

FORWARD

TITLE: THE ASSURED HOPE,

The phrase “ times are hard ” has been common in our society since independence and fifty years after, the situation still remain the same because, we still haven’t been able to, as a nation found an antidote to hardship in this country. From generation to generation, government-to-government, time-to-time the cry has been the same amongst the good people of Ghana.

Our country has undergone a series of political and governmental metamorphosis with their accompanying slogans all in the name of a better Ghana, to name a few, forward ever, do something, positive change in different chapters etc. but still there haven’t been any remarkable change in the in the lives of Ghanaians.

Many a time have the hopes of Ghanaians been falsely raised by these deceptive slogans and their accompanying promises by different regimes that has come to pass and still be, in this country but at the end, all that we experience is abject poverty, disappointment and total hopelessness.

On many occasions have we seen politicians and even sometimes the people around them exhibiting a sudden improvement in life, immediately after assuming a high public office, mostly at the expense of the poor people of the nation thereby draining our scarce resources. Many are those who also experience the same after their political parties assume power or after becoming members of such parties.

This has always led to a situation where the wealth of the nation is enjoyed by a few at the expense of the poor majority. Some myopic leaders misconstrue this to be improvement in the lives of the entire populace.

The major outcome of these developments is the rich getting richer whilst the poor get even poorer. The gap between the rich and the poor continues to widen day in and day out. This has further resulted in a situation where the poor in society have lived and continue to live as aliens on their own motherland. Poverty has become endemic in our society, and has culminated into many social problems including crime, indiscipline, falling moral standards to mention a few.

The prime cause of this state of hopelessness among other things is the lack of sensitivity to the plight of Ghanaians on the side of people in authority, corruption, misappropriation of funds, greediness and lack of vision and fortitude. Due to this unfortunate situation, many are those

that have given up to the hope of a better Ghana, whilst others still hope for the arrival of a messiah (The one who will have the courage, knowledge, commitment, humility, selflessness, passion for the suffering and have the ability to rescue us from our present predicaments).

It is as a result of this hue and cry for hope, economic freedom and justice that the **REFORM PATRIOTIC DEMOCRATS (R.P.D)** party was formed. The R.P.D believes in the ability of the young, charismatic, energetic and above all the intelligent to front in the fight for economic freedom while tapping the experience of the elderly in society in our quest to wage war on poverty, corruption, backwardness, diseases, under-development and all other problems confronting Ghana to ensure better lives for Ghanaians from all walks of life.

We the Reform Patriotic Democrats wish to assure all Ghanaians that with the coming to being of this political entity, there is still hope for the future because we have trust in God through his abundant blessings that he has bestowed upon this nation which is evident in the abundant natural resources that he has planted on our land as well as the Knowledge and intelligence of Ghanaians.

We have absolute confidence that, with the prudent management of our natural and human resources, coupled with hard work, commitment, dedication, truthfulness and humility we shall lead this nation to the Promised Land.

Our main objectives among other things are to:

- a. Unite and give equal opportunities for all people of this country, regardless of ethnic background, religious belief, position, status in society, political affiliation etc.
- b. Educate Ghanaians to respect and protect the constitution of the republic at all times and to ensure that freedom and justice prevail in the country.
- c. To institute policies aimed at creating wealth from within.
- d. Ensure that the wealth of the country is not monopolized by a section or a particular group of people or people from a particular location but are rather fairly distributed to all.
- e. Bridge the gap between the rich and the poor, as well as the developmental gap between the northern and the southern part of the nation.

