

QUEEN MOTHERS' MANIFESTO FOR INVESTMENT OF OIL REVENUES (2020-2022)

1.0 BACKGROUND

It is more than 12 years since Ghana discovered oil & gas in commercial quantities in 2007 off its Western coast. The potential of the oil & gas industry in Ghana is high and expectations are still elevated among the populace of the benefits from the petroleum industry. Total revenue accrued to state is more US\$ 6 billion. Apart from the Jubilee field, 24 more discoveries have been made. The Ghana National Petroleum Corporation is currently pursuing a 5-year initial exploration phase with the view to leading onshore exploration in the Basin to determine the thermal maturity of potential source rocks.

Towards putting Ghana in a better position to maximise benefits from the petroleum sector, significant efforts have been made to ensure sound governance including transparent and efficient management of petroleum revenues. The Petroleum Revenue Management Act 2011 (Act 815), as amended Act 893, 2015; Petroleum Commission Act 2011 (Act 821) and Petroleum (Exploration and Production) Act, 2016, 919 have been enacted by Parliament. Local Content and Local Participation Regulations have also been passed by Parliament. These efforts have been lauded as signs of a country working hard to avoid

the curse of oil, the experience in many oil producing countries in Africa, where oil and gas resources have brought conflicts, corruption, and poverty.

Although Ghana is praised for legislating a Petroleum Revenue Management Law, the successful implementation of the law remains a challenge especially in government's allocations from the Annual Budget Funding Amount - ABFA (into which up to 70% of total petroleum proceeds are paid) to various sectors. These sectors usually include agriculture, health and education but often indicate a rather slow picture of progress in terms of how productive they have been over the years. For example, agriculture is increasingly losing its share of GDP by year and dwindled from 20.2% in 2015 to 20.1% in 2016. Monitoring of the utilization of petroleum revenues by the Public Interest and Accountability Committee (PIAC) and some civil society organisations revealed some oil-funded projects have either been abandoned; have faced unbearable cost overruns or not executed at all. Value-for-money audit initiatives conducted in the past few years expose this abysmal progress in the financing of projects in the pro-poor sectors using oil revenues.

Against this backdrop, Oxfam and its partners Friends of the Nation and Centre for Public Interest Law (CEPIL) supported queen mothers from Western and Volta regions to develop a manifesto to influence the allocation of the Annual Budget Founding Amount from 2020 -2022 to maintain agriculture and target women. The following are proposals that emerged from the consultation:

2.0 INVESTMENT PROPSALS

Agriculture

1. Provide more cold storage facilities to support fish processing in fishing communities
2. Establish modern industrial fish mongering sites to support fishing processing in fishing communities
3. Provide low-interest loans and subsidized fishing inputs for women fish processors and canoe owners
4. Establish agro-processing industries to processing of farm products for women farmers
5. Provide support for the Mechanized method of farming to increase produce
6. Develop a special intervention to support women farmers to produce more to supply food under the Ghana School Feeding Programme
7. Provide subsidies on fertilizers and credit facilities on agriculture inputs for women farmers
8. Capacity building on proper farming practices and value addition
9. Re-introduce and provide resources for farming in schools
10. Provide training and logistics support for women in commercial livestock production and preparation animal feed

Education

1. Provision of more school buildings
2. Renovation of existing schools and provision of furniture
3. Provision of teaching and learning materials
4. Siting teachers' bungalow at some areas
5. Provision of sanitary towels and other necessities for girls from basic school to SHS level
6. Science laboratories must be well resourced
7. More focus on science practical than theory
8. Well-furnished workshop for vocational training in basic schools to build interest in TVET
9. School feeding should be extended to private schools
10. More TVET facilities.

Health

1. Construct and adequately equip more Health centres and Community-based Health Planning and Service facilities
2. Empower more women from the communities to go into Health profession so they can be posted back to the communities after completion.
3. Sensitization of women on the need to go to the hospital for ANC to reduce the rising rate of maternal mortality
4. Free health insurance for women and children
5. Empower Queen mother to handle issues of medical negligence on the part of health workers in health institutions within their communities
6. Adequate incubators in district and regional hospitals

7. Maternity wards should be well furnished with equipment and beds for positive delivery outcomes
8. Proper training of health officials at CHPs compound and the provision of necessary equipment
9. Provision of more health facilities
10. Access roads to health facilities fixed and provision of ambulance at every CHPs compound for referrals

Roads/railway

1. Regular road maintenance (speed bumps, pedestrian crossing and traffic lights)
2. Roads leading to food crop growing areas should be made accessible
3. All other roads which cannot be tarred in time should be reshaped for easy access during raining season

4. Railway signal system should be very active and the department should be fully equipped. Level crossing keepers should be more efficient to prevent accidents.
5. Employ more women for the sale of tickets and train some in the construction of railway line and also driving of the train
6. Facelift of roads to 1st class roads in the urban areas
7. Reshaping of feeder roads and construction of other roads to ease traffic in towns
8. Proper street lighting along the roads
9. Installation of CCTV cameras along the road

3.0 RECOMMENDATION FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF PETROLEUM REVENUE

1. Oil monies should be used solely to fund projects, from start to finish
2. After two years in office, the next government should prepare a national development plan or not allowed to utilize the oil revenue
3. Regular deposit into the contingency fund
4. No one touches the heritage fund until the oil find is depleted.
5. Government does a socio-economic assessment of the priority areas before selection

This publication is supported by Oxfam and the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD)

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