



6<sup>th</sup> March 2024

**Statement on 67<sup>th</sup> Independence Day**

The Socialist Movement of Ghana salutes the working people of Ghana and especially the generation of Gold Coasters who fought and sacrificed under the leadership of Osagyefo Dr Kwame Nkrumah to win independence from Britain 67 years ago. They won independence on an egalitarian, democratic basis, defeating, alongside British imperial rule, the violent local forces of privilege and chauvinism that sought to debase our society into a federation of tribal chieftaincies. Our debt and our gratitude to them is immeasurable.

Today, the social forces, who, after resounding defeat in the 1950's, returned with a vengeance to procure the overthrow of the First Republic, have all but destroyed our country. Our economy is in tatters. And no single sector of the State is properly functional. We live with extremes of poverty and wealth unseen since colonial times. Our industry has collapsed. Our countryside does not produce enough to feed us. Citizens cannot access basic services such as education, healthcare, or housing. They have completed the destruction they commenced when they first seized State power in 1966. On the international stage, Ghana disgracefully declares support for Israel's apartheid genocide. Ghana supports Imperialist adventurism in Europe, Asia, and now West Africa. Our ruling elites' pathetic and unthinking loyalty to the West has brought ECOWAS and the Western component of the pan-African project to the brink of catastrophe.

In such times, we must draw strength from the example of the generation that authored our independence and commitment to egalitarianism and Pan-Africanism against even more terrible odds. We call on all our people in their self-organised groupings to prepare for the battle (that has already started) for the future of our country. We must close ranks as working people and struggle. We must subordinate the forces of privilege and self-entitlement at home to defeat the global forces of imperialism that have kept us divided, exploited, and oppressed for 500 years. It is time to organise and fight back.

Let us recall the spirit of 6 March 1957 and commit our lives again to "Freedom and Justice". Let us leave a legacy for Ghana's future.

Kwesi Pratt jnr

General Secretary

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