



MINORITY CAUCUS

PARLIAMENT OF GHANA

Parliament House – Accra (Ghana)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GHANA'S 69TH INDEPENDENCE ANNIVERSARY - 6th March 2026

The Minority in Parliament extends warm greetings to all Ghanaians at home and abroad as our nation marks the 69th anniversary of independence. We stand with our fellow citizens in honouring the courage, sacrifice and vision of the men and women who secured our freedom and bequeathed to us the foundations of our Republic.

We pay tribute to the farmers, workers, market women, chiefs, youth and freedom fighters whose collective struggle made independence possible. Above all, we honour the memory of our founders, whose audacity of vision transformed colonial subjugation into sovereign nationhood and placed Ghana at the vanguard of African liberation. Their dream was of a nation built on dignity, justice and enduring prosperity — a shared inheritance and a continuing obligation.

Independence is not a historical event; it is a living national responsibility. Each generation must renew its covenant with the founding promise to build a stronger, fairer and more prosperous Ghana. On this 69th Anniversary, the Minority reflects on how faithfully that covenant is being honoured.

I. YOUTH EMPLOYMENT AND THE PROTECTION OF WORKERS' RIGHTS

Ghana's youthful population is our most consequential national resource. Yet far too many young Ghanaians continue to be denied stable, dignified employment — a challenge the Minority has consistently placed at the centre of our parliamentary advocacy.

Against this backdrop, the mass termination of public-sector workers by the NDC administration upon assuming office in January 2025 represents one of the most regrettable acts of governance in recent memory. The Minority condemned those dismissals from the outset — not merely on legal grounds, but on the principle that the livelihoods of young Ghanaians must never become instruments of partisan score-settling.

Recent findings from a committee established by the Chief of Staff have substantially vindicated that position. Of 2,080 cases reportedly examined across 36 public institutions — including ECG, the Ghana Highway Authority, GPHA, NHIA, Metro Mass Transit, SSNIT and UENR — 1,539 appointments were cleared as properly made, with only 541 recommended for revocation on procedural grounds.

These findings constitute a formal admission by the government's own apparatus that well over 1,500 workers — many of them young graduates entering the labour market for the first time — had no legitimate basis for dismissal. The sweeping nature of those terminations stands exposed for what the Minority always maintained: **arbitrary, unjust and harmful to the very citizens the state is bound to protect.**

In keeping with our earlier position, the Minority demands, without equivocation, **the immediate reinstatement of all validated workers, full payment of unlawfully withheld salaries and appropriate compensation for the hardship caused.** Justice delayed must not become justice denied. The Minority pledges to deploy every lawful parliamentary and legal mechanism at its disposal to ensure full and prompt redress.

II. GHANA'S FARMERS IN CRISIS: THE MINORITY STANDS WITH YOU

If independence means anything at all, it must mean something to the farmer who wakes before dawn, works the land through rain and heat, and at harvest finds no buyer, no storage, no fair price and no government that cares. Across Ghana today, that farmer exists not in theory but in devastating reality. The Minority in Parliament stands clearly and without equivocation with every farmer in that position. We demand an immediate bailout and urgent, responsible government intervention to reverse a catastrophe that is, in significant measure, of this government's own making.

Rice Farmers and the Curse of a Good Harvest

Following the 2024 harvest, vast quantities of paddy rice remained unsold across farming communities, with millers suspending operations overwhelmed by cheap smuggled imports and the collapse of state procurement systems. In many parts of northern Ghana,

buyers who would normally arrive at harvest are simply absent. Rice sits piled in community warehouses and open spaces whilst farmers drown in debt from the previous season's inputs. For these farmers, a good harvest has become a curse rather than a blessing. This is a policy failure, and it must be named as such.

Cashew Farmers and a Government-Inflicted Pricing Crisis

Ghana's cashew farmers face an existential threat, and the Minority will not allow it to pass without the fullest scrutiny. Under the NPP administration, the minimum producer price for raw cashew nuts was set at GH¢15.00 per kilogram, grounded in a rigorous pricing model that factored in global market conditions, exchange rates and quality parameters. It represented a government that understood its duty to stand between farmers and market volatility.

