

## A PREFACE

### FOREWORD BY PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE, PROF. JOHN ATTA MILLS

For eight years between 1992 and 2000, the NDC did its utmost best to reconstruct the nation's foundation and build on such a foundation. The opportunity beckons once again for the NDC to seize the moment that a certain victory in this year's election will bring to our great party to put Ghana back on its reconstructive path and work towards building a Better Ghana.

"A Better Ghana" because the current rulers have failed us miserably. In the areas of the economy, employment, the environment, health, education, the utilities – you name it – failure is the best mark that can be given to the NPP Government. Allowing the market forces free and unrestrained reign to give direction to our development agenda has failed to give employment to willing workers, leaving a nation grappling with a large section of its population very despondent. Life under the NPP Government is demanding from the unemployed and the wage-earner the surrender of their hard-won standards of living. It is restricting and abandoning those social services which are essential features of a democratic society.

Those currently in charge of managing the affairs of state have certainly not done a good job of it in spite of their claims that the economy is on track.

The facts and figures paint a very bleak picture of an economy that is not on track. A recent WHO Report ranked Ghana as the second filthiest nation in West Africa and the fourth filthiest in Africa – failure

After the NDC Government had virtually eradicated the guinea worm disease by the end of 2000, Ghana is currently ranking second behind war-torn Sudan in terms of guinea worm infestation – failure.

Water and electricity supply are extremely erratic or non-existent in some cases. It is very common these days to see people using lanterns in the city of Accra and with gallons trekking for hours in search of water – failure.

The quality of education is at an all time low with 50% of JSS students who last year sat for the Basic Education Certificate Examinations, failing "beyond pardon" – failure.

Things need to change and change is what the NDC is promising this country as can be seen in the pages of this Manifesto. As our teeming supporters now love to chant: "Yeresesamu". The NDC believes that we must place the needs of the working people before the needs of those who already have more than they need.

We are certainly not against wealth accumulation by individuals and groups but as a Party that is anchored to the social democracy philosophy and espouses the tenets of our ideology unashamedly, all our efforts must be geared towards protecting and supporting the vulnerable, the disadvantaged, the marginalized and the have-nots in society.

The youth in particular will be at the core of policy initiatives because we need to restore hope to them by investing in them and creating sustainable opportunities that will inure to their benefit and fill them with a sense of belonging such that they will be committed to the Better Ghana agenda not only for their benefit but also for the benefit of the generations that will come after them.

There is more than enough evidence that point to the fact that under the NPP Government, a whole generation is being bequeathed with hopelessness, despair, drugs, immorality and crime and we must rescue them from their precarious and frightening dead-end lest we kill their future and kill the future of our dear country.

The NDC government will measure its successes (not that we are going to be obsessed with touting such successes) in the extent to which we shall be able to implement the policies contained in this Manifesto that will benefit the vast majority of Ghanaians by way of job creation and infrastructure expansion and the extent to which we will be able to provide Ghanaians with the needed social services.

The provision of security to Ghanaians, ensuring justice for all, making the laws of the land work without fear or favour, as well as a committed approach to ridding Ghana of the drug menace, will feature prominently on the NDC's agenda.

The NDC seeks a majority from the electorate upon the basis of a coherent and definite programme. We reaffirm our conviction that Social Democracy provides the best solution for the evils resulting from unregulated competition and the domination of vested interests. It presses for the extension of publicowned industries and services operated in the interests of the people. It works for the substitution of co-ordinated planning for the anarchy of individualistic acquisitions.

The NDC insists that we must plan a growth path that will lead to building a Better Ghana in which all with potential will be able to prosper.

With zest, zeal, commitment, vision and love for country, a Better Ghana can and will be built. This Manifesto is the NDC's roadmap to building a prosperous Ghana. I am confident that with the Open, Honest Transparent and Humble Leadership I pledge to provide, together with our Team, the NDC and well-meaning Ghanaians, including those belonging to other sides of the political divide, we shall be able to build "a Better Ghana".

#### **MESSAGE FROM FOUNDER, JERRY JOHN RAWLINGS**

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. The evolution of contemporary viable democracy in Ghana was based on struggles by ordinary people for political space and voice, initially on a non-partisan basis under the PNDC, and subsequently, in a constitutional framework of multiparty democracy under a government of the NDC. Constitutional democracy, thus emerged on the bedrock of commitment by ordinary people to work hard to produce the nation's wealth, to uphold truth, abhor corruption, and distribute the benefits of hard work equitably for the greater, social and economic wellbeing of all Ghanaians.

The country has made significant achievements. However, the sustainability of these achievements is seriously threatened by the rule of a morally bankrupt and visionless elite that has transformed arrogance into an art, glorifying corruption in style, and raping the country's resources with shameless rapacity.

We in the NDC are firm in one belief: the people of this dear country will not surrender their independence and abandon their struggle to restore hope and dignity to the common man. Our people are relentless in their determination to reclaim their right to create opportunities for progress and prosperity by all from the stranglehold of elite rule and domination. As I traverse

this rich country, I see, I hear, and I salute the silent voices that are saying, Never Again. It is in this regard and also against this background that I bring to you these three brief messages:

- The NDC will win election 2008 mainly because the good people of Ghana now know the difference between the needs and interests of the broad majority on one hand, and the unearned privileges of the few who think they are “born to rule”. The millions of youth who went out to register to vote are preparing to claim their rights and to install a new political leadership that will render service with humility, and keep the interests of the majority of our people on view in the policy making process. Under the philosophy of social democracy, the NDC will lead the youth, men and women, ordinary people and, indeed all progressive groupings to join hands to claim back our national assets and renew our march towards an enduring democracy on the foundations of sustainable development underpinned by a commitment to social justice.
- In victory, we will renew our commitment to unite this country again, by ensuring that development occurs in a manner that is compassionate and in which the prosperity of the greatest number is cardinal. We will bridge the development gap between the north and the south; we will also pay closer attention to communities elsewhere in the country where poverty is endemic. We will encourage better communication and improved social relations between the young and the old; and we will renew governance in a manner that reflects service, not corruption and self adulation as you have seen in eight years of NPP rule.
- But to get to victory, I urge you to be guided by the vigilance of the Eagle and the sprawl of the Akatamanso Umbrella as it provides us the momentum to surge higher and higher, while seeking to protect our people from selfishness and decadence.

## **MESSAGE FROM NATIONAL PARTY CHAIRMAN, DR. KWABENA ADJEI**

### **PREAMBLE**

This Manifesto of the National Democratic Congress (NDC) has evolved from the Party’s abiding commitment to the guiding principles and practice of Social Democracy in relation to the Ghanaian context and experience.

It is put together after careful thought and broad consultations to confront and effectively mitigate the extreme hardship associated with the prevailing state of deprivation in which ordinary Ghanaians find themselves. It offers practical, effective and sustainable solutions for a better Ghana.

The NDC notes with deep concern, the growing inequality and social exclusion in the Ghanaian society since 2001, primarily because of the policies of the NPP Government. These policies have been divisive, and they have been utterly discriminatory. Only a privileged few have and continue to acquire obscene wealth, while the larger majority of Ghanaians are driven into poverty, hardships and deepening crises.

As a Social Democracy Party, the NDC believes in social justice—the creation of a social, economic and political order in which all Ghanaians will receive equal treatment, fair opportunities and equitable access to assets and resources for meeting their needs. This is central to our principles. It is the NDC’s commitment to building a sustainable and enduring multi-party democracy. The Manifesto represents the NDC’s covenant with the people of Ghana. It is built on a firm belief that:

- The people of this country deserve to live and work in dignity;

- Their right to decent living, improved access to health, education, good well-paying jobs and the full expression of their culture are guaranteed by the Constitution;
- The opportunity to participate in their governance are not restrained by powerful “property-owners”; and,
- Their bid to claim back government as a means to express the desires and vision for transformation restored.

What this Manifesto sets out is a strategy to guarantee these fundamental rights. In theme one on the right to Governance that is accountable, the NDC covenants with the people that we will lead this nation to:

- Reform Parliament so that our elected representatives can uphold all of the rights guaranteed by the Constitution and serve as an instrument to demand accountability from those who perform Government responsibilities – both bureaucrats and politicians;
- Embark on an anti-corruption agenda based on the vigilance of citizens who are empowered to demand accountability;
- En-Gender governance by actively encouraging women’s’ participation at all levels of Government;
- Reform and Deepen Decentralisation and Local Government; and,
- Transform Ghana’s foreign policy into an instrument for the collective expression of Ghana’s social, economic and cultural excellence, rather than simply an instrument of diplomacy.

Under theme two, we propose an Economic Democratic model that uses citizen power to transform our economy into a humane, socially-responsive system which balances sustainable growth with equity; creates ownership and economic assets that are broadly owned and ensures equity and transparency in the management of the economy. As we seek to modernise agriculture, we are also mindful of the need to ensure that large-scale agriculture does not rob our peasant farmers of their assets in land and markets.

Our model for agricultural modernisation will occur with the peasant and small-holder farmers taking the lead, expanding their assets and improving their productivity while preserving their culture, seeds and dignity.

We also recognize that in this march toward economic democracy, poverty, imbalances in regional development and acute vulnerability and gender imbalance register serious distortions in our national development effort. We have therefore proposed the establishment of the Savannah Accelerated Development Authority (SADA) to confront the historical and contemporary development gap between north and south Ghana. This will include other areas that fall within the ecological savannah belt, including northern Brong-Ahafo and Volta Regions.

Under theme three, we propose a sustained investment in people, including a vigorous pursuit of creating jobs that are sustainable and meaningful, especially for the Youth of this Country. Innovative techniques will be introduced that allows youth to begin their work life in a Youth Employment Service (YES), undertake on-the-job training and pioneer the use of voluntarism as a spirit to sustain a new work culture.

Under theme four, we offer Ghanaians a means of re-building our Human Capital through renewed and more vigorous opportunity to invest in a diversified system of human capital formation. By emphasizing the investments in health, education, water supply and sanitation, transport, roads, sports, culture and tourism as catalysts for a holistic human capital, the NDC is poised to claim back Ghana for the Ordinary Person, so that collectively we can make this country a Better Ghana. As you read this Manifesto and acknowledge that you share in the

realities and sentiments presented, you should recognize also that we have many things in common and therefore should also share in the commitment to work together to reverse the current trend and build a better Ghana for our generation, our children and those yet to be born.

### **PARTNERSHIP FOR VICTORY**

The NDC, as a Congress of progressive and forward-looking people, abhors opportunistic conservatism, deserves your support and involvement in solving the problems of Ghana in a comprehensive and sustainable manner. We are dedicated to the cause of working to secure for all Ghanaians their basic needs. We are dedicated to ensuring the welfare of all Ghanaians by demonstrating special sensitivity to the plight of the poor, those at risk, the youth, and all those who suffer from social exclusion by providing pragmatic and sustainable solutions to the problems of Ghana using transparent democratic methods and procedures.

### **MAIN GOAL**

In pursuance of our common cause, the NDC challenges Ghanaians to work to create a truly independent, open and democratic society, in which every Ghanaian will be empowered to make meaningful contribution to the development of the country and gain ready access to the necessities of life in a stable and secured environment.

### **OUR CALL FOR ACTION**

Almost every Ghanaian is yearning for change—a change for a Better Ghana. This Manifesto therefore embodies the agenda to redirect the country's development path and open up opportunities for prosperity by all in a thriving and strong economy in which all who seek work will have jobs. Ghana deserves better, and Ghana will do better under an NDC Government.