- f. Do away with the practice of “the winner takes all” which all governments of the country have practiced since independence by making use of all the quality human resources we have in the country for a better Ghana.
- g. Develop agriculture to be the backbone of the economy.
- h. Build an acceptable and sustainable system of education at all levels to suit the developmental needs of the country.
- i. Build adaptable, sustainable and acceptable energy systems and policies for the nation.
- j. Ensure shelter for all by instituting better housing policies and schemes in partnership with the private sector.
- k. Reduce the burden of unemployment by instituting policies aimed at training the unemployed to obtain entrepreneurial skills by giving grants and loans to apprentices during and after their training to enable them become self-employed.
- l. Build a strong economy by reducing government expenditure, Increase revenue mobilization by widening the tax net, encourage local production of goods, checking the flow of imported products into the country, encourage exports and produce most of the consumables we use in this nation ourselves.
- m. Improve upon our infrastructure.
- n. Reform the public sector to weed out corruption, bureaucracy and make it efficient for national development.
- o. Encourage the growth of the private sector and foreign direct investment as well as indigenous investments by making macro-economic indicators business friendly and also make it reflect in the micro-economy.
- p. Ultimately, the Reform Patriotic Democrats shall ensure that the interest of Ghanaians is put first in all its policies such as employment, award of contracts etc.

The leadership and the entire membership of the R.P.D are confident that by pursuing these noble objectives among other major aspects of national development, we will be able to transform the lives of Ghanaians

for the better and will be able to create a society where we will all live happier with hope and unity of purpose.

The R.P.D will implement all these policies through a youth centered approach. Building the capacity of the youth for the task ahead shall feature prominently in all our policies and programs.

The mechanisms that shall be employed to achieve this purpose have been summarized in the subsequent chapters.

FLAG BEARER'S MESSAGE

Dear countrymen and women, the time has come once again for us to define the future of dear nation by exercising our franchise to elect leaders whose programs shall determine the fate of our country in the next four years. It is very important to note that we will have ourselves to be either praised or blamed on the repercussions of the decision we make on December 7th, which we will translate onto the ballot paper. I therefore humbly appeal to you, to make an informed decision on that day by voting wisely for the best candidate. It is only a decision that is based on good and quality policy information that can save our nation from her present socioeconomic predicaments. Please remember that we are about to either enslave or free ourselves from the bondage of poverty, under-development, high illiteracy rate, and over dependence on donor aid, among many other things. Whichever way we go, depend on whom we vote into office on the Election Day.

It is also worthwhile for us to understand that, the ability of a party to move a nation forward is not determined by how flamboyantly it goes about it's campaign or how well it is able to dish out money to voters, but rather how realistic, understandable, measurable, believable and accurate it's manifesto is. I hereby appeal to you my dear fellow voters to be vigilant enough to avoid those who preach virtues and practice vices, those wolves in sheep skin and those who pay their way to power in order for them to have the opportunity to pursue their own selfish agenda at the expense of the entire citizenry and at the long run wreck the nation.

By the grace of God, we have had the opportunity to witness the kind of governance that some of the parties contesting in this year's election have rendered to this nation and therefore can use this as a yardstick to forecast how these parties will perform, when voted into power. As the good book says 'by their fruits ye shall know them,' I believe by taking a retrospective look at our individual state of affair from then and now, you can judge whether their leadership has affected our lives positively or

negatively. I say this because development should rather be seen in the lives of the people, it is something that has to be felt but not told.

Let us take a careful look at the lives of people that has been in government since the inception of the fourth republic till now, before, during and after their parties came to power and notice the level of improvement that has occurred in their lives. If you have noticed this, then do not be deceived, if you don't feel like they feel, then simply accept the simple fact that something is definitely wrong somewhere. I am bold to say this because under normal circumstances, development in the lives of a group of people should be collective and not among a few.

It is based on this advise that I kwabena Agyei (Bambaata), the flag bearer of the Reformed Patriotic Democrats (R.P.D) on my own behalf and on behalf of the party wish to use this opportunity to make public a summary of our party's policy on some aspects of national development to enable voters make the right choice, by massively voting the R.P.D to lead the nation to the Promised Land on December. I undertake that, the message contained in this very important document are not mere promises but rather a statement of our commitment as a party to the entire nation and it is based on this that Ghanaians must judge our performance after the first term of our government and to decide whether we should be allowed to continue to lead the nation or not. This is the reason why R.P.D has taken the trouble to print enough copies of this document into the public domain. I entreat anyone who gets a copy to keep it safely in order to give a fair judgment in the next four years.

Our policies will give manifold benefits to the people of Ghana, especially in the area of the basic necessities of life namely food, shelter and clothing. We aim at building an economy, which is dependant on its internal resources, able to feed its people with her agricultural produce, have very minimal poverty level, and ultimately a nation that thrives on unity of purpose.

