

YOUTH IN ACTION



FREEDOM IN AFRICA

REPORT ON THE FREEDOM NATIONAL DIALOGUE

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"The freedom of Africa, depends upon her own people" - **ISAAC BOADU (YOUTH IN ACTION PRESIDENT)**

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REPORT ON THE FREEDOM NATIONAL DIALOGUE

On Saturday, the 15th of February, 2020, **YOUTH IN ACTION** organised her first dialogue, dubbed, **THE FREEDOM NATIONAL DIALOGUE**, at the New Conference Hall of the Ghana National Association of Teachers' Hall, on the topic, "**DEMOCRACY AND ITS EFFECTS ON GOOD GOVERNANCE**". The purpose of the conference was to engage the youth, as active democratic stakeholders in Nation Building.

Democracy does not belong to particular class or age of people, but to the whole populace; the child, teenager, youth, adult, abled, aged, majority and minority in the society. The Youth of Africa, who are the main point of focus, in **YOUTH IN ACTION**, are part of the society, and have the right to express themselves and engage in various decision making forums and settings of all sorts. This conference was meant to empower the **BLACK YOUTH**, to believe in themselves and take up initiatives that will transform the globe. The conference took the form of a Dialogue amongst various Youth Panellists, together with the public and various stakeholders in Governance. The topic for discussion was **DEMOCRACY AND ITS IMPACT ON THE ORDINARY CITIZEN**.

The topics raised under the conference are written and expounded below.

- The Concept of Democracy
- Features of Democracy
- Civil Rights and Responsibilities enjoyed under Democracy
- Importance of Democracy in Ghana
- Are there vivid impacts of Democracy in the life of the ordinary Ghanaian in Ghana? *{If yes, how can we sustain and improve upon it. If not, what is the way forward?}*
- Recommendations to the Government from **YOUTH IN ACTION**

THE CONCEPT OF DEMOCRACY

There were various presentations made by other executives aside The Speeches made by The President Mr.. Isaac Boadu

DEFINITION OF DEMOCRACY

Democracy according to Abraham Lincoln is the system of government of the people where the people are the main channels of power, by the people where there are representatives for the people in Governance or by direct rule where the people exercise power by themselves, and for the people where power is exercised to serve the interests of the people.

Or

Democracy is a system of Government where Freedom thrives in the system and foundation of the Governing Administration, which enables citizens of the particular anatomy to express their views without fear of being ignored or being attacked.

Or

Democracy is the freedom based system of political administration where power is in the hands of the people which enables them to take decisions for the nation through elected representatives or directly by them.

FEATURES OF DEMOCRACY

1. Multi-party System

In every democratic system, there is a multi-party system. There must be the presence of various parties with their own philosophies and manifestoes, about how they want the nation to be steered and administered. A single party system must never be accepted in the governing process. There will always be societies and groups of people who will want to also run the nation, sincerely and their views must be heard. They must be considered as part of the nation, and given the nod to partake in elections for the citizenry to decide who takes which party wins for her presidential candidate, to take office as the president of the country. **YOUTH IN ACTION**, believes that

multi-party system is a factor in democracy that proves the freedom of a nation's members or citizenry. **YOUTH IN ACTION**, believes that a multi-party system is quintessential for the thriving of a well-developed nation. **YOUTH IN ACTION**, believes and points out to the entire populace that, just as the Multi-Party System thrives in a Government, so should it be so in our society starting from the family. The father must not be the only voice in the family. Neither must the mother be the only additional voice to the Dad. The entire family; children, cousins, nephews, including the house help/maid should add to the voice of the family's decision. Everybody is quintessential to humanity and must not be seen as significant in decision making. They all have a part to play, and their presence alone serves as an anchor to shape the path, at which the leader of the family must go. This delves down to promote human equality and Gender Equality. The wife must not be taken for granted, and be side-lined with an excuse to her gender. She may have the requisite experience to turn the path of the family. **YOUTH IN ACTION** believes that she may be side-lined and this will lead to the family's retrogression, conflict amongst each other and biasness. Freedom must prevail in the family. In Education, no school must feel superior to the other. University of Cape Coast must not fill bigger than KNUST or RADFORD University, and so should KNUST not fill bigger over UDS or UCC and likewise. There should be decency in our way of living. A graduate from a particular school must not be given a preferential treatment over the other. The nation will grow if we live with the right dispositions.

2. FREEDOM OF SPEECH

Freedom of speech is a civil liberty that has been really highlighted by **YOUTH IN ACTION**, as a significant feature of countries that want to thrive in Democracy. **YOUTH IN ACTION**, believes that if the nations in the African continent want to thrive well, then each part; age group, jobs in the public and private sector, in the class of our national anatomies must be given the requisite privilege to air out their views of national concern. **YOUTH IN ACTION** believes in fairness and the liberty of every individual, group, society and nation. People must be bold to stand out for the truth even if

they are left alone, without fear of retaliation. **YOUTH IN ACTION** believes that there must be the utmost legal liberty of every individual; child, teenager, youth, adult or aged, to speak out their views about how to resolve persisting challenges in the continent. The continent does not belong to a select hand number of people. The continent belongs to the entire citizenry within the African Political Anatomy. Hence, it will be inerrant for people with mind blowing ideas, for solving the needs of the continent, to be quiet, still and watch what is going on. Let us stand up, particularly the youth of Africa, and contribute our quota. Let us rise in action. This is the time. This is the season for Africa. Let us revolutionaries the whole system into her perfect administered one. People must be able to let out their concerns and worries. The welfare of the nation as a whole must be our concern and not the welfare of a secluded majority or certain august kinds of people who want to feel superior to the laws of the country. The laws must be supreme to everybody. Everyone deserves sanctity and equality in every administrative structure of governance in the country. The youth must be daring. They must open up their minds to productive ventures around the world, and make impact.