### **OUR PLEDGE**

Today, Ghana our dear country is in the grips of multi-faceted crises. A crisis caused by Hardships, Incompetence, Parochialism and systemic Corruption (HIPC). This state of affairs must not endure any longer. The time for change will be upon us soon. It is the sacred pledge of the next NDC government, on assuming office on January 7th 2009, to end this creeping crisis by eliminating their causes-- root, branch and all-- and launch the country on the road to prosperity through opportunities for all which a better managed and strong economy will create.

The NDC Government shall do this through a clear schedule of activities which will be implemented in carefully set-out phases. These are:

### **FIRST HUNDRED DAYS IN OFFICE**

- Establish a lean but effective and efficient government by cutting out ostentation and profligate expenditure; rationalizing ministries and ministerial appointments; and promoting service, humility and integrity as canons of government.
- Prepare and present to Parliament, legislation on various tax and tariff measures designed to provide relief for Ghanaians.
- Ensure prompt and effective implementation of existing legislation such as the Persons with Disability [PWDs] Act; 2006 Act 715 and the whistleblowers Act, 2006 Act 720.
- Review and re-constitute the membership of Commissions and Boards, solely on the basis of expertise and competence; eschewing all partisan and familial considerations.
- Protect the Safety and Security of Ghanaians by streamlining, harmonizing and resourcing the agencies of state with responsibility for ensuring the security of life and the safety of property

- Take bold and comprehensive measures to deal with the appalling filth in our communities, and the related health problems of our people caused by inadequate, inappropriate and ineffective waste management systems and practices.

### **WITHIN TWO YEARS IN OFFICE**

- Present to Parliament a co-ordinated programme of economic and social development, including agricultural and industrial programmes at all levels, in all sectors, and in all regions of Ghana as required under Article 36 (5) of the Constitution.
- Significantly reduce current troubling and unacceptable trends in infant/child and maternal mortality
- Review the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) to provide coverage for basic healthcare for all and review the unwieldy bureaucracy and palpable corruption of the Scheme.
- Review and streamline Public Sector Wages with the view to boosting productivity and towards paying decent wages for the working people.
- Vigorously promote and support quality healthcare for the people.
- Mobilise additional external resources to be able to expand and improve the quality of the School Feeding Programme to cover all primary schools countrywide.
- Review the Capitation Grant to ensure that it is in accord with the true and proper requirements of the provisions of the Free Compulsory Universal Basic Education (FCUBE).
- Review the GETFUND Act by decentralising the utilisation of the FUND to the educational institutions themselves and with the participation of students.
- Provide a remuneration structure that will make public sector managers and employees, including civil servants, teachers and health sector workers, productive, effective and efficient.
- Sponsor legislation to establish an “Election Fund” from which polling agents of political parties and of candidates shall benefit for training and on Election Day, among other things.
- Review all land transactions in which public lands have been sold to private individuals and companies in contravention of the constitutional requirement for the first option of purchase of such lands to have been made to their previous owners.

### **BY THE END OF OUR FIRST TERM IN OFFICE - THE NDC WOULD HAVE:**

- Fielded a Government based on competence, efficiency and merit, whose members worked as a coherent team and abided by the principles of service with Integrity and Humility
- Achieved significantly measurable improvements in the delivery of quality health and quality education-- affordable by the people and accessible to the people.
- Provided enough Vocational Institutes to absorb JSS graduates who do not gain admission into the SHS or the Technical Schools.
- Ended the perennial water crisis and the troubling filth of our communities and cities by significantly expanding and upgrading water and sanitation infrastructure.
- Significantly improved the supply of housing delivery and the provision of utilities and infrastructural facilities in all Regions with particular emphasis on disadvantaged areas, both rural and urban.
- Achieved appreciable improvements in the area of Human Safety and Security; Law and Justice, and reformed Public Services that are efficient, dynamic, client-friendly and performance driven.
- Sufficiently modernised agriculture to assure food security for the people and dependable raw materials source for industry.
- Created a society in which corruption is punished, and probity, integrity and dedicated service are applauded and appreciated.
- Established a social order where crime, especially the drug trade, with particular emphasis on cocaine and heroine, and the violent crime generated by this drug trade is drastically reduced.

# **This Pledge is our social contract with the people of Ghana.**

## **INTRODUCTION**

The Manifesto of the National Democratic Congress (NDC) for the 2008 Presidential and Parliamentary Elections is not simply a programme of abstract principles, policies and strategies. It avoids unachievable promises and pompous declarations.

The NDC Manifesto remains true to the hopes and aspirations, fears and anxieties, as well as the genuine expectations of the people. As a Party, we believe that the guiding principles of a good Manifesto must embody Responsiveness, Realism, Achievability and Promise for Joint Ownership.

As a Social Democratic Party, the NDC was minded by these principles and keen to promote their practice in the process of writing this Manifesto. Several options for doing this were available, but by our social and political outlook, the best approach for gaining a fair and reliable understanding of all these concerns and expectations open to us, was by directly engaging with the People – fishers and farmers, teachers and nurses, mechanics and drivers, hairdressers and dressmakers, food vendors and caterers, students and the youth, the employed and unemployed, the Business Community and Professional Associations, indeed, with broad sections of the Ghanaian society.

The consultations and sustained interactions through the “House to House tours and visits to organized groups to listen to people from all walks of life” in which the Flag bearer, Professor Atta Mills, has been engaged have produced and provided a vast and impressive range of issues and challenges that need urgent attention and resolution by a competent Government, led by an Honest, Sincere and Better Man if Ghanaians are to experience real progress in the shortest possible time after January, 2009.

All of these were done because the NDC also believes that ownership of a programme, especially a Manifesto by the leadership and the people is necessary for securing commitment to its implementation. A participatory approach offers the best promise for achieving this critical sense of joint ownership.

After careful study and analysis therefore, of what has been heard, seen and noted through these interactive processes, Four Themes have been decided upon because they capture and reflect the complaints, expectations and concerns that are persistent and recurring basically because of the frustrating and disappointing Ghanaian development experience in the recent past. They are pointers of the state of our country: a nation in distress, a people eager to effect change for a Better Ghana.

The Themes also lend themselves to easier and better management, effective monitoring, and meaningful evaluation of our performance in Government when we take office. They constitute props of the policies and programmes of the NDC which have been designed to get to the roots of the matters affecting the country and holding back the progress and prosperity of broad sectors of Ghanaians.

These Themes are:

1) Governance - Transparent and Accountable

- 2) A Strong Economy for real Jobs;
- 3) Investing in People; and
- 4) Expanding Infrastructure

The pattern and substance of this Manifesto forcefully underpins the policy statements and promotional communication processes of the Party during and beyond the campaign period. All together, they point towards a clear direction along which the NDC, in Government, will take the country and the people to achieve prosperity through the creation of real opportunities for all—A Better Ghana.

## **THEME TWO: STRONG ECONOMY FOR REAL JOBS**

### **FINDING OUR WAY AS A NATION**

It is the objective of the next NDC Government to lead Ghana into the status of a middle-income economy that registers in the lives, livelihoods and incomes of ordinary people by the year 2020. This shall be accomplished by the adoption of prudent policies, better policy co-ordination and better management of the national economy. The purpose is to engage a broader majority of citizens to accelerate the pace and process of economic growth, and create a strong economy in which the type and orientation of jobs created are defined in consultation with those for whom the jobs are meaningful, and therefore available for all who seek work. When the NPP government rejected Vision 2020, the blue-print for a strong economy and society developed by the NDC, they never found their direction for guiding the development of this country. They spent the last eight years turning Ghana into a beggar-Nation and succumbing to Poverty Reduction Strategies prepared by outsiders who know nothing about poverty in Ghana. Today, as the country is preparing to vote NDC back into office, the NPP is still struggling with finding a vision for Ghana. This vision has lived on in the minds and hearts of millions of Ghanaians, and it is now being re-vitalised to lead this country back on track.

### **HOW NPP LOST THE WAY**

The NPP suggested that Ghana would achieve middle-income status by 2015, a promise which they insisted would entail the attainment of a clearly unrealistic macro-economic target of a per capita income of USD 1000, requiring an annual GDP growth of some 15% to do so. Data summarising Macro-economic performance of the NPP as it prepares to leave office provide strong support for this. The NPP Government will be leaving office with the following Macro-economic performance indicators:

- A per capita income of US\$400;
- Growth rate of 5.8% for 2007;
- A rate of inflation of 18% in mid 2008;
- A depreciated cedi from ₵6,800 in Year 2000 to US\$1 to ₵10,700 (Gh₵1.07) to US\$1; and
- A domestic primary balance (in 2007) of negative 6.3% of GDP as against a 2000 domestic primary balance of 2.3% of GDP.

Significantly, and in spite of the trumpet that is frequently and stridently blown by the NPP government in self praise of its so-called “brilliant” management of the economy, an NDC government will take over an economy in a state of total paralysis. The scope and severity of this paralysis are:

- The national debt of ₵90 Trillion up from the ₵41 Trillion at the end of 2000, in spite of the HIPC debt



write-off of ₵30 Trillion and the Glen Eagle's Multilateral debt-forgiveness of ₵40 Trillion;

- Excessive taxation and high cost of living;
- Low agricultural productivity and consequent inability to compete and thus feed ourselves and our industries;
- Low levels of industrial and manufacturing processes;
- High levels of unemployment and under-employment;
- Increasing incidence of poverty and limited access to social services;
- Low application of technology;
- Low levels and disparities in wages;
- High cost of doing business; and
- Fragile and crumbling macro-economic foundations.

### **DRIVING GROWTH**

Growth will be pursued through proper co-ordination between and among related policy areas. Key elements of these are:

- Improving and sustaining macro economic stability;
- Resource mobilization to support accelerated economic development;
- Mobilising resources for expanded development of production infrastructure (energy, transport, water, communication etc);
- Creating Real Jobs through support for medium and micro enterprises of broad range and variety;
- Modernising Agriculture and the Rural Economy;
- Resuscitating Manufacturing Activities;
- Developing the complement of human capital critical for managing the various aspects of national development; and
- Making Regional Integration Work (ECOWAS)

### **THE RENEWED NDC VISION**

The NDC Government shall adopt carefully designed policies and programmes calculated to stimulate and develop the immense talents and resourcefulness of the Ghanaian people to become the main drivers and beneficiaries of the national development agenda with special emphasis on rural and urban poor and with a view to rectifying persisting structural and spatial disparities in Ghana's development.

In achieving this vision, the NDC government will:

- Sustain macro economic stability appropriately anchored in coherent micro economic programmes;
- Provide the policy and programme framework for enterprises to re-tool, adopt modern technologies, access capital, and overcome historical and structural constraints that impede global competitiveness;
- Forge a partnership of equals between the government and the business sector, to decide strategies for promoting and enhancing the competitiveness of national production;
- Devise and implement an urgent national action plan for the Modernisation of agriculture at the production, harvesting and marketing levels, rationalizing access to agricultural lands; making strategic investments to reduce the risks inherent in agriculture (irrigation and agro-processing) and expanding availability of agriculture-related infrastructure; and
- Apply fair and equitable social distribution mechanisms that ensure the welfare of all citizens, especially

the weak and the vulnerable in society.

Apart from receiving an economy in a very poor state from the NPP, the challenges of sustainable development, assumed in our agenda of promoting growth with equity are compounded by an economy whose features are characterized in the main by:

- Primary production and extractive activities (forestry, mining, agriculture etc);
- Narrow and declining manufacturing base;
- Deep import penetration;
- Poor linkages between agriculture and industry;
- Fragile financial institutions and weak financial markets;
- Predominantly traditional agricultural sector, dominated by subsistence and small-holder production; and
- A saturated informal economy due to inadequate government attention.

