



2012 MANIFESTO

**ADVANCING
THE BETTER
GH★NA
AGENDA**



Jobs. Stability. Development.

NDC

FOREWORD BY JOHN DRAMANI MAHAMA PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE & LEADER OF THE NDC

Events of the last few months have demonstrated more vividly and vindicated the assertion by our founder in 2008 that “Ghana is larger than all of us, and the NDC’s victory is the victory of ordinary and truthful Ghanaians guided by the proven history and performance of a Social Democratic Party and Government.” In four years since we begun our journey for a “Better Ghana” agenda, the NDC has kept faith with our people supporting them to work hard to produce the nation’s wealth, to uphold truth, abhor corruption, and distributing the benefits of hard work equitably for the greater, social and economic wellbeing of all Ghanaians.

Since we resumed office in 2009, our country has made significant progress, attaining and sustaining middle-income status for the first time in our history, maintaining a substantial growth rate and reducing inflation to single digit consistently. Our public and private sector policies and programs have been robust and successful in building the foundation for the sustained prosperity that we promised our people. This solid foundation has to be advanced in a manner that our growth trajectory is accelerated, our social and welfare initiatives for ordinary citizens is expanded, the opportunities to provide access and quality education to ALL our children is achieved, and our nation is able to feed itself and reap the benefits in expanded trade of our diversified agricultural produce.

The 2012 NDC Manifesto is therefore a bold, forward-looking agenda, which enumerates our solemn commitment to Advance the Better Ghana Agenda.

AS THE NEW LEADER OF OUR GREAT PARTY AND THE NDC’S PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE FOR THE 2012 ELECTIONS, IT IS MY PLEDGE TO:

- **Expand our economy** from its marginal middle-income status to a full-fledged middle-income status where growth and prosperity are spread equitably across the country and poverty is substantially reduced across the country;
- Ensure that **ENERGY FOR ALL** becomes the bedrock of socio-economic transformation by expanding production and intensifying regular and reliable access to electricity and energy including those who currently do not have access;
- Rapidly expand access to **quality education** at both the basic and secondary levels of education by ensuring that the 20% of children who are not in school gain access to schooling; and the nearly 50% who do not have access to secondary-level education gain access to JSS and SHS;
- Promote a thorough **decentralized governance** agenda in a manner that empowers regions and districts to acquire the needed resources and capacities to make decisions and be accountable to citizens;
- Provide the **needed leadership** to ensure that citizens’ voices matter in decision-making; their demand for accountability are fulfilled and their aspirations for a Better Ghana are reflected in the programmes and projects emanating from this Manifesto.



The Peace and Stability bestowed on us by our recently departed father, Professor John Evans Atta Mills, guided the preparation of this Manifesto; and God's spirit in him has already blessed it. I invite you to peruse this manifesto and see why it is important to give us another mandate to continue and Advance the Better Ghana Agenda.

John Dramani Mahama

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The National Democratic Congress (NDC) is presenting to the good people of Ghana, the 2012 manifesto that seeks to renew the covenant this party has with the people of Ghana in pursuance of our common and cherished goal of ‘Advancing The Better Ghana Agenda’ for all.

This Manifesto is based on the achievements over the last four (4) years during which period we established a firm foundation for delivering a program of economic recovery and sustained welfare for the people of Ghana.

The 2012 NDC Manifesto therefore underscores our commitment to build a prosperous and equitable society. Under the next NDC administration:

- Our economic performance will be deepened and diversified to provide a basis for the provision of the basic human needs of our people;
- Our governance will be more thoroughly decentralized to enable citizens to access resources and demand accountability for services;
- Our infrastructure development will be intensified to accelerate the transformation of Ghana into a full middle-income status;
- Our agriculture will be modernized to involve a strong partnership between private agricultural investors and peasant small-holders in a manner that introduces capital, technology and an expanded local and global market access; and above all,
- Our educational assets will be rapidly expanded to provide equitable access for every child to enter and complete basic education, enter and complete secondary school.

All of these will enable our economy to expand, creating the needed jobs that will propel prosperity for all and Advance the Better Ghana Agenda.

This journey will begin with a renewal and consolidation of the Social Compact we long established with the people of Ghana through years of sustained policies for the realization of social equity and developmental justice.

