

## PRESS STATEMENT

For Immediate Release

23<sup>rd</sup> February, 2025

### **MINORITY CONDEMNS NDC GOVERNMENT'S STATE-SPONSORED PERSECUTION OF POLITICAL OPPONENTS**

1. The Minority Caucus unequivocally condemns the escalating misuse of State Institutions by the NDC Government to intimidate and persecute political opponents. This alarming trend not only undermines our democratic principles but also diverts attention from the pressing issues that this Government promised to address.
2. This government is prioritising political witch-hunts instead of focusing on delivering the promises they made to Ghanaians. The NDC promised to "reset" the economy and alleviate the severe cost-of-living crisis by implementing a 24-hour economy, create sustainable jobs for the youth and reduce unemployment rates, invest in modernising the nation's infrastructure, among others. **Yet, rather than focusing on these critical commitments—promises they cannot run away from—they have detracted from this mandate and are now weaponising State Institutions to target political opponents, foster division and divert attention from their inability to govern effectively.**
3. On Thursday, February 20, 2025, President John Mahama stated that the economy under former President Akufo-Addo was a "crime scene," further alleging that it had been "criminally mismanaged." This was a calculated statement and a deliberate move to set the stage for the State-sponsored persecution we are witnessing today. By branding the previous administration's economic management as criminal, the president has given cover for his Government's actions to unjustly target political opponents under the guise of accountability.
4. **Contrary to President Mahama's rather baseless allegations, the Akufo-Addo-Bawumia administration did not "criminally mismanage" the economy—it worked tirelessly to build a stronger and**

**more resilient nation. If the economy was indeed a "crime scene," how did the NPP successfully implement Free SHS, ensuring access to education for millions of Ghanaian children? How did we establish STEM schools and invest in education infrastructure to equip the next generation with 21st-century skills? How did we roll out the most ambitious road infrastructure development program in Ghana's history, transforming connectivity across the country?**

- 5. Beyond these, the NPP government restored the nursing and teacher trainee allowances that President Mahama's own administration callously canceled, ensuring that students in these essential fields received the support they needed to complete their education. We also constructed landing beaches to boost the fishing industry, revived modernised rail networks, and sustained critical social interventions such as the One District One Factory (1D1F) program, which provided sustainable jobs for thousands.**
- 6. The economy, despite global challenges, remained strong enough under the NPP to pay public sector workers without delays while continuing major national development programs. These are not the marks of an economy that was mismanaged—these are the hallmarks of a government that prioritised growth, innovation, and the well-being of its people. President Mahama's attempt to rewrite history cannot erase the tangible progress Ghanaians experienced under the NPP.**
- 7. We are reliably informed that at President Mahama's first Cabinet meeting, discussions were heavily centered on officials of the previous administration. It is no coincidence that shortly after this meeting, the security agencies sprang into action, conducting aggressive and unlawful interrogations, forcefully inviting former appointees to the NIB, and instilling fear in political opponents. These actions are not about accountability—they are about political vengeance, designed to divert attention from the government's failure to immediately roll out the very policies it promised Ghanaians and rather incite national anger against past Government Appointees.**

8. We acknowledge the importance of accountability in governance. However, the pursuit of justice must adhere to due process and the rule of law. The recent trend of forcibly detaining individuals without proper legal procedures is reminiscent of authoritarian regimes and has no place in our democratic society.
9. We remind the government that it has a four-year mandate to fulfill its promises to the Ghanaian people. This period should be dedicated to fostering development, ensuring peace, and upholding stability, rather than engaging in political witch hunts.
10. The Minority Caucus stands resolute in defending the democratic rights of all Ghanaians. If the Mahama administration is confident in its governance abilities, it must focus on delivering on its mandate, not on waging a politically motivated witch-hunt. Ghana's democracy must not be reduced to a regime of political vendettas and abuse of power. Our nation's progress depends on unity, respect for the rule of law, and a collective commitment to the welfare of our citizens.