This and many more (AS DETAILED IN THIS MANIFESTO) are our commitment to you, if you give us the nod on December 7th. I urge you to make a wise and contemplated decision on the voting day by voting for economic freedom and national development based on unity of purpose. I promise you a youthful and dynamic leadership characterized by humility, dedication, transparency, and loyalty and devoid of segregation, corruption, cronyism and extravagance.

Finally, I appeal to you all to give R.P.D the chance to serve you better and to enable us demonstrate how profitable effective governance could be to us all. Let us not be afraid to vote new faces and ideas into

government, lets test all options for it is through this that we can determine what is good for us.

VOTE REFORMED PATRIOTIC DEMOCRATS (R.P.D) FOR A PERFECT CHANGE!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

VOTE KWABENA AGYEI BAMBAATA AS THE NEXT PRESIDENT FOR A HAPPIER GHANA.

God bless us all

Thank you,

Kwabena Adjei (Bambaata)
(Flag bearer of R.P.D)

CONTENTS

1. Education
 2. Agriculture
 3. Industry
 4. Job creation
 5. Health
 6. Roads and Transport
 7. Housing
 10. Governance
- Summary

EDUCATION

The reformed Patriotic Democrats (R.P.D) shall put in place mechanisms aimed at building a sustainable system of education at all levels to suit the developmental needs of the country. Our main focus shall be on the provision of quality human resource for the nation. We shall revise where possible the current system of education, which is unable to train the

required human resource in terms of quality and quantity for most sectors, deemed very important for national development.

Basic education

The present nature of basic education seems to mostly cater for public basic schools and has little or no bearing on private school as far as the **Free Compulsory Universal Basic Education (FCUBE)** is concerned. This program that is aimed at encouraging more children of school going age to go to school as well as reducing the burden on the parents of these children do not in any way affect children in private schools.

R.P.D shall put mechanisms in place to ensure that children in private schools have the cost of their education reduced in order to bring some kind of relief to their parents and guardians, taking due cognizance of the fact that these children are also Ghanaians and therefore have the right to have a fair share of the national cake.

We shall increase the number of public basic schools in the country as well as improve upon their facilities and the quality of human resource as a way of ensuring that quality education is made accessible to all Ghanaian children.

Secondary education

The party will ensure that all second cycle institutions in the country are well resourced with the necessary human and material resources. Our main area of focus shall be on technical and vocational education. Our aim is to facilitate the training of people with the necessary skill and practical abilities for national development.

R.P.D government will ensure that every district of the country have at least one well equipped technical and vocational school within the first year of our government. We shall see to the upgrading of the curriculum and facilities in the existing technical schools to facilitate the training of more technical and vocational oriented people.

To encourage more students to pursue courses in these areas of study, R.P.D shall design mechanisms to reduce the cost of vocational and technical education and offer scholarship packages to student who opt for this area.

Generally we shall pursue programs aimed at improving upon the reward packages of teaching and non-teaching staff in all second cycle institutions as a motivation for better results.

Tertiary education

The Reformed Patriotic Democrats (R.P.D) shall encourage the training of tertiary institutional graduates, who will appreciate the relevance of the knowledge that they've acquired to national development in order for them to be able to perform creditably in this direction. The R.P.D shall see to the increase in the admission of students into courses deemed more critical to national development in the short term giving much attention to science and technology.

Vocational and technical education will be given the necessary attention in order to produce graduate with practical knowledge and abilities.

Due to this, we will equip all Polytechnics in the country with the necessary facilities and convert them into technical universities where technically oriented diplomas and degrees shall be run. This is will also alleviate the situation where polytechnic products fail to earn the necessary recognition as tertiary graduates, since the Polytechnics were upgraded to tertiary level in 1992. This policy when implemented will also curb the continuous agitations by polytechnic lecturers for being under-paid compared to their colleagues in the universities, thereby reducing their incessant threats of embarking on sit down strikes.

Non-formal Education

We shall institute policies that will enable adult who cannot read nor write acquire this basic knowledge. We shall rejuvenate the defunct functional literacy program all around the country as a way of achieving this.