EDUCATION

- Eliminate the remaining 60% of identified ‘Schools-Under-Trees’ and provide decent facilities for all rural schools;
- Ensure 100% access for all children of school going age in compliance with the constitutional requirement of FCUBE;
- Work towards the attainment of universal access to secondary education by constructing two hundred (200) new Community Day Senior High Schools where these do not exist;
- Increase and expand infrastructure in existing secondary schools to enable them absorb the increasing numbers of qualified candidates;
- Establish ten (10) new Colleges of Education in the medium term to be located in areas currently not well-served and in anticipation of the increase in student numbers on account of our increased access to education programme;
- Introduce a one-year specialised programme in the Colleges of Education to train Teachers in early childhood care and development;
- Solve the problem of academic progression of polytechnic graduates by introducing degree programmes in all Polytechnics in the country;
- Establish a new public University in the Eastern Region to complete the NDC’s vision of providing a public University campus in every Region of the country and also to expand academic and residential facilities on existing campuses.



HEALTH

The next NDC Government will:

- Double the number of Community-based Health Planning and Services (CHPS) compounds from about 1,600 to 3,200 to meet the needs of under-served communities;
- Establish Regional Hospitals in the Eastern Region at Koforidua, Upper East Region at Bolgatanga and Upper West Region in Wa to complete the NDC’s grand plan of providing a modern Regional Hospital in each of the ten regions of Ghana.



- The newly passed National Health Insurance Bill has now given us the requisite legal impetus to vigorously broaden and expand our national health care scheme for the benefit of all Ghanaians.

YOUTH AND SPORTS

The next NDC Government will:

- Establish a GH¢10 million Jobs and Enterprise Development Fund to encourage and support young people to become successful entrepreneurs and create sustainable job opportunities;
- Job and Enterprise Centres (JEC) will be established in all regions to help unemployed youth and those about to enter or prepare for the world of work and entrepreneurship (starting and managing their own business).
- Support the various national football teams to qualify for the various World Cup competitions and in particular the World Cup for the senior teams involving the Black Stars to be held in Brazil in 2014 as well as achieving a decent participation in the 2016 Olympic Games;
- Develop Youth Recreation Centres in the districts to facilitate youth meetings, interactions, cultural programmes, conferences and inputs into the District Assemblies’ deliberative mechanisms;
- Reserve 5% of admissions to Senior High Schools for talented sports and other creative students, to support the development of athletics and other lesser-known sports.

ECONOMY

The following will be the specific macro-economic targets to be pursued in the next four years:

- An average GDP growth rate of at least 8% per annum;
- A single digit rate of inflation;
- An overall budget deficit equivalent to 5% of GDP; and
- Gross international reserves that will cover not less than four months of imports.

Overall, our economic policies and programmes will aim at the attainment of a per capita income of at least US\$2,300 by year 2017.

JOB CREATION INITIATIVES

Activities in the under-mentioned areas will create thousands of jobs.

Manufacturing/Industry:

With the anticipated commercial exploitation of crude oil and gas, we are laying the

foundation for:

- An integrated petroleum industry based on bauxite;
- A petro-chemical industry based on salt and natural gas;
- A fertilizer industry to give impetus to agro-development;
- A salt-based chemical industry for caustic soda;
- Allied consumer products and exports based on oil and gas; and
- An integrated iron and steel industry based on the iron ore deposits at Oppon Manso in the Western Region.

Cheap gas-fired energy will facilitate the full revival of the following industries:

- Volta Aluminium Company;
- Textile industries and ventures in their value chain;
- Ceramics, brick and tile manufacturing;
- Glass factories; and
- Steel mills.

Agriculture:

- Expanded role of the National Service Scheme in food production;
- Distribution of 20 million hybrid cocoa seedlings free of charge over the next six years;
- Intensification and extension of the mass spraying exercise to include brushing, pest and disease control, shade management, pollination and fertilization;

Public Sector:

- Implementation of a district-focused Public Works Programme under which socio-economic infrastructure projects such as town halls, community centres, district and town libraries, markets and others will be undertaken using labour intensive methods and the full deployment of local building materials;
- An accelerated Social Housing Scheme under the Rural Housing and Urban Renewal Programmes;
- The job creation programme under the “New Approach to Public Sector Reforms” where the facilitative power of the state will be used to create businesses and jobs in partnership with the private sector.

Roads:

- Eastern Corridor: Tema-Asikuma-Ho-Hohoe-Jasikan-Yendi-Nalerigu-Kulungugu with Nkwanta in the Volta Region as an inland port;
- Western Corridor: Elubo-Asemkrom-Enchi-Goaso-Sunyani-Bamboi-Bole-Wa-Hamile with Gambia No. 2 in the Brong Ahafo Region as an inland port; and
- Central Spine: Accra-Kumasi-Techiman-Tamale-Bolgatanga-Paga with Boankra in the Ashanti Region as an inland port.

