

NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC CONGRESS

THE PLEDGE !

THE JOHN MAHAMA 2024 PLEDGE TO YOUNG PEOPLE



12Th August, 2024

Dedication

To the vibrant youth of our nation who, despite being crushed by a wobbly economy, the privatization of public wealth, unprecedented corruption, the collapse of a merit-based society, and a severe contraction of opportunities, continue to believe in the potential of our country and have never given up. Your resilience and unwavering faith in our nation's future inspire me to work towards a transformative agenda that addresses these challenges and restores hope and opportunity for all.



Building The Ghana We Want: A Message to the Youth from H.E John Dramani Mahama

Dear Young Ghanaians,

Our nation's history is full of stories of our people's strength and resilience. From our fight for independence to our work in democratic development, we have overcome many challenges.

But today, we face a most critical moment where our future depends on you. We are at the lowest point in our national life, and we need to make big changes for the future we want.

Under President Akufo-Addo and Vice President Mahamudu Bawumia, the situation for young people has become increasingly troubling. Unemployment is high, leaving many of you without hope or direction. It's hard for young entrepreneurs to succeed, and the opportunities that once seemed plentiful are now rare. Every day seems worse for most young people, while a few people misuse our resources. This cannot continue! We shall recover every stolen money!

Our education system is failing. The dream of a better future feels distant, and many of you are losing faith in our nation and democracy. Our neighborhoods are dirty, rising public debt has exacerbated hardships. This has led to a deep sense of hopelessness.

I understand your frustration and fears. We cannot give up now. I believe in your potential, and I am committed to helping you realize it. Our government needs to create more opportunities, and I promise, as your President to use the next four years to reset our country to work for everybody, particularly, our young people. The 2024 elections are critical. We need leaders who understand your struggles and share in your dreams. Leaders who will restore faith in our government and renew our national pride. I believe in the potential of every young Ghanaian, and I am committed to creating a brighter future for you. I am taking your vote and support as a commitment I am making to you that I have a responsibility to God and to you.

I am excited to deliver on this pledge alongside Professor Naana Opoku-Agyemang, who will be Ghana's first female Vice President.

Please vote and put your trust in us.

