



September 2, 2022.

## Statement on the Kwame Nkrumah Memorial Park & Mausoleum Rehabilitation Project

The ongoing “rehabilitation” of the Kwame Nkrumah Memorial Park and Mausoleum is a political project and a continuation of the effort by the Akufo-Addo administration to rewrite and distort our national history and to damage our national consciousness. Its offensive character was kept secret for more than a year obviously to stall public outcry until these changes were a done deal.

The project introduces memorials to Danquah, Obetsebi-Lampsey, Ako-Adjei, Ofori-Atta and Akufo-Addo that the NPP seeks to promote as “co-Founders” of Ghana. They have done this because it is the only way to force people to pay attention to these figures. It is a backhanded admission that these figures exist in public consciousness only in opposition to Nkrumah. These gentlemen betrayed working Ghanaians and sought to postpone or fragment our independence and subordinate it to backward sectarian forces. They ultimately became counter-revolutionaries.

The rehabilitation project is a continuation of the agenda that started with the cancellation of 21<sup>st</sup> September (Osagyefo’s birthday) as “Founder’s day” and the introduction of 4 August as “Founders’ (plural) day”. It is a continuation of the dishonest and provocative rewriting of secondary school textbooks designed to belittle and even slander Nkrumah. Indeed, it is a follow-on from the rewrite and falsification of the guidebooks at national monuments such as our forts and castles and the Mausoleum itself that seek to diminish Osagyefo’s role in history (and even to glorify colonialism!). It is part of the failed attempt to re-name the University of Ghana after JB Danquah.

Ghanaians are not fooled. We understand fully that this continued assault on Nkrumah involves more than the obvious petty jealousy and a desire to rehabilitate Danquah in particular (and elevate his family and political descendants in the public eye). We understand fully that they seek to deny Nkrumaist militancy and its achievements. They seek to dampen the growing anti-imperialist effort and demobilize nationalist, pan-Africanists, and anti-imperialist forces all over the world and protect the global system of exploitation and repression that makes life miserable and uncertain for Ghanaian and other working people the world over. They will fail.

SMG will continue to expose the deceptions that reactionary forces are using to promote this backward project intervention.

**Reconciliation:** We are told that this move is an attempt at reconciliation! We reject his false claim. Of course there are individuals motivated by private gain who seek personal “reconciliation” with (or rather co-option) by imperialism. Nkrumaists and Pan-Africanists the world over who oppose imperialism, neo-colonialism, and capitalism itself, unanimously reject this move and reject the forces behind it. And at the earliest possible opportunity will reverse it.

**Budget:** We are told the project is a rescue effort for which Nkrumaists should be grateful. We are told that NPP is saving a national monument that generated insufficient revenue to pay for its own maintenance. We reject this too. First, National monuments are not supposed to be profit-making ventures. Governments must maintain national monuments because they inspire, and guide a people’s struggles. Maintenance of the Mausoleum was a basic responsibility of government - not a favour that has been done for Nkrumaists. For a government that fritters billions of dollars on absurd vanity projects like the National Cathedral to claim that it cannot maintain our country’s most important national monument is an unacceptable betrayal of our youth. Further, the unstated premise of this argument is that the addition of Danquah, Obetsebi-Lampsey, Ako-



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Adjei, and Ofori-Atta's image to the mausoleum will somehow generate enough revenue to maintain the Mausoleum. This of course is rubbish. There is no tourist market for "Big 6" history or memorabilia. There are no queues of people waiting to buy and read their works or listen to their speeches. They have not inspired anyone outside a section of the NPP elite. They do not have a Pan-African profile to speak of. Nobody knows them. Their inclusion will not attract a single cedi to the mausoleum. Indeed, if NPP thought that they were marketable it would have built independent monuments to them rather than piggybacking off Osagyefo's mausoleum.

**Pan-Africanism:** there is a pretence that the measures underway project Pan-Africanism. Some specious argument is made about completing "a triangle" involving the Du Bois centre and the Padmore African research library. We reject this tokenism too. What is the significance of this so-called triangle? Why would 3 rather than 2 or 4 monuments strengthen Pan-Africanism? Even if we accept that "3" is somehow magically better than "5" it is not the rehabilitation that creates the "triangle". The Nkrumah mausoleum has existed in its current location since 2009. How does the inclusion of Danquah, Obetsebi-Lamprey, Ako-Adjei, and Ofori-Atta advance this? None of them was intimately involved with continental struggle or Pan-African unity. Including them in the Mausoleum falsely clothes them with more false credibility and dilutes Pan-Africanism as a framework of struggle.

Ghana is once again in deep economic, social, and cultural crisis and our government is running to the IMF for the 18<sup>th</sup> time like a junky looking for a fix – even though we all know that this will guarantee another deeper crisis in less than 5 years. Government is clearly ready to impose austerity on Ghanaians such that it can return quickly to the international bond markets and plunge us even more desperately in and debt. Our government has no real perspective on self-reliant mobilisation and independence. Indeed there is no acknowledgement in the political establishment that the problem is the hopeless crisis prone development paradigm that was imposed on Ghanaians by the criminal overthrow of the Osagyefo by the CIA and its local lackeys. No understanding that the destruction of the independence revolution and the first Republic is at the root of our crisis.

This should be a moment of sober reflection on this destructive paradigm and the narrow financialization of our economy and foreign dependence that our leaders glorify so much in. Properly presented and told the Nkrumah story is a moment of dignity, unity, and mobilisation for young Ghanaians – that can help us transcend the current mess. It is a true tragedy that in this situation when we need symbols of selfless visionary leadership that the bankrupt forces that dominate our politics choose to confuse and obfuscate.

The only solution for Ghana's youth is like Nkrumah, to think through and impose a political programme that returns Power to the People. We must put forward a national programme that puts people to work solving our production and distribution problems – as a very first step.

We have the raw materials in abundance. We must use these for our own urgent development needs and not just to make foreign capitalists richer. We have the technologies – professionals in all fields of production young and old trained here in our schools or abroad. We have millions of young people with the energy to power our development. Let us take on the challenges:

Let us become self-sufficient in food production within one year - by growing it ourselves, by fixing and maintaining the roads, transportation systems, processing, and warehousing and distribution that delivers it to all our people. Let us build our own humble but dignified housing for all our people.

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