

# CONVENTION PEOPLE'S PARTY

*MOTTO: FORWARD EVER BACKWARD NEVER*

## **CPP POLICY DIRECTION**

### **INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

Ghana's place in international relations particularly as it pertains to the nature of African politics, independence and ideology is unique and recognized. This is due to the tireless efforts of Osagyefo Dr. Kwame Nkrumah and his comrades to link Ghana's independence and future prospects with that of other African countries.

We will work vigorously to secure positive nationalism within the framework of a strong commitment to the various international bodies.

More specifically the CPP will:

- work boldly towards the realization of the ECOWAS dream,
- promote Pan-African approaches to international relations,
- work tirelessly for the achievements of African Union objectives including the ones that relate to the setting up of an African High Command, Common Market, Parliament and free movement of people and goods,
- promote the continuing development of the African Personality through excellence and a unique expression of a positive African culture,
- support the efforts of oppressed people everywhere to achieve independence,
- promote a multi-literalism in efforts to achieve peace, security and equity in the international system.

### **ECONOMIC PLANNING AND FINANCE**

For the CPP the theme, "Work and Happiness" remains an enduring one. For this to happen, we aim to rely on our domestic enterprise, human, natural and financial resources.

As a developing country, we know we need external private and public sector support. However, this support cannot replace our own domestic efforts and sacrifice. We will transform the economy from a raw material led base to a process/value added entity within the framework of responsible credit procurement, mobilization and utilization strategies. A co-ordinated approach towards unleashing the inherent potential of the "informal sector" will be an integral part of this process.

Central to this effort will be the active promotion of area and regional integration policies to augment and complement resource endowment.

### **INTERIOR**

A disciplined society is necessary to ensure the freedom of all of its citizens. We will actively pursue the concept of social intelligence as a cornerstone strategy in order to enhance proactive management of our law enforcement needs.

In this regard, the CPP will:

- decentralize administration,

- equip the police with adequate human, technology and material resources,
- enable and strengthen law and justice database,
- ensure that the prisons will become more reformatory (including active prison industries) with more appropriate infrastructure.

### **LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

Democratic governance and its processes are not complete without full democratization at the local levels. This will unleash the power of freedom for development throughout the country. In pursuit of this goal we will review the decentralization law with a view to enhancing further greater financial, administrative and sectoral autonomy in the various Districts.

In this regard, the CPP will ensure:

- the election of all district assembly members and District Chief Executives to make them accountable to their local communities,
- the rapid decentralization and independence of arms of government institutions,
- increase in the percentage of national income distributed to the District Assemblies to strengthen their ability to discharge their responsibilities effectively,
- that we augment Traditional Council representation in District Assemblies with the requisite skilled manpower.

### **NATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE**

#### **Water:**

Water is life. Government must act to preserve water bodies and make them safe, free from pollution to enable a sustainable environment for human development. Eco-efficient river management will be one of the cornerstones of our strategy.

Therefore the CPP will:

- encourage efficient water resources management through research and development programmes,
- encourage the exploration of different options for the management of water production and distribution companies, without privatization of public resources.
- ensure that all communities have access to good, clean potable water,
- will encourage **management of rain water**, and development of small irrigation sources for farming purposes,
- co-ordinate water production and distribution with national development to ensure water security for investors.

#### **Housing:**

The right to own property and decent shelter is important for our development.

Therefore the CPP will:

- shape new housing development patterns in a way which will minimize the need to travel,
- stand for safe, sanitary environments in our villages, towns and cities,
- initiate and support the construction of housing for workers, poor and the general population through financial and other incentives,
- ensure the availability of land appropriately enhanced with basic utilities and services throughout the country,
- encourage and promote the development and use of local building materials,

- introduce land use planning policies to ensure safe secure and efficient delivery of housing units,
- augment all of above with public (state led) resources whether strategically appropriate.

### **Electricity, Energy and Power:**

Energy is the source of strength to carry the industrialization of the economy to greater heights and to open up the country and its people to the civil world and its opportunities.

Therefore we will:

- increase the power producing facilities including hydro (Bui dam etc.), thermal, gas and others to ensure that we become a net exporter of power. Whilst recognizing the fears associated with nuclear power, we will nonetheless exploit its opportunities,
- support avenues to ensure realization of the West African gas pipeline project,
- aggressively complete the electrification of all rural areas in the country to serve as a means for job creation, education, better health care and bringing the rural economy into the global market,
- ensure the production and availability of fuel (oil and gas) to meet domestic needs and for export,
- explore environmentally friendly sources of energy such as solar and wind to complement other sources,

## **AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

We are committed to basic food security and to adding value through indigenous agribusiness to our raw materials such as cocoa, oil palm and fruits. This strategy will include the active promotion of agriculture and as a resource input for value added processing. Major consideration will be given to storage, preservation and effective distribution mechanisms within this sector.

