



PRESS STATEMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: MAY 14, 2024

FREE TERTIARY EDUCATION FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (PWDs) -

ENOUGH OF NDC's STOLEN PROMISES

In line with Section 18 of the Disability Act, 2016 (Act 175), the NDC in its 2020 Manifesto on page 74 categorically stated that “the next NDC Government will provide free tertiary education for Persons with Disabilities”. Unfortunately, the NDC did not win the 2020 General Elections and it is the only reason why this manifesto promise could not be fulfilled. The NDC is however still committed to this promise and it will feature prominently in its 2024 Manifesto.

The 2020 NDC Manifesto is a public document and the NPP is fully aware of its game-changing and far-reaching pledges. It is acceptable to make reference to NDC's manifesto proposals but the Vice President cannot purport to take a manifesto promise and pass it off as his own idea. This is equivalent in seriousness to plagiarism and PWDs will not be hoodwinked to vote for the NPP in the upcoming 2024 Presidential and Parliamentary Elections.

The NDC Disability Desk wishes to state without any fear of equivocation that the NPP government lacks credibility and cannot simply be trusted when it comes to manifesto promises made to PWDs. It can be recalled from NPP's 2016 Manifesto, on page 123, under Inclusive Education that **“it will ensure that children with special needs are not left behind, but are assisted by teachers with the requisite skills in differentiated teaching methods. Whenever possible, facilities will be provided to enable disabled children be integrated within regular schools”**.

However, on page 75, item 121 of the NPP's 2020 Manifesto, this is what the government reported it had achieved under the very same matter: **“Inclusive Education Policy adopted, and teacher training curricula covers inclusive education”**. Is that the achievement of the specific promise made in the 2016 Manifesto after four ample years in office? As at today, this same 2016 Manifesto promise has not been fulfilled after nearly eight years in office and the Vice President has not deemed it fit and appropriate to see to its fulfilment. PWDs are well aware of the manifesto promises the NDC made in 2020 because of the conspicuous establishment of the Disability Desk in that year and the broad

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consultation of PWDs in creating the popular People's Manifesto. This is 2024 and there is no way PWDs will fall for propaganda and lies.

The NDC Disability Desk wishes to further remind the Vice President of the inhumane treatment meted out to PWDs who were manning the various toll booths scattered across the country. The insensitive action of the Nana Addo/Bawumia government brought untold hardship to these PWDs since they were not given prior notice before the decision to suspend road toll collection was implemented. Many of them were forced into abject poverty and it took several demonstrations and unwarranted arrests of their representatives for government to decide on re-engaging them with the Youth Employment Agency.

The NPP and Dr. Bawumia cannot take PWDs for a ride this time around. The disability fraternity has utilized the golden opportunity of observing an alternative government and has measured its true capacity. PWDs have deciphered for themselves that it is the NDC that has their welfare at heart and is a Party that is often backed by well-grounded and pragmatic policies that will inure to their development and welfare.

The Desk wishes to advise Dr. Mahamudu Bawumia, while he is still in office, to take a humble step backwards to attempt fulfilling the said 2016 Manifesto promise made to PWDs within the next seven months left of the NPP before the 2024 Elections. If he has anything to say within this period, Ghana fervently prays that he enhances the existing discourse led by the NDC by presenting ONLY original and not plagiarized ideas.

There is no way PWDs will make him President in 2024 especially when John Dramani Mahama has presented to them the opportunity of being fully included in a 24-hour Economy.

SIGNED:

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