



UPDATE ON THE NATIONAL INTEREST MOVEMENT

Introduction

Ghana's Democracy is sick and unresponsive to the needs of a population that demands jobs, living wages, basic social amenities (Health and Education services). The population also demand more effective participation in decision making that will determine quantum of investments that will grow a future based on a robust economy with solid domestic growth beginning at the community level. It wants the ability to limit profligate spending by officialdom, curb nepotism and banish corruption. The people are frustrated because they see only changes in government without any changes in governance.

Ghana's democracy has stagnated in hands of a political and entrepreneurial elite that run a duopoly based on repetitive cycles of debt and profligate spending between elections based on four year tenures. The duopoly's elite have hijacked the nation, putting party agendas above the nation's interest.

The country is going downhill fast, because we continue to perpetuate the adversarial partisan politics of winner takes all. Something must be done to salvage the situation and correct our development path permanently.

The National Interest Movement believes that any intervention to save Ghana must be from a non-partisan perspective that:

- a) first identifies key reforms that will help remove the road blocks to progress, pushes for necessary constitutional amendments and educates the people to support the basic framework for a Reform and development agenda.
- b) Provide a non-partisan platform that will galvanize like minds to seek a mandate for an independent coalition for a reform and development agenda.

NIM is NOT a political party, NIM is a non-partisan CSO.

NIM's Mission & Goal

NIM advocates for a Reform Development Agenda in Ghana based on key constitutional amendments that will change our paradigm for development significantly in favour of the common good for the many and away from the selfish benefit of a few.

1. NIM's goal is a transformed democracy that delivers prosperity for the welfare of all our society.
An inclusive and equitable democracy that is responsive to the electorate is therefore a requirement.

NIM'S Objectives.

2. NIM's objectives are constitutional reforms that remove road blocks to progress due to poor governance resulting from malpractices driven by our dysfunctional democracy.
3. Only fundamental policy reforms can result in a paradigm shift that changes our path for national development.
4. We must shift from development for the benefit of a few, to development for the many.
5. Such fundamental reforms can only be undertaken with a revised constitution that reduces conflict of interest to increase accountability and independence of public officials.
6. Ammendments must also optimize separation of powers and ensure selection based on merit, competence, intergrity and dedication.
7. Ammendments to entrench equity must ensure incentives are spread broadly throughout the population and not only doled out heavily at the top.
8. Ammendments to devolve power must empower ordinary people at the grassroots by changing balance of power between central, local and community governance. The focus should be on empowering People and not political parties and bureaucrats.

9. NIM has summarised specific amendments of the constitution needed for the change it seeks in a seven (7) point agenda that is captured in a table of reforms to show a new way forward.
10. NIM petitioned the speaker of parliament in June 2021, to move a debate on floor of parliament in favor of a comprehensively revised constitution as per the Ok amendments.
11. To press a time table on the reforms, NIM has demanded a referendum on these constitutional reforms before the next election in 2024.
12. NIM has stated above in public statements to the media, in our petition to the speaker and our appeal to stakeholders.
13. To buttress NIM's demand for a referendum for constitutional reform, we have launched a self-driven community campaign to collect 2 million signatures that endorse our petition.
14. We are now rallying stakeholder groups to build consensus that endorses our petition for a referendum to revise the constitution.
15. This consultative process will be expanded to include townhall meetings and lectures at tertiary institutions and youth clubs when resources allow.

MOBILIZATION AND FIELD ACTIVITIES

16. If you have joined NIM or have been introduced to NIM at this point, please begin by reading all the materials on our website (www.nimghana.org) and download the form for collection of signatures. You can start collecting signatures in your neighborhood whilst canvassing for the referendum. Begin now in your own constituency and community.
17. When you have 4,000 signatures in one constituency please let leadership know and you will receive a Patriot of Ghana Certificate.

18. When you have 12,000 signatures in 3 constituencies you will get a "Golden Eagle of Ghana" certificate.

19. When you collect 20,000 signatures in 5 constituencies you will get a "Black Star of Ghana" award. It is the highest award.

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NEXT STEPS:

SUPPORT TO SEEK A MANDATE FOR REFORM IN ELECTORAL PROCESS

Whilst NIM will not seek a mandate to govern directly, NIM will provide active support to ensure that those that govern do so on the basis of the proposed reform agenda. To this end NIM is seeking to provide a common platform that will galvanize support for a coalition of independent candidates under the banner of a reform agenda for governance and development. NIM therefore supports the use of the Ghana First Platform to gather such a coalition for reform and development. This coalition however cannot support any candidate that does to campaign squarely on an agenda for reform and development based on constitutional amendments as proposed. The coalition should not fall into the usual partisan politics and gimmicks of promoting candidates solely on their affiliation or on their individual merit alone. NIM therefore will encourage the GFP to develop clear systems of internal democracy for acceptance or selection of candidates.

NIM seeks to respond to the crisis facing the nation with more urgency and ensure that the reform agenda is the basis for any change in government.

A change of government must come with a change in governance!

NIM's next step is to first unpack the 7 point reform agenda to lay out a clear proposal for an alternative governance system to the current one under the duopoly of the fourth republic. This will entail detailing the structure and mechanisms for a new form of government that is more inclusive, representative and equitable at different levels.

NIM's proposes a coalition of non-partisan independent candidates at local government and national level to contest on the basis of reform for development

agenda. NIM will endorse only one independent candidate will contest for each position at local government and national level.

After election the Coalition of Independent Candidates (CIC) shall press for direct election of DCE on non partisan basis by universal suffrage.

Local government may be shifted to regional level with creation of additional regions (to a total of 30) to meet demands for effective and cost representation.

A total of 25 Cabinet Ministers should be selected from outside parliament to avoid conflict of interests.

The Council of State should be reformed to create a second chamber of eminent distinguished Ghanaians at national level to keep a check on the excesses of the executive.

A similar body (a committee of representatives of traditional authorities, religious bodies, professional bodies, merchants and eminent persons) shall exist at the local government level to keep a check on the District or Regional Chief Executive as the case may be. It should have representation from the local traditional leaders and religious leaders but not be dominated by them.

NIM is currently inviting discussions from leading thinkers on adapted systems of proportional representation for good governance and effective participatory democracy. A synthesis of these ideas will be combined with NIM's proposals to help flesh out details of institutional arrangements, organizational structure, mechanisms of implementation and monitoring and evaluation methods.

The said discussions are currently in progress on the platform and a new update will be provided when they are completed and synthesized.

Finally NIM plans to present a call to action for consideration by eminent persons before the going public. The timing of this meeting of eminent persons is crucial and has therefore been very delicate to organize against a background of a changing scenario of a nation in economic and social crisis.

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PARTICIPATING ON THE WHATSAPP PLATFORM.

Please be respectful and mature in the use of language on the NIM whatsapp platforms. We have senior and accomplished people that need their respect.

We also don't want to waste our time with ideological and historical debates between NDC NPP and traditions.

Nkrumahists and Busia- Danquah-Dombo rivalry has consumed at least 3 generations of Ghanaians in three republics.

This platform is not for settling inter- party or ideological scores.
and it is also not for personality cult worship or adulation.