**We:**

- believe that our government must provide support in the form of extension services, inputs and credit facilities to increase productivity and make our farmers competitive in this era of globalization,
- support efforts towards upgrading the technological base of rural based agriculture,
- support the development and strengthening of 'organised groups' as a means of achieving scale economies and ensuring sustainable agriculture,
- support local reform to ensure rapid access to land, secure land tenure and title as a means of ensuring the prosperity of the farmer and enhancing social progress,
- will ensure the availability of electricity, telephone, water, roads and other social infrastructure to make the rural areas more livable and open for business investment.

## **DEFENCE**

Our defence policy is first and foremost to secure Ghana's sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity in all areas – land, sea and air. In this regard, we will:

- ensure a well-trained, well-equipped armed force that is also properly motivated,
- ensure the use of armed forces personnel in civil infrastructure construction and maintenance to ensure they maintain and enhance their skills on a continuous basis,
- enhance the capabilities of specialist units therein to support industry and research,
- work with the armed forces to secure their participation in disaster prevention and management and in combating the threat of terrorism,

- institute a compulsory national military service regime that can make possible the mobilization of every capable adult in national defence.

As Ghana is a pioneer in articulating the concept of an African High Command, we will:

- adopt peaceful means to resolve international conflicts within and outside the African continent,
- ensure that peaceful means are adopted to enable stable and productive relationships with our neighbours,
- work with ECOWAS and the African Union to ensure peace and stability in Africa.

### **EDUCATION**

We are committed to human centered development. Recognizing that education is essential for human development, we re-affirm our support for compulsory affordable public education from pre-school through senior secondary school for all Ghanaians. Due emphasis on skills training will be a focal point of this experience.

Further, we will:

- support uninterrupted access to education from pre-school to the tertiary level,
- support the provision of one nutritious meal for all students from pre-school to senior secondary school,
- support the use of local languages as a medium of instruction in the first three years of primary education and the introduction of French language as an addition to English in secondary schools,
- support ICT training in all secondary schools,
- ensure that the educational curriculum and its development is not only appropriate but that it also enhances self-esteem and self-reliance,
- create the environment where educational opportunities are equalized for all areas and continually strive for gender balance and motivate females,
- ensure that the educational system builds middle level technical manpower to accelerate industrialization – this will especially mean supporting the Polytechnics to play a greater role in technical manpower capacity building,
- vigorously promote all of the above as a means of significantly improving the rate of functional literacy in Ghana.

### **HEALTH**

The health of a nation is indeed its wealth. Health affects national income and the people's prosperity. We believe that prevention is better than cure, and we will therefore focus on the vigorous development of primary health care mechanisms and with special emphasis on malaria, other water borne diseases and AIDS.

As part of our comprehensive effort we will actively support and responsibly promote the further development of traditional medicine to complement the orthodox effort.

Above all, we shall:

- promote appropriate and relevant capacity building and retention of health personnel,
- ensure access to quality health care to all, regardless of income levels shall guarantee free care to the elderly, poor and disadvantaged in our society,
- promote quality health care access countrywide,

- provide adequate resources for both orthodox and the traditional channels towards their local Research and Development efforts,.

### **INDUSTRY, TRADE AND EMPLOYMENT**

Socially responsible enterprise is preferred to runaway greed and unsustainable exploitation of human and natural resources. The rapid development of the private sector through productive and optimum employment is key to ensuring mass prosperity. In implementing our goals we shall give active support and promotion to the results of scientific research and technological development.

Therefore,

- Government will actively support Ghanaian enterprises by ensuring their access to low-cost capital,
- Government will use its purchasing power to support the development and growth of Ghanaian enterprises,
- Government will provide the environment to incubate the energetic informal sector' as these make a transition to the formal sector,
- In critical and strategic areas the state shall intervene as a matter of policy,

Trade through effective economic (area/regional) integration will be a cornerstone on our income growth path. Government will work in concert with other developing countries to work for a fair trade international trade policy (e.g. the WTO).

### **YOUTH, SPORTS & CULTURE**

This is an area that in the glorious days of CPP governance, Ghana shone and became a leader in Africa and a respected nation in the world. We will therefore work to bring back the glorious days when the youth – boys and girls - will be given the right of place in national affairs.

