

John Mahama's Priorities & Promises to Ghanaians

John
MAHAMA 2020

JOBS AND PROSPERITY FOR ALL



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JOHN MAHAMA'S PRIORITIES & PROMISE TO GHANAIS

- **Build a sustainable society with OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL**
- **Promote Human Development**
- **Prioritize Health, Quality Education and Skills Training as the cornerstone for progress and prosperity**
- **Invest \$10 billion under the Big Push Initiative over 5 years to accelerate infrastructure and create jobs**
- **Fix the Economy as we Unite Against Poverty**
- **Create One Million Sustainable Jobs- 'Edwumapa'**
- **Promote Good Governance: Integrity, Anti-Corruption, Transparency and Accountability**
- **Deepen International Relations**

Roll out a \$10 billion Big Push for Infrastructural Development and Economic Transformation

- The Big Push Initiative will involve an investment of \$10bn over 5 years
- It will transform our economy in furtherance of our One Million Jobs Plan
- Projects under the Big Push will be executed in all cases by Ghanaian registered companies that pay their taxes in Ghana
- These investments will stimulate and grow indigenous Ghanaian businesses
- The implementation of the plan will focus equitably on rural as well as urban communities
- The \$10 billion investment will stimulate the economy by sourcing locally available materials and products for the execution of projects
- We have championed many key infrastructural projects in the past. Projects valued at about \$10bn (GH¢60 billion) can therefore be easily executed.



Promoting Human Development- Delivering Quality Health for All

- **Free Primary Healthcare for all Ghanaians**
 - Under the free primary healthcare, every Ghanaian who visits a District Hospital, Polyclinic, Clinic, Health Centre or CHPS compound for health care will be treated for free
- Establish a **Kidney and Cancer Disease Trust Fund** to support Ghanaians who need assistance for such conditions
- Resource the **Mental Health Fund**
- Introduce antenatal incentives
- Provide **free sanitary pads to girls** in school

Delivering Quality Education

- Improve and continue the implementation of Free Secondary Education
- Expand the Free SHS programme to cover students in private Senior High Schools in underserved and deprived areas
- Abolish the double-track system by our second year in office
- Address challenges with the Computerised School Selection and Placement System (CSSPS)
- Absorb 50% of the fees of all tertiary students for the 2020/2021 academic year
- Make TVET free at both secondary and tertiary levels
- Review the Legal Profession Act in consultation with stakeholders, and establish a Council for Legal Education and Training, to accredit certified law faculties to run the Professional Law Course subject to the oversight supervision of the Council.

Create opportunities for One Million Decent and Sustainable Jobs- Edwuma Pa

- Generate an average of 250,000 decent jobs per year
- All policies will be tailored to give priority to the creation of sustainable and decent jobs
- The one million jobs plan will be anchored on the 'Big Push', an aggressive infrastructure development for jobs
- The \$10 billion investment over five years will stimulate the economy and provide opportunities for businesses to grow, create new entrepreneurs and employ more people
- Through a number of tax exemptions, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) will be able to plough back their profits to expand and employ more youth
- Encourage the establishment of new businesses focusing on exports to help create more job opportunities
- Drive the digitalisation of the economy to produce jobs
- Introduce a National Apprenticeship Programme (NAP) to train technically skilled human resource for rapid industrialization, job creation and entrepreneurship
- NAP will target 500,000 out-of-school youth including 'kayeyei'
- Apprentices will be trained for free and receive start-up kits on completion of the training
- Provide free training in coding to young people across the country
- Engage a minimum of 300,000 beneficiaries under the Youth Employment Agency (YEA)



- Pay all customers of the collapsed financial institutions their locked-up funds in full within our first year in office
- Legalize and regulate commercial motorcycle (Okada) business
- Increase maternity leave from three (3) months to four (4) months
- Introduce seven (7) days paternity leave
- Withdraw or repeal the obnoxious law banning the importation of salvaged (accident) vehicles
- Commercial vehicles and other equipment imported for industrial, commercial and agricultural purposes will be exempted from import duty

Tax Cuts to boost job creation

- Small businesses will be exempted entirely from corporate and personal income tax
- Corporate income tax for existing medium size companies will be reduced from the current 25% to 15%
- Newly established medium-sized companies that employ up to twenty (20) staff will be exempted entirely from the payment of corporate income tax for one year
- Newly established medium-sized companies that employ more than twenty (20) staff will be exempted completely from the payment of corporate income tax for two years

Resource the Student Loan Trust Fund to make timely and adequate payments to students