Sincerely,
H.E John Dramani Mahama
NDC 2024 Presidential Candidate

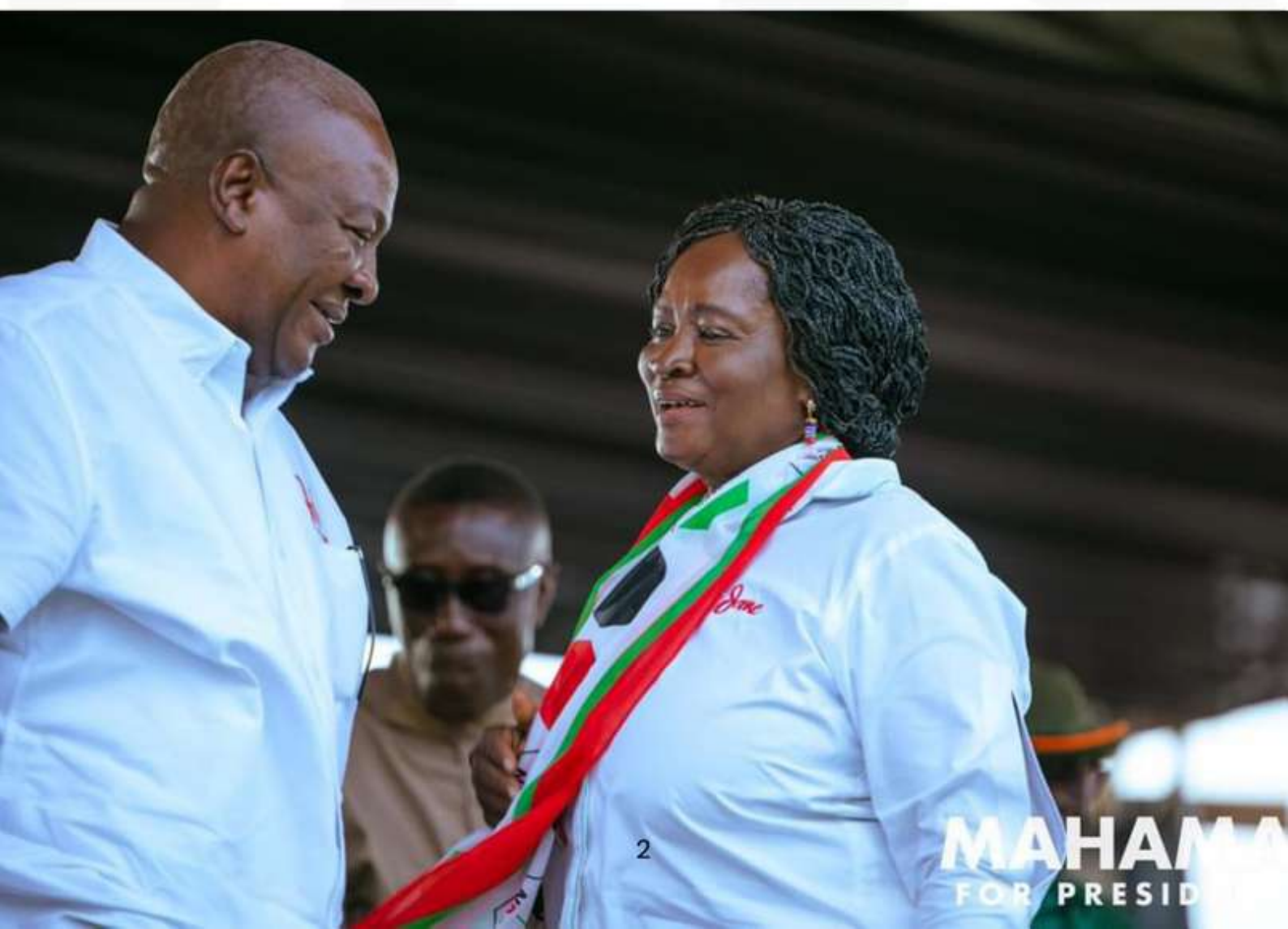
THE 2024 JOHN DRAMANI MAHAMA PLEDGE TO YOUNG PEOPLE

To demonstrate our unwavering dedication, myself and Professor Naana Jane Opoku-Agyemang put before you the youth of our country OUR 2024 PLEDGE to deliver the right solutions to address the multifaceted problems that face young people today.

It is an aggressive and forward-looking agenda that covers the underlisted objectives that we will tirelessly work hard to accomplish with fierce urgency when we win the presidency and secure an overwhelming majority in the next Parliament.

This vision is more than a promise; it is a commitment to you, the young people of Ghana. Together, we will create a brighter, more prosperous future for all young people. We will reset the nation's development agenda and build the Ghana we want together.

H.E John Dramani Mahama
August 12, 2024



Youth Development

Ghanaian youth are among the most hardworking young population on the continent, with limitless potential, remarkable creativity and enthusiasm about life. However, these young people are saddled with an inequitable education system, high unemployment and underemployment pushing them and their families into extreme poverty and hopelessness with associated mental health challenges.

To address these issues, the next NDC government will provide greater investment in education and skills development and a robust entrepreneurial ecosystem to unlock the innovative potential of young people for nation-building and self-actualization. We will invest in digital infrastructure to expand access to digital literacy and skills, promote healthy lifestyles among young people and enhance their political and social participation.

Specifically, the following policy interventions will be implemented:



Youth Entrepreneurship & Skills Development



We will, among others:

- a. Initiate the “**Adwumawura Programme**” as a start-up engine to facilitate the creation, tracking, and mentoring of a minimum of 10,000 youth-established businesses annually.
- b. Implement an expanded National Apprenticeship Programme especially for young people to:
 - include a Business Growth Apprenticeship Module, a structured mentorship/apprenticeship links between established industries and business individuals, and TVET graduates with business ideas; and
 - provide vocational training and start-up support for trainees in the informal TVET sector/artisans.
- c. Facilitate skills training programmes and provide start-up kits for artisans.
- d. Develop a Comprehensive Credit System specifically for youth entrepreneurs and develop a database of businesses run by young individuals to guarantee advisory services, create marketplaces, provide managerial support, offer partial credit guarantees, soft loans, grants, and tax incentives;
- e. Establish a Young Entrepreneurs Microcredit institution with a seed fund of Seven Hundred and fifty (750) million Cedis to disburse affordable loans to young entrepreneurs;
- f. In partnership with the private sector, establish a Youth Innovation and Industrial Parks (YIIP) initiative to undertake the following:
 - Scale up small to medium enterprises created by young people tailored to district-level economies.
 - Create co-working spaces and one-stop business start-up services at district levels to help young people with the services of the Registrar General’s Department, the Ghana Revenue Authority, and other start-up related services; and
 - Stimulate market development in districts for products created by young entrepreneurs and drive home a massive import substitution strategy.
- g. Leverage a Youth-In-Export-Initiative to stimulate foreign demand for Ghanaian products produced by young people.



