



2020 1ST PUBLIC LECTURE

POSITION STATEMENT

ASSESSING THE CALL FOR YOUTH
ENGAGEMENT IN NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT:
EVIDENCE FROM THE 2020 NPP/NDC POLITICAL
MANIFESTOS

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Youth Engagement.

One of the former UN Secretary Ban Ki-moon said *“We must fulfil our obligations to youth. The World Programme of Action for Youth asks Governments to consider the contributions of young persons on all policies affecting them. Governments must honour this commitment. They must also increase the financial, education and technical support made available to young people.....It is high time that we stopped viewing our young people as part of the problem and started cultivating their promise and potential.”*

The World Bank Development report defines a three-lens approach to youth participation. Development assistance should work for the benefit of youth (as target beneficiaries), with youth as partners, and be shaped by youth as leaders. Given the aforementioned statement, a thorough assessment was made to the political journal of the two leading political parties in Ghana. The New Patriotic Party is seeking continuity for the full implementation of initiatives whereas the National Democratic Congress is aspiring to win power and implement new projects.

Highlights of NPP/NDC 2020 Manifestos

The New Patriotic Party.	National Democratic Congress
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ National Entrepreneurship and Innovation Plan (NEIP). ❖ Planting for Food and Jobs. ❖ NABCO Graduate Programme. ❖ National job recruitment agency through the Youth Employment Agency's (YEA) Job-Matching Centres ❖ Reduction of data cost. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Creation of the ministry of Youth. ❖ Young Entrepreneurs development programme (YEDEP) ❖ Resourcing students loan trust fund. ❖ Reformation of access to legal education. ❖ One million coders programme. ❖ Provide Start up kits for young artisans. ❖ Co-ordinate inter agency partnership for youth health, adolescent reproductive health and substance abuse. ❖ Youth Internship scheme

Collective Youth Voices Towards NPP/NDC MANIFESTOS

In a review of the progress of the NPP initiatives, it can be stated that they have gone a mile to ensure youth participation through entrepreneurship and temporal job creation, but the progress of some of the initiatives are at stake. Since the first-tier recruitment of the NABCO Graduate Programme and the NEIP, continuity has become a challenge. Moreover, most of their initiatives are centered on literates neglecting the rural youth and limiting rural youth to only agricultural activities or other alternatives. It is therefore recommended that; resources will be made available for the full implementation of initiatives and rural youth should be engaged in entrepreneurship funding without passing through rigorous processes that only favor the literate.

Assessing the NDC initiative for youth, it was depicted new initiatives such as the one million coders programme will increase the technological literacy of young people. Other initiatives such as the Youth Internship scheme will ensure the capacity building of tertiary students to fit the job market after graduation. Irrespective of the prowess of the initiatives, the YEDEP idea will only be a repetition of the NEIP implemented by the NPP and hence will not ensure continuity but degenerate into wastage of resources. Also, the creation of a separate ministry of youth will be an overlap of the National Youth Authorities activities but keeping the Ministry of Youth and Sports can help achieve development. Developing resources with the National Youth Authority will be more expedient to the creation of a ministry for youth. It is therefore recommended that the NDC ensures continuity of the NEIP initiative and possibly restructure the Youth Internship Scheme to meet the objectives of the NABCO Graduate Programme.