This is the backdrop against which we set below our main and strategic policy objectives.

### ***THE MACRO-ECONOMY***

Prudent fiscal and monetary policy measures such as flexible exchange rate, liberalisation of trade and investment, export diversification, a positive interest rate regime, a single digit inflation rate and the introduction of the VAT enabled the NDC Government to maintain macro-economic stability between 1993 and 1998.

Unfortunately, this stability was undermined in mid-1999 as a result of very adverse international economic environment in which the world market price of cocoa suddenly dropped by 50% from US\$1, 600 per tonne in 1998 to US\$800 per tonne in June 1999. Gold price declined from about US\$450 an ounce in 1998 to under US\$290 an ounce in 1999. Crude oil prices increased by over 300%.

The result was a sharp depreciation in the exchange rate of the cedi, increased domestic inflation, and a considerable reduction in foreign reserves and an increase in the domestic and external debt.

Ironically, the NPP has never been tired of accusing the NDC of incompetence regarding the adverse impact of these external factors on the management of the national economic then. Meanwhile, the NPP is reaching for the current external economic environment to explain away its policy failures and flaws, and the pain and suffering these inflict on Ghanaians.

The NDC Government will re-commit itself to deepening macroeconomic stability through the undermentioned measures:

### ***MONETARY POLICY***

The NDC Government's monetary policy, to be implemented largely by the Central Bank, shall be guided by the convergence criteria of the ECOWAS Second Monetary Zone of which Ghana is a member together with Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Guinea and The Gambia. The primary criteria comprise the attainment of a single digit inflation rate, gross foreign reserves to cover six months of imports, a limit to the Central Bank's financing of budget deficit to no more than 10% of the previous year's tax revenue and a limit of 5% to the budget/GDP ratio.

We shall introduce measures to guard against the danger of speculative capital and capital flight, encourage the further development of the market for bonds and other long-term securities, deepen the stock market, mobilise savings for investment and restructure the financial institutions to enable them make credit more available to the productive sector.

## ***FISCAL POLICY***

As a Party of modern social democrats, the NDC believes in funding development and the provision of essential services through efficient, effective, and equitable taxation of all citizens based on principles of affordability. The new NDC government will not introduce any new taxes. Instead, we shall seek to improve tax revenue by introducing reforms in the tax administration, shifting from reliance on direct taxes to indirect taxes and enhancing tax incentives.

We shall reform the National Revenue Authority by appointing a Commissioner-General to ensure integrated tax administration. This will facilitate the sharing of information among the revenue agencies to achieve more accurate assessments, widen the tax net and avoid duplication of efforts.

The administrative reforms will include adequate and reliable funding of the revenue agencies, a comprehensive computerisation of the direct and indirect tax systems, human resource capacity building, increased tax awareness and publicity programs to enhance tax consciousness, and increased efforts at tax mobilisation from the informal sector.

Tax policy will be used to encourage people to work. Individuals should be taxed less to create adequate incentive for work and increased productivity. People should decide how to spend their money. The NDC's tax policy will be to increase the disposable income of individuals by reducing individual tax rate through the broadening of the tax bands.

## ***THE ECONOMIC OBJECTIVES***

(i) The NDC's Economic Program - People First

The NDC's economic program is based on the following principles:

(a) A macro-economic strategy consistent with the attainment of a single digit inflation, exchange rate stability and balanced budget with a deficit target not exceeding 3% in any given year. These would require the following:

- The achievement and sustenance of a growth rate that will enable Ghana to achieve the middle income status by 2020;
- An annual growth rate of at least 8%;
- A strategy to unleash the potential of ordinary people for a "People First" Agenda; and
- Increasing the production capacities of ordinary people to bring higher increases in the nations output of goods and services.

(b) A program for the distribution of the benefits of growth that would be targeted at providing the basic needs of the people and that will therefore focus on the following:

- Adequate nutrition and access of every person to potable water;
- Access to preventive and curative medicine;
- Affordable and adequate housing for low income workers and residents of rural and peri-urban communities;
- Employment opportunities for all those who are willing and able to work; and
- Sustainable pension options for all citizens.

(c) A fundamental reform and restructuring of the economy away from cocoa and gold through the Modernisation of agriculture and processing of agricultural and mineral products. Investment in local communities as part of our rural Modernisation and urban regeneration strategy to cover the following:

- Construction and rehabilitation of rural roads;
- Provision of clinics and health posts;

- Provision of schools, community libraries and call centres;
- Extension of electricity to all communities with population of over 500;
- Construction of houses for teachers and health workers in the rural areas; and
- Provision of social amenities in urban communities with high levels of poverty.

The NDC Government will support District Assemblies to identify and develop export commodities in which their communities have competitive advantage and Free Zone Companies will be provided further incentives to locate in such areas.

The NDC will address the historical and contemporary development imbalances in the country by adopting specific interventions to bridge the existing gaps between the North and the South and within other poverty endemic communities in the country. The interventions will cover the provision of basic social services, improvement of infrastructure and the provision of opportunities for sustainable development. In the specific case of the three northern sector regions, the NDC Government shall fast-track their peculiar development needs and challenges, and also harnesses all available resource potentials with which the north is endowed.

## **INDUSTRIALISATION**

Industrialisation will be one of our major strategies for economic development. We will implement science and technology driven measures to enhance growth and provide the momentum to ensure our global competitiveness.

The major challenges facing Ghanaian industry today are the following:

- Inadequate, expensive and unreliable supply of power;
- Unfair competition in the global market;
- High cost of production;
- Unavailability of appropriate financing;
- A limited number of markets;
- Inadequate industrial infrastructure;
- Obsolete technology;
- Low skill levels in the workforce;
- The absence of a national strategic vision for industry; and
- A business environment that is characterised by cronyism, corruption and bureaucratic inefficiencies.

To meet these challenges, the NDC Government will take steps to deal with the unfair trade terms, improve infrastructure, develop our human resource and technology base, provide financing for industry, focus on SME's, decentralise industrial development, develop new and emerging industry especially in the light of our oil discovery, and reform the tax system as it relates to industry.

The NDC has specific proposals in respect of each of these responses; the major ones include the following:

- Strengthening of linkages between industry and research and development institutions;
- Establishment of an Industry Support Centre to assist firms become internationally competitive;
- Strengthening of the EDIF and restructuring of the National Investment Bank (NIB) to become key financiers of industry;
- Decentralisation 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; and
- Duty free importation of production inputs on the same basis as for the Free Zones.

Specific actions that the new NDC Government shall pursue in our industrialisation drive include the following:

- The establishment of manufacturing enterprises to process agricultural produce, especially beans, fruits and sheanuts;
- The exploitation of the limestone deposits at Buipe, Nauli and Nadowli for the production of cement, as well as utilisation 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 50,000 tons of shea butter per annum for both local and international markets;
- The processing of salt leading to the establishment of a petrochemical industry;
- The rehabilitation of abandoned but viable manufacturing enterprises; and
- A review and possible implementation of plans for an Integrated Iron and Steel Industry at Oppon Manso.

### **AN ACTIVIST STATE**

The historical and contemporary role of the State in facilitating growth and development for the attainment of broad-based prosperity is instructive and compelling. Ghana cannot be an exception. To do so will be to abandon the tenets of Social Democracy to which the NDC is firmly committed. Consequently, an NDC Government shall:

- Re-orientate the entire Public Service machinery to make it an efficient agency of national development and an active supporter of the efforts of the business sector;
- Support existing and emerging Business Associations and use these as effective platforms for channelling support to the formal and informal private sectors;
- Establish constant dialogue and consultations with Business Associations on government policies and programmes which impact on businesses;
- Work through its agencies to facilitate access to land by businesses for the implementation of their investment projects. Under this policy, we shall establish a National Geographical Information System (GIS) and Land Information System (LIS) Data Base for agricultural, industrial and residential settlement development, providing for all these uses a proper title of ownership;
- Work with bank and non-bank financial institutions in the country to overcome the problem of term and start-up financing. In this regard the NDC government will mobilise funds from bi-lateral and multilateral sources for on-lending to eligible businesses. The special financing needs of the micro, the small and medium scale businesses will be given special attention;
- Work with Business Associations to improve the institutional capacity of businesses in the areas of general business management, entrepreneurship, adoption of appropriate technologies and other support that will make Ghanaian businesses competitive;
- Make commercial investments in identified strategic areas of importance to the economy but which may not be initially attractive to the private sector. The purpose for such initiatives will be to direct the attention of the investment community to the relevant sectors after which the divestiture of that investment may be considered;
- Review and reform the existing regulatory environment to ensure that they become business-friendly

and compatible with the accelerated growth objectives; and

- Take the necessary steps to facilitate the exploitation of the ECOWAS market opportunities.

### **PROMOTING FINANCIAL SECTOR GROWTH**

The NDC Government will continue to deepen the foundation for a viable financial system by supporting the bank and non bank financial sector. In particular, the micro finance sub sector will be encouraged to engage in transparent, fair and healthy competition in providing finance in support of strategic growth areas such as agriculture, industry, services and Micro Small and Medium Enterprises, (MSME's).

To this end, the NDC Government will:

- Work with financial institutions to resolve all previous difficulties that did not encourage the financial institutions to manage funds mobilised for on lending to the private sector;
- Introduce discounted tax rate to financial institutions that lend to priority sectors of business such as Agriculture, Industry, Services, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME's);
- Encourage and provide incentives to financial institutions to mobilise resources to channel to priority sectors i.e. social infrastructure and economic development;
- Position Ghana as a major financial hub and centre of excellence in financial transactions in West Africa;
- Provide financial incentives to financial institutions that will provide Social Security/Pension facilities to the informal sector. Private participation in the development and management of pension funds shall be encouraged;
- Support universal banking to enable financial institutions, among other things, to go into mortgage banking, term and start-up financing for example, and other activities and tailor their services to grow the economy;
- Establish constant dialogue and consultations with the Central Bank and The Association of Bankers on government policies and programmes which impact on the financial sector and businesses;
- Assist viable local banks to attain the required minimum capital requirement for banks and Non Banks;
- Review and strengthen the existing regulatory and prudential supervision environment in line with the accelerated growth and equity objectives to ensure efficient monitoring and supervision of the financial system to forestall any down side; and
- Assist by means of a restructuring programme, potentially viable but distressed companies which are indebted to the banks to turn around.

### **EMPOWERING GHANAIS AND OTHER INVESTORS TO EXPAND AND CREATE NEW BUSINESSES**

The industrial sector has recorded negative real growth over the past seven years. The MSME landscape is dominated by collapsed and distressed enterprises with only some few new ones to replace those either in distress or defunct. Made-in-Ghana goods face stiff competition from cheap and sometimes low quality imports. Inimical tax regime, high cost of unreliable utility services and low productivity have made domestic industries uncompetitive. The sector has therefore failed to grow and develop in order to play its expected role of increasing employment opportunities and reducing underemployment within the Ghanaian economy.

An NDC Government will therefore create the institutional framework for businesses growth by addressing the following constraints:

- Low productivity and high production costs;

- Low uptake of technology;
- Inadequate business, technical, managerial and entrepreneurial skills;
- Limited access to medium and long term financing;
- Dwindling access to market opportunities both domestic and global;
- Weak institutional and regulatory support;
- Inimical tax regime; and
- Weak Research and Development support.

The NDC Government will revamp the industrial sector as a whole and the MSME sub- sector in particular. The areas specified below will drive the growth process. They have been selected on the basis of their employment generation potentials, positive linkages with other sectors of the economy, value addition potentials for growth and profitability, and the availability of local and export markets for their products.