We shall also put in place mechanisms to forester a closer collaboration between the formal and the non-formal sectors of education especially in the area of technology. We shall encourage our technical universities to work closely with artisan organizations such as SMIDO, KRISTO ASAFO, Ghana Association of Garages and other similar organizations to help build the capacity of our artisans to be abreast with modern technology.

AGRICULTURE

The Reformed Patriotic Democrats (R.P.D) shall focus most of its attention on improving agriculture in the country. The R.P.D led Government will make agriculture the backbone of the economy in our

quest to make Ghana the breadbasket of West Africa. We believe in a nation that is able to feed its people and beyond with food produced locally. The R.P.D will do everything possible to change our current agricultural practices which has been dominated by subsistence farming into mechanized farming dominated agricultural sector.

We are of the belief that improving upon the current the agricultural practices in the country can go a long way mitigate if not solve totally, our present economic situation. We shall institute policies aimed at massively improving the quantity of food produced in the country and the management and storage as well as the processing of these produce.

We intend to stem the problem of rural-urban migration through the creation of more agricultural related jobs in the rural area to even encourage the vast number of jobless rural migrants in the cities to go back to their villages to find jobs. We therefore intend converting rural-urban migration to urban-rural migration through agriculture thereby reducing the influx of people and crime in our cities.

Presently around 50% of our arable lands are uncultivated due to:

- a. Lack of fund to cultivate them by their owners
- b. Lack of the required knowledge to effectively put those lands into good use
- c. Increase in the prices of farming inputs.

R.P.D will ensure that within first three years of our government, at least 80% of our arable lands will be cultivated.

To achieve this we shall:

1. Revive the co-operative farming scheme.
2. Low-interest loans shall be given to these co-operative farmers.
3. These farms shall be given free agricultural extension services including technical support and advise.
4. Create ready market for their produce by rejuvenating the Ghana Food Distribution Corporation in all regions and districts of the country, which will be well equipped to go to the hinterlands to purchase the produce of farmers upon their request thereby saving them the hustle of carrying their produce to the cities to sell them.
5. Build more modern storage facilities all over the country .

With this new revolution in the agricultural sector, R.P.D shall minimize the unemployment situation by at least 60%, stem the problem of rural-urban migration, abject poverty and reduce the incidence of social menaces such as robbery, prostitution, illicit drug usage and peddling

among other things since the devil finds work for an idle hand and that people will always resort to illegitimate means to make a living if legitimate means of survival are not available.

We firmly believe that by pursuing this noble agricultural agenda we shall solve the nations problems will be brought to the barest minimum.

INDUSTRY

Reformed Patriotic Democrats are committed the industrialization of our economy using agriculture as the catalyst. We intend to achieve this by starting with agro processing factories to process our agricultural produce in order to add value to them.

R.P.D when elected to power shall cite factories in farming communities to process the produce of farms in those communities especially in the northern region of the country to give impetus to our plan to bridge the developmental gap between the north and the south. This will be used as a means of creating additional jobs in these communities to boost our drive to reduce rural-urban migration to the barest minimum. Shares in these factories shall be floated on the stock market as time goes on, to generate capital, which will be invested into other businesses.

This agricultural processing revolution will encourage local and foreign investors to enter into agro-processing and other support ventures.

To boost our industrial drive, the R.P.D shall implement policies aimed at discouraging the importation of food items in the country by setting quota for the importation of these items, which shall be reduced from time-to-time, placing a ban on the importation of foods that are produced in sufficient quantities locally etc. This is to encourage the patronage of “Ghana made foods”.

This policy shall be replicated in all other sectors of the economy to ensure that most items used in the country are manufactured locally. This is to:

- a. Increase our G.D.P
- b. Reduce inflation
- c. Strengthen our currency
- d. Build a healthy economy.

The Reformed Patriotic Democrats (R.P.D) is committed to building an economy that has its strength based on local resources. Changing our economy from the present commercial status which has made our economy the selling point of goods from Asia and other continents to an industrialized one features prominently on our agenda. We shall do

everything possible to change the fortunes of this nation through industrialization.

