



SOCIALIST FORUM OF GHANA (SFG)

July 1, 2021.

STATEMENT ON THE 61ST ANNIVERSARY OF REPUBLIC DAY

On the 61st anniversary of Ghana's attainment of Republican status, the Socialist Forum of Ghana salutes our Founding Father Osagyefo Dr. Kwame Nkrumah and the entire generation of nationalists that achieved this victory for our country.

The independence declared on 6th of March 1957 was independence within the British Commonwealth. Though self-governing we remained legally subjects of the English Monarchy. Our institutions acted formally in the name, not of the People but of the pre-eminent global symbol of imperialism, privilege, racism, repression, and decadence.

On 1st July 1960, following a plebiscite we threw off this final legal and cultural vestige of colonial subjection. We rejected the humiliating subordination of our national institutions to the British throne. We became a sovereign democratic republic equal to any other in the community of nations. In terms of our national politics too Republicanism, finally rejected any notion of governance through "traditional" ethnic-based institutions that aspired to feudal political and hereditary social status. We became a nation of equals with an elected and accountable head of State and government institutions.

Republican status was a crucial step in our pursuit of a national democratic revolution. It was a process of national self-constitution, democracy, unification, modernisation, and collective confidence building. It gave great impetus to the continuing political struggle for economic independence and for the pursuit of a united democratic union of a sovereign African people.

Republic Day therefore should not be equated with the several "reconstitutions" of the Republic that have occurred after unlawful military interventions in our country. The second, third and fourth republics are indeed important moments in our political and legal history. They do not however have the profound significance of July 1, 1960.

The refusal by our current Government, to recognise July 1 as Republic Day and as a national public holiday is an aggressive continuing act of ideological class warfare and revenge on ordinary Ghanaians for rejecting Right-wing leadership in the struggle to build an independent Ghana. The Right, having repeatedly lost popular elections sabotaged and then violently overthrew the Republic under the direction of the US CIA. Generations later they are trying to suppress and rewrite history. Through this masking of their actual roles, they seek to gain public credibility. They also seek however to continue their agenda by hollowing out our republicanism and promoting the institutions and culture of unaccountable privilege that Nkrumaists, progressives, and the masses of Ghanaians defeated in 1957 and have continued to resist throughout our history.

Republic Day denialism is part of a larger ahistorical and anti-people agenda. This includes the farcical 4th August "Founders' Day" project designed to project people who actively sabotaged the Peoples' independence struggle as "co-founders" of Ghana. The Akufo-Addo government has mounted a major campaign to promote this 4 August "Founders' Day" including resetting basic school curricula and commissioning, publishing textbooks that are disseminating lies about our history. Fortunately, most Ghanaians treat this 4 August project with contempt and continue, with the rest of the World, to honour Kwame Nkrumah as The Founder of Ghana.



SOCIALIST FORUM OF GHANA (SFG)

This attack on democratic national institutions and symbols and the continued promotion of backward, elitist, ethnic institutions is dangerous for Ghana. It confuses our youth. It denies them their proud heritage and the collective self-confidence that comes with this. It inevitably weakens commitment to a national project and the constitutional order and its products – including governments and leaders who whose authority is entirely a function of our respect for these institutions. It is thus ultimately an act of self-sabotage.

We in SFG will continue to project July 1st, 1960, as the watershed moment in our history that it was and to demand its restitution as a statutory holiday. We will continue to use the symbolism of July 1st to build unity and respect for constitutional constraints on elite power of any kind.

We call on all Ghanaians to join us and build on our founding vision.

Long live the Republic

Long live the Ghanaian State.

Blaise Tulo

For Convener

NOTE TO EDITORS

For further details and clarifications please contact the underlisted

1. Justice Henaku 0244373622
2. Blaise Tulo 0549342342
3. Nana Yaw Appiah-Kubi 0540247815