We will, among others:

- a. **Implement a Land & Farm Bank Project** – a structured framework to ensure young farmers have access to land, farming inputs, and support for animal rearing and other agricultural businesses across the supply chain in the various districts.
- b. Establish '**Farmers' Services Centres' (FaSC)** to support farmers especially young farmers by also serving as guarantees of farm inputs in the form of improved seeds, fertilizer, environmentally friendly agrochemicals, mechanized services, and top-notch agronomy services provision to the youth-led farms.
- c. Develop a guaranteed marketplace for agricultural produce and stimulate an aggressive development of products from agricultural produce.
- d. Promote agro-processing and value-addition industries to increase the value chain and create job opportunities for our teeming unemployed youth.
- e. Develop agro-production enclaves with appropriate infrastructure including irrigation and networked warehousing systems to enhance youth participation in agriculture

EDUCATION



We will, among others:

- a. Improve secondary education by:
 - Ensuring sustainable funding source for the Free Senior High School (SHS) education;
 - Completing the construction of E-blocks and expanding infrastructure to guarantee access to all students.
- b. Commence the establishment of regional TVET Centres of Excellence integrated with fabrication laboratories equipped with 3D printers, and other state-of-the-art facilities to promote innovation and simulate real work environments;
- c. Extend FREE SHS to cover students in private senior high schools.
- d. Implement a No-Fees-Stress Programme to alleviate the financial burden on parents and students in financing tertiary education. Specifically, we will:
 - Implement a '**NO Academic Fees**' policy at the University for 100 LEVEL students
 - Re-deploy the **Student Loan Trust Fund Plus (SLTF Plus)** to give continuing students the option to utilize students' loans to finance directly their University Fees to guarantee the peace of mind of the student to study.

- d. Carry out an aggressive **BED-FOR-ALL** Programme with the private sector to build accommodation facilities on tertiary campuses to provide bed spaces for students and arrest the accommodation crisis on tertiary campuses that has led to unbearable rise in hostel fees.
- e. engage private investors in student housing to regulate accommodation prices.
- f. Deliver free tertiary education for persons living with disabilities.
- g. Cancel the obnoxious licensure examination for Teacher Trainee graduates.
- h. Reintroduce free sanitary pads to female students in senior high schools.
- i. Scrap the quota system for admissions into nursing and teacher training colleges to expand students' enrollment.
- j. Ensure the prompt posting of trained health professionals and trained teachers.
- k. Establish Free WIFI for all public second-cycle and tertiary institutions.
- l. Fully implement the National TVET Qualification.
- m. Increase the amount allocated for student loans and ensure prompt disbursement of funds.
- n. De-collateralise the GETFUND, and restore it to its original mandate of educational financing.



Same Job

3 Shifts

3 People

We will, among others:

- a. Implement a 24-hour Economy policy (**Formula 1-3-3: Same Job, Three Shifts, Three People**) to stimulate economic growth by enabling extended operating hours to create more employment opportunities across various sectors, such as manufacturing and production, retail, hospitality, construction, transportation, and healthcare for massive employment.
- b. Grant incentives to employers who employ through the Youth Employment Agency.
- c. Create a **Youth Employment Bureau** at the Youth Employment Agency which will be responsible for the creation of an employment database for young people and host the data on the employment status of young people.
- d. Implement a **Jobs for You (J4U)** programme, to create sustainable and well-paying jobs.
- e. Develop and implement a programme to support graduates of tertiary institutions with technical know-how to form cooperatives to bid for public and private contracts by dedicating specific contracts to such cooperatives;
- f. Employ more young people through the Youth Employment Agency (YEA) and other government agencies informed by data from the Youth Employment Bureau.
- g. Create more jobs for young people through the **GHANA GREEN JOBS** project.
- h. Deliver a migration policy framework to export surplus Ghanaian workforce through bilateral arrangements with sister nations.
- i. Scrap nuisance taxes that have become burdens on businesses and households, especially the E-levy, COVID-19 levy, the 10 percent withholding tax on bet winnings.