Railways:

- Refurbishment and modernization of the Western Line;

- Rehabilitation of the Accra-Tema, Kumasi-Ejisu, Accra-Nsawam and Takoradi-Kojokrom rail networks;

Aviation:

- Upgrading of the Tamale Airport into Ghana’s second international airport;
- Commence feasibility studies for the establishment of an alternative International Airport to Kotoka International Airport;
- Expand and modernise the Kotoka International Airport and the Takoradi, Kumasi and Sunyani domestic airports to handle increasing commercial activities and passenger loads.
- Work towards the incorporation of a new national carrier.

Maritime:

- The construction of a modern deep seaport at a suitable location in the Western Region to serve the oil and gas industry;
- The rehabilitation of the Takoradi and Tema ports;
- The construction of two fishing harbours at Elmina and James Town and landing sites at Axim, Dixcove, Moree, Fete, Mumford, Winneba, Senya Beraku, Teshie, Ada, Keta, Abotoase and Dzemeni using part of the Chinese Development Bank loan.

Other sectors that will be expected to increase employment as a result of our initiatives in the next four years include the MMDAs, the Rural Enterprises Programme, the Northern Rural Growth Programme, the SADA Investment Schemes, the Western Corridor Development Authority, the Security Services, the Graduate Business Support Scheme, the Ghana Education Service, and ICT and Business Process Outsourcing.



INFRASTRUCTURE

The next NDC Government will implement the following programmes:

- Increase power generation from 2,443 megawatts to 5,000 megawatts by 2016;
- Launch an ‘Energy For All’ programme under which universal access to electricity will be targeted by 2016;
- Increase social housing and improve sanitation and social facilities that promote secured settlements for the people’s improved welfare;

- Continue the Western and Eastern Corridor Roads and modernise the Central Spine;
- Construct a new deep sea port in the Western Region;
- Use oil and gas development as a catalyst to diversify the economy;
- Target the development of the country’s potential in mini hydro power projects with capacities below 100 megawatts, especially in the northern savannah zone, in partnership with SADA;
- Construct two National Science Parks to spread the benefits of technology across Ghana.

GOVERNANCE

The NDC Government will:

- Establish and implement a framework for collective and individual contribution to the peace, safety, security and stability of the country;
- Further to government’s White Paper on the report of the Constitution Review Commission’s Report, we will involve the people directly in the election of District Chief Executives and take responsibility for the payment of the remuneration of Assembly members;
- Hold Presidential meetings with leaders of the registered political parties to discuss critical national issues;
- Establish Commissions of Enquiry to investigate matters related to public land acquisitions and empower the office of the Sole Commissioner responsible for the management of judgement debts to ensure the best interest of Ghana is served at all times.
- Work with the Legislature to prioritise the passage of the Freedom of Information Act, Broadcasting Act and the Affirmative Action Act;
- Continue to create a reformed, responsive and result-oriented public sector;
- Provide office and residential accommodation for the Armed Forces, Police, Prisons and Fire Services.

As social democrats, the NDC believes that it is the duty of the Government to pull the marginalized, disadvantaged and the poor into the mainstream of the socio-economic order. We believe that universal access to health care, education, affordable food, water, electricity and housing is the right of every Ghanaian. The next NDC administration will therefore harmonize existing social safety-net initiatives into one agency, to ensure that targeting is effective and the poor and vulnerable are involved in safety-net program decision-making.

Our 2012 Manifesto contains the policy initiatives that are required for building the new era of social justice and equity which has been our goal for the past two decades and which we share with many millions of Ghanaians.

Ours is to build ‘A Better Ghana’ for today’s Ghanaian and future generations.

CONCLUSION

The NDC is 20 years old.

We have been in government for three terms and in opposition for two terms. Our experience and resilience has been fortified.

Our performance in the last four years has been unprecedented and confirmed to Ghanaians that the NDC is indeed a people-centred political party with a development focus.

Our late beloved President John Evans Atta Mills, who left us suddenly on 24th July, 2012 was a shining example of a politician. President John Dramani Mahama is reflecting those unique qualities of Atta Mills and more.

We started working on this Manifesto under Atta Mills' guidance. We finished it under the guidance of his successor and our Presidential candidate, John Dramani Mahama.

This Manifesto reflects the vision of the NDC as a social democratic party. It represents our vision for "Advancing the Better Ghana Agenda" for the next four years. We are determined to create a society in which all have equal and fair opportunities to live good and decent lives.

Our objective is as near an egalitarian society as possible.

Our abhorrence is for a society in which only property owners can participate in the democracy.

Our programme is for the provision of food, shelter and clothing for all, not for some.

Our programme is about the provision of 'quality education for all, not free education for some'.

Our programme is about health for all, not only for those who can afford to pay.

Our programme is about creating jobs, not jobs for some who will then have pity on others and give them handouts.