Then came the NDC. In December 2025, the Mahama administration slashed that price to GH¢12.00 per kilogram — a twenty per cent reduction in a single stroke — transferring the full burden of global market fluctuations onto the people least equipped to bear them. The Tree Crops Development Authority has since been compelled to publicly deny claims of further cuts, confirming that farmers no longer trust official assurances. Unlicensed middlemen exploit that mistrust daily, paying below the regulated minimum with impunity. A pricing regime that cannot enforce its own floor is not a policy. It is a performance.

Yam, Pepper and the Post-Harvest Catastrophe

Post-harvest losses across Ghana run into billions of dollars annually. Yam suffers disproportionately due to its perishability and the chronic weakness of rural infrastructure. In parts of the Upper East Region, tonnes of ripe pepper rot in open fields with no buyers, no cold storage and no processing facilities in sight. Investment in production without matching investment in post-harvest systems is not agricultural development. It is organised waste — and organised waste is a political choice.

The Minority demands emergency support funds for farmers burdened with unsold stocks, the restoration of a fair and rigorously enforceable cashew price regime, and urgent capital investment in storage facilities, rural roads and agro-processing capacity. Ghana's farmers feed this nation. They deserve a government that honours their dignity, protects their income and treats their labour as the national asset it truly is.

III. COCOA FARMERS: A BETRAYAL OF INDEPENDENCE'S PROMISE

No account of Ghana's agricultural crisis on this Independence Day would be complete without confronting the specific and grievous injustice being visited upon our cocoa farmers. Their suffering under the current administration represents not merely a policy failure but a profound act of ingratitude towards the very men and women whose toil and sacrifice financed the liberation of this nation.

Long before the colonial flag was lowered over this land, it was the cocoa farmer who bore the full weight of systemic exploitation under foreign rule, yet remained the bedrock of Ghana's economy. Their sweat built the roads, funded the schools and underwrote the ambitions of a newly independent state. It is upon the labour of these farmers that successive governments have comfortably stood. That inheritance deserves honour, not betrayal.

The decision by this government to slash the farmgate price of cocoa by over GH¢1,000 per bag is, in the considered view of the Minority, an act of unconscionable cruelty towards those who can least afford it. Its consequences are not abstract. In communities across Ghana, cocoa farmers are warning openly that they cannot pay their children's school fees. The hardship is real, immediate and entirely of this government's making.

President Mahama speaks of empathy. He claims to share in the pain of farmers. Yet the actions of his administration give the lie to those words. Empathy that does not translate into just and fair policy is not empathy at all. It is performance. And the cocoa farmers of Ghana deserve far better than performance.

The Minority stands firmly with our cocoa farmers on this Independence Day. We honour their sacrifice, we recognise their historic contribution to this Republic and we declare, without reservation, that we shall not rest until the injustice being inflicted upon them by this administration is fully and unconditionally corrected.

IV. ILLEGAL MINING: A NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL EMERGENCY

The Minority is profoundly alarmed by the accelerating destruction caused by illegal mining — commonly referred to as ‘galamsey’. This crisis has long ceased to be merely an environmental concern; it is a national security threat, a public health emergency and an intergenerational injustice. Rivers sustaining millions have been contaminated. Forest reserves have been stripped. Fertile agricultural lands have been rendered unproductive.

Ghana's waterways belong not to the present generation alone; they are held in trust for generations yet unborn.

The Minority condemns the government's dangerously complacent posture towards this escalating crisis. Rather than demonstrating the required urgency, the administration appears captured by an appetite for short-term mineral revenue extracted at the cost of Ghana's ecological foundations and water security. This is not stewardship. It is dereliction.

The Minority reiterates its earlier calls for immediate, decisive and uncompromising enforcement action, targeting not only operators on the ground but the financiers and powerful interests who fund these criminal networks. Selective enforcement that spares those with political protection is not enforcement at all. Ghana's natural heritage deserves the full force of the law, applied without fear or favour.