JOB CREATION

All the policies outlined so far have a greater tendency of creating jobs for the unemployed in our society. Unemployment, we believe is more associated with the youth than any other category of citizens. We also believe in the fact that the youth are the most energetic in society and if some one is put under frustration in his or her youthful ages as far as lack of jobs are concerned, The likelihood of the person resorting top indiscipline and commitment of crime is very high and this is the reason why our society is engulfed in crime and indiscipline.

To ensure that Ghana benefit from the productive ages of her citizens and also reduce the incidence of crime and indiscipline in our society, the youth who are mostly associated with these vices need to be given jobs to keep them busy in order to make them have little or no time to commit crime.

To this the R.P.D has plans of converting the proceeds of the communications service tax into an employment creation fund, which will be invested into agriculture and industry to provide useful jobs with assured job security to the unemployed in our society. This will go a long way to increase productivity as well as encourage the youth to go into agriculture. We see this as better than the current youth employment program which is more of “finding unsecured jobs for the boys” rather that putting the youth in productive ventures.

R.P.D shall embark on many programs aimed at reducing the present unemployment situation in the country by at least 80% by improving agriculture and industry. In all our policies concerning job creation we shall ensure that the job security of Ghanaians is taken into consideration.

HEALTH

R.P.D sees recently introduced National health insurance scheme as a good policy, which is intended to bring the cost of health services down to, meet the pockets of every Ghanaian. Even though the system in all intends and purposes seem to be a good one, there are a lot of problems associated with it, which if not solved, have the tendency of making it unsustainable or even collapsing it totally. Some of these identified problems among other things are:

- a. Delay in the payment of claims to health insurance providers, which has led into a situation where these providers have gotten themselves into serious cash flow problems.

- b. Delay in the processing of registration, which sometime takes as much as four months.

R.P.D will review the whole scheme to enable it deliver the kind of services that Ghanaians require. We shall also ensure the swift payment of claims to prevent the service providers from entering into cash flow problems, which could discourage private service providers from continuing working with the scheme.

R.P.D shall review the recently introduced policy of “free baby delivery” which poses a clear and present danger to our economic fortunes since it has the tendency to increase the population and further soaring our budget. It should be noted that 50% of our budget is currently supported by donors, which we need to make frantic efforts to reduce it to the barest minimum. Therefore it would be very imprudent to implement any policy, which would have a negative effect on the economy. We will rather encourage family planning to reduce the population and make baby deliveries free for first timers only.

It is an undisputable fact that the introduction of the national health insurance scheme has increase attendance in our health institutions. This requires the training of more health workers to handle these patients. R.P.D will expand the facilities in all the health-training institutions in the country to enable them increase their student intake to enable us train more health workers for the task ahead. We shall also expand our existing health facilities and build new ones especially in the rural areas, giving much attention to the northern regions of the country.

We shall improve the service conditions of health workers in the country especially those who get posted to rural and deprived communities on the country by applying job evaluation appropriately to set up proper reward packages for them as well as other incentive packages to prevent brain drain.

ROADS & TRANSPORT

The R.P.D is committed to improving the quality of our roads and transport services in the country. The party when voted into power shall ensure that commuting from one place to another in the country takes place in safe, smooth and comfortable atmosphere.

We will ensure that road networks around the country especially, the northern and western parts of the country as well as feeder roads linking our farming communities are put in good shape to boost the proposed agricultural sector improvement program and also fulfill our promise of bridging the developmental gap between the northern and southern parts of the country.

The Reformed Patriotic Democrats (R.P.D) shall revamp the collapsing mass transportation system in the country by adding more quality busses to the fleet in order to make road transport services easily assessable and also enable people to commute within our towns and cities comfortably and on time.

We intend to improve this system to encourage citizens to develop the habit of traveling in busses rather in their private vehicle to reduce our fuel consumption and traffic congestion in certain parts of the country.

The private sector will be encouraged to enter into mass transport business by reducing import taxes on vehicles imported into the country for this purpose and also give tax rebate on transport services. R.P.D will also use this avenue to create more secured jobs for drivers and other peripheral transport staff in Ghana. We shall privatize the mass transportation system after some time by floating shares on the stock market to enable individuals acquire shares in the company and also to generate more capital to invest in other critical areas of the economy.