The areas are:

- Agro processing fruits, cassava, vegetable/industrial oils, cotton, cocoa, etc.;
- Textiles and Garment;
- Minerals;
- Petro-chemicals;
- Pharmaceuticals, including Herbal based drugs and preparations;
- Forestry and Timber Products - the conversion of waste generated into value-added products; and
- Research and Development to develop local inputs which will reduce the foreign contents of Housing, Road, and Construction industries in Ghana.

### ***ACCESS TO TERM FINANCING***

Government will facilitate access to term financing by all deserving SME's for re-tooling in order to enhance productivity and competitiveness and also to assist SME's to procure the required startup capital directly from the banking sector for that purpose, or through other feasible/cost-effective alternative arrangements to be put in place by Government. In this regard, the Government will undertake the following specific measures:

- Reconstitute and strengthen a decentralised National Board for Small Scale Industries (NBSSI) to provide technical and financing support for SME's;
- Procure credit lines from bilateral and multilateral sources (AFDB, and IDA etc) for on-lending to SME's through the banks, specifically for the support of enterprises in the targeted growth pole areas;
- Make funds from EDIF more accessible to all deserving SME's especially those in the selected growth pole areas; and
- Provide specific incentives for the Venture capital companies (by way of direct capital from sources stated above; tax incentives and Government guarantees) to enable them provide start-up capital to deserving SME's.

### ***DWINDLING ACCESS TO MARKET***

The Government will provide active assistance to local industries in the creation and promotion of market opportunities for the goods and services of domestic industries locally and overseas.

In this regard the Government shall undertake the following measures:

- Employ all means at its disposal including exploiting relief in all international trade arrangements such

as WTO, ECOWAS to protect domestic industry;

- Create a Directorate in the Ministry of Trade and Industry to partner and collaborate with the Association of Ghana Industries (AGI) to superintend a fair competition between made in Ghana goods and imports on the local market;
- Strengthen the Ghana Export Promotion Council and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (the Economic Relations Department) to actively seek export markets for made in Ghana goods;
- Actively and effectively utilize the EXIM Guarantee Company to support the export of Ghanaian produce to ECOWAS countries in particular and the rest of Africa in general;
- Provide tied aid to needy ECOWAS countries (Sierra Leone, Gambia, Liberia, Mali etc) to facilitate the export of Ghanaian manufactured goods for example, cables, pharmaceutical, aluminium products etc; and
- Amend the Public Procurement Act to provide a bias in favour of made in Ghana goods in all public procurement transactions.

### ***MANAGERIAL, TECHNICAL AND ENTREPRENEURIAL SKILLS***

The NDC Government shall employ the principle of Public/Private partnership to constitute a District Industrialisation Team in each district for implementing a district industrialisation programme throughout the country. To this end, the services of the Association of Ghana Industries (AGI), a reconstituted NBSSI, Management Development and Productivity Institute (MDPI), and EMPRETEC will be fully utilized. The team will, among others, provide active on-site and off-site training to SME's to improve their managerial, technical, and entrepreneurial skills at minimal costs to the enterprises.

### **ACCELERATED AGRICULTURAL Modernization , IMPROVED RURAL ECONOMY and FOOD SECURITY**

Agriculture is the mainstay of the Ghanaian economy. The sector contributes 35% of GDP and provides employment for about 60% of the population. Yet the full force of the agricultural sector for driving the development process has not been properly harnessed and fully exploited.

The above reality provides the basis for a Strategy for Accelerated Modernisation of Agriculture (SAMA) that takes the following into account:

- Provide easier and faster access to marketing centres for agricultural produce;
- Scale-up credit support facilities for agricultural producers;
- Provide some subsidy for the agricultural sector for the procurement of improved seeds, grade breeders and stocks, pesticides and fertilizers;
- Scale-up upstream processing and value addition;
- Expand irrigation infrastructure;
- Support land tenure arrangement that yield win-win outcomes for both tenants and land holders;
- Structure and intensify relationships between farmers, farmer-based organizations (FBO's) and Extension Service providers;
- Promote small-holder productivity in transition to large scale production.

### ***POLICY OBJECTIVES***

#### ***LARGE SCALE APPLICATION OF MODERN IMPLEMENTS***

The NDC Government will pursue large scale introduction of appropriate agricultural Modernisation implements such as tractors, power tillers, cultivators, bullock ploughs and intermediate means of transport in order to reduce dependence on the hoe and cutlass as the



main implements of agricultural production in Ghana and head loading as the major means of farm- to- village market transportation.

Simultaneously the NDC Government will provide the necessary infrastructure to support the agricultural Modernisation process through the provision of improved access roads, dams, boreholes and other water harvesting techniques to high agricultural potential areas. Social infrastructure such as rural housing, water, electricity, schools, clinics and telephones will also be provided in high potential areas.

Appropriate Agricultural Research and Technology Development Ghana has been relatively successful in promoting the nucleus-outgrower concept in cash crop production, for example oil palm. The next step in the agricultural Modernisation programme is to apply appropriate agricultural research and technology to introduce economies of scale in food crop production by consciously extending the concept of nucleus-outgrower, block farming as well as contract farming to cover food crops as a way of bridging the gap between large scale producers and small scale producers.

The main aim of this component is to direct research and technology to address the needs of subsistence farmers in transition to commercial agriculture.

#### ***AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY SERVICE***

To coordinate service provision to subsistence farmers and aquaculture, the NDC Government will create District Agricultural Advisory Services (DAAS) to provide advice on productivity enhancing technologies such as improved and drought resistant seeds and breeds, pond construction, fingerling production, soil conservation techniques, knowledge and skills development; marketing, storage and agro-processing.

Farmers' fora will be organised in every district to enable farmers to demand, manage and monitor the advisory services that meet their needs.

#### ***AGRICULTURAL FINANCE***

Rural Financial Intermediaries will be promoted and strengthened for provision of rural financial services on a viable and sustainable manner. A new NDC Government will provide a legal and regulatory framework as well as capacity building for the Central Bank to ensure adequate flow of financial resources from the banks to the agricultural sector.

The NDC Government will establish an Agricultural Development Fund partly from taxes on imported food, fish and meat and partly from oil revenues to accelerate the provision of agricultural and fishing inputs, agricultural and fishing related infrastructure and services. The NDC Government will provide tax incentives to the private sector to enable operators to provide efficient Agro-Processing and marketing services in support of the government's agricultural Modernisation programme.

#### ***The NDC FOOD SECURITY AND BUFFER STOCK MANAGEMENT***

The new NDC Government's approach to ensuring food security to all Ghanaians is to address simultaneously the issues of food availability (production, strategic reserves, trade), access to food (economic growth, employment, income), response to crises situations, and nutritional problems.

The NDC fully appreciates the special role of fishermen and farmers, especially women as the main producers, processors and marketing of fish and food even though they have limited access to resources such as land, water, credit, inputs and training. The NDC Government will remove all these obstacles to increase their production and processing capacity and their role in promoting increased food security.

The NDC Government will support the establishment of a Buffer Stock Management Agency which shall have the dual responsibility of holding food security buffer stocks and intervening in the markets to ensure competitive prices to farmers in times of glut.

Business services such as extension, marketing and marketing information, business management, meteorological information, commercial training in weights and measures and access to credit will be provided to support the setting up of a Ghana Commodities Exchange. Commodity exchanges minimize risks to commercial farmers by providing post-harvest infrastructure, trading standards (against which prices can be set), standard contracts based on specifications for either spot or forward deliveries against which finance can be sought either privately or from the banking system.

### ***AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION***

Human resource development to meet the challenges of transforming the agricultural sector is crucial. Agricultural education will be incorporated at all levels of formal and informal education to support the agricultural Modernisation process.

An agricultural education syllabus will be formulated that will promote agriculture as a business, discourage the use of agriculture as a punishment in schools, encourage farmer participation in agricultural knowledge and information exchange and recognise the role of indigenous knowledge in agriculture to increase agricultural productivity.

The NDC government will equip and enable the 4000 or so Agriculture Award winners to serve as sources of extension training and markets to small scale farmers within their localities to help transform subsistence farming into commercial farming.

The NDC Government shall, in collaboration with other agencies, establish Junior Farm Field and Life School (JFFLS) in the districts. The programme will seek to improve the lives of young people aged 12 to 18 years who live in insecure communities where HIV/AIDS has had a strong impact, particularly in rural communities. Under the scheme, the young people will be taken through a training programme with particular attention to local agricultural skills with modern focus. The young people who graduate from the schools shall form the cadre corps for the Modernisation of agriculture.

### ***COCOA A RELIABLE ALLY***

The Government of the NDC will aim to increase the yield per hectare of cocoa to about 700 kilograms per hectare through better farm management, application of hi-tech production systems and better producer prices.

The current mass spraying exercise will be intensified and extended to include brushing, pest and disease control, shade management, pollination and fertilisation. The NDC Government shall pay the cocoa farmer at least 70% of the world market price of cocoa and to process at least 60 % of the cocoa produced locally. The 70% price will not include the cost of cocoa diseases and pest control, cocoa roads, COCOBOD scholarships, hi-teach production and bonuses.

In pursuance of our objective to process at least 60% of the cocoa produced locally, the NDC Government will consider establishing another Cocoa Processing Factory in the heart of the cocoa producing area of the Western Region. This will reduce the burden of transporting large quantities of cocoa beans to the ports and also create employment opportunities outside the Accra-Tema zone.

### ***INDUSTRIAL CROPS***

The efforts of the NDC Government will be geared towards the production of adequate quantities of agricultural raw materials to feed existing local firms as well as new ones. In particular, the NDC Government will support the development of specified industrial crops such as cotton, cashew, rubber, oil palm, soybeans, bio-fuel plants (jatropha which does not compete with food crops), medicinal plants and coconuts.

### ***NON-TRADITIONAL AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS***

The NDC Government will encourage the production, processing and export of crops such as sheanuts, dawadawa, cotton, pineapples, mangoes, bananas, rubber, vegetables, ornamental plants and cut flowers as well as the moringa. Of these, sheanuts, dawadawa and cotton are so important that they are given special mention here.

### ***DAWADAWA - AN IMPORTANT ECONOMIC TREE***

The dawadawa tree is an important economic tree in the three Northern Regions with numerous commercial and medicinal benefits. The NDC Government will set up a Task Force to encourage large scale dawadawa tree development, processing and utilisation.

### ***SHEA NUTS***

The NDC is aware that less than 50% of the sheanuts in the Northern regions is collected as a result of the long distances women have to travel on foot and dangers from snake bites. The NDC Government will provide protective clothing and intermediate means of transport such as donkey carts and other incentives for the women who pick the sheanut in the wild to increase their productivity. In addition, the numerous women shea butter processing cooperatives shall be empowered to increase the quantity of sheabutter produced for local use and for export. We shall provide resources to enhance research activities into the domestication of sheanuts. The ultimate objective of the NDC is to move sheanut trees from a wild savannah species to a domesticated export crop. A Sheanut Development Board will be established to implement these initiatives.

### ***COTTON***

Under the NDC administration, the cotton industry was a thriving one in the northern part of Ghana to the extent that ginneries were put up in a number of places (Tamale, Bolgatanga, Tumu) to process cotton with the capacity to produce cotton seed oil. Today, cotton is a dying sub-sector. Under the administration of a new NDC Government, cotton will play a major role in reducing poverty and developing rural populations and economies, especially in the three Northern Regions.

### ***IRRIGATION***

Agriculture cannot forever depend on the vagaries of the weather, especially in these days of global warming and uncertain weather conditions in the Northern, Upper East and Upper West Regions. We will rehabilitate existing irrigation schemes to ensure their efficient utilisation and construct addition ones.