POLITICAL INCLUSION, GOOD GOVERNANCE AND YOUTH WELFARE

a. *Ministry for Youth Development*

We will, among others:

1. pay particular attention to youth development by mainstreaming and coordinating youth development policies, programmes, and initiatives;
2. promote and mainstream youth-friendly local content policies in the energy, mining, telecommunications, and manufacturing sectors;
3. establish a strong framework for interagency partnership to address critical youth related socio-economic issues such as unemployment, skills development, education, health, entrepreneurship, and substance abuse;
4. fully implement the National Youth Authority Act, 2016, Act 939 by enacting a Legislative Instrument, facilitating the establishment of District and Regional Youth Committees as well as the Ghana Youth Federation as mechanisms for promoting active youth participation in decision making from the district to national levels;
5. develop and implement youth work professionalization programmes;
6. foster the creation of Neighbourhood Development Brigades and Volunteers to mobilize the energies and initiatives of the youth in developing their communities;
7. promote active participation of Ghanaian youth in international programmes and support them to take up leadership positions for their leadership development;
8. implement a national sexual harassment policy regime to protect young girls against the unethical use of the balance of power in schools and workplaces.
9. implement a zero tolerance for domestic violence and sexual harassment in Ghana
10. Create targeted programs to offer livelihood support and temporary employment opportunities for displaced and vulnerable youth.

b. *National Service*

We will, among others:

1. Expand access to national service to all young people aged 18 as stipulated in the National Service Authority Act;
2. Enhance the school-to-work transitional value of the national service by introducing mandatory and voluntary learning programmes to promote the acquisition of practical work tools, skills and values.
3. Broaden the scope of national service projects and programmes to expand agriculture production for young people, digital jobs creation, and enterprise development; and
4. Promote the development of social enterprises through competitions within the national service scheme, motivating young people to create solutions for national development.
5. Improve the conditions of service of the personnel of the national service scheme.

c. *Rural Youth*

We will, among others:

1. ensure sustainable livelihoods, economic empowerment, social stability, and community development for young people in rural areas; and,
2. leverage global funding for climate action to secure financing for sustainable alternative livelihoods support strategies and affordable housing in rural Ghana.

d. *Rent*

We will ensure advance rent payments do not exceed six months in line with rent control regulations.

ACCELERATING THE DEVELOPMENT OF YOUTH IN THE INFORMAL SECTOR

We will, among others:

1. Promote the recognition of **Prior Learning Certification (PLC)/Step-Up Certification (SEC)** programme to deliver a structured pathway for artisans in the informal sector to validate and improve their skills and knowledge for academic and career progression through:
 - a. formalizing and awarding certificates for existing skill sets of artisans through special programmes run by relevant TVET institutions.
 - b. assessment and evaluation of skills programmes based on industry standards.
2. Implement the **MO-NE -YO** insurance Scheme to provide special pension schemes for informal sector workers such as commercial drivers, farmers, fishermen, traders, market women, creatives and artisans, to improve the quality of their livelihood in retirement.



ICT, INNOVATION AND DIGITAL SKILLS



Digital Economy Accelerator

We will:

- a. Host the annual marketplace festival for the exhibition of innovations created by young people.
- b. Introduce annual robotic competition, track winners of robotic competitions and encourage investors to invest in their innovations
- c. Elevate the Ghana Digital Centres to propel the nation into the forefront of the global digital and gig economy.
- d. Facilitate the creation of unicorns developed by young development technology entrepreneurs.
- e. Establish digital innovation hubs.

One Million Coders Program (OMCP)

We will train One Million (1,000,000) Youth Coders in in-demand supply digital skills for the growing Business Process outsourcing (BPO) and Knowledge Process outsourcing (KPO) ecosystems, ensuring no one is left behind in the digital revolution.

Digital Jobs Initiative

We will launch a '***Digital Jobs Initiative***' to create at least 300,000 skilled employment opportunities for the youth.