3. FREE AND FAIR ELECTIONS

In a democratic system, free and fair elections is a major feature that prevails and has a permanent mark in the foundational structure of the Government, in a sustained democratic system. This is because these elections reflect the power and decision of the populace as they express their power through their votes. It moves in that way. There must be accountable system of validating candidates based on their quality of their durational tenure. This will promote a competitive system of excellence in governance that will boost quality democratic Governance across the Continent. Anywhere on the earth, where there are unfair and unfree elections is a detriment to the democratic progression of humanity in the society. The Quality of work by the leaders of our various Governments, must be tested each now and then. This is to create a progressive trend of constant development through creativity, innovation and new inventions by our leaders. Positions in Government

must not be the dreams of our citizens. Causing changes in the system must be their dreams. We have a lot of leaders who have been away from fulfilling their campaign promises and just enjoy the luxury associated with their position. As a result, there must be continuous elections to take off from political power, leaders who come with unrealistic policies, and expect to be honoured as successful leaders. Our Democracy must teach the people of the nation to live in discipline and integrity. We must create a foundation of excellence, wherever we are. Honour comes with followership and as a result, Governments who work tirelessly to fulfil their promises and take the country from one level of development to another level of development will be kept in power during elections unless, the nation wants to try an equally promising but different political party with different doctrines or philosophies. Free and fair elections will serve as an anchor for competitive functioning in Governments of African Countries and different parties within a nation, which will breed healthy national growths in all areas of administrative power in our African nations. Political biases, Superiority complexes, poor Government functionings, Racial Discriminations, Gender Inequalities, and all kinds of Injustices in the nation will not promote and strengthen the kind of democracy we want. **YOUTH IN ACTION**, believes accountability must be a part of every institution in society to promote Order and excellence. In marriage preparations, school admissions, leadership positions in schools, job interviews at various work places and so on and so forth, there must be the right procedures enacted in selecting and recommending the right spouses, selected applicants for admissions in tertiary institutions, student leaderships and selection of private and public workers, so that the society can grow in the right direction. If the right people are selected for the right work, there will be progression in every field of development but if the wrong people are selected from the right work, there will be conflict and chaos everywhere. Everyone is significant one way or the other, but they must be found doing what they can do best.

4. RULE OF LAW

In every democratic society, the rule of law must be the pivot and the basis under which every human institution in the National Anatomy operates. In every democratic dispensation, there must be a constitution which denotes the do and dons of the land, which serves as a guide for every person to live by, for the security, peace and prevalence of harmony in the nation. If the systems are not laid rightly, there will be conflicts and malfunctions in our Governing systems which will lead to a rollercoaster system of Governance, rather than a progressional system of Government. The codified laws of a country even guide the system and path of democracy in the nation. People are guided and led on a path, to behave and act in honest ways, which do not infringe on the liberties and rights of others. This creates harmony right from the family level to the Government level and ensures the integrity of every individual as a means of promoting National Peace Building. There must be a structured set of codes, way of living, beliefs, guides, tenets, values and laws in every system, which serves as a pathway to guide individuals to live in the right way, which will promote decent living and encourage Participatory Nation Building in the society. **YOUTH IN ACTION** believes no one was created as a unique human being to be exempted from living in morality and dispositions that ensure Tranquillity and Justice. **YOUTH IN ACTION**, believes that if the nation wants to thrive, then everyone must be guided by the Rule of Law in our countries, for a safe living and sound development in our continents. This will create an enabling environment for everyone to be innovative, creative and nationalistic without being side-lined, distracted or intimidated. **YOUTH IN ACTION** believes in the core values of FREEDOM for humanity, for a sound living. The nation can be better, when we all agree to work conscientiously in agreement with the laws of the country. This is the only way, people can revolutionize the continent.

5. FREEDOM OF THE PRESS

The Press is a very quintessential institution in the security of every country's democracy. The Press must serve as an independent and most importantly neutral institution, which gives out vital international and local information concerning Governance, Politics, Society and Culture, Sports, Entertainment, religion, Science

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and Technology, Business and all other essential information in the country and beyond. This arm serves as a neutral check on the Government and all other Institutions, Companies and Services as well as Daily activities running in the country. The nature of stories given out by the Press concerning the Politics of the State, State Institutions, activities going on in the nation, goes a long way to determine the integrity of the particular state. This is the most important reason, why the Press must be very credible. The Press must have their liberty and not be restrained by any political leader, repressive forces in the system or oppressed in any way by the populace. The press must have their liberty to go about their duties in peace and harmony. These are one of the credible ways, by which the Government can be transparent and work decently and avoid corruption and indecent practices, in their services and operations. Where the government of a nation is performing well, she will gain admiration by other countries through international media companies. This will encourage foreign aid and mutual harmony, as well as boost International relations and trade amongst various countries.

RIGHTS OF AN INDIVIDUAL ENJOYED UNDER DEMOCRATIC DISPENSATION

1. RIGHT TO JOIN ANY POLITICAL PARTY

YOUTH IN ACTION, believes that every individual has the right to join every political party he or she wants. **YOUTH IN ACTION** believes that no individual should be estranged or forced to join a particular political party due to hereditary, racial or tribal relations or even mere friendships one may have with a member of a particular political party. **YOUTH IN ACTION**, believes every individual is of particular significance in the welfare of the country which makes him or her, essential to the development of the country. Everyone's decisions count, and as such they should be given the fair nod to air out their views, as their views one way or the other will lead to the total and wholesome progressive advancement in the development of the country. **YOUTH IN ACTION**, believes that every individual should have a fair opportunity and the freedom to choose which political party, he/she wants to join. The goal of every individual should be targeted towards the

acceleration of the nation's development and not the promotion of the dignity of a particular political party.

2. RIGHT TO VOTE

YOUTH IN ACTION believes that it is the right of everyone as a citizen of a country to vote. **YOUTH IN ACTION** entreats everyone to vote as citizens of their respective nations in the African anatomy. A lot of people in Africa, feel their votes do not count, and as a result, they decide to opt out from the periodic General Elections that occurs in our nations. This is wrong. Our views must be heard and felt. Everyone's vote is making a mark and bringing significant results in the political results that will lead to a critical assessment of each candidate's performance, and how they can all be better and perform well to promote a progressive development in the countries of Africa. There are also a lot of people who have the nation at heart and want to add to the voice of the nation. However, they fill their votes will not be of much credence and opt out from voting. This rather leads to a gradual deterioration of the nation's democracy. **YOUTH IN ACTION**, believes in Revolutions, and believes that revolutions begin from small beginnings. **YOUTH IN ACTION**, believes that, it is our small revolutions that bring about massive successes and it is only when we push and keep on pushing, that things will keep on changing in the nation. **YOUTH IN ACTION** believes that our contributions go a long way in altering the state of affairs of a nation, and it is our constant efforts that we sustain, that keeps on bringing massive and massive results in the affairs of the nations in our African Continent.