Our flagship irrigation project, however, will be the irrigation of the Accra plains for all year round agricultural production.

### ***LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT***

The domestic poultry industry faces stiff competition from cheap imports (due in part to large-scale production) that our local poultry farmers cannot match. To address the situation, large scale cultivation of maize and soya beans will be supported to drastically reduce the cost of feed which account for about 75% of the cost of poultry production. In addition, tariff and non-tariff barriers will be used to give local poultry production a competitive edge over cheap imports.

The NDC Government shall initiate research into large scale breeding and production of guinea fowls especially in the Northern Regions and provide the necessary support to make Ghana self-sufficient in poultry within the first four years of NDC administration. Similarly, sheep, goat and cattle farmers will be assisted to substantially increase their scale of production in order to increase protein intake by Ghanaians and thereby sustain the livestock industry.

### ***FISHERIES***

Fish is a major source of protein for a large number of people and the fishing industry provides employment to over 500,000 fishermen, traders and mechanics, supporting up to 2 million people or 10% of the population. Yet the per capita consumption of fish in Ghana has continued to fall on account of decreasing marine catches.

An NDC Government fisheries policy will ensure the bridging of the gap between degradation of the resources of the sea and the lagoons caused by inefficient and destructive fishing methods and the promotion of maximum allowable fish catches that will enable the resources to renew themselves.

The NDC Government will concentrate on improving and rebuilding stock, increasing storage capacities, exploring and exploiting marketing avenues, providing processing facilities, and minimising post-harvest losses by ensuring the provision of landing sites, blast freezers and ice making facilities in the fisheries sub-sector.

Aquaculture will be actively pursued in all water bodies particularly on the Volta Lake and in other inland water bodies. Towards this end, the NDC Government will ensure the completion of the ongoing tree stump removal project in the Lake.

A new NDC Government will support the formation of "Fish Farmers Associations" and train their members to become service providers and expand and strengthen state hatcheries beyond the pilot Aquaculture Centre at Tano-Odumase to provide quality fingerlings for fish farmers, the object being to produce enough fish from aquaculture sources to make up the estimated annual fish deficit of about 400,000 metric tons.

In order to support and sustain the fisheries industry, the NDC Government will establish a Fisheries College to train extension officers for marine and inland fishermen. The officers will assist artisanal fishermen to adopt modern fishing practices. The deteriorated quality of pre-mix fuel will be corrected and improved, and affordable prices fixed for pre-mix fuel to sustain and improve the fishing industry.

All existing agreements on fishing within Ghana's territorial waters shall be reviewed to ensure that the livelihood and long-term interests of our fishermen and the residents of the coastal

communities are guaranteed. In particular, we will declare our 200-miles Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) as a prohibited fishing zone for foreign fleets for four years.

The NDC Government shall enforce the prohibition of the use of the unorthodox fishing methods currently used by some foreign fishing trawlers which are leading to the depletion of our marine fish resources and fully equip the Ghana Navy to enforce the prohibition. The NDC Government shall rigidly enforce the ban on the use of light and explosives for fishing.

### **LAND**

The NDC launched a clear and comprehensive National Land Policy in 1999 which aimed at ensuring a planned use of our land for equitable and secure access to land for housing, agriculture, mining, industry, recreation and environmental conservation. The new NDC Government will review this policy for implementation.

We recognise that unless ownership of land is tied to responsible land use, we face a non-sustainable future for which the next generation will condemn us. We will therefore pay particular attention to land use planning and its implementation and enforcement.

We shall consider positively a proposal for the demarcation and registration of all stool lands in order to stem the tide of stool land litigation. Land title registration will be expanded beyond residential and commercial areas to include farming communities and the indiscipline in land sales and land use will be addressed.

The NDC Government will introduce land management programmes to develop a comprehensive land ownership and land-use policy to facilitate the development of land markets, efficient land-use including irrigation and serviced plots) and management to ensure sustainable agricultural development.

We will establish a system of land banks for District Assemblies, land owning families and stools. We will compile a list of all Government lands and negotiate for payment of compensation for those that Government intends to keep and for which no compensation has been paid. For those that Government does not intend to keep even though compensation has been paid, the original owners shall be given the first option to purchase them back but where the requisite compensation has not been paid, it will be given back to the original land owners as required under the 1992 Constitution.

In this connection, we recognize that lands in the Greater Accra Region have a peculiar problem. In clear contravention of Article 20 (6) of the Constitution, the NPP Government has sold to private individuals and companies lands acquired by the Government which should have reverted to their original owners for them to exercise the first option of purchase when their lease periods expired or where they were no longer required in the public interest. The NDC Government will review all such transactions and ensure that Article 20 (6) of the Constitution is strictly complied with.

The NDC is also of the view that the Land Development (Protection of Purchasers) Act, 1960, Act 2, to the extent that it applies to lands in Greater Accra Region alone, is discriminatory against land owners in the Region, outmoded and obsolete. We shall accordingly sponsor legislation to repeal the Act.

## **FORESTS**

For the last century, forests have been treated purely as sources of extractive wealth that is for the production of timber, minerals and agricultural produce. As a result, forest owning communities have been effectively expropriated by the state and their resources turned over to companies that have made windfall profits.

The NDC is encouraged by the current initiatives towards the reform of the forestry sector and will adopt a programme to accelerate those and other reforms.

The NDC Government shall:

- Emphasise “Avoided Deforestation” and the role of forests in combating climate change;
- Adopt a Medium to Long term Plan for Plantations Development and Afforestation programmes, both public and private;
- Facilitate logs importation from exporting African countries to improve resource availability for the timber industry;
- Ensure capture of rent from timber industry by the State and its distribution in accordance with Art. 267(6) of the Constitution;
- Reorganise the Forestry sector to assist and support Community Forest Management effort to become more productive and sustainable;
- Reorganise community tenure and rights of farmers to trees outside reserves;
- Build capacity of professional foresters and District Assemblies to support and network community level enterprises and develop processing and markets for wide range of forest products in external markets;
- Ensure Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) through enforcement of existing Forest Law;
- Encourage and promote the use of lesser used species (LUS), particularly for the construction industry on the domestic market;
- Encourage utilisation of non-traditional tree species such as rubber wood, coconut and bamboo to supplement raw material supply from natural forests;
- Link exemptions on tax payments to expenditure or investments into training programmes by companies;
- Ensure more effective controls and standards to guarantee compliance with the sustainable annual allowable cut;
- Assist investors, under the Forestry Plantation Project, who are prepared to go into industrial-scale tree farming in specific depleted Forest Reserves and degraded land;
- Encourage private investment in commercial forestry outside forest reserves and along dried-up and flowing streams and rivers;
- Continue the planned development of inland and coastal wetland sites and the rehabilitation of degraded mangrove resources;
- Promote downstream processing and investments in improved technology and the recycling of wood residues;
- Review and streamline the allocation of Timber Utilisation Contracts (TUC’s) in order to ensure sustainable management of timber resources;
- Review the Timber Resources Management (Amendment) Regulations, 2003, L.I. 1721, to provide for forestation and reforestation and to remove the element of gambling from the competitive bidding process in the allocation of TUC’s; and
- Reinforce the protection and management of National Parks and other wildlife-protected areas to sustain biodiversity, research, education, recreation and eco-tourism.

The present legal framework of the Forestry Commission does not appear to ensure that there is a proper balance between the long-term conservation and sustainable use of forest and wildlife resources and pressures to maximize profits. Additionally, it creates the anomalous

situation in which the Commission, as an implementing agency, is also the monitoring agency whilst all other Commissions dealing with natural resources such as the Fisheries Commission and the Water Resources Commission advise on policy and monitor implementation. The new NDC Government shall, therefore, review the provisions of the Forestry Commission Act, 1999, Act 571, to bring it in line with the other Commissions dealing with natural resources.

## **MINING AND EXTRACTIVE RESOURCES**

The role of mining in the national economic development framework needs to be redefined. As the author of the current mining regime, the NDC administration benefited from revenue generation from this sector, for the survival of the economy and to kick start inward investments into the country at a time of economic collapse (1983). However, NDC recognizes that the cost to mining communities has been heavy and we need to acknowledge and thank these communities. In addition, a reorganization of the sector will be necessary to allow mining communities to benefit more from their sacrifices.

An NDC government will take measures with the view to resolving the difficulties of the mining sector. Such measures will include:

- Participatory review of mining and development;
- Better economic, social and environmental assessments prior to designation of mining areas;
- Strengthen environmental regulation (i.e. amend the current Mining Act passed last year);
- Strengthen the mining fiscal regime to capture more rent for the state and mining communities [through greater State carried interest, higher royalties and more realistic resource rent-based taxation similar to what exists in petroleum sector];
- Enforce localisation and integration such that more local benefits accrue to Ghanaian businesses;
- Abolish investment agreements that make mining operations enclaves exempt from legislative reforms/national emergencies;
- Optimise national benefits or retained earnings from mining investment in the country;
- Ensure transparency in the management of mineral resources;
- Ensure maximum environmental stewardship by mining companies;
- Expand and diversify the sector beyond gold, diamonds, manganese and bauxite;
- Improve the capacity and the operations of the small-scale mining sector, and reduce the menace of illegal artisanal mining (galamsey);
- Fast track the formulation of a National Mining Policy within the framework of the National Economic Development Policy;
- Provide fiscal and related incentives that would encourage value added downstream mining activities such as refining, smelting etc;
- Provide fiscal incentives that would encourage diversification of the mining sector to facilitate the development and extraction of the abundant iron ore, limestone, and other industrial mineral resources beyond the current ones;
- Provide policy directives that would facilitate increased local content in mining sector procurement;
- Provide incentives for optional national labour skills in the industry;
- Promote actively the country's involvement in the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI), which seeks to ensure transparency in the payment, receipts, disbursement and utilisation of extractive sector revenues;
- Fast track the formulation on the review of the Minerals Development Fund to address concerns of communities, chiefs and District Assemblies on percentage of royalties allotted them;
- Develop the salt industry with emphasis on petrochemical industry utilising national salt reserves and petroleum products from the country's petroleum resources;

- Introduce and enforce economic instruments for mining environmental management;
- Explore mechanisms to encourage increased regularisation of small-scale mining, including a review of procedures for obtaining small scale mining license;
- Provide a platform for transparent engagement of major stakeholders in the mining sector to increase harmony within the sector;
- Introduce discipline into the management of the extractive industries, with respect to the treatment of natural resources and the management of the environment;
- Renew commitment of the NDC Government to its policies on mining in forest reserves as contained in the 1999 National Land Policy document by introducing legislation to back the policy; and
- Vigorously pursue plantation development in mined-out-lands.

## **EMPLOYMENT POLICY**

In the pursuance of our People-First approach to national and social development, the NDC believes that it is the business of the state, both directly and indirectly, to create jobs for the people, particularly the youth. The NDC's strategic objective is to provide every Ghanaian with a job from which they can earn their livelihoods. This country has the resources to provide the basic minimum livelihood conditions that each Ghanaian needs to live a dignified life through employment.

### **EMPLOYMENT AND JOB CREATION**

The NDC's long-term objective is to promote and create productive employment opportunities in all sectors of the economy. Our policies on investment and on training are designed to create employment and enable productive ventures to tap the needed manpower. Together with organized labour, the NDC Government will implement a program of lifelong learning to benefit those already in employment, the principle being that "the more people learn, the more they earn" in the changing world of work.

The next NDC Government will assess some of its previous employment strategies such as "Poverty Alleviation" and "Youth in Agriculture" as well as current programs such as the NYEP with a view to enhancing their viability as employment options.

