

**NATIONAL BROADCAST BY HON. ALAN KYEREMATEN,
OUTGOING MINISTER FOR TRADE & INDUSTRY**

- **FELLOW COUNTRYMEN & WOMEN**
- **FRIENDS OF GHANA**

Let me start first by wishing you all a happy, healthy, productive and a prosperous New Year.

Secondly, I wish to express formally, my profound gratitude to His Excellency the President for the opportunity given me to serve the good people of Ghana in his Administration over the last six years, and for graciously accepting my resignation as Cabinet Minister responsible for Trade and Industry, with effect from 16th of January 2023.

Thirdly, I wish to use this platform to formally announce my decision to contest the flagbearership of the New Patriotic Party when the Party officially opens nominations for that purpose.

His Excellency the President, Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo has been a good friend of mine and will always remain so based on our shared commitment to the ideals and principles that inspired the founding fathers of our great Party, the New Patriotic Party (NPP). We have competed in the past but have always worked together thereafter.

The President has laid a strong foundation for the socioeconomic development of our country, although I believe

there are things that could have been done differently. My vision is to build a superstructure on this foundation that will bring prosperity to our nation.

The pre-COVID-19 performance of our economy, the flagship programmes including the Free SHS, the One District One Factory (1D1F) Initiative, the Planting for Food and Jobs programme, the Agenda 111 project and the COVID-19 Response initiatives, are all testimonies of the strong leadership that the President has provided over the last six years.

In spite of all of the above however, it is an undeniable fact that the combined effect of the COVID-19 Pandemic and the Russia-Ukraine war has stampeded our country into a crisis of unprecedented proportions, with its negative impacts on the economy, on businesses, and on our social lives.

I have no doubt that the anticipated International Monetary Fund (IMF) Support Package will restore confidence in our economy, and bring it back to the pre-COVID levels.

Fellow Countrymen and Women

This is the seventeenth time that we have gone to the IMF over the last 57 years. We promised never to go back but we have gone back. One of the lessons that we have learnt from the recent developments is that Ghana's economy is still fragile, vulnerable and susceptible to both external and domestic shocks.

This primarily is as a result of the fact that our economy is highly dependent on the export of commodities with little or no value addition. Indeed, the 5.1% projected GDP growth for the Ghanaian economy for 2023 is based on the anticipated increase in commodity prices.

To avoid going back to the IMF, we need a **new Plan**. A Plan that will lead us to a more self-reliant and resilient economy. That Plan must move Ghana from Stability and Growth to Transformation.

Fellow Countrymen and Women

If by the will of God and through your goodwill, I am voted first, as the flagbearer of the NPP and subsequently as President of the Republic in the next general elections, I will become the transformational leader of our time, who will build on the foundations laid by successive leaders of our nation over the last sixty-five (65) years.

To achieve this strategic goal of transforming our dear country to become the shining star of the new Africa, I will as President, launch and lead the execution of the **Great Transformational Plan (GTP)** of Ghana which will span the period 2025 to 2030.

The Post-COVID Economic Recovery Programme (P-CERP) currently being implemented with the anticipated support from the IMF from 2023 to 2025, will be a transitional economic programme leading to the roll out of this Great Transformational Plan.

Fellow Countrymen and Women

Before I proceed to provide a brief insight into the key elements of the Great Transformational Plan, seven critical considerations would need to be taken into account to guarantee the success of the Plan.

1. **The primacy of the Private Sector in our national development agenda.** The Private Sector, both domestic and foreign, formal and informal has to be at the centre of our transformational agenda. The Government's focus must be to facilitate the process of making our private sector competitive, by creating an enabling environment for businesses.
2. **Attitude to work and enforcement of discipline.** We as a people should appreciate the need for discipline in all spheres of our national lives and change our attitude to work. Whether you are working for the Private sector or for Government, as a worker, you are not doing a favour to your employer. It is your duty to ensure that you earn your living from the efforts of your labour.
3. **Corruption and petty theft or thievery,** particularly from the public purse, deny our country the benefit of utilizing its tax revenue and other resources for the development of our country.
4. **The arrogance of power** has been a major obstruction to progress in our country. People in positions of authority must understand that leadership is an opportunity to serve the people, and not to lord over them. In servant leadership, humility is an asset and not a weakness.
5. **Passion for excellence.** As a country we must celebrate competence and excellence and not mediocrity.
6. As a people, we must **focus more on getting things done than talking.** Ghana is gradually becoming a NATO country - *"No Action Talk Only"*. We need to remember that the

use of time is a zero-sum game. What Ghana needs now are solutions and actions not debates.

7. And last but not the least, **our politics in Ghana is too divisive**. This keeps out some of our best talents in offering themselves for political appointments. Yes, we pride ourselves as being the bastion of democracy in Africa, but that does not mean that we should allow partisan politics to destroy our collective interests.

These seven critical considerations outlined above, will provide what I will describe as the **'soft power'** for the effective implementation of our Great Transformational Plan.