3. RIGHT TO LIFE

YOUTH IN ACTION believes that every single individual deserves the right to life. **YOUTH IN ACTION**, believes that every individual has a unique and well deserving and rewarding destiny, which must be rewarded and respected. No group of people or society, or nation must in anyway try to infringe on the rights of any human being. Everyone deserves the right to life. Everyone deserves a good and quality life and a good way of living. No one must be treated harshly, abused, have

their rights trampled upon or be forced to do what they do not like. The atrocity that is caused to humanity by others must stop. Humans must have their freewill to decide what they want, where they want to be, how they want things to be done and when they want to do it, what they want to do and whichever way they want it. People must be treated with patience, tolerance and love. Humans must appreciate the quality of life, and value their life and the life they live. It is only in this way, which people can express their Freedom to the highest degree and give in back to their society. Let us rise up, and treat humanity with dignity. It is not only the existence of humanity, that bequeaths their right to life, but their luxurious way of living, that makes them cherish the life they are living here on earth. Let us make sure that our emotional, social and psychological dispositions bring FREEDOM to those we have encounters with. Let us make sure our utterances and behaviours are ones that bring liberation to humanity.

4. FREEDOM OF SPEECH

YOUTH IN ACTION believes every individual has the right to air out their views, as humans concerned with the development of their society. **YOUTH IN ACTION** believes every individual is significant in one way or the other and has a spectacle from which no one else can see things from that lenses. It is in this view that everyone, must be given the right to voice out their views and suggestions concerning issues in their family, society, religion, institution, workplace and nation. No one must be limited or refrained from expressing their views and opinions, about how the nation should go. Everyone must be treated with fairness and dignity, and this is how, the nation can grow and become, what she ought to be, through the collaborative suggestions and opinions of others. There should not be discrimination, as to what is given much attention, and what is neglected and disregarded. An excellent nation is one that considers the opinions of the entire citizenry. The freedom we want prevailing in the nation, can only thrive where there is equity in relation to people's right to voice out their views. This strengthens our democracy and promotes Tranquillity, Harmony and Justice in our nations.

5. FREEDOM FROM DISCRIMINATION

YOUTH IN ACTION believes in human equality and the centralisation of order as the pivot in governing human living. **YOUTH IN ACTION** believes that no group of people should be categorised or placed above other group of people. No group, tribe or institution should be treated lightly, in relation to the other. Akans should not be seen as a better ethnic group than the Ibos and so should the Ibos not also be seen as a better ethnic group than the Akans. We are all human beings who aim to have a better living, and must live in peace. People who try show behaviours that reflect cases of superiority complexes, must in no way be accommodated and tolerated. All kinds of humans from different backgrounds are significant and peculiar and must not be mistreated and discriminated. They all deserve the right to life, and not just life but also to good and quality standards of living. Everyone must experience freedom in their life, where they feel they are not being inhibited or mistreated or prevented from living their lives to the fullest. Everyone is unique and must be treated fairly. All kinds of alacritous schemes which make people feel rejected and neglected must be pulverised. People must be able to live freely and express themselves freely.

6. RIGHT TO PERSONAL LIBERTY

YOUTH IN ACTION believes that every human being is of value and significant to national development, and must be able to have the best of life, and live their life to the most. **YOUTH IN ACTION**, believes people must not be deprived of their rights or be treated as slaves. **YOUTH IN ACTION**, believes everyone deserves the best of life, everywhere they are, and must be allowed to bring out what they have within them, to bring liberation to their society and affect humanity positively. People must be able to freely decide, choose and live the kind of life, they want to live. This entails, the course they want to offer in school, the kind of work they want to be in, the kind of church they want to go, the person they want to marry and the life they want to live, which will one way or the other, affect humanity positively. People must be confident about their lives and must see themselves as people of worth, wherever they are. This will boost their confidence to contribute to society anyway, they can and make society a better place. In places where people feel they

are loved and feel secured, they will always want to give in their best and be ambassadors of FREEDOM, wherever they are. The right to personal liberty is quintessential right, which must be given equal attention, just as given to other rights, to promote the Freedom, humanity, must walk in, in this democratic dispensation.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF AN AFRICAN INDIVIDUAL IN A DEMOCRATIC DISPENSATION

1. DEFEND THE CONSTITUTIONS OF OUR COUNTRIES

It is the duty of the African individual to protect his continent by being an excellent adherent of his or her nation's constitution. The constitutions of our African countries contain laws, which safeguard our countries from imperialism, tyranny, aggrandisement of state capital, corruption, human rights abuses and all forms of oppressive forces. Our constitutions contain the major facets of codes, which protect the African anatomy from external forces, which seek to control the management of African countries. It is therefore the onus of the Burkinabe, the Togolese, the Sudanese, the Ivorian and all citizens of all African countries, to respect and defend their constitution. The defence of our constitution will lead to a system of established democracy that will secure the integrity, dignity and Justice, we need to prevail on the African soil. The constitutions of our nations help to sustain the integrity of our nations. They serve as guidelines to prevent people who may want to take the laws into their hands and live anyhow in the country.

2. PAY TAXES REGULARLY

It is the duty of the African citizen to pay the taxes of the company he owns, the remuneration he earns as a state or public worker and any venture he owns, in his country. This will give the Government enough revenue to be able to pay back Government workers, pay for Government projects, initiate more infrastructural projects and create more initiatives for the socio economic advancement of our African countries. Every citizen who is nationalistic, must be concerned with nation building and therefore pay his taxes. Taxes must not be paid during specific times of convenience but at all times deemed necessary, as mandated in the laws, for tax

payers. Certain races of people must not be left not to pay their taxes whilst there are stringent measures to ensure that other people pay their taxes. There must be equality at all times. The Government of the day, must also have all her party members paying their taxes just as any individual would do. We must learn and practice being nationalistic, and put the nation's welfare above anything else. The Government does not belong to a particular party but to the whole nation. The Government works for the whole nation and not for her party alone, in a democratic dispensation and that is why we must also pay our taxes for the total upkeep of the nation, at all times.

