



**Coalition for Democratic Accountability and Inclusive Governance
(Citizens' Coalition)**

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PRESS STATEMENT

Monday, November 8, 2022.

Reduce the size of government to cut down cost - CSO leaders to Government

On Friday, November 4, 2022, selected leaders of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) including members of the Citizens' Coalition attended to an invitation by President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo Addo at the Jubilee House for a meeting as part of government's consultations with stakeholders on the ongoing economic crisis and the IMF engagement.

Speaking at the meeting, Dr. Kojo Asante, Director of Advocacy and Policy Engagement, CDD-Ghana, who spoke on behalf of the delegation of CSO leaders called on President Akufo-Addo to as a matter of urgency reduce the size of his government to cut down expenditure and reshuffle his ministerial team as signal of a new short term social contract to manage the ongoing crisis. This act, the Coalition believes will bolster citizens' confidence in government's consciousness of their plight and for the short and medium term will be critical in addressing some fiscal issues as the country navigates its current economic crisis.

CSO leaders also called for the protection of vulnerable groups during this period. According to Dr. Asante, part of government's efforts at addressing the economic crisis is rather straining the underprivileged in society. "Interestingly, at the beginning of the economic crisis, the 30% cuts in discretionary budgets affected severely, social protection, while many flagships remained unaffected. Consequently, there is the urgent need for firm assurances that social protection budgets, including Free, Compulsory Universal Basic Education (FCUBE), School Feeding Programme, Free, Compulsory Universal Basic Education (LEAP), and complementary education will not be sacrificed but rather increased to protect the poorest from the current harsh economic conditions."

He further urged government to take advantage of the strong appetite citizens have developed for 'Made in Ghana' goods and through facilitating private actions invest in the agriculture sector to grow what we eat and eat what we grow.

In the medium to long term, CSO leaders want government to invest in a strong and capable public service that is efficient, effective and responsive and undertake the necessary reforms to strengthen Ghana's democracy through reform of the constitution, political campaign financing, local government reforms and passage of the Affirmative Action bill.

CSO leaders shared a document summarising key proposals on taxation, energy and the economy in general.

Below is the list of CSO leaders present at the meeting.

	Institution	Name	Designation
Governance			
1.	Ghana Integrity Initiative (GII)	Mr. Benedict Doh	Finance Manager
2.	Ghana Anti-Corruption Coalition (GACC)	Mrs. Beauty Emefa Narteh	Executive Secretary
3.	Ghana Center for Democratic Development	Dr. Kojo Asante	Director, Advocacy and Policy Engagement
4.	Institute for Democratic Governance (IDEG)	Dr. Emmanuel Akwetey	Executive Director
5.	Citizen Movement Ghana - CMG	Mr. Ato Bonful	Member
6.	Citizens Movement Against Corruption (CMaC)	Mr. Edem Senanu	Co-Chair
Social Development and Security			
7.	NETRIGHT	Patricia Blankson Akakpo	Program Manager
8.	SEND Ghana	Emmanuel Ayifah, PhD	Deputy Country Director
9.	Africa Education Watch	Kofi Asare	Executive Director
10.	Ghana Coalition of NGOs in Health	Mr. Bright Amissah	President
11.	Oxfam in Ghana	Mohammed-Anwar Sadat Adam	Head of Programs

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About Citizens' Coalition

The Coalition for Democratic and Accountable Governance (Citizens' Coalition) is a nonpartisan coalition/movement made up of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and individuals that harnesses democratic processes of mass education and mobilization to establish a culture of accountable and transparent governance that actively and consciously responds to the demands of citizens and promotes human rights, peace, constitutionalism and the national interest.

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