To set the stage, we will:

- organize youth, leadership training and orientation programmes to inculcate in them sound national and cultural values,
- train the youth on the value of excellence and pride in being African in order to develop in them the concept of the African Personality,
- ensure an active sports programme and related facilities so that the youth can gain physical growth that is health, and also learn healthy competitive spirit and self-confidence,
- aggressively develop skills training facilities and programmes for the youth throughout the country.

### **SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

We need to develop the culture of 'technology in practice' where our local scientists will be given sufficient encouragement and motivation to create technologically appropriate solutions to improve the Ghanaian way of life.

Implementation is key so we will place particular emphasis on the dissemination and application of such solutions.

We will therefore:

- establish Research and Development (R & D) as a backbone of national development planning policies,
- upgrade science and technology facilities at all tertiary institutions,
- use government resources to encourage production of science and technology solutions to local problems,
- resource the CSIR (to create an R & D base for technological advancement) and to encourage it to participate fully in national development,
- create a science and technology village.

### **ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES**

We have a responsibility to ensure a sustainable environment and natural resource utilization that will offer a secure basis for human living.

We will:

- put in place policies that will aggressively protect our water bodies, forests and other natural assets,
- reclaim our forests and ensure that any overused areas are replanted and protected from excessive commercial usage,
- aggressively protect our bio-diversity and inherent patent rights,
- ensure the carrying out of environmental research into all areas of environmental impact operations for constant review, always aimed at ensuring effective co-ordination with environmental policy recommendation and guidelines,
- encourage the claiming of land for forest reserves and parks and gardens in all regions, towns and villages.
- ensure that our mineral rights are used for the benefit of our citizens, and that they are put to use only after careful consideration of sustainable environmental guidelines.

### **COMMUNICATION & INFORMATION**

Information is a basic need in life that also enables people to make the right choices. The people have the right to know in matters coming from both government and the private sector.

In this regard, we will:

- ensure the enactment of legislation and pursue a policy to make available to the public information pertaining to the operations and activities of Government,
- protect the right to free speech for all,
- support a trend towards further liberalization and access to information whilst protecting state security,
- encourage the development of a cost effective and relevant nationwide communications infrastructure,
- vigorously pursue programmes that enhance the further development and spread of computer literacy and in keeping with global trends,
- Re-energize the postal service system, and manage it for cost effective communication niche development.

### **WOMEN & CHILDRENS' AFFAIRS**

We will promote the rights of women and children to ensure equal opportunity and human development.

We will therefore:

- ensure a government that is gender knowledgeable and is appropriately sensitized,
- ensure equitable representation of women in all areas of national activities,
- ensure the protection of rights and promote opportunity in all spheres of society,
- ensure the main streaming of gender issues,
- show by example our unflinching commitment to all international conventions relating to women and children.

### **JUSTICE**

Democracy thrives on freedom and justice. Freedom releases the natural energy of citizens to engage in enterprise and productive activities. It makes them more able to respect the rights and responsibilities of citizenship.

Justice is what underpins law and order. Justice makes it possible for a system of government to thrive; but it is absolutely necessary that those given the responsibility for ensuring freedom understand that they do so for the protection of all and that no one is above the law.

We also understand that “justice delayed is justice denied” and we will therefore:

- ensure effective resource allocation to the judicial system to enhance efficiency and speed in its administration,
- ensure the total independence of the judiciary,
- uphold the rule of law,
- ensure transparency in the administration of justice,
- encourage alternative dispute settlement (ADS) to ensure swift and equitable administration of justice,
- be committed to the establishment of the Office of the Independent Prosecutor,
- promote education among the population on rights and responsibilities of citizens.

### **TRANSPORT & TOURISM**

It is important that movement of goods (to markets) and people be made easy and safe to ensure equitable development throughout the country.

We also recognize that targeted and properly managed Tourism can be an excellent stimulus for economic growth.

Therefore, we will:

- support safe and efficient public mass transit system throughout the country to carry workers to and from work and to encourage social movement,
  - support safe and efficient public rail systems from south to north, east to west to facilitate the movement of goods and people,
  - support the development of all weather roads linking rural and urban centers.
  - thoroughly assess the potential of the Volta Lake (one of the world’s largest man made lakes) as a vehicle not only for Tourism development but also as a channel for the movement of goods,
  - work to avoid the negative aspects of Tourism even as we strive conscientiously to create appropriate “high-end” market niches within the Tourism industry, and aggressively encourage both domestic and international tourism.
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