3. OFFER SUGGESTIONS

It is the responsibility of the African citizen to offer suggestions which he thinks are beneficial towards the progression of the continent, or any of the countries in the continent. This is a vital and very phenomenal factor which must be taken into practice by every sound and human member of the African Fraternity. Everyone is significant one way or the other, and the atmosphere and the experiences, one is in and sees things has a way of shaping the person and helping the person to also see things from a particular point of view. Due to this, no one must be side-lined from expressing his or her views concerning issues which need attention and could have a progression due to the addition of an individual's view. A view could change the continent as a whole. People should be encouraged to attend national forums, engage in national programs, listen to national issues like daily news and various state of the nation addresses to analyse things from their perspective, and also give ideas that are positive, to help in the governing the African anatomy one way or the other.

4. RESPECT THE RIGHTS OF OTHERS

It is the responsibility of the African individual to respect the rights of others. The African anatomy has a variety of hopeful tremendous talents and men of women of difference, who may want to exhibit their talents in the Agricultural Industry, Sports Industry, Telecommunications Industry, Arts Industry, Business Industry and

wherever they feel, they can positively add to the growth of the nation. Humans must learn to be co-operative, kind, loving, and tolerant and partner whichever they can, to ensure that people's ideas become a success, rather than being a hindrance or a destruction to others. The continent can only grow massively forward, when everyone from every part of the continent is massively productive. It is everyone's responsibility to respect their brother's rights, as they express themselves in whichever way they can or feel, can be a blessing to our continent in the long run, to put an end to the problems of our society, and not rather palliate issues in the society.

5. TO WORK EXPEDIENTLY AND EXCELLENTLY IN THEIR VARIOUS OCCUPATIONS

It is the responsibility of every individual to work expediently and also at the same time, excellently in whatever occupation, one is engaged in. When people work expediently and excellently, it creates a system of efficiency in all sorts of work, which leads to a sustained improvement in the development of the country. This sort of development decelerates retrogression in the country's economy, and rather boosts the country's economy. When all people, both in the public and private sector, work indefatigably with passion, they steer the atmosphere of the nation, towards a hardworking population, that is self-driven and passionate towards excellence. Expediently

IMPORTANCE OF DEMOCRACY

1. IT PROMOTES TRANQUILITY AND BRINGS LIBERATION

Democracy provides tranquillity in the nation as it serves as a center for human sufficiency and provides the path for humanity to have fruition in their goals. Through democracy, there is an open market for all people to give in their ideas towards the progress of national development, in their countries. People are not limited or inhibited from also bringing in, inputs that are beneficial, and play a contributory factor towards the progress of the nations in our African continent.

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2. PROMOTION THE SUSTENANCE OF POLITICAL STABILITY

Democracy helps in the promotion of a stable governance through the various political processes that take place, in our various political anatomies. Through Democracy, no party, Civil Leader, Political Leader, Nationalist, Pan Africanist, Government functionary leads or operates as a dictator. They operate, lead and serve with fairness, which leads to our governments thriving and walking in love, unity and freedom. No one infringes on the rights of each other, because of the central laws, that govern the state and the mode of functioning within the nations of our continent. The nations are governed by various laws, which keep the nation in order and prevents various disorders that may have come up. In a democratic dispensation, no one is above the law, which means no one can find himself supressing the rights of anyone. People work hard to get their receipts. No one passes through any false means to get receipts. Our leaders do not just rule just anyhow, and get over it. There are standards by which everyone must pass through, for the nation to thrive well.

3. PROMOTION OF FREEDOM FOR HUMANITY

Democracy provides a healthy life for everybody. Democracy ensures that no one is kept in a pit that leaves them voiceless, rejected, displeased with what is going on in the national frontiers, frustrated and oppressed, and nervous. Democracy creates a space for everyone to be able to defend their rights and voice out their concerns, where necessary. Democracy emboldens the individual citizen to express their views and express their selves any way they feel, will uplift the nation, without fear. People are not bound or prevented to contribute to national development because of the colour of their skin, the tribes or clans they belong to, the political party they are a part of, or because of the job they do. People rather have a sense of belongingness and social acceptance to their nation, and are encouraged and have the responsibility to contribute towards their nation's welfare.

4. IT PROMOTES A RAPID PROGRESSION IN THE SOCIO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE NATION

Democracy helps in the rapid progression in the socio economic development of our nations in the long run, in our African anatomies. This is because people do not feel redundant to invest and open up business companies in their nations. The openness and the freedom people have, will always push them to open up companies and bring up ideas that will revolutionize the continent as a whole. Through such revolutions, Unemployment will reduce, Gross Domestic Products will increase, foreign investments will increase, Infrastructural Development will increase and the number of Private Companies in the country, will also increase which will also increase the Gross profits in our countries, annually.

5. IT PROMOTES ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY

Democracy helps and serves as an evidential check, on the leaders who rule the country and on citizens who play various roles in the development of the country. This is because the constitutional laws serve as guides, which check the political disposition and the behaviour of civil servants and all citizens and individuals in the nation. These laws help to promote Freedom and Justice in the nation, which makes the nation grow soundly and peacefully, without any conflicts, political interruptions or displeasures in the nation. Everyone works with integrity and helps secure the dignity of the institution or place of work, they work in, which preserves the codes in the various constitutions of our African countries.

6. PROTECTION OF FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS

Democracy helps protect the fundamental human rights of the total embroidery in the state. These fundamental human rights keep people in soundness of mind and in good psychological states, which helps them give back to humanity, through their various services of work, without any limitation. People are able to exhibit their skills and are rewarded for the exceptional excellence, they give to humanity. Through Democracy, people's power are secured and this gives them the right to express themselves freely to empower their lives and make the society a better one as a whole. In a Democratic dispensation, people feel comfortable to give in their inputs to affect the nation positively. This leads to a rapid development in the state of the nation.

7. IT PROMOTES FAIRNESS AND EQUITY IN NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Democracy helps to ensure that there is equal attention given to every sector, region and arm of and/or in government. Democracy helps to ensure that policies that promote wealth is distributed equally in all regions of the nation, and not only at particular regions of preferential interests. Democracy helps to ensure that injustice is meted out from the nation and fairness in the nation, where people's sexes are not used to categorise those who qualify for certain positions and those who do not. Democracy brings freedom to the right people who are abused by such matters and which petrifies their abilities to do more. Democracy ensures that there is equity in the administration of the country, which leads to a balanced growth in all sectors and regions of the country. Through Democracy, the rich do not get richer and the poor become poorer, but there is increase in all sides because people are aided to do much more wherever they are, which leads to equity and a progression in the socio economic development of our countries.