- Increase students' loans to be commensurate with prevailing educational costs
- Make loan repayment effective on beneficiaries gaining employment after school
- Re-introduce the Student Loan Plus Scheme to assist students who gain admissions into tertiary institutions access loans to pay for their admission and school fees
- Abolish the requirement of guarantors
- Extend loan repayment period to ten (10) years including a three (3) year moratorium

Pension

- Pay all pensioners an annual 13th month bonus. Pensioners will from 2021 receive twice their monthly pension in December
- Amend the National Pensions Act, 2008 (Act 766) to allow contributing workers (private teachers and others) who lose their jobs suddenly due to natural occurrences such as the COVID-19 pandemic, to be paid allowances while they search for new opportunities
- Allow workers who have contributed for a period of 10 to 15 years to use their contributions as collateral to access home mortgage loans
- Introduce a new Pension Scheme for organised groups in the informal sector of the Ghanaian economy, specifically: Cocoa and Cashew Farmers, Driver Unions such as GPRTU, PROTOA and Co-operatives, Ghana Union of Traders Association, Beauticians and Hairdressers Associations, Dressmakers and Tailors Associations, Garages Associations, Artisans Association of Ghana, Farmers and Fishermen Associations etc.



Cocoa Sector

- Provide Free Primary Healthcare for all cocoa farmers and exempt all cocoa farmers from NHIS premium payment for secondary and tertiary healthcare
- In addition to the existing Cocoa Clinics in Accra, Tafo (Eastern Region), Debiso and Kumasi, the next NDC Government will ensure COCOBOD builds well-equipped hospitals in each of the cocoa-growing regions
- Revive and broaden the scope of the Cocoa Roads Project, which began under the past NDC Government to cover more cocoa-growing areas
- Resume all abandoned cocoa road projects and pay all contractors whose certificates have not been honoured
- Establish a pension scheme for cocoa farmers so they can enjoy pensions in their old age
- Ensure a consistent annual increment of the cocoa price to make cocoa farming more attractive, especially to the youth
- Continue to provide free agro-inputs (fertiliser, insecticides, fungicides, etc.) and extension services to all cocoa farmers

Zongo and Deprived Communities

- Establish two Islamic Senior High Schools in the southern and northern belts for the Zongo communities
- Award scholarships to brilliant but needy students in Zongo communities at the basic level to the tertiary level, with special focus on girls and medical and nursing students
- Support Arabic teachers in the Makaranta with monthly allowances
- Enroll youth in Zongo and Inner Cities into the National Apprenticeship Programme as well as the free technical and vocational education and training (free TVET)
- Provide start-up capital for business owners and earmark funds for the 'Soyayya Development Fund'
- Work with the Hajj Board to make Hajj more affordable to prospective pilgrims
- Give representation to Zongo Chiefs and other denominations on the Hajj Board to ensure easy facilitation of Hajj
- Ensure that a representative from the Muslim Umma is placed on the board of the Ministry of Chieftaincy and Religious Affairs
- Facilitate the establishment of morgues in accordance with Islamic customs and practices and collaborate with the Ministry of Health to set up focal teams responsible for procedures that are compliant with Islamic customs and practices at all state morgues

Restore all seized concessions of small scale miners to them and Investigate the missing excavators scandal and where possible, retrieve and return stolen excavators to the rightful owners

Security

- Clear the backlog of promotions and ensure timely promotions based on meritocracy and transparency. (Grant Amnesty for galamseyers)
- Commence a programme to establish a University for Security and Intelligence Studies at Assin Fosu with Satellite Campuses in Damango, Accra, Kumasi, Takoradi, Ho and Sunyani
- Empower the 48 Engineers Regiment to construct barracks and living accommodation for security personnel
- Harmonise and address disparities in salaries and remunerations and other conditions of services in all the security agencies
- Upgrade retirement benefits of personnel in consonance with realistic prevailing economic trends

Teacher Motivation

- Abolish the mandatory national service and teacher licensure examinations for graduate teachers
- Restore automatic employment of newly trained teachers
- Fast track promotions and applications for academic progression
- Provide teachers with free tablets to facilitate teaching and learning
- Implement a special regime allowing teachers to own vehicles under affordable terms

Health Professionals

- **Employ the backlog of qualified health professionals**
- **Establish a Professor Jacob Plange-Rhule Endowment Fund for medical and surgical specialists training**
- **Implement tax waivers in order to assist health workers acquire means of transport to respond to emergency calls**
- **Establish a housing scheme for health workers and provide residential facilities at all health facilities for health workers**
- **Scale up the training of Physician Assistants and emergency physicians**



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