R.P.D is also committed to the improvement of the rail sector to boost our transport system improvement drive. We shall see to the rehabilitation of our existing rail lines as well as constructing new ones to get rail services to all regions in the country. We also intend to modernize rail transport in the country by putting the existing trains into good shape and also acquire new ones for the sector. We shall comb around the world to look for investors to either partner government in this direction or enter into a **Build, Operate, and Transfer** (B.O.T) contract with an investor whom we deem have the capacity to develop the rail sector.

We shall expand and build an effective transport system for the nation and create more secured jobs in this sector.

HOUSING

When voted to lead the country, R.P.D will ensure that Ghanaians have access to quality and affordable houses. This, we shall achieve through a public-private sector collaboration. We shall provide affordable and quality houses to workers in the country on a hire-purchase basis.

Payment of these properties will be made by monthly installments throughout the working lives of beneficiaries. This is aimed at ensuring that, most Ghanaian workers are housed during their working lives and own houses by the time they go on retirement. This will arrest the situation where, some workers resort to all kinds of dubious means to acquire houses before going on pension thereby aggravating the level of corruption in the country. This will also enable the Ghanaian worker save his rent throughout his/her working life and use it for another purpose. The implementation of this policy shall begin from at most the second year of our leadership.

GOVERNANCE

Selection of Ministers, heads of Departments and Agencies

The reformed Patriotic Democrats (R.P.D) undertake to include all Ghanaian citizens who possesses the required Knowledge, skills and abilities to handle any area of national development in our government without regard to their political, tribal, religious background or any other quality deemed segregating. We aspire to build a nation that thrives mainly on unity of purpose and therefore shall not embark on any action that has the tendency of further polarizing the nation.

We shall also champion the establishment of proportional representation system of governance to enable all political parties have the chance to participate in government.

We shall employ proper 'recruitment and selection' processes in choosing ministers and heads of departments and agencies. This will be opened to all Ghanaians who possess the qualities require for these positions to apply. Selection will be done strictly on merit. During our leadership, holding a party card shall not be a license to occupying any position in the country.

We promise to give this policy all the needed attention because the numerous problems confronting our nation require the 'all hands on deck' approach to solving them and not the 'winner takes all' approach which is mostly characterized by putting square pegs in round whole.

Remunerating, Ministers and Heads of Departments or agencies.

R.P.D has plans aimed at reducing the expenditure on this category of public servants as a way of reducing government expenditure. In line with this, we shall cancel some services that people in this category enjoy freely, such as utilities, fuel etc. and consolidate it into their salaries. Each Minister, Head of Department or Agency shall be allocated one saloon car. We shall create a pool of 4*4 vehicles, which shall be used on

duties outside the capital. The vehicles in this pool shall be well maintained for protocol assignments as well.

These vehicles when needed shall be applied for in a prescribed form after which it will be allocated to the applicant for only the period of the assignment, which it is meant for and fueled according to the distance being traveled. Punitive action shall be taken against any official who fails to comply with this directive.

Our government will be free from extravagance, overspending and wastage. Transparency and accountability will be the hallmark of our administration. We shall make frantic efforts to weed out corruption from the system through whichever means possible. We believe that sanity can only be instilled into our administrative setting, if people in authority are disciplined. Therefore we shall ensure that people in authority during our administration do the right thing at the right time to ensure efficiency.

SUMMARY

R.P.D presents these noble policies as the solution to most of the problems confronting us as a nation. As our elder say in Akan '*asempa ye tia*', this document, even though not voluminous, touches on most of the essential sectors of national Development. The areas tackled are the sectors that we shall focus much attention on but not the only areas we pay attention to.

We aspire to unite a polarized nation towards development and we promise to achieve this through forming an all-inclusive government. We shall initiate and if possible conclude moves of drawing one national development policy for the nation in consultation with all political entities, civil society and all other relevant organizations by the end of our first term on office.

We urge you all Ghanaian voters to take a critical look at our manifesto and compare it to that of other parties and choose the best out of them, which we believe is ours, to enable you, make the right choice come December 7th 2008.