8. PROVISION OF SECURITY FOR THE ENTIRE POPULACE IN THE POLITICAL PROCESS

Democracy protects the entire populace of the country from being exploited, issues of superiority complex, corruption and from mismanagement. Democracy protects the majority of the nation from being mishandled by the minority and so does Democracy also protect the minority of the nation from being exploited by the majority. In a democratic era or dispensation, the mass or citizenry of the country are also protected from the majority, minority, any other leaders or Government personnel in the nation. Countries that practice Democracy, are governed by laws, which ensure that various citizens, civil servants, executive officers, leaders of all sorts, institutions and ministries do not operate beyond their authorities. There are various checks and balances, which helps to promote accountability, transparency and harmony in the nation, which protects everyone from being mishandled in anyway.

IS DEMOCRACY BEING FELT IN THE LIFE OF THE ORDINARY GHANAIAN?

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The ultimate purpose of the dialogue was to entreat, the populace of Ghana and the African populace, as a whole, to be aware of the democratic dispensation they are in, value it and exercise their rights in this democratic dispensation to the fullest. **YOUTH IN ACTION**, after the dialogue finished with a NO, to this question. **YOUTH IN ACTION**, believes the African citizen was having the direct influence of Democracy, but nevertheless, believes, things can be better if they are enlightened about this ideology, and the rights, they have.

These are the reasons **YOUTH IN ACTION** gave for her NO answer in the Dialogue.

1. LIMITED EXPRESSION IN PEOPLES SPEECH

People in Ghana, and other nations of the African anatomy are not able to express their rights about the African anatomy. They are kept locked and not allowed to express themselves fully as they would like. This keeps issues of concern in pits, which leads to our economies becoming stagnant, our policies having redundant results, people having their way out when they should have been accountable, people stealing from government's cofex, abusing other people's rights, causing violence and chaos here and there. We need to maintain a balance everywhere, which makes people have the confidence to voice out their views, without being abused, marked to be written off, discriminated, ridiculed and/or disrespected in any way.

2. LACK OF SUPPORT FOR REVOLUTIONISTS

There are a lot of people who do not have love for their fellow revolutionists. A lot of people rather see leaders and those who want to cause a difference in life, as arrogant people and people who want to be more than God, and people who are just wasting their lives. They try their possible best to kick such people out of their positions, their power and where they belong to. It could be through coup d' états, murders, chaos, contempt and various schemes that deter the stability of the institutions and centers of work, they work in and work for. People try to bring down people who are their way to success or have chalked success in various

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aspects of their lives for the society. People may have been broken down, rejected, neglected, abused, discriminated and/or may have gone through various challenging times in life. Such people rather to find proper ways of finding remedies to their issues, try to oppress other innocent Giants who have chalked success on are on their way to success, as a means to have inner relief, joy and peace for themselves. However, the fact is that, such dispositions will never bring permanent relief to their spirits. It will only palliate their pains but will not pulverise the “hell” , they have gone through. The only way, we can promote peace in our societies, get out of our pains and bring out excellent societies, is when we walk in love, be at peace with one another, walk in unity, be supportive to people we can provide help for and walk in tolerance and forgiveness all the time.

3. RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

Governmental positions, public offices and positions in the country are all filled with a selective preference of workers. This breeds corruption and slows progress in the country’s development, in the long run. People are classified to be more productive, based on their racial lines. This has brought disunity, hatred and enmity amongst the various tribes in the country. This has led to the country’s outburst into the developed sector, only a dream. This is because, we have failed to put in the structures that will facilitate growth and development in the nation.

4. UNDER DEVELOPMENT AND INEQUITY IN DEVELOPMENT

There is still under development in the nation as a result of the unbalanced structure in governing the nation. We are always in debt, because we fail to take proactive steps that will ensure that every sector, region, tribe, policy or initiative has a fair share in the national cake. As a result, people feel cheated, when they see their fellow counterparts being treated better than them. This has resulted in deceleration of the country’s economy, since we always go back to spend and re-dig into past projects, which were not dealt with properly. We always fall in a loss, and are not able to be where, we need to be in our political schedules, and mount

up pressure during the election years, and do shoddy works which degrades our reputation, slows down economic progress and brings debts to us, in the long run.

5. GENDER INEQUALITY

Gender Equality is a major factor that is hindering democratic progress in Ghana and Africa. With the exclusion of Rwanda, the African anatomy, has fallen prey to single sex leadership, which has stumbled upon the Quality of **FREEDOM** in Africa. In Africa, the men are seen as the majority, whilst the women are seen as the minority. This has already created a mental perception in the minds of our females, which has resulted in a sense of hopelessness, depression, agony and pain about their sexes. There are a lot of ladies who have creative ideas to revolutionize Africa, but have been betrayed and let down by the political atmospheres in our continent. This has become a culture where women are seen to be on the lower side of everything. The only way, we can grow as a continent, is when we eschew this culture and walk with a balance in our sexes, where people who deserve various positions are given the opportunity to serve. Where favouritism is eschewed and Justice is ensured, the African Anatomy will grow into a perfect democratic structure where people can keep their hopes alive, and revolutionize the continent.

6. POLITICAL BIAS

The nature of Politics in Africa has been polluted with corruption, nepotism, chauvinism, enmity and various party gimmicks aimed at always supporting the causes of a one party system in Government. The populace are no more concerned with the vision of the nation, which should be their core mandate, but rather are concerned with the sufficiency of their party over the nation's progress. People will vote for a particular political candidate because they are linked with the candidate either by blood or anyway, and can easily get support whenever they need. The Government of the day absorbs people into the political administrative structure, with only people who are members of their party, or internationally affiliated with their party. This creates disharmony in the International and

Governmental settings as people are unfairly treated, and this leads to stagnancy in the growth of our nations. Candidates pursue power over the vision, and seek for power, only for individualistic and partisan gains, but not for the nation as a whole. Political leaders need to be fair and transparent in all their dealings, to ensure the development, we need and the pace, we want it going. Political leaders must put the nation at their first priorities over their parties and must also eradicate selfish desires from their hearts. This will strengthen our Democracy, and safeguard our reputation both within our nations and in the International Bodies.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GOVERNMENT

THE FREEDOM NATIONAL DIALOGUE, which took place on the 15th of February, 2020, ended with immense recommendations, which we believe if are lived by, will strengthen our Democracy, which will help our Governing Systems and strategically improve development in all areas of our National Settings in Africa, which will promote the **FREEDOM**, we need in Africa.