Fellow Countrymen and Women,

Let me now provide a brief synopsis of the **Great Transformational Plan (GTP)**. The GTP will be anchored on the following key pillars:

1. **A Strong Macroeconomic Environment:** The success of the GTP will depend primarily on strong macroeconomic fundamentals, which will include among other things, a stable currency, low inflation, sustainable debt levels, revenue optimization and tight expenditure control to guarantee fiscal balance, low competitive interest rates, strong external reserves backed by high levels of liquidity to support the financial sector.
To a large extent, the IMF support programme when fully executed, will create the appropriate conditions that will underpin the Great Transformational Plan.
2. **A New Agricultural Revolution (NAR) for Ghana:** The NAR will be based on five critical elements.

- i. Optimizing Value to Farmers by the establishment of Farmer-owned Large Scale Commercial Farms and Processing Facilities which will bring the full benefits of the agriculture value chain to farmers.
- ii. Introducing Technology and Innovation into Agriculture, through Research & Development (R&D) in Agronomy, Mechanization, Irrigation, and Plantation Management. This will build on the foundation laid by the Planting for Food and Jobs and Planting for Export and Rural Development (PERD) Programmes. Our farmers cannot be competitive without technology and innovation.
- iii. The establishment of Licensed Food Distribution and Marketing companies by the Private Sector throughout the country at the district level, to be supported by the Government. These companies will constitute a vital link between farmers and Market Queens in the urban and peri-urban areas. It will be complemented by the introduction of a digitalized food distribution and marketing online platform which will connect producers to buyers and consumers.
- iv. The strengthening of the Ghana Commodity Exchange as the marketplace for all actors in the Agricultural value chain.
- v. Deepening the current regime for lending and financing for the agricultural sector.
- vi. Enhancing the de-regulation of the Cocoa sector by deepening private sector participation in the buying and marketing (including export) of Cocoa.
- vii. Mass Citizens participation in Agriculture by introducing an ‘**Operation Own a Farm**’ programme for the Ghanaian citizenry in general.

- 3. Industrial Transformation:** This will build on the successes of Government's Ten Point Industrial Transformation Programme including the **One District One Factory (1D1F)** initiative; the establishment of **Strategic Anchor Industries** to diversify the economy beyond Cocoa and Gold e.g the Automobile assembly, Garment and Textiles, Pharmaceuticals and the Petrochemical industry; **enhancing the growth and development of Small and Medium Enterprises;** establishment of **Industrial Parks and Special Economic Zones;** and **supporting Domestic Retail Trade and Distribution.**
- 4. Accelerated Infrastructure Development:** Promoting Private sector financing for public infrastructure such as Roads, Railways, Ports and Harbours, Water Supply Systems, Public Housing etc, which will reduce Government's exposure to the financing of such infrastructure projects.
- 5. Digital Mainstreaming:** Digitalization will be mainstreamed in all Government and Public sector activities, building on the current work led by the Ministry of Communication and Digitalization.
- 6. Energy Security and Diversification:** Greater emphasis to be placed on developing renewable sources of energy, by fast-tracking the execution of Government's energy transition strategy, including but not limited to nuclear and hydrogen energy.
- 7. Decarbonization and Climate Resilience:** Scaling up Government's current efforts at reducing Ghana's carbon

footprints and facilitating access to the carbon trading markets, as well as establishing mechanisms to strengthen the country's preparedness against the negative effects of climate change.

8. **National Security and Defence Optimization:** Deploying resources to strengthen National Security and Defence Mechanisms and Infrastructure, to deal substantively with emerging security threats and challenges, particularly in the Sahalian region.
9. **Downsizing Government:** The architecture of Government will be overhauled by consolidating some existing Ministries, Departments and Agencies. This will mean running a lean Government structure that will ensure operational efficiency and effectiveness in the delivery of Government services.
10. **Strategic Engagement with the International Community:** Ghana's diplomatic and economic relations with the International Community under the GTP will be predicated on the principle of '**positive neutrality**', based on the strategic interests of Ghana, as well as our shared commitments for the preservation of peace around the world and respect for humanity.

I will in the next several months provide further details of this Great Transformational Plan in the new '**Alan K Prime Time Talk Show**' to be introduced. I will also seek inputs from the people of Ghana as I go round in the regions and districts on my campaign tours.

Fellow Countrymen and Women

The execution of the GTP will require our collective efforts, irrespective of political orientation, ethnicity or religion. It will lead to a new dawn of Restoration, Rebuilding and Reward.

The future of our country is bright. I want you fellow countrymen and women, to make me your next President when the time comes, and you will see a significant difference in your lives.

Fellow Countrymen and Women,

I want you to invest in your own future by supporting my campaign. I will therefore be launching a mass “*Ketewa biara nsua*” Campaign and “*Adopt a Constituency Initiative*”, which will afford Ghanaians from all walks of life the opportunity to be part of my campaign.

For all those who will have the honour and privilege of being Delegates to select the Flagbearer of our great Party, the NPP, please remember, Alan Kyerematen is your Candidate to win power for you in 2024.

Together We shall break the Eight!

As we do say in our local Ghanaian dialects:

- ***#Akyea na emmui (symbolizing Hope)***
- ***#Mu sadaqa da yo; saboda anfaani go be! (Let's Sacrifice for the future)***

- *# Èkpè deka metuna hò(r) o! (a symbol of unity and collective effort)*
- *# Mòfiaamò baaye nii! (we shall all enjoy)*

God bless our homeland Ghana and make our nation great and strong!!

I thank you for your kind attention.