The Minority notes with relief the reported interception and seizure of approximately 1,070 Chanfang excavating machines at Tema Port, apparently destined for deployment in our water bodies. This welcome development demonstrates that vigilance at our ports can yield results. However, this seizure reveals a grave reality that must not be obscured.

The Minority demands **full and transparent disclosure of those behind this importation, including the beneficial owners, financiers and any intermediaries involved.** The public has a right to know who sought to arm the destruction of our rivers at such scale.

Furthermore, the Minority insists these machines **be publicly destroyed without delay.** Such action will render the equipment permanently inoperable and send an unambiguous signal that the state is in earnest against those who would profit from desecrating Ghana's natural heritage. Anything less will fail to assuage the legitimate fears of a citizenry that has watched its rivers poisoned and lands ravaged for far too long.

V. ECONOMIC SELF-RELIANCE AND STRUCTURAL TRANSFORMATION

Political independence is not yet matched by the economic sovereignty our founders envisioned. Ghana's economy remains heavily dependent on raw commodity exports whilst importing finished goods — constraining job creation and leaving our national fortunes vulnerable to external price fluctuations.

This anniversary must serve as a renewed call to structural transformation. We must accelerate local industry, modernise agriculture, add value to our natural resources and invest in an education system that equips young Ghanaians with the capacities demanded by the modern economy: science, technology, engineering, digital innovation and artificial

intelligence. A Ghana that trains its youth only for yesterday's economy will not win tomorrow's. Economic self-reliance requires political will and strategic consistency.

VI. SOVEREIGNTY, MARITIME SECURITY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY

The Minority is deeply concerned by reported attacks on Ghanaian fishing vessels within our territorial waters, endangering the lives of hardworking fishermen and threatening coastal communities. We commend the Ghana Armed Forces for their swift and professional response; their courage exemplifies the highest traditions of service to the nation.

However, commendation cannot substitute for accountability. These incidents raise serious questions about the adequacy of Ghana's maritime security architecture. **The Minority calls on the government to provide full, transparent disclosure to Parliament — including the circumstances of these attacks and the identity of those responsible — and demands the immediate strengthening of maritime surveillance capabilities and enhanced coastal security operations.** Any failure in this domain must be treated as a matter of the highest national urgency.

VII. SOLIDARITY WITH GHANAIS IN THE GULF REGION

Our thoughts extend to compatriots living and working in the Gulf region, thousands of whom face growing insecurity as conflict continues across parts of the Middle East. These are Ghanaians who left home carrying the same hopes that independence was meant to fulfil. They are not forgotten. They remain an inseparable part of our national family.

The Minority calls on the government to remain actively and urgently engaged through our diplomatic missions, ensuring that every Ghanaian requiring consular assistance, emergency support or evacuation is reached without delay. **The duty of the Ghanaian state to its citizens does not end at our borders.** To our brothers and sisters in the Gulf: Ghana stands with you. Come home safely.

A RENEWED COVENANT WITH INDEPENDENCE

On this 69th Independence Anniversary, the Minority calls on all Ghanaians to renew their commitment to the founding ideals of our Republic: responsible self-government, collective action for liberation, unity in sovereignty, fearless defence of our lands and

rights, and Pan-African solidarity. Such principles demand industry, justice, integrity and selfless service to the common good.

The promise of independence will only be fulfilled when every Ghanaian — especially our youth — enjoys dignity through opportunity, purpose in labour and a meaningful contribution to our sovereign story.

The Minority remains steadfast as a vanguard for constitutionalism, the rule of law and accountability. We will not waver in our duty to stand as a fearless check against the abuse of power under the current administration. We will hold the government to account, defend the rights of citizens and advocate without pause for a Ghana that is just, prosperous and sovereign.

May God bless our homeland Ghana and make our nation great and strong.

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Signed.

**THE MINORITY CAUCUS LEADERSHIP
PARLIAMENT OF GHANA**