The NDC Government will encourage labour intensive programs and stimulate small businesses which potentially offer good employment opportunities as one of our major strategies towards creating jobs.

An NDC Government will, after discussion with employers and organized labour, initiate and launch an Employment Policy that will seek to create jobs for every able bodied Ghanaian desiring employment or, at worst, reduce unemployment to the barest minimum. The NDC Government will also launch a major housing and public works scheme involving urban road and drainage construction and environmental sanitation.

The NDC Government will provide inputs to the Integrated Community Centres for Employable Skills (ICCES) to enable them to further improve their performance and provide support for small and medium scale enterprises through the provision of advisory services and technical skills.

With our planned "computer revolution" in the educational system, the NDC Government will attract the out-sourcing of computer-related jobs as a major source of employment and make Ghana a major destination for out-sourced computer-related jobs coming into the sub-region.



The NDC Government will intensify the dialogue with labour to attain a firm understanding in the areas of wages, worker welfare and support for an investment and labour climate that is less tense and generally strike-free.

### ***ICT TRAINERS PROGRAMME***

To ensure that every community benefits from the burgeoning communication revolution, the NDC government will select some Senior High School graduates from all communities to be trained as trainers in the application of ICT, particularly in mobile telephony. The trainers will also be trained in the repair of mobile phones and related gadgets. These trainers would, in turn, train the people in their communities on ICT applications. This programme will offer sustainable jobs when rolled out.

### ***ICT PARKS FOR JOBS OUTSOURCING***

With our sights on reaping maximum returns through job creation and income generation, the NDC shall institute a two-pronged approach to make Ghana a major destination for ICT business outsourcing in the world. The NDC Government shall establish two international grade ICT Parks on the Akuapim Ridge and in Cape Coast. The parks will have the entire infrastructure required to make an impact on the outsourcing business.

Given the NDC's commitment to link all regional and district capitals with fibre optics, the NDC Government shall construct mini ICT Parks in the remaining regional capitals that will link them up with the international parks for outsourced jobs.

This programme will benefit thousands of graduates in computer and related fields as well as those who have humanities-based qualifications.

### ***ASSEMBLING BICYCLES, MOTORBIKES, MOTOR VEHICLES and AGRICULTURE EQUIPMENT***

As part of our strategy for job creation and technology transfer, the new NDC Government shall gradually wean Ghana away from the importation of some industrial products. At least 50% of all new bicycles, motor bikes and farm machinery imported into the country will be in knock-down form. This policy shall open up opportunities for our young mechanics to get sustainable jobs and work towards self employment.

### ***SUPPORT FOR LOCAL CONTRACTORS***

The NDC shall give further support to all contractors who will adopt labour-intensive strategies in the execution of their jobs. Ghanaian publishers and printers of textbooks and exercise books shall also be given similar support.

### ***SPECIAL SUPPORT FOR ARTISANS***

Under our employment generation strategy, we shall develop and implement a Rural and Urban Entrepreneur and Artisan Project (RUEAP), which seeks to empower and realize the full potential of artisans and small and medium scale rural and urban entrepreneurs. The RUEAP will provide capital and technical support to those who have the potential to operate small and profitable businesses, but cannot borrow from the banks because they are not creditworthy by conventional standards or may not have the expertise to get started.

The RUEAP shall, in addition, introduce special tools schemes to support all recognized trades persons in the acquisition of tools for the expansion of their businesses. The RUEAP shall pay special attention to mechanics, electricians, drivers, hairdressers, dressmakers, plumbers,

masons, carpenters and other allied tradesmen and women, as well those in the food industry. Special schemes shall be provided to enable women build and sustain their businesses.

### **CO-OPERATIVES**

A new framework for cooperative development will be formulated to allow cooperatives to operate more as business enterprises than as welfare societies to enable them to play an important role in job creation and poverty reduction.

Our specific policy measures shall include, but not be limited to tax benefits, access to loans and credits and access to public works programmes and special procurement arrangements. A new NDC Government shall encourage artisans and other professionals including fitters and mechanics, carpenters and electricians, hairdressers and beauticians to form strong district, regional and national associations to enable them qualify for government support. Farmer-based organizations will be appropriately linked to our economic programmes and projects, while production associations will form the pivot of our support for small scale farmers which will be given access to the market through procurement linkages with our expanded school feeding programme.

### **GRADUATE EMPLOYMENT**

The NDC recognizes graduate unemployment as a present and future problem, and will, in collaboration with other stakeholders, design programmes to provide unemployed graduates with entrepreneurial skills and employment opportunities.

As a medium-term measure, the NDC Government shall undertake a comprehensive review of the curricula of all our institutions, both secondary and tertiary, in consultation with all stakeholders with the view to making our school systems become relevant to the labour market and industry generally.

In the short-term, the NDC Government shall:

- Encourage increased training and re-training of unemployed graduates in the professional fields where there appears to be a shortage of skilled personnel with graduate level background. These fields include teaching, accountancy, marketing, banking, hotel management, procurement, computer, hardware and software, and modern languages;
- Support consultancy firms in Ghana to bid for international businesses in the sub-region. The only condition for government support shall be the absorption of unemployed graduates and their retention after the consultancy firms have won the international contracts;
- Give graduates priority to participate in agricultural projects, small business establishments, and high-grade apprenticeships and internships in big companies and multi-national corporations that are operating in the country. Funding and training shall be provided for those who choose the agricultural sector and the small and medium enterprises sub-sector;
- Provide incentives for and support graduates to take up employment with the District Assemblies and in the education sector where vacancies are known to exist;
- Use the ICT parks as avenues for the creation of jobs for unemployed graduates. We shall grant such private sector employers of new graduates tax concessions;
- Encourage financial institutions to set up more branches nationwide to provide the opportunity for the employment of unemployed graduates;
- With the exception of certain areas where the nation faces shortages, new graduates who have offers of employment from foreign countries shall be entitled to defer their national service for, at most, five years to enable them to take up those appointments;
- The manufacturing, industrial, agricultural and energy policies to be implemented by the NDC

government shall create vast opportunities and demand for highly skilled workers, particularly those with graduate and or professional level qualifications; and

- The NDC Government shall collaborate with all tertiary institutions to design, develop and provide entrepreneurship development skills. The aim is to instill in graduates of these institutions the entrepreneurial spirit that spurs the growth of business and the success of the entrepreneur.

Furthermore, the NDC Government shall establish a Youth Entrepreneurial Development Programme (YEDP) to encourage graduates from Universities, Polytechnics, and other Tertiary Institutions to set up their own businesses.

## **THEME FOUR: EXPANDING INFRASTRUCTURE FOR GROWTH**

### **HOUSING**

Available data indicate that the housing deficit is in excess of 500,000 units, whilst housing supply growth varies between 25,000 and 40,000 units per annum against annual requirements of about 100,000 units. The inability of the housing delivery system to meet growing effective demand over the years has created strains in the existing housing stock and infrastructure, especially in the urban areas. The housing needs of urban inhabitants are often restricted to sub-standard structures, unsanitary environments and squatter and slum communities. Following from the above overview, and having regard to the commitment of the NDC to facilitate access to housing by ordinary Ghanaians, strenuous and sustained efforts were made to mitigate the housing deficit. Achievements in this connection include:

- The Sakumono Estates Complex;
- The Tema Community 3 Estates;
- The Adenta Estates; and
- The SSNIT Estates constructed in all Regions.

The next NDC Government's comprehensive Housing and Shelter policy and strategy will focus on five critical areas. Viz:

- National Human Settlements Policy and Strategy;
- Housing/Shelter Strategy;
- Urban Development;
- Slum Upgrading and Prevention; and
- Rural Housing.

### ***HUMAN SETTLEMENTS POLICY AND STRATEGY***

Emphasis will be placed on drawing up a National Human Settlement Strategy consistent with population distribution and the structure of economic activities, current and projected. Under this, we will pursue the following strategies, among others:

- Create Land Banks which will ensure the availability of serviced lands for housing development at affordable prices.
- Pay priority attention to land use planning and enforcement;
- Ensure the enforcement of standards for architectural designs and building codes set in an appropriately revised Building Regulations of 1996, L.I. 1630, sponsored by the NDC Government, which has remained largely unimplemented;
- Set standards for engineering infrastructure, i.e. road designs, electricity, water, telephones, fire hydrants etc to suit various localities and income groups;

- Encourage the production and use of local building materials such as brick and tile, landcrete blocks, adobe bricks, compressed earth bricks, pozzolana cement, bamboo, and secondary timber species;
- Support technical educational institutions and other professional bodies to train more human resources required for the construction sector;
- Dialogue with the financial sector to facilitate the availability of construction finance and affordable mortgages building on the previous experience gained in the establishment of the Home Finance Company Limited in the early 1990s;
- Establish a National Human Settlement Commission as a multi-sectoral and multi-disciplinary agency with responsibility for coordinating strategies and actions between MDAs, the private sector, voluntary agencies, and those needing housing.

### ***URBAN DEVELOPMENT***

The key cities in Ghana-Accra, Tema, Sekondi-Takoradi, Kumasi and Tamale-are rapidly urbanizing. Population trends indicate that by 2020, more than half of Ghana's population will be living in urban areas with urbanization expected to reach 65% by 2030. To prepare for this urban explosion, the NDC Government, with the full participation of the private sector, will scale up the current World Bank sponsored 'Urban Projects' by launching a nationwide urban renewal programme. A key approach to the Programme is the establishment of executive control, the development of technical support schemes, and the creation of effective institutions.

### ***SLUM UPGRADING AND PREVENTION***

Slum existence is the result of rural-urban migration, limited supply of land and regulatory frameworks that fail to address the needs of the urban poor. The NDC, as a party with strong support in slums and in sprawling shanty towns, including the "Zongos," will adopt an "upgrading-in-place" approach consisting of improving the existing infrastructure and facilities up to satisfactory standards including addressing issues relating to tenure. This will minimise destruction of the social and economic lives of the communities and retain community networks and the social capital on which they endure. It is humane and in full accord with our commitment to Social Democracy in which people come first.

### ***RURAL HOUSING***

An NDC government will deal with rural housing problems as part of the larger commitment to improve social and economic conditions in rural areas generally. In this regard, we shall concentrate on:

- Integrated approach to improving rural housing;
- Improvements in the housing standards and orderly growth of settlements through effective planning and management;
- Rural housing rehabilitation schemes with, emphasis on wall protection and re-roofing with the provision of Wall protection and roof loans scheme;
- Promotion of erosion control and prevention schemes and drainage programmes;
- Self-help building organised along communal themes, co-operatives societies, and crop and trade associations;
- Public sponsored site and services schemes through which suitable tracks of land will be made available for housing in collaboration with traditional landowners; and
- Technical assistance to communities to support basic house-building skill training programmes, technical information service and low cost house design and building competitions.

We shall establish standards for houses built with rural raw materials, especially landcrete and thatch, whilst ensuring their affordability, safety and durability.

### **SUSTAINABLE WATER AND SANITATION INFRASTRUCTURE**

Ghana, since the NDC period in government, pioneered poverty reduction as a strategy for development. The provision of safe water and sanitation facilities to rural communities and small towns constituted aspects of the strategy. The community Water and Sanitation Agency is facilitating the implementation of the National Community Water and Sanitation programme through District Assemblies and the private sector, while urban water supply is under the Ghana Water Company Limited.

### **RURAL WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION**

The 5% contribution by District Assemblies and communities to the capital cost of construction of water facilities also remains a challenge. Sanitation delivery in rural communities and small towns remain unimpressive because of the requirement of 50% demand by households for latrine facilities as a condition for providing subsidies to beneficiaries.