The various recommendations **YOUTH IN ACTION**, has given as criterion to change the scope of Governance across Africa, are expounded below.

- **EQUITY IN ALL GOVERNMENT MINISTRIES**

YOUTH IN ACTION is entreating the Presidents together with their various Governments in Africa, to put in various measures that will promote equity in all ministerial areas of Governance in the various countries. All policies, action plans, reforms and working activities must have an equitable distribution in all areas. This will ensure that the National Cake in all countries in Africa is equitably and equally distributed, for people to have access to their share, wherever {region, district, village or suburb}, they find themselves. This will create a conducive environment for everyone to fill at home in their countries and rather invest where they are, and not in foreign settings. This will also create the Freedom everyone needs and promote First class countries that thrive with an abundance of resources.

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- HIGHER YOUTH REPRESENTATIONS

There must be presentations of youths in all areas of decision making in the nation. Youth must be engaged in all facets of Governmental Decisions in Africa. There must be absolute and vivid seats for Youth to express their views, be called upon to showcase their projects, ideas and creative plans and works for the sustained development of the country. The youth must be an essential group age that is considered before most policies are implemented in the countries of Africa. The Youth are the future leaders of our nations. They must therefore be harnessed, trained and equipped with all the knowledge, expertise, exposure and skills they need, for the advancement of the nation. This will secure an advanced progression in the nation and eschew decelerations in the various sectors of our economies. The confidence of the youth can only be strengthened when they are exposed to leadership sectors, training programs, summits on Development and Nation Building and engagement in National Reforms of all sorts.

- ATTITUDINAL CHANGE

There must be attitudinal change in the lives of all citizens, right from the pupil to retired civil servants and workers in the nations of our African Countries. The populace must be taught to be disciplined law abiding citizens of their land. This will ensure decency in the Governance of the nation, bring respect for the rights of each other and encourage mutual respect amongst each other which will safeguard the integrity of our lands. Our attitude will determine the rate of progress in the nation. This is because where there are positive attitudinal dispositions by citizens in the country, there will always be expansionary projects taking place in the country. Where there is adverse attitudinal changes in the country, Governments will always have to use capital arranged for other projects, to renovate, clean and work on dilapidated projects which have been misused, abused, forsook and mistreated by citizens of the nation. For example, where citizens keep their communities clean and do not dump rubbish anywhere, Community leaders together with the Government do not have to come back to

find ways to clean degraded and polluted environments in the various communities of their nation, but rather will invest in other projects that will bring receipts to the Government and promote development in the nation. Citizens must be encouraged to be law abiding and nationalistic in their various endeavours. This will secure the sanctity of the state, and ensure continuous and sustained progress in the nation.

- **APPRECIATION OF DIFFERENT MINDS**

Everyone is essential in the society, and we must appreciate and love people for who they are, and the positive phenomenon, they stand for. Just as there are the existence of different parties in a democratic system, so are there different minds in a society. Even in a political Party, say New Patriotic Party in Ghana, there are different minds concerning various issues in the party. However, they all come to a stand, and decide on the final decision to move forward. This is the same way, we must appreciate and tolerate the different minds we have in the society. We must allow people to express themselves freely, as they want and throw more light on various issues as they understand it. The nation belongs to everyone, and not to a particular sector or group of people.

- **CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM**

There must be various constitutional reforms in our African Countries that will engage everyone; the Youth, Adults, the Aged towards Nation Building. These Constitutional reforms must bring Freedom to everybody. The YOUTH particularly must be very much engaged in major decision making processes across the continent. There must be reforms to have a percentage of youth in the Executive and Legislative positions in the country. A lot of young leaders must be given the chance to express and input their minds in various National Agendas in the country. There must also be a minimum percentage of female representations in Governmental positions, particularly the Legislature and the Executive. The Age limit for Presidency in African Countries should also be taken lower to 40 years old. The Youth must come up to make various amendments in the constitution that will

strengthen the cause of Youth Leadership in the nation, and promote Democracy in the nation.

- **INTENSIVE EDUCATION**

There must be intensive education to the public concerning their rights and responsibilities as individuals in Nation Building. Individuals must be made to know, that they are representatives of a FREE Ghana, everywhere they are; in their homes, schools, offices and communities. There must be the conscientisation of Nationalism and Patriotism in all individuals in their respective countries in Africa. This will make everyone be a guard of the nation, in their respective locations. People will live much better towards securing their nation from Corruption, Injustice, Dictatorship, Abuse of human rights, and Immorality amongst others. The Governments of African Nations must engage in serious public education to eschew ignorance and the various laws people have taken for granted, which has served as a detriment to the nation.

THE BLACK MAN SPEECH

We have come to a point in time where humanity, both males and females are able to thrive without any of them, having their rights being infringed on. We have come to a point in the history of Africa, where each and everyone of us, is able to live good and excellent lives without being discriminated or brought down, in any way. We have come to a point in time, where the BLACK MAN reigns. This is because the BLACK MAN is able to live in humility and reflect his status, as a man of Freedom who is able to show the essence of fairness and justice in his daily life. The BLACK MAN, cares for the BLACK WOMAN. The BLACK MAN, lives in unity with everyone and gives everybody the chance and the opportunity to also make impact and make human living better.

THE BLACK MAN, is a very strong hearted man, who is able to live in every circumstance and make human living, one worth living. THE BLACK MAN, who is the head of the family, once he becomes a father, does not use his status to make THE BLACK WOMAN, feel less significant, but rather pushes THE BLACK WOMAN, to do better than him, and achieve greater heights in life. That is the BLACK MAN; a man of Freedom and Justice. One who does not raise himself and make others who are broken and downtrodden in life, get more discouraged but one who is able to lift the African woman, when she is in challenging times, even when he is also in trying times. THE BLACK MAN is a strong one. He is full of excellence.

