

STATEMENT BY THE HONOURABLE MINISTER FOR PLANNING ON THE PRESENTATION TO
PARLIAMENT OF THE PRESIDENT'S COORDINATED PROGRAMME OF ECONOMIC AND
SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT POLICIES (CPESDP), 2017-2024

INTRODUCTION

1. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the President of the Republic, Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, I present to the House the Coordinated Programme of Economic and Social Development Policies, 2017-2024 under the theme *"An Agenda for Jobs: Creating Prosperity and Equal Opportunity for All"*
2. Mr. Speaker, Article 36, clause 1 of the 1992 Constitution of the Republic of Ghana enjoins the State to:
"... take all necessary action to ensure that the national economy is managed in such a manner as to maximize the rate of economic development and to secure the maximum welfare, freedom and happiness of every person in Ghana and to provide adequate means of livelihood and suitable employment and public assistance to the needy."
3. To ensure the implementation of the foregoing, among others, Article 36, clause 5 requires that:
"... within two years after assuming office, the President shall present to Parliament a coordinated programme of economic and social development policies, including agricultural and industrial programmes at all levels and in all the regions of Ghana."
4. In presenting this document to the house, the President is therefore responding to this constitutional requirement and providing a vision and strategy for the development of the country during his tenure as a President.

5. Mr. Speaker, the document that I am presenting to the House on behalf of the President today reflects as much as possible:

- the development aspirations of Ghanaians, as captured in the New Patriotic Party Manifesto entitled *“Change: An Agenda for Jobs: Creating Prosperity and Equal Opportunity for All”*;
- it outlines the President’s vision for the country during his tenure;
- it offers a comprehensive diagnosis of our socio-economic challenges; presents new approaches to addressing them, and the specific interventions to be introduced to overcome them; and
- contains selected flagship programmes and projects, which will serve as the broad expression of Government policies

6. Mr. Speaker, this Coordinated Programme: *“An Agenda for Jobs: Creating Prosperity and Equal Opportunity for All”*, forms the basis for the preparation of the detailed medium-term national development policy framework, and will be the basis for all annual national budgets from 2018 to 2021. It will also be the reference document that informs the entire country as well as the international community of the enabling environment to be provided by Government in support of private investment, private initiative and innovation, and also informs the country about the priority social and economic activities of government.

VISION OF THE PRESIDENT UNDER THE COORDINATED PROGRAMME

7. Mr. Speaker, the vision underlying the Coordinated Programme is to create:

“An optimistic, self-confident and prosperous nation, through the creative exploitation of our human and natural resources and operating within a democratic, open and fair society in which mutual trust and economic opportunities exist for all”

8. This vision has been informed by a combination of the President's own experiences and convictions, and the aspirations of Ghanaians as articulated during the 2016 election campaign. It is intended to energize the creative potential of Ghanaians, through the provision of a new sense of leadership, new approach to the management of the economy; renewed confidence in the governance of the country; and, above all, renewed hope in our common future.
9. This vision and its consequential policies and programmes, places people at the centre of development, and lays the foundation for a safe Ghana that works, and gives each and every one of us the opportunity to improve our lives, irrespective of our socio-economic background, gender, status, tribe or geographical location.
10. Mr. Speaker, the President has pledged to offer a new approach of doing things, to drive the agenda for achieving this vision, including removing the bottlenecks that stifle the growth of the private sector, and create one of the best environments for private sector growth and development in Africa.

PILLARS OF THE COORDINATED PROGRAMME

11. Mr. Speaker, drawn from this vision are policies and programmes to be implemented by ministries, departments and agencies (MDAs), as well as metropolitan, municipal, and district assemblies (MMDAs). These policies and programmes are organized under FIVE areas, namely:

- i. Economic Development;
- ii. Social Development;
- iii. Environment, Infrastructure and Human Settlements;
- iv. Governance, Corruption and Social Accountability; and
- v. Ghana's Role in International Affairs

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12. The effective implementation of interventions outlined in this coordinated programme is aimed at achieving the following broad goals:
- a. Creating opportunities for all Ghanaians;
 - b. Safeguarding the natural environment and ensure a resilient built environment;
 - c. Maintaining a stable, united and safe society; and
 - d. Building a prosperous society
13. Overall, the Coordinated Programme aims, at the minimum, at doubling the per capita GDP by 2024; driven essentially by revitalizing the economy; transforming agriculture and industry; strengthening social protection and inclusion; revamping economic and social infrastructure; and reforming public service delivery institutions.

CONCLUSION

14. Mr. Speaker, the President has reiterated time and time again how he wants to bring about transformation in the Ghanaian economy as quickly as possible. It is in this regard that for the first time in the 4th Republic, the President is presenting the Coordinated Programme within ten (10) months of assumption of office, instead of the two years stipulated in the Constitution, which has been the convention. This is expected to give a clear sense of direction to the country on where we want to go, and serve as the basis for social mobilisation, as well as guidance for Government budgets.
15. He is therefore urging all Ghanaians to support the Programme to establish a Ghana where hard work, creativity and enterprise pay; a country where, no matter your origin, you will be rewarded on merit and not on any other consideration; and a country where every young person can hope, aspire and reach his or her fullest potential.

16. As Parliament discusses the set of proposed interventions in the document, it is his desire and expectation that both sides of the House will find common ground on the issues, and generate consensus on ways of implementing, monitoring and evaluating the interventions set forth in the document, for the benefit of all Ghanaians.

17. Mr. Speaker, at this juncture I wish to convey to the august House, the President's warmest appreciation of the work you do. He looks forward to your fruitful deliberations on the Coordinated Programme of Economic and Social Development Policies, 2017-2024 – *An Agenda for Jobs: Creating Prosperity and Equal Opportunity for All*.

18. Thank you Mr. Speaker; and

19. May God bless us all and our homeland Ghana, and make her great and strong.