Given that the DA's are key institutions in the implementation of projects to deliver water, the NDC Government will increase funds to the sector. The District Assemblies must have water delivery as their priority. In this connection:

- District Assemblies would be required to prepare and update District Water and Sanitation Plans (DWSP) and Strategies Investment Plans (SIP) yearly;
- District Assemblies will be advised to allocate sufficient funds and other resources in their budgets to meet current costs for the realization of the objectives of the DWSP's and SIPs;
- The 5% contribution by District Assemblies and communities to rural water supply will be abolished;

Measures to improve sanitation will include:

- Latrine promotion, supply of materials and latrine construction;
- Promotion of the use of local materials in latrine construction with a view to reducing cost;
- Promotion of low-cost latrine technology options that are appropriate and affordable;
- Enactment and enforcement of bye-laws for sanitation promotion and construction by District Assemblies;
- Subsidy to beneficiaries extended to cover professional fees for latrine artisans.

### **URBAN WATER SUPPLY**

Access to safe and adequate water to meet basic human needs with emphasis on access by the poor and vulnerable will be the main area of policy focus in urban areas.

Integrated water resources management to ensure sustainable water resources use will remain high on the NDC Government's development agenda. Focus will be on sustainable exploitation, utilization and management, and improved efficiency in the production, distribution and supply of water, taking into account the needs of the poor, and also ensuring that they have access to a threshold of supplies at prices that are affordable.

To address the current acute water problem in Accra and parts of the Greater Accra Region, a new Water Treatment Works will be constructed at Akuse, downstream of the Kpong Dam. The capacity of the Weija Works shall be expanded. Expansion works will also be undertaken in Kumasi, Tamale, Ho and Sekondi-Takoradi to address their recurring water problems, whilst we take steps to complete the ongoing project to resolve the perennial water supply problem in Cape Coast.

As a short term measure, water reservoirs shall be installed in the parts of Accra with acute water problems and as a medium to long term measure, we shall create a National Water Grid system by a phased interlinkage of the treated water systems in the country after the expansion and Modernisation programmes.

### **WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT**

It is apparent that water resource use, management and control, will constitute major issues of conflict and controversy in the 21st century. Water for Energy, for Food and Agriculture, for Transport, for domestic use, and many other purposes will loom with population growth and with the pressures associated with globalization. To minimise the incidence of such conflicts within Ghana, and between us and our neighbouring countries, it is important that we develop clear policies for harnessing and regulating the use of our water resources. Towards this end, an NDC Government shall:

- Prepare a comprehensive Water Policy clearly defining the Roles of Central Government, Municipal and District Assemblies in ensuring prudent management of water resources and the environment for sustainable eco-systems, river basins protection, water resources exploitation and conservation;
- Support relevant State agencies in collaboration with District and local communities to undertake reforestation programmes for water sheds protection;
- Initiate river catchments protection in the context of integrated water resources management, using the water-sheds as a basic planning unit;
- Initiate a programme of watersheds protection with support to and in collaboration with relevant state agencies-- Assemblies and communities to undertake re-forestation of major water courses;
- Prepare a comprehensive Coastal Zone Management Strategy that addresses the protection, management, and sustainable use of wetlands and other coastal resources using integrated and participatory approaches;
- Identify and select representative major water bodies that would be subjected to effective and efficient treatment, conservation and sustainable use;
- Prepare a national policy on sustainable use, harvesting, and storage of rainwater;
- Set up mechanisms and measures to support , encourage and promote rainwater harvesting through District and local levels for all new buildings;
- Establish a “Water Fund” to support any water production and distribution systems that will finally be adopted to ensure that adequate water is available to all and affordable by all, but especially the poor, disadvantaged and the marginalised.

### **TRANSPORTATION**

Transportation remains a strategic sector of the Ghanaian economy. It is the fulcrum of both the import and export trade that drive the Ghanaian economy. An effective and efficient transport sector contributes to a competitive economy. Yet the country faces major transportation difficulties.

Paradoxically, the NPP Government has no fewer than four Ministries dealing with transport. Restructuring the transportation sector is therefore a categorical imperative. The NDC Government will merge three of the four Ministries into one Ministry of Transportation, leaving only the Ministry of Roads and Highways as a separate Ministry.

## **ROAD TRANSPORT**

The NDC Government will work closely with the GPRTU and other transport associations to ensure that adequate and affordable road transport is available for the public.

The provision of freight services and the transportation of passengers are mainly in the hands of the private sector which is organized around the GPRTU and other transport unions. An NDC government will assist the private sector to be more effective, efficient and competitive in their operations.

The involvement of Government in Mass Transit will be continued but the operations of the Metro Mass Transport Company will be streamlined for more transparent operations and full accountability, focusing its attention on urban transportation.

The NDC Government will resolve the intra-city transportation problem where there are traffic jams and excessive use of low occupancy vehicles. To increase discipline and efficiency, a route licensing system will be introduced to regulate the urban and intra-city transport system.

## **ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE**

### **HIGHWAYS**

The development of our highways will continue to be guided by the “Road Sector Development Programme”, our highway sector development blueprint that we launched in 2000 and which continues to be the development blueprint of the NPP Government, though implemented with distortions.

We will remain faithful to our previous national Highway road mix objective of 70:20:10 for excellent, good and bad roads. The long-term vision is to construct the majority of these roads as concrete or asphaltic dual carriageway, all-weather roads, capable of lasting for a minimum of fifty years.

Geographically, the plan is to upgrade the Central Spine, and construct the Eastern and Western Corridors to link Southern Ghana to the North. In terms of specifics, these are:

- Central Spine: This is the existing Accra-Kumasi-Techiman-Tamale-Bolgatanga-Paga road with Boankra in the Ashanti Region as an inland port;
- Eastern Corridor: Tema-Asikuma-Ho-Hohoe-Jasikan-Yendi-Nalerigu-Kulungugu road with Nkwanta in the Volta Region as an inland port;
- Western Corridor: Elubo-Asemkrom-Enchi-Goaso-Sunyani-Bamboi-Bole-Wa-Hamile road with Gambia No. 2 in the Brong Ahafo Region as the inland port. East-West road corridors in Northern Ghana are also on the NDC Highway agenda. Of priority importance are the following:
- Bawku-Tumu-Lawra Corridor in the Upper East and Upper West Regions;
- Tamale-Ffulso-Sawla-Wa stretch in the Northern Region.

### **URBAN ROADS**

We will continue with the programme of urban road rehabilitation and maintenance as part of our urban planning and development strategy. The existing Department of Urban Roads in four Metropolitan Assemblies will be expanded to cover all the six Metropolitan Assemblies, all the Municipal Assemblies and all District Assemblies with Urban Councils within their jurisdictions. These will replace the existing Roads Unit of the PWD in those districts.

Ongoing road reconstruction, rehabilitation and upgrading works in the secondary cities and major towns will continue. Also to be continued will be the rehabilitation of the major arterial roads leading out of the Metropolises, Municipalities and Urban Centres.

### ***FEEDER ROADS***

We will make major interventions in the area of feeder roads, cocoa roads and other roads in the rural areas with a view to making them all-weather roads where appropriate and ensuring that we bring good roads to every part of the country. We will pay special attention to inaccessible areas, with particular emphasis on bridge rehabilitation and construction.

### ***NON-MOTORISED TRANSPORT***

This comprises all movements that do not use motorized systems or fossil fuel to move; comprising walking, cycling, bullock and donkey carting, use of wheel barrows and push carts. An NDC government will ensure that in the construction of roads in urban areas provision will be made to facilitate the efficient and safe use of non motorised transport facilities such as bicycle lanes and pedestrian walkways in congested central business districts.

### ***RAILWAYS***

The next NDC government will concentrate on reviving the railway system by investing in both track repair and needed rolling stock so that it can more effectively compete with the road transport system for captive freight and passengers travelling along some rail corridors.

To move into the future an NDC government will lay new parallel rail tracks on rail corridors that have high passenger and freight traffic potential such as from the Tema port to the inland port in Kumasi and, between Tema port and the VLTC terminal at Akosombo. Thus by replacing the old tracks with wider gauge tracks any new railways will follow the current technology in the sector. That done the requisite modern rolling stock will be imported to run on the tracks as the foundations of a new railway system for the entire country. In this regard fuel will be transported to Kumasi and Takoradi from Tema on the Eastern and Central lines which will be modernised during an NDC government. Any investment to modernise and extend the railway system will be justifiable as this reduces the overall cost of transportation in the country. Rail transport is more efficient, cost effective and environmentally friendlier than the prevailing road transport system.

### ***MARITIME AND RIVERINE TRANSPORT***

An NDC Government will encourage the restructuring of GPHA by ensuring its full conversion to a landlord port and passing a new Port Act that will distinguish between its commercial roles and its regulatory functions. The GPHA is a monopoly provider of port services and considering its changing role, a new body to determine charges at the port will be established.

The NDC Government will seek investors to fund the dredging of the Takoradi Port to increase the depth of the port to enhance the handling of container ships which will subsequently lead to the establishment of a container terminal in partnership with the private sector in Takoradi.

To enhance cross shore trading and facilitate transportation between the lake communities, an NDC government will establish two more landing sites on either side of the lake to reduce travelling distances between settlements and existing landing sites. The necessary support will be given to the company removing tree stumps in the lake to complete the exercise quickly to improve navigation and reduce boat accidents on the Volta Lake.

Fuel that is needed up country and for our Sahelian neighbours will be transported by rail and by lake from Akosombo to Buipe and Debre and discharged for surface freighting in the pipelines to the BOST storage facilities at Bolgatanga and beyond. Additional pontoons would be installed for more frequent and reliable crossing of the Volta Lake at Yeji to redistribute road transport services more competitively among the western, central and Eastern corridors.



## **AVIATION**

An NDC government will complete the Modernisation of KIA, an exercise it planned in phases and was implementing the third phase when it lost power. In addition to this the Tamale airport will be developed as a second international airport to serve as an alternative to KIA in times of need.

With the liquidation of Ghana Airways, the flag carrier, the government has tried to make an arrangement to replace it with the Ghana International Airlines which it touts as a private airline. Considerable amount of tax payer money has been pumped into GIA as sovereign loans and equity in a very non-transparent and unclear manner without any likelihood of repayment. GIA has not published its operating results since its inception. An NDC government will demand their complete publication for all Ghanaians to know the airline's performance since all Ghanaians have a stake in the airline. It will also investigate the circumstances leading to the liquidation of Ghana Airways, the post-liquidation treatment of its assets and staff and the incorporation, financing and viability of the GIA.

In conformity with the Banjul and Yamoussokro Accords, more domestic airlines with opportunities for neighbourhood flights in the ECOWAS region will be encouraged through tax incentives and reduced airport charges for home based airlines.

## **SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT**

The use of science and technology is central to progress in all fields of national endeavour. In this regard, the NDC will establish two national Science and Technology Theme Parks, one in Cape Coast and the other on the Akwapim Ridge. These Parks are envisaged to provide world-class facilities for electronics, precision engineering, ITC and bio-technology. They will have links to local Universities but their aim will be to develop and put into use practical solutions for specific problems.

To provide the necessary focus for science and technology development, a Ministry of Science and Technology will be created and given a clear mandate to foster and co-ordinate the development and diffusion of science and technology for use by appropriate agencies. As a demonstration of our commitment to the development of science and technology, a Fund will be set up to support Research activities in our Universities, Research Institutions, and Graduate Research Projects.

