



6th March 2022.

STATEMENT ON THE 65th ANNIVERSARY OF GHANA'S INDEPENDENCE
(GHANA'S DAY OF GLORY)

Sunday, March 6, 2022, marks the 65th anniversary of Ghana's independence from British colonial subjugation. The Socialist Movement of Ghana salutes the generation of political and social militants of the Gold Coast and their collaborators all over the world who made this landmark moment of dignity for Africans possible at great personal cost. Hundreds of thousands devoted and even surrendered their lives in the hundreds of years of struggle for freedom and self-determination. Today and forever, we honour their sacrifice.

6th March was just the beginning of a new phase of struggle in which Ghana could pursue economic independence. At last, we could plan collectively with social equity as our objective. At last, we could apply our labour-power to the conversion of our natural resources into goods and services that meet the needs of our people. At last, we could accumulate surpluses here in Ghana invest these surpluses in accelerating development - more jobs, better and higher education, better and higher healthcare, better and more extensive housing services for all Ghanaians. Our surpluses would no longer pile up in the bank accounts of foreign capitalists or be used to build up the repressive power of British imperialism and to deepen our repression and exploitation. Independence was supposed to mean that we could free ourselves from the backward and elitist institutions imposed on us by imperialism and develop enlightened and democratic civil institutions. Ghanaian rural society would no longer be held back by "tradition". Independence meant a new Africa in which we could smash colonial barriers between "Ghanaians" and our geographical and historical neighbours and build united African institutions that could protect our nationalist gains and offer the world a new pan-African dynamic - just, prosperous, confident, creative, and open. And the First Republic lived up to its promise.

With the leadership of Nkrumah, Ghanaians developed an impressive national industrial base. Importantly the 400 factories completed were developed within a clear national strategy that linked our domestic resource base, our national labour force (through concrete education, training, and municipal development planning) to our indigenous markets and those of our immediate neighbours. Ghana introduced cooperative production based on secure state-guaranteed land access that allowed farmers and the State to invest in systematic mechanization and that challenged the feudal land relations that had held our peoples' productivity back for generations. We built an entirely new industrial city – Tema with a major seaport and reliable electricity, water, transportation, and housing infrastructure to lead the national industrial take-off and connected to the national political and commercial capital by a state-of-the-art motorway. We embarked on planned community development with Tema as the flagship. To power all these revolutions, we built the World's largest hydroelectrical dam and the power grid to deliver electricity to all parts of our country in phases. We connected Ghana as it had never been done before with road and other infrastructure that departed from the colonial



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practise of connecting natural resource production areas to export facilities for the export of all our wealth. To lead in further developing the productive infrastructure Ghanaians built and staffed schools (an increase of more than 1000 per cent in basic schools in a decade) and provided fee-free education at all levels. We established two new state universities – with KNUST in Kumasi focusing on the development (not just teaching!) of science and technology and with UCC (originally the University College of Science Education) working to produce principally graduate science teachers able to revolutionize learning for our youth and indeed everyone. We built the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research to encourage the application of science to the resolution of concrete problems that independence and development threw at us. We built the Institute for African Studies to develop our understanding and respect for our African heritage and to curate for all humanity the contributions of our great continent to global civilization.

In the First Republic, Ghana magnificently lived up to Osagyefo's seminal declaration that *"The independence of Ghana is meaningless unless it is linked to the total liberation of the African continent"*. Ghana provided intellectual, political, diplomatic, military, and material solidarity to African liberation movements. Ghana became an important centre for the struggle against all forms of racism and discrimination and the realization of the hopes and aspirations of oppressed people everywhere. Ghana was a haven for those fleeing from repressive anti-people regimes in Africa and elsewhere. Ghana was a powerful voice in the struggle for peoples' self-determination, cultural sovereignty, unity, and peaceful development. The Ghana revolution's daily vindication in every sphere of life of the potency of democratic planning, and democratic solidarity compared to the "underdevelopment" of the preceding centuries of capitalist control frightened the big companies and the military and intelligence services that they control and caused such panic in the West. It was the exposure in Africa and elsewhere of the divisive, reactionary, wasteful, and backward ideology and politics of imperialism that guaranteed that these forces to plot Nkrumah's violent overthrow. And of course, the counter-revolution was targeted not just at Nkrumah and Ghana but all the nationalist and progressive movements that had started sweeping to power once Ghana opened the door in 1957.

The overthrow of Nkrumah and the destruction of the First Republic on 24 February 1966 (Ghana's Day of Shame!) by those who parade today as champions of constitutionalism, and neo-liberal economics set Africa's development back more than a generation. Indeed the parlous state of Ghana's production and macro-economic management today is ample testimony to the bankruptcy of the ideas and values of Ghana's right-wing. It is clear to all now that these ideas are nothing more than a smokescreen for arrogant corruption – the theft of public resources for narrow private benefit. And this realisation is driving a new wave of militant protest and a demand for leadership and institutions that are oriented to socialism as the framework for collective, accountable, national development programmes.

Hence this year it is with even greater urgency that we call on Ghanaians to celebrate our Day of Glory – and what that meant and could mean for Ghana and Africa. Let us re-dedicate

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ourselves to this struggle. On March 6, we celebrate the sacrifices of many thousands across the continent who have paid the ultimate price for our coming victory. On March 6 too, we celebrate today's militants in all of Africa's seven regions; women and men of every race, language, and religion, who hold that torch of dignity, freedom, and continental unity high against terrible odds. On March 6 we see and know that the light still shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it! On March 6 we know our day will come!

We salute you all in Nkurmah's name.

Long live Ghana!

Long live Africa and Pan-Africanism!

There is indeed victory for us!

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