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The News Editor,

PRESS RELEASE: THE GHANA AT 69: THE CALL TO PURPOSEFUL PATRIOTISM-FRIMPONG-MANSO INSTITUTE (FMI) DEMANDS

On March 6, 1957, under the leadership of Kwame Nkrumah, Ghana stood before the world and declared that the Black man was capable of managing his own affairs. That declaration was, among other things, a moral summons to responsibility. Sixty-nine years later, the question before us now is whether we are purposeful and are indeed managing our affairs.

Independence was intended to launch a nation built on discipline, integrity, competence, and collective sacrifice. If our patriotism is reduced to ceremony without substance, then we betray the very freedom we celebrate. Purposeful patriotism demands more.

It requires citizens who understand that nation-building is not the exclusive preserve of government. It is the daily responsibility of every Ghanaian, public servant, entrepreneur, teacher, trader, student, and statesman. It is reflected in how we manage public funds, how we respect time, how we uphold merit, and how we treat one another in both private and public spaces.

A nation declines when small acts of indiscipline become the norm and when ethical compromise is excused as a matter of survival. Equally, a nation transforms when systems work and when citizens choose character over convenience.

To be patriotic in 2026 must mean more than wearing national colours. It must mean protecting the public purse as though it were personal property. It must mean rejecting corruption not only when it is politically convenient but when it is personally costly. It must mean strengthening institutions so they outlive individuals.

We must also renew our commitment to functional systems. Countries that progress do so because of reliable structures, educational systems that reward excellence, economic systems that support productive use of natural and human resources, and legal systems that ensure justice without fear or favour. Ghana's future depends less on rhetoric and more on reform, on strong, purposeful policy, and on measurable outcomes.

Purposeful patriotism calls for intergenerational thinking and responsibility. The founders of our great nation secured political independence. Our generation must secure economic strength, institutional integrity, and moral clarity. We owe the next generation a Ghana that works.

As we mark 69 years of independence, let us move from celebration to consecration. Let us rededicate ourselves to being the "light" that exposes wrongdoing and the "salt" that preserves values. Let us build a republic where leadership is service, citizenship is active, and accountability is non-negotiable.

The destiny of Ghana will be determined by the discipline of our actions. If we embrace purposeful patriotism, anchored in character, competence, meritocracy and collective responsibility, then the promise of 1957 will become our lived reality.

ISSUED BY FRIMPONG-MANSO INSTITUTE

Rev. Prof. Paul Frimpong-Manso (President)

Dr. Emmanuel Dei-Tumi (FMI Thematic Fellow – Governance, Leadership, Integrity & Management)

For comments and queries contact FMI Office – 0551626264

Thank you.