YOUTH-IN-MINING

We will, among others:

- a. Implement a land reclamation action plan through a tree-growing policy employing young people to grow, adopt and nurture trees.
- b. Decentralize regulatory and licensing processes for artisanal miners
- c. Employ the use of modern technology inclusive of geofencing to protect water bodies, forest zones and farmlands from illegal mining.
- d. Provide access to young miners in responsible small-scale mining to acquire mining equipment through a government support scheme.
- e. Ensure that mining operations are not conducted in unapproved areas, such as water bodies, and that the concession holders rehabilitate impacted areas.
- f. Facilitate the setting up of mining equipment pools in each small-scale mining district, to ensure easy and affordable access to necessary mining equipment.
- g. Establish a Small-Scale Mining Board to regulate the sector and create a revolving fund for capitalisation of SSM and MSM companies.
- h. Facilitate equipment financing and mining input, research and standardisation, gold recovery optimisation, and post-mining land reclamation services.
- i. Strengthen the capacity of mining regulatory institutions to ensure efficient and effective regulatory operations with quick turnaround times and to engage with stakeholders effectively.
- j. Introduce a system of offset programmes that sets aside part of the royalties due to the government for direct leverage on infrastructure development in mining areas.
- k. Work with industry stakeholders to revamp the local goldsmithing and jewellery subsector to increase value addition and global competitiveness.



YOUTH IN CREATIVE ARTS AND SPORTS

Creative Arts

We will, among others:

a. partner young people to create and promote '**The Black Star Experience**' as Ghana's flagship Culture, Arts, and Tourism brand to redefine and affirm our Ghanaian identity, attract investments, create new jobs, and increase tourism for the teeming youth in the creative industry.

b. partner young people to undertake a year-round celebration in all the major entertainment, artistic, and educational disciplines to celebrate the following under the '**The Black Star Experience**':

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

c. provide a sustainable financing mechanism to drive the development of start-ups in the creative arts space.

d. develop of the capacity of our young creatives and facilitate technical and logistical support such as state-of-the-art booths, film studios, recording studios and creative hubs to produce creative contents.

e. institute a Creative Arts Fund to provide sustainable financial support for start-ups, and for ailing large, medium and small creative enterprises.

f. introduce the concept of "Cultural Villages" to showcase Ghana's diverse culture and boost domestic arts and tourism.

g. facilitate partnerships with international cultural organizations to promote knowledge exchange, collaboration, and exposure to diverse artistic practices.

h. Train identified staff of Ghana's musicians abroad to perform as cultural attachés with the mandate to promote cultural exchange, provide information about Ghana's culture, history and values, facilitate collaboration, grants and residencies for artists, scholars and cultural professionals, and organise writing exhibitions, concerts, festivals and other cultural events.



Sports Development

We will, among others:

- a. revive schools and colleges sports at all levels, including Primary and Junior High schools, in consultation with relevant stakeholders.
- b. promote community teams and competitions in various sports.
- c. amplify government's focus on sporting activities and events in schools and colleges.
- d. reinforce the juvenile component of all national sporting activities.
- e. develop a strategy to build talents in professional sports.
- f. establish frameworks in consultation with sporting federations and key industry players to develop talent in professional sports.
- g. expand our national investments portfolio and interest in sporting activities beyond football.



HEALTHCARE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

We will, among others:

1. implement Free Primary Healthcare services at the basic level (sub-district, and CHPS levels)
2. introduce 'Risk Exposer Insurance' for health workers to provide financial protection and support in the event of injuries, illnesses, or other risks encountered on the job;
3. introduce the 'Food for Health Initiative' to educate the public on the health and nutritional benefits of indigenous Ghanaian foods;
4. support the development of infrastructure and spaces such as community parks to facilitate physical activities and foster a fitness culture among citizens;
5. establish hotlines under the NHIS framework for individuals to access mental healthcare and e-counseling services at the district level.
6. encourage more public universities to establish herbal medicine research departments to increase innovation and knowledge development in the sector;
7. commence the establishment of market and transport station clinics to provide basic healthcare services for traders, passengers, drivers, and the general public.
8. upgrade school sickbays into satellite clinics managed by health professionals in all boarding schools for quality 24-hour healthcare and prompt referral services to students and teachers.
9. develop a regulatory framework to allow interested pharmaceutical outlets to attach licensed clinics (managed by healthcare professionals) to their practice for increased access to primary healthcare services in communities.
10. develop a health-worker migration policy framework to facilitate documented migration of health workers, promote knowledge exchange, and regulate the impact of 'brain drain' on our health system;
11. re-introduce and regulate the vehicle tax waiver scheme for health professionals;
12. introduce performance and evidence-based health worker and facility awards to motivate health workers and promote quality standards in health care delivery;
13. reward healthcare workers who accept postings to rural communities and underserved areas with a five-year work abroad programme;
14. introduce degree and specialist nursing programmes in colleges of nursing to support career advancement, and skills upgrade of nurses to meet global standards.

Thank You

   **NDC YOUTH WING**



NDC

NATIONAL
DEMOCRATIC
CONGRESS