the NDC is indeed a people-centred political party with a development focus.

Our late beloved President John Evans Atta Mills, who left us suddenly on 24th July, 2012 was a shining example of a politician. President John Dramani Mahama is reflecting those unique qualities of Atta Mills and more.

We started working on this Manifesto under Atta Mills' guidance. We finished it under the guidance of his successor and our Presidential candidate, John Dramani Mahama.

This Manifesto reflects the vision of the NDC as a social democratic party. It represents our vision for "Advancing the Better Ghana Agenda" for the next four years. We are determined to create a society in which all have equal and fair opportunities to live good and decent lives.

Our objective is as near an egalitarian society as possible.

Our abhorrence is for a society in which only property owners can participate in the democracy.

Our programme is for the provision of food, shelter and clothing for all, not for some.

Our programme is about the provision of 'quality education for all, not free education for some'.

Our programme is about health for all, not only for those who can afford to pay.

Our programme is about creating jobs, not jobs for some who will then have pity on others and give them handouts.

Our programme is about a strong, resilient economy capable of withstanding internal and external shocks.

We stand for dignity and hope.

We stand for humility and service.

We stand for jobs and social well being.

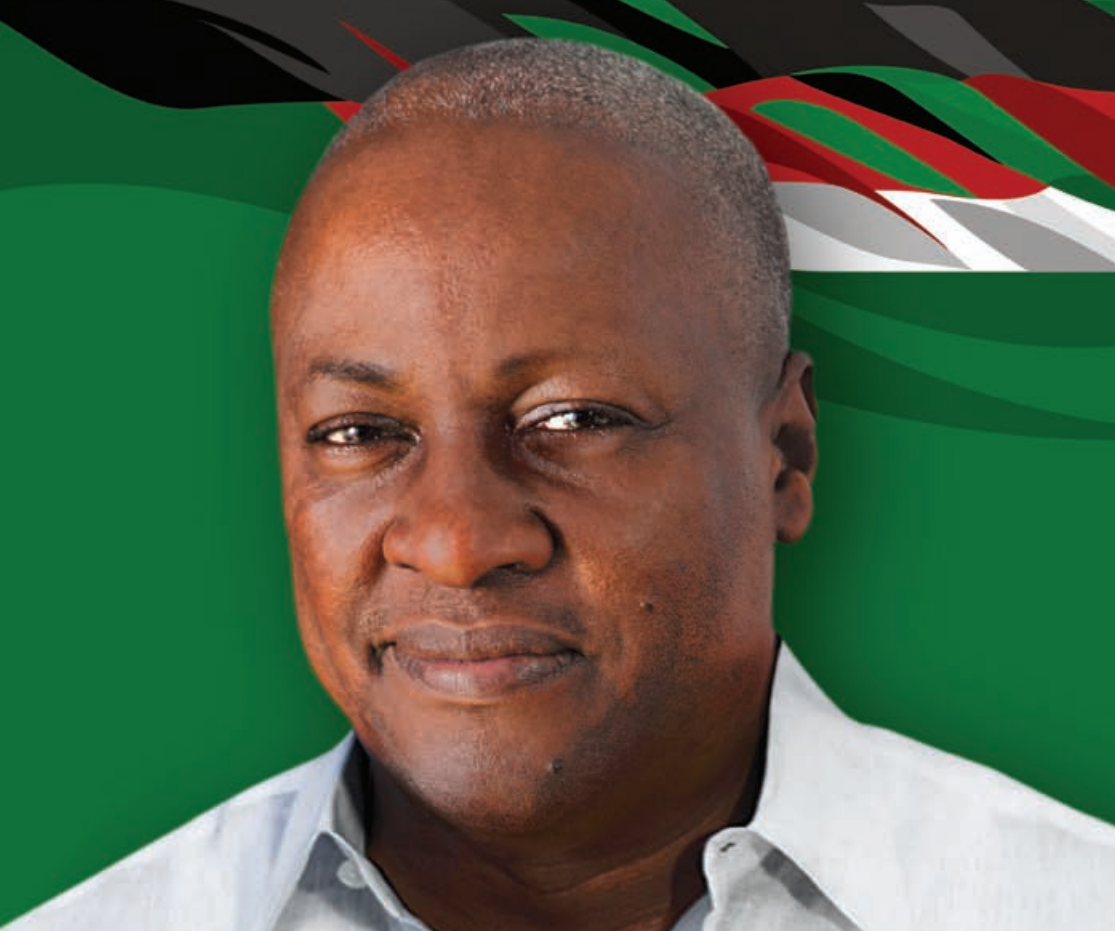
To achieve all these, we need your vote in the December 2012 Presidential and Parliamentary elections.

We need your vote to continue the unfinished agenda of Professor John Evans Atta Mills.

We need your vote to **"Advance the Better Ghana Agenda"**.

President John Dramani Mahama and the NDC has been Working For You, and will continue to do so.

VOTE NDC. VOTE AKATAMANSO.



VOTE

**JOHN
MAHAMA**
FOR PRESIDENT

WORKING FOR YOU

A BETTER GHANA. Jobs. Stability. Development.



NDC



NDC

**WORKING
FOR YOU**