

## GGDP Launch Speech Delivered by Jonas Atingdui at the Ghana International Press Centre

The Bank of Ghana (BoG) announced measures meant to address the depreciation of the Cedi on February 4, 2014. The Daily Graphic carried a front page story on the measures in which there was an interview of Mr. Kwamena Essilfie Adjaye on February 7.<sup>1</sup> There was spontaneous discussion of the measures and its effects.

It then became apparent that there was a vacuum for an unbiased, objective and non-partisan presentation of issues that affect the economy of Ghana.

A decision was made on March 23, 2014 to establish a group to fill the vacuum, a group for non-partisan discussion of economic, business, financial, political, social and other issues and developments in Ghana called the Ghana Growth and Development Platform (GGDP).

The GGDP seeks to be an independent and objective voice that is focused on data-backed analysis and commentary on development issues that affect Ghana. Following are its Mission Statement and Objectives.

### MISSION STATEMENT

The Ghana Growth and Development Platform (GGDP) is a platform for discussing and promoting Ghana's growth and development in freedom and with justice.

Ghana has come a long way since independence in 1957 under the leadership of Kwame Nkrumah but we still face numerous socio-economic challenges as a nation in ensuring equitable and sustainable growth and development.

It is in line with this that this platform seeks to promote active citizen's engagement towards shaping the developmental agenda through a non-partisan activist network of people who are keen on seeing the status quo changed.

We bring you insights and analyses from citizens committed to engaging with key stakeholders with a view to changing Ghana's development paradigm through informed public policy discourse and analyses.

### OBJECTIVES

1. To advocate for pro-growth and pro-development policies, programs and projects by the government, the parliament, the private sector, civil society, the cooperative sector, and the international community.

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<sup>1</sup>“Central bank, businesses in a tango,” cover and pages 3 and 50.

2. To advocate for the enfranchisement of non-resident Ghanaians and for their involvement in the growth and development effort of Ghana.

As the members of GGDP discussed the Cedi and BoG measures and other issues in the days that followed it was decided that Working Papers should be published on the subject matters being discussed.

The Cedi and BoG measures having been the first subject matter, it was decided that it should be the first Working Paper of GGDP. The second issue that generated a lot of discussion was the Economic Partnership Agreements (EPA), so it was decided that the second Working Paper should be on this subject matter. That's why these two Working Papers are being presented today.

The objectives of the Working Papers are to capture the views of the members of GGDP and some stakeholders and then to present them to government, MDAs, civil society, and private sector in order to effect change in public policy and practice and governance in Ghana.

The working papers that are to be presented, and subsequent ones, use the following standard structure:

They start with an Issues section, in which the subject matter is stated. It will be followed by section called Background which puts the subject matter into context, giving background to the issue. Thirdly, there is an Analysis section, in which the subject matter is analyzed concisely. This is followed with a section called Summary of Opinions wherein a summary of the notable opinions from the discussion of the subject matter is stated. Lastly, there is a section on Recommendations, which states the actions the GGDP would like the relevant stakeholders to take in order to address the issues raised.

We thank you for honouring our invitation to cover this launch of the GGDP and its first two Working Papers.