



JUSTICE 4 GHANA

Ghana First!

25th November 2021

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

On 17th November 2021, Finance Minister Mr. Ken Ofori Attah presented the 2022, Economic Policy and Budget Statement to the Parliament of Ghana, named “the Agyenkwa Budget”. Agyenkwa basically means Savior in the Akan language. We of **JUSTICE FOR GHANA**, do not see how reckless borrowing, unproductive taxations, profligate expenditure, misplaced priorities, and a suffocated business environment should be described as such. Who and what was this budget intended to save? The 2022 Budget and Economic Policy does not address the pressing concerns that have affected the Ghanaian economy into serious crisis and the hardships on the ordinary Ghanaian.

With the rotten state of the economy, constant hikes in food prices, fuel prices, electricity prices, building materials and many other basic amenities, making life unbearable to the ordinary Ghanaian, one would have thought that, these would have compelled the government to outline policies in the budget that addressed our unsustainable debt levels, economic hardships, the high cost of living, fiscal indiscipline, expenditure controls, real economic growth in the productive sectors, unemployment, among others. However, government has failed to show clear signs that it has the solutions to these problems in this budget. We are therefore of the opinion that the 2022 budget must be rejected out rightly by all Ghanaians because it will just bring us nothing than to **enrich the ruling class**.

The high cost of living and unbearable hardships on the ordinary Ghanaian is as result of Governments insensitivity to the plight of the ordinary Ghanaian, mismanagement of the economy and excessive taxation. Since assuming office in 2017, The AKuffo Addo-Bawumia led administration has introduced over eighteen taxes, affecting business growth and brought economic hardship on the people of Ghana. As if that is not enough the government has further proposed a killer 1.75 E-transactions Levy on all electronic transactions and also increased all government services by at least fifteen percent.

We strongly believe these are retrogressive taxes that will undermine the gains made in the electronic money transfer space and will also continue to deepen the woes of the already suffering Ghanaian who struggles to get one square meal a day. We think these taxes and increase in fees should be abandoned immediately not to burden the already vanquished Ghanaians. We therefore call on all well-meaning Ghanaians to oppose this levy which only seeks to milk the ordinary Ghanaian dry.

Unemployment and joblessness continues to be the most serious problem confronting our youth, and it's near a crises proportion. The 2022 budget failed in every sense of it to address the unemployment situation in this country. Governments U-Start initiative, to use one Billion Ghana cedis to create one million jobs is unrealistic and just one of the major rhetoric's. **One Billion** cedis for **ONE million** people will only amount to GH1, 000 per head. What serious business can you start in this country with the said amount of money? We believe this is just to woo the unsuspecting youth who are desperate for jobs to fall for their lies and deception but we know this will amount to nothing, the reason this budget ought to be rejected. A government in its fifth year still clueless about job creation is not worth its salt.





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JUSTICE FOR GHANA was scandalized to note that the Keta Sea defense project phase two failed to feature in the 2022 budget despite the tragedy the people of Keta find themselves in. This is the height of insensitivity and recklessness by the President and his cabinet. Ghanaians will recall that about two weeks ago tidal waves ravaged the people of Keta and its environs, which rendered over four thousand residents of the community homeless and many left stranded. The President of the republic has remained silent on the matter and one would have thought he was working behind the scenes to get the problem resolved. The absence of the phase two of the sea defense project in the budget is most unfortunate and reckless. Every Budget must be people and needs centered, for the government to abandon the people of Keta to their fate is another reason every Ghanaian must reject this budget. Remember, what affects one, affects all.

The government of the Nana Addo Bawumia must begin to chart a new path by reducing the waste in system drastically. Budgetary allocation to the office of the President for 2022 alone is in excess of three Billion (GH3,000,000,000) cedis, while the masses wallow in poverty. The profligate lifestyle of the executive especially the President in these hard times is an insult to our faces. The President continues to fly in luxurious private Jets at the expense of the poor tax payer, who the government wants to tax again to continue financing its lifestyle. When all these wasteful expenditures are stopped Ghana can save some money to finance the fiscal gaps, than to burden the already suffering masses.

The Auditor General's report shows that from 2017 to 2020 under President AKuffo Addo who promised to protect the public purse, Ghana has lost 33.2 Billion to irregularities and corruption alone. Year in year out we see this but the government has not shown any political will to prosecute anybody for these monies lost. We believe when this loopholes are blocked and government cuts down on the needless expenditure Government can find money to finance its fiscal gaps than burden the ordinary Ghanaian with the new taxes government wants to introduce.

The 2022 budget does not inspire any hope, and does not seem to offer any solutions to our problems in this country. Unemployment is expected to rise, our debt-to-GDP expected to rise; debt levels are also expected to rise, the economic hardships will worsen and investor confidence will continue to be eroded. In this circumstance, it is obvious that the only way to deal with these challenges is to reject this budget.

Government must sit up to clean the economic mess we find ourselves in, due to their incompetence and reckless management of the economy. Government must work to ensure that an immediate end is brought to the hardships and sufferings of our people. The government of President Akuffo Addo and Bawumia must admit that their economic policies over the last five years have failed the people and they have become the only beneficiaries of the rot in the system. We therefore call on the people's representatives, Parliament to think about their suffering electorates and reject the 2022 budget and economic policy, because it has nothing good for the people of Ghana.

Signed
Bernard Mornah
Convener

