



## SOCIAL DEMOCRACY AND DEVELOPMENT DIALOGUE FORUM - AFRICA (SDDDF-AFRICA)

For Immediate Release

June 9, 2021

### **MINORITY IN PARLIAMENT MUST PROTECT ITS IMAGE AND THAT OF THE LARGER PARTY**

SDDDF Africa wishes to make a humble appeal to the Minority in Parliament, particularly those on the Appointment Committee to strive to protect their hard-earned reputation as well as that of the larger National Democratic Congress [NDC] party in the face of developments in Parliament including issues surrounding the approval of some of President Akufo Addo's Ministerial nominees.

Gauging public commentary on the approval of some of the Ministerial nominees, a lot of people are losing interest in the entire vetting process while many others keep expressing disappointment in the NDC Minority who they expected to use its numbers to chart a new path, departing from the status quo such as the practice of 'rubber-stamping'.

The approval of the controversial Deputy Energy Minister nominee, Hon Andrew Agyapa Mercer may prove to be a last straw.

The Minority's surprise U-turn to champion and justify in the media the approval of a self-contradicting and self-incriminating nominee, Andrew Agyapa Mercer, SDDDF Africa finds that worrying and fears that could create credibility related issues.

For the records, in the days of the PDS controversy, Hon Andrew Agyapa Mercer was on Asempa FM's "Eko Sii Sen" and flatly denied being in Parliament during the approval and voting process on the PDS deal.

Weeks after, same Andrew Agyapa Mercer on "Eko Sii Sen" program claimed he was in Parliament but did not partake in the voting process.

On another day on TV, Hon Agyapa Mercer now admitted partaking in the voting process to approve the PDS deal but said he was not the Speaker to decide on the approval or otherwise of the deal.

A clear case of conflict of interest that Members of Parliament are very much aware of.

Why is it that the Majority Members on the Appointment Committee are not the ones justifying the Agyapa Mercer's approval? The Minority must act as the Biblical Pontius Pilate – washing their hands off the problem. Needlessly seeking to save any sinking nominee sends wrong signals about them and the party, resulting in needless opprobrium, ridicule etc directed their way.

Judging from the growing public perception, the NDC party in the future also risk being ignored in an event that it would need to rely on the number of Parliamentary seats won to convince the people for votes for a Flagbearer during a run-off or a third round as we saw Prof Mills/John Mahama did in the 2008 elections. The party must therefore work to have that risk taken care of.

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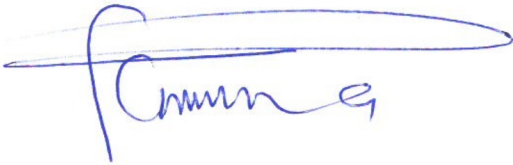
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God Bless Our Homeland Ghana

Make Our Nation Great and Strong

**Yours faithfully,**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Koku Mawuli Nanegbe', with a large, sweeping horizontal stroke above the name.

**Koku Mawuli Nanegbe**

**SDDDF Africa - Lead Advocate**

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