The BLACK MAN stands for LIBERTY. He is a servant. He does not look at the gender of a person in determining or choosing a particular role that needs demand at a particular time. Rather, he is fair in his dealings. He looks at the right things and takes right decisions. He does not consider the race, tribe, political party, Christian or religious denomination of anyone in choosing someone for a role or making a decision, that will cause the world to be transformed. He is not preferential. He is fair. He is Just. He stands for Freedom. Are you a black man of freedom? If not, then please consider this and re position your steps, into the black man of freedom; one who stands for excellence, liberty, equity, democracy, love, tranquillity, transparency, dignity and genuinely in leadership. Be the black man of change. The world needs you.

We have come to a time in Africa, where we can only thrive, if the black man, realises his position, and the reason he was created for; not to feel superior to the black woman, or unperturbed about alarming issues in our continent, but stands for all. The black man must not stand only for Africa, but must be a world giant. One who makes steps not only for his continent, but that will transform the entire globe. The black man does not only think of his family, but for his society, the nation, the less privileged, the abandoned, the broken and the dejected in the society. That should be the Black man's family. To make everyone have a sufficient life.

Be a black man of freedom. Show love everywhere you are. Thank you. Yes, the black man can do it. Yes, we have several black men like Kofi Annan, Nelson Mandela, Barrack Obama, John Agyekum Kuffuor, John Evans Atta Mills, Patrice

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Lumumba, Martin Luther King, Otumfuor Osei Tutu, Dr. Mensa Otabil, Pastor Chris Oyakhilome, Apostle Safo Kantanka, Sadio Mane, Professor Mike Ocquaye, Julius Nyerere and a whole lot who have caused significant changes to the continent. This is your time. Cause a change. Make an impact. You can and should do better than them. Be a Black man of change. Make it happen.

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THE BLACK WOMAN SPEECH

THE BLACK WOMAN is the epitome of success in Africa. The Black Woman is the part of the African Anatomy that brings value and beauty to the soul of Africa. The Black Woman, is the force that drives the continent of Africa so excellently, without any errors. The Black Woman is a hub of Freedom. The Black woman is not only a being but a spiritual force, assigned to take the continent of Africa to victory, through her loving Spirit. The fact that The Black Woman was created to be a helper to man, means she possesses all the requisite skills and abilities to shape the society and the continent forward. We need no other than, The Black Woman. You are peculiar. You are different. You have an assignment to bring hope, rejuvenation, restoration and excellence to the lives of Black Men and to everyone in the society. You are people of peace and dignity. You are relentless in your pursuits. You never give up. You pursue till you reach the top and that is what the BLACK WOMAN is made of. If you are a Black woman, keep on pursuing, because you are possessed with all the qualities for change. Keep on pursuing. Let us start to see cars, aeroplanes, new technological gadgets, new top class companies, owned and managed by female youths in Africa. Bring up great initiatives that will transform Africa. The white woman is not better than you. You are all human beings. Do not feel subjected to the forces of oppression in this world that brings people into mental servitude. You are great people and there's no apology for this. Rise up! Make an impact. Change the industrial, aviation, finance, agricultural, Christian, entertainment, educational, cultural, sports and all other sectors of development in Africa, to another level. Make an impact. We are not average

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people. We are not mediocre. We are not subordinates to a particular continent. No! We are rich in knowledge and wisdom. We are affluent. We have great minds. Let us rise up and be world changers. Let us turn Africa into a continent of perfection. The fact that you have attained something in life means you can do something better. Keep on moving forward. You are not slaves. You are heroines. You are an advantage to the society. There is nothing like failure in you. You are a complete masterpiece. All that you have gone through is to make you furnished with greatness. Black women are people of strength. They are people of long life and strength. This is because they always hold their life with dignity by carrying out issues of life in maturity and in excellence. Black women are the most beautiful, because they are excellent in everything. Never lose hope, Black women. Be brave. Keep on moving on. The world is watching you, you are the solutions to people's problems. Why wail when you are the one igniting freedom in someone? You are great.

Black men, you must know that, we black women, are your special ones and we must be treated with respect because you cannot do without us. Treat us as queens: the African queens of Freedom. Black Women, let us be proactive and tolerant but create no space for abuse and torture from our fellow black men. They are not our dictators. Besides, we brought them forth. Let us be full of dignity in our lives. Let us rise up and stand up for mother Africa. We are great. We are champions. WE are excellent. Let us not be in sorrow or in pain, from all we have gone through. We were created for a time like this; a time of Freedom. Our growing ladies, also are going to be the global future leaders one day. Yes they can and they can do better. We have a lot of Black Women like Rosa Parks, Michelle Obama, Yaa Asantewaa, Gloria Akuffo, Jewell Taylor, Ellen Johnson, and Tina Sisila amongst a whole lot who have done a lot to help the cause of freedom for humanity.

To our fellow Black women here, you are voices of change. Rise up in your youthful stages and take action, black female youths! It is now our time as ladies in our youthful ages to cause the changes, the world needs. Let us make our mothers

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proud of us. This is our time. Let us do better. Let us invigorate the world with excellence. Let us be people of love, peace, unity, joy hope, discipline and the world will be a better place. We are great. We are wonderful. Let us make a change. Yes we can do it and let us do it. Let us bring hope to the voiceless and freedom to the oppressed. Be a global brand. Do not just live for yourself buy live for the society. Let us make it happen. Thank you.

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT ON THE FREEDOM NATIONAL DIALOGUE

There is that kind of revolution we can make, when we override the normal way of doing things and the oppressive forces against successful living. There is a positive revolution we can make, when we make changes in our society, nation and in our generation. We must learn to be excellent in all things, we do. We must not accept things as they are, when they are being run in a mediocre or poor way. We must be different by bringing excellent results, everywhere we go and in everything we do. We must bring FREEDOM, everywhere we go. Yes, this FREEDOM can be brought forth, by the YOUTH of Africa. We are the future and the carriers of change around the world. Let us cause positive impacts in the whole continent. Believe in yourselves. Do not allow anything to bring you down. Be excellent. Cause a reform everywhere. Make the world, a better place than what you came to meet. Be strong. Serve your continent Africa, in excellence. Let everyone know that you are a man or woman of dignity.