We will institute an Annual "Ghana Science Congress" to focus attention on science and technology and their impact on the various sectors. The first of these Congresses will target the agriculture sector which will be set the following objectives:

- Resuscitating the rice industry and doubling the output of other grains particularly maize, millet and sorghum;
- Tripling the production of roots and tubers;
- Doubling the output of cocoa;
- Reducing post-harvest losses from 25% to 10%;
- Improving on the traditional methods of preserving and storing farm produce; and
- Producing disease resistant coconut seedlings and supporting farmers to replant their devastated farms.

### **INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY (ICT)**

The next NDC Government will push for the rapid development of the country's ICT infrastructure, including the establishment of a reliable national backbone with capacity to carry high-speed voice, video, data, and internet facilities to all districts of the country.

The national backbone will be linked up with the SAT-3 undersea cable to provide speedy connectivity with the outside world, especially our sub-regional neighbours. Because it is a strategic national asset with a pivotal role to play in the development of Ghana's Information and Communication infrastructure, Ghana Telecom's sale to Vodafone BV is completely unacceptable to the NDC. We shall accordingly review the sale and purchase agreement covering the transaction and take a decision that is in the strategic interest of the country.

We will build upon the various existing ICT human resource training programs and develop a critical mass of ICT personnel to satisfy both domestic and external demands.

We will promote the use of ICT in governance, networking the Presidency and the Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) to improve communication and loss of man-hours spent on huge tons of paper work.

Routine information and statistics of MDAs will be made available on their websites for easy access to the public. Electronic versions of various government application forms such as passport, driving licence and vehicle registration forms will be made available on-line to ease the problems that individuals go through in seeking such services.

The NDC Government will encourage the establishment of outsourced ICT businesses in the country as we did with the ACS/BPS in 1999/2000. The NDC Government will revise the legislation on the National Communications Authority to bring it in line with modern trends. In that connection, a special audit of radio spectrum will be conducted and spectrum allocation rationalised in order to encourage optimum efficiency in the use of this finite national resource and prevent the current incidences of interference. The audit should also provide a definitive solution to the persistent conflict between the National Communications Authority and the National Media Commission as to the responsibility for the allocation of radio frequencies.

In all, the next NDC government will be committed to the attainment of the following ICT targets:

- Connect all universities, polytechnics, colleges and secondary schools to the World-Wide Web (WEB);
- Connect scientific and research institutions to the WEB and link them up to form a national ICT hub;
- Link up decentralised and central government ministries, departments and agencies and establish a website for each of them;
- Connect public libraries and all public and private universities to the WEB;
- Ensure that all district capitals and all major communities within 10 kilometers radius of a district capital are linked to the WEB;
- Link up all the teaching hospitals, regional hospitals, polyclinics and district hospitals to the WEB as the first step in the promotion of telemedicine on a national scale;
- Health posts and clinics that are within 10 kilometers of regional hospitals will also be linked to the internet;
- Ensure that the broadband high speed internet connectivity is available in every district capital as envisaged under our original program for the development of the information and technology sector; and
- Ensure that opportunities are created in each community for ordinary people to learn how to use basic

ICT to improve on their productivity.

ICT programs shall be incorporated into other national development policies to ensure that all efforts towards sustainable development are cohesive, coordinated and planned.

### ***ENERGY FOR GROWTH***

The energy crisis of 2006-2007 was a rude awakening to the nation that our efforts at economic recovery are doomed to failure if our strategies for energizing the nation are not consistent and sustainable.

Faced with a similar energy crisis in the 1990s, the NDC Government reacted decisively by taking the following measures:

- Construction and expansion of the Aboadze Thermal Plant, currently 550 megawatts;
- Initiation of the West African Gas Pipeline Project;
- Co-operation with Cote d'Ivoire to access natural gas;
- Development of natural gas in the Tano Basin;
- Construction of the Osagyefo Barge; and
- Establishment of strategic petroleum storage depots.

The power crisis of 2006-2007 resulted from a failure of continuity of policies and strategies, and the decision to buy VALCO and supply power to the VALCO Smelter at prices lower than the cost of production.

The consequences were:

- Huge costs incurred by the nation from resort to load shedding;
- Major loss of national economic output, with GDP growth reducing by almost 1%;
- The bankrupting of the VRA with its liabilities currently in excess of US\$750 million;
- Current tariffs that are beyond the means of consumers; and
- Postponement of investment decisions in industry.

The power crisis is not over and the NDC Government will take urgent measures to ensure the supply of power on a reliable and sustainable basis. These measures include:

- Intensification of efforts to achieve gas-fired power;
- Aggressive pursuit of the Tano Basin gas development project and an expansion of the Osagyefo Barge project;
- Implementation of the Aboadze steam turbine project;
- Ensuring speedy completion of the West African Gas Pipeline Project;
- Acceleration of the use of natural gas in place of crude oil at Aboadze;
- Implementation of the program to restore the Volta Lake for optimal hydro- generation;
- Implementation of comprehensive energy conservation measures to yield 10% savings in electricity consumption;
- Restoration of the finances of VRA and ECG; and
- Development and use of Renewable Energy Resources.

The overall energy policy objective is to ensure the delivery of energy services to all consumers in a secure, efficient, reliable, sustainable, safe and environmentally-friendly manner. The NDC intends to pursue the following strategies in the specific energy sub-sectors:

### ***ELECTRICITY SUB-SECTOR***

- Increase generation capacity to at least 5,000 megawatts in the medium-term;
- Add capacity at the transmission and distributions levels;
- Open up the sub-sector to independent power producers (IPP's) and private sector participants in distribution;

- Restore the momentum of the NDC program to provide access to electricity progressively to all households;
- Pursue regional co-operation and integration so Ghana regains her position as a net exporter of power and for regional energy security;
- Implement power sector reforms;
- Strengthen the PURC (Public Utilities Regulatory Commission) and build confidence in its independent regulatory role;
- Through the above measures, reduce the cost of electricity production and thus enable lower electricity tariffs to be charged.

### ***PETROLEUM SUB-SECTOR***

- Review the monopoly position of Sahara Energy Resources Ltd. in the management of crude oil supply to both TOR and VRA;
- Investigate the mystery of TOR's indebtedness of over ₵5 Trillion despite the imposition and collection of the TOR debt recovery levy;
- Decisively resolve the possible insolvency danger posed to Ghana Commercial Bank by the colossal TOR debt;
- Streamline the costs incurred by TOR in relation to crude oil supply and refining;
- Pursue the doubling of TOR's capacity with private sector involvement, enabling processing of Ghana oil;
- BOST (Bulk Oil Storage Transport) Company Ltd to establish minimum of 90 days strategic stocks;
- Provide cost effective water-borne transportation of petroleum products on the Volta Lake and rail transportation of petroleum products to Kumasi;
- Fuelwood to be replaced as dominant fuel for cooking by LPG or electricity in the majority of households;
- Expand local cylinder manufacturing capacity in support of the LPG program;
- Counteract pre-mix fuel diversion and secure access to pre-mix for fishermen;
- Administer deregulation in a non-disruptive manner;
- Ensure Ghana benefits to the greatest extent possible from discovery and production of oil and gas;
- Ensure that local content provisions in petroleum law and agreements are applied;
- Ministry of Energy, GNPC and Energy Commission to ensure optimal resource development and environmental compliance;
- Integrate gas pipeline from Tano Basin into West African Gas Pipeline and guarantee gas supply for thermal plants;
- Intensify oil and gas exploration including onshore Voltaian basin and the Northern Regions; and
- Develop petrochemical industry utilizing local and imported natural gas and Ghana's salt resources. Our priorities for utilising revenue from oil and gas will be the following:
  - Address the challenges of poverty in Ghana through expenditures in the priority areas of education, health, rural development, infrastructure, water and sanitation;
  - Invest in infrastructure, physical and social, in communities in the oil and gas production areas;
  - Recognise the oil and gas production areas as new growth poles for the national economy;
  - Invest in a future Generation Fund to ensure sustained well being into the long-term; and
  - Invest in technical training, scientific research and development.

In order to ensure the prudent use of the anticipated revenue from the new oil discoveries, a new NDC Government shall set up an independent Authority to oversee its utilisation.

### **RENEWABLE ENERGY SUB-SECTOR**

Renewable energy resources, including smaller hydro projects, solar energy, wind energy, tidal wave energy, biomass and biogas will all feature in the evolution of a balanced energy portfolio that reflects advances in technology and Ghana's natural resource endowments. Incentives will be provided for real estate developers and other construction designers to incorporate energy conservation and renewable energy sources in their designs.

### **MANAGING THE ENERGY SECTOR**

- Management of the energy sector will be transparent and compliant with the principles of the extractive industries transparency initiative (EITI).
- The NDC's commitment to integrity in governance and the anti-corruption crusade will be reflected fully in the energy sector.
- The proper management of the sector will result in the generation of a new dynamic with increasing job opportunities for Ghanaians.
- Ensuring adequacy of energy supply as a catalyst for industrial growth and stimulation of national economic development is the ultimate objective of the NDC Government's energy policy.

The long period of darkness under the NPP will become history under the NDC Government with the new dynamism of the energy sector. The sector should regain the confidence of the public. The NDC will give pride of place to available Ghanaian expertise and utilise the skills of Ghanaians in relevant disciplines to accelerate energy sector development and lead the nation to turn the energy challenge into opportunities to create wealth for the nation.

### **CONCLUSION**

The NDC has established impeccable credentials as a Democratic party: The Party has been in opposition for two terms since its formation as a political organization in 1992. This experience has vindicated our sincere commitment to building a sustainable and lasting system of democratic governance in Ghana. Our resolve has been strengthened by our experience in opposition. As a party, we are more capable, much wiser and a better organised political force, eager to compete and ready to defeat the incompetent and drifting NPP Government. Our resilience has been fortified. This is proven in our ability to stay united in spite of persistent harassment and the many false and contrived charges of criminality and corruption fabricated against us by the NPP.

We deeply appreciate the wonderful show of support and loyalty by the foot soldiers of the Party, who, in their scores of thousands and across every Region of the Country have stood firm with the leadership to maintain the unity of the Party and keep alive the Vision that rally us together.

This Manifesto reflects the Vision of a Social Democratic Movement. It represents our strategies, plans and programmes for getting Ghana back on course. It is the "Agenda for A Better Ghana".

We are determined to create a society in which all will have equal and fair opportunities to earn their prosperity by decent work.

Our programme is about making sure that we grow enough food to feed ourselves and our industries.

Our programme is about making quality education accessible, available and inexpensive.

Our programme is to provide healthcare for all who need care.

Our programme is about creating jobs through bold, pragmatic and innovative policies that sustain the growth of a strong economy.

The NDC does not subscribe to policies and actions that help a few to prosper at the expense of the many, as is happening now.

The NDC will create the environment in which the people feel secure and the safety of their property receives protection.

The Manifesto is also a call to a struggle for meaningful democracy. It is a reminder that we may have lost the electoral contests of 2000 and 2004 but the struggle for true democracy and the even harder struggle against the shackles of poverty and underdevelopment is yet to be won.

We must win this fight against poverty. The dignity and hope of our people must be restored. Winning this struggle means winning the 2008 elections.

We need your vote to establish a Government that is believed and trusted by the people.

We need your vote to establish a Government that tells the truth.

We need your vote to establish a Government that serves with humility and eschews arrogance.

We need your vote to establish a Government of honesty and integrity.

We need your vote to establish a Government that is competent.

We need your vote to establish a Government that will make the hardships of today the nightmares of yesterday.

We need your vote to form a Government that will bring change for A "Better Ghana".

Vote NDC! Vote Akatamanso!!