

**PRESS CONFERENCE BY NZEMA YOUTH ALLIANCE (NYA) PRESENTED BY  
GLOBAL CHAIRMAN MR. GEORGE AMENLEMAH BLAY-MORKEH ON  
TUESDAY, 18<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2025 AT HALF ASSINI PUBLIC LIBRARY**

Ladies and gentlemen of the press, thank you for being here today.

The NYA is an alliance formed by we indigenes of Nzemaland in Ghana and in the diaspora.

The NYA is a mouthpiece for Nzemas who are an ethnic group numbering over 0.5 million people. In Ghana, the Nzema area is divided into three electoral districts; Nzema East, Ellembelle and Jomoro.

We the Nzema Youth Alliance wish to congratulate His Excellency John Dramani Mahama and the National Democratic Congress for their unprecedented electoral victory under the fourth Republic. We also express our gratitude to His Excellency, President John Dramani Mahama, for his efforts at promoting inclusivity and regional balance in his government. We acknowledge the appointment of the Lands and Natural Resources Minister Hon Emmanuel Armah Kofi Buah, and the Fisheries Minister Hon Emelia Arthur, who are from Western Region. This is a step in the right direction.

However, we are deeply worried and devastated about the Government's inability to consider the appointment of Western region representative in the Ministry of Energy and its agencies like GNPC, Ghana Gas, Petroleum Hub Development Corporation, VRA etc. This exclusion does not recognize the region as the custodian of the land in which oil fields are located and further undermines the hardwork and contribution of the people of the region.

The Western Region is the heartbeat of Ghana's oil and gas industry, contributing significantly to the national economy. The western region voted massively for the NDC. The Nzemas have remained loyal to the course of the NDC and will continue to dedicate themselves to the electoral fortunes of the NDC. Despite this, our region remains underrepresented in the very sector that drives our development.

This exclusion undermines the hard work and sacrifices of the people of the Western Region. It also raises questions about the government's commitment to equitable distribution of opportunities.

We are particularly concerned about the lack of representation of the Nzema people in particular, who have been directly impacted by the oil and gas activities, in the energy sector. Our communities have borne the environmental, social, and economic costs of this industry, yet we are excluded from the leadership role of the ministry of energy, GNPC, Ghana Gas, Petroleum hub development corporation, VRA etc. This alienation has never happened to the Nzemas and the western region since the emergence of our oil and gas industry.

1. In the year 2009:

**Hon. Emmanuel Armah Kofi Buah** was appointed as **Deputy Energy Minister** and **Awulae Atibrikusu** was also appointed as a **board member at GNPC** (Ghana National Petroleum Corporation).

2. In the year 2011

**Dr. George Sipa Yankey** was appointed as the **CEO of Ghana Gas**.

3. In the year 2013

**Hon. Emmanuel Armah Kofi Buah** was elevated to the position of **Minister of Energy**, while **Awulae Atibrikusu** was retained as a **board member** at **GNPC**.

4. In the year 2014,

the late **Ambassador Lee Ocran** was appointed as the **Board Chairman of VRA (Volta River Authority)**.

5. In the year 2017

**Hon. Joseph Cudjoe**, then MP for Efia, was appointed as **Deputy Energy Minister**.

6. 2021:

**Hon Andrew Agyapa Mercer**, then **MP for Sekondi**, was also appointed as **Deputy Energy Minister**.

Flowing from the above, it is obvious that at all material times, there has been someone from the **Western Region** of Ghana holding a significant position within the Energy Ministry or its related organizations. This demonstrates a consistent representation of the people of the western region in the energy sector over the years.

The Western Region is a key area for Ghana's energy sector, particularly due to its oil and gas resources, so having representatives from this region in leadership roles is strategically significant.

We, therefore, call on His Excellency, President John Dramani Mahama to:

1. Appoint someone from the Western Region to the Ministry of Energy.
2. Appoint qualified Nzema professionals as the Chief Executive Officers of Ghana National Gas Company and the Petroleum Hub Development Corporation as both companies are located on Nzemaland and are the main sources of jobs for the youth whose lands have been given for these important national projects.
3. Ensure the inclusion of qualified Nzema professionals in key positions in the Oil and Gas sector.

These appointments are not just about fairness; they are about ensuring sustainable development. By including Nzemas in decision-making roles, it can address the unique challenges faced by our communities, inspire our youth to pursue careers in the sector, and boost the local economy.

We believe that these steps will benefit not only the Western Region but also Ghana as a whole. We urge the government to act swiftly to rectify this oversight.

God bless Ghana

God bless Western Region

God bless Nzema

Thank you