The first **FREEDOM NATIONAL DIALOGUE**, held on the 15th of February, 2020, at the New Conference Hall, of the Ghana National Association of Teachers Hall, was an expeditious one. It was one that enlightened, strengthened, invigorated and motivated a lot of people, to continue in their passion towards Nation Building in various areas of National Development in the continent of Africa. The Dialogue was a quintessential one towards ensuring Democratisation in Africa as means of promoting Freedom, in the continent. I know the Youth, are ready for change in the country are ready to cause a revolution in

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Africa. This is the time for change. A change of excellence is what we want. A change that will bring liberation to the whole continent is what we want. We all, are unique and different in one way or the other, and we must use our differences to affect the society positively. Let us cause a change. Let us make it happen. **YOUTH IN AFRICA; FREEDOM IN AFRICA.**



Mr. Isaac Boadu

C.E.O. of **YOUTH IN ACTION**

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CONCLUSION

YOUTH IN ACTION believes strongly that the youth will come out strongly as empowered people ready for action, to change Africa and the world into a whole different place. **YOUTH IN ACTION**, believes this conference has opened up the eyes of those who had given up, were discouraged in life, heartbroken and downtrodden, in life to be restored. **YOUTH IN ACTION** believed, this conference strengthened and empowered those who had postponed their dreams or had even given up in life, to get up and make global impacts, around the world.

YOUTH IN ACTION, believes there are going to be new African Giants from this conference who will fight for freedom for Africa, and bring liberation to humanity.

YOUTH IN ACTION, knows this conference has had a strong impact on the youth who will go further to affect their future generations through the Power of freedom, given to us, by God.

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ABOUT YOUTH IN ACTION

YOUTH IN ACTION



FREEDOM IN AFRICA

YOUTH IN ACTION is a Socio-Political Non-Governmental Organization and Civil Society, committed to promoting Democracy as a means of sustaining Freedom in the hearts and minds of Ghanaians and Africans in the continent and around the world.

Africa has experienced a consistent trend of enslavement for a long period of time, even after several years of post-independence from her colonial masters in the various African countries. This has brought and left a scar of hopelessness in the African society. The various kinds of enslavement meted out on our African

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forefathers and mothers has brought about various challenges in the African continent. This has brought about a culture of political biasness, gender inequalities, superiority and inferiority complexes, leadership challenges, corruption, dictatorship, child abuse, imperfection in our way of doing things and mental servitude in the minds of Africans. **YOUTH IN ACTION** has realised this problem, and has come at a point in time of world history like this, to create platform for the youth to stand out and bring a revolution from enslavement to freedom where all humanity, both in Africa and outside of Africa can live in Peace, Justice and Equity and thrive under fair and Good Quality lives.

OBJECTIVES

1. To serve as an anchor for Good Governance in Africa and promote respect for the constitutional laws in the various African countries.
2. To promote Nationalism and create the sense of awareness for nation building amongst youth in Africa.
3. To raise awareness concerning the rights of individuals as citizens of their various countries in Africa, to live in freedom and peace in the African anatomy.
4. To promote National Conscientisation amongst the youth towards engaging in National Projects for the Socio-economic Development of the country.
5. To promote self confidence in the youth of Africa, to take up individual initiatives to promote the development of the country.
6. To promote Pan- Africanism and dignity of the African Continent.
7. To promote liberation of the African Populace whose hearts have been troubled by the various forces of oppression, pre and post-independence of African countries.
8. To promote Democracy for the freedom of humanity in Africa.

SOLUTIONS

YOUTH IN ACTION has these modules as centres to enlighten the youth and the society as a whole on their rights, who they are and the freedom they have, for the liberation we want in our society. **YOUTH IN ACTION**, will be having conferences

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and summits as well as special projects aimed at impacting the youth with strategical African mindsets to make Africa, a hub of Freedom.

The following are programmes that will be held by **YOUTH IN ACTION** throughout the year, for the youth.

1. YOUTH AND SEX
2. THE AFRICAN CULTURE
3. DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE
4. GENDER EQUALITY
5. THE POLITICAL ANATOMY
6. FREEDOM IN AFRICA
7. YOUTH AND LEADERSHIP
8. THE ACTION

CORE VALUES OF YOUTH IN ACTION

YOUTH IN ACTION, has certain tenets, we believe are foundational principles for humanity to live freely and thrive well, in Africa. We believe, the right set of values will strengthen equip THE BLACK MAN THE BLACK WOMAN to shine in all areas of life, and make impact in Africa, and the world.

NATIONALISM

YOUTH IN ACTION, believes every individual in Africa must have his or her nation at heart. **YOUTH IN ACTION**, believes that the affairs of the nation must be the concern of each and every individual in the country. **YOUTH IN ACTION**, believes there is greatness in everybody and therefore, their opinions, views, concerns and partnerships with the Government and individually in contribution, will add greatly to the development of their individual country and the great continent, Africa, as a whole.

EXCELLENCE

YOUTH IN ACTION, believes there can be perfection in everything that is done. **YOUTH IN ACTION** imbibes in individuals, to be perfect in all their activities at work, home, at church and in all that calls to nation building. God created man to be perfect and **YOUTH IN ACTION** believes that, excellence attached to everything particularly in Africa, will bring forth tremendous results from around the world.

JUSTICE

YOUTH IN ACTION, believes in the equitable administration of various shares in a Political Anatomy. **YOUTH IN ACTION**, believes that, with Justice, the continent can thrive on higher grounds of Democracy and be void of corruption. **YOUTH IN ACTION** entreats Governing Bodies, institutions and individuals to be just in all their operations. **YOUTH IN ACTION**, believes that with Justice, we can live in Solidarity, Peace and Unity, as a nation and a continent.

DISCIPLINE

YOUTH IN ACTION believes that the tenet Discipline, is one of the most effective values in building a strong Democratic Anatomy. **YOUTH IN ACTION**, believes that if people are able to abide by the laws, codes an etiquettes and rules and regulations of the land, there will fast growth and development in the continent. **YOUTH IN ACTION**, entreats all individuals to be disciplined in their way of living.

PATRIOTISM

YOUTH IN ACTION, believes that every individual must be devoted to his or her country totally for the advancement of the country. **YOUTH IN ACTION**, believes that patriotism serve as an anchor, for honesty and decency in every individuals way of life towards national projects and matters that affect the nation's welfare indirectly or directly. **YOUTH IN ACTION**, believes that as a nation, we must

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cherish our cultures, traditional symbols, values, rich history, our products and our champions. This will push the young at heart to go in for greater things, to make the continent always transformed and better and better.

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