Our programme is about a strong, resilient economy capable of withstanding internal and external shocks.

We stand for dignity and hope.

We stand for humility and service.

We stand for jobs and social well being.

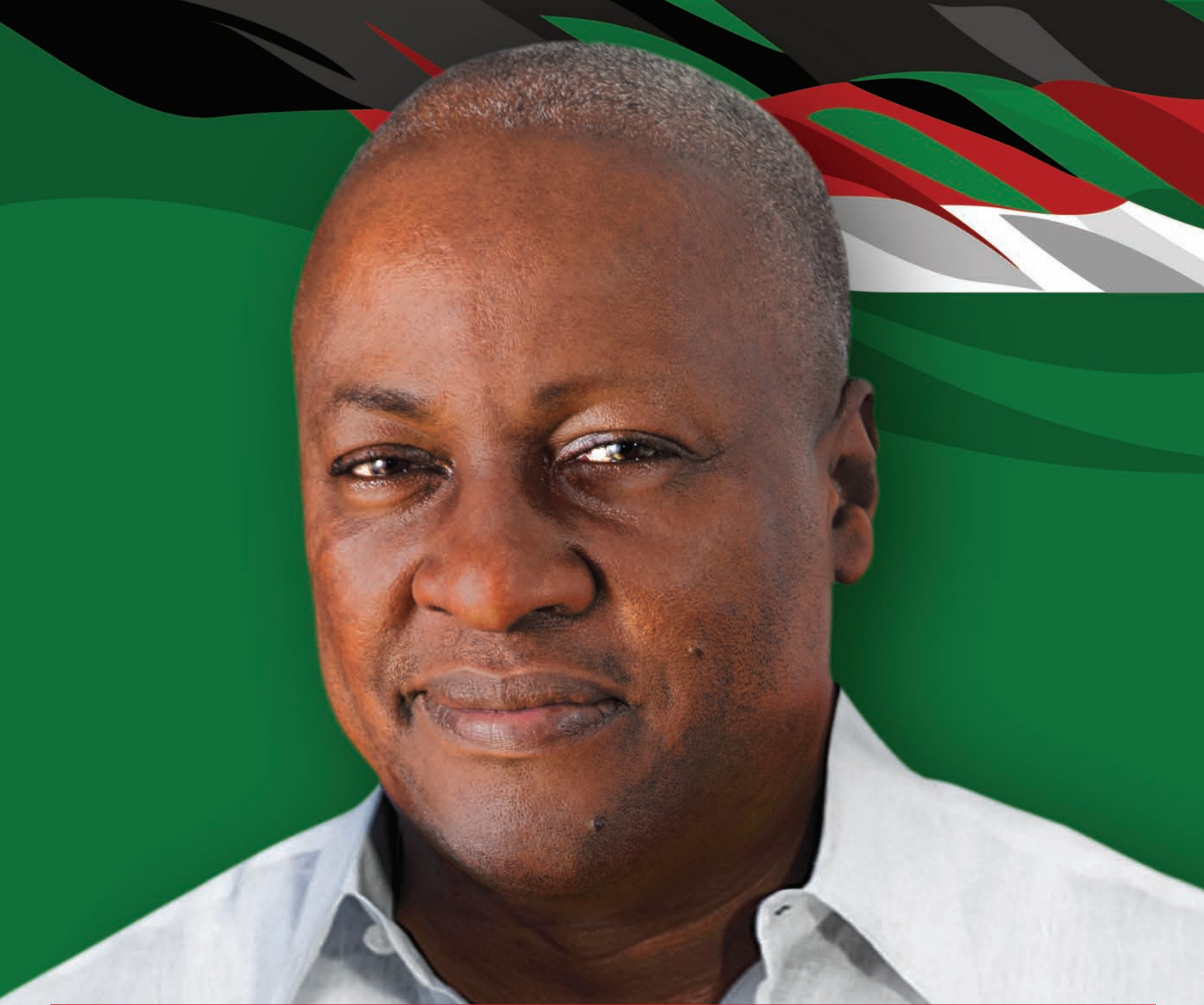
To achieve all these, we need your vote in the December 2012 Presidential and Parliamentary elections.

We need your vote to continue the unfinished agenda of Professor John Evans Atta Mills.

We need your vote to **"Advance the Better Ghana Agenda".**

President John Dramani Mahama and the NDC has been Working For You, and will continue to do so.

VOTE NDC. VOTE AKATAMANSO.



VOTE

**JOHN
MAHAMA**
FOR PRESIDENT

WORKING FOR YOU

A BETTER GHANA. Jobs. Stability. Development.



NDC



NDC

**WORKING
FOR YOU**