

FIX VOLTA ROADS CAMPAIGN

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2nd September, 2019

**THE PRESIDENT
REPUBLIC OF GHANA
JUBILEE HOUSE
KANDA, ACCRA**

PETITION TO FIX VOLTA ROADS

Your Excellency, while remaining grateful for all your developmental interventions in the Volta Region, we wish to draw your attention to and call for your immediate action to fix some extremely bad and life threatening roads in the Volta Region.

For far too long, we the people of the Volta Region have suffered the dire consequences of bad roads. While PROMISES UPON PROMISES by those in authority over the years to fix the roads have yielded nothing, THE HOPING UPON HOPING by we the people has become a hopeless hope.

It has become prudent to demand immediate action from government to #Fix Volta Roads Now. Major roads linking cities and towns in the Volta Region are left in the most dangerous of states with unimaginable and often life-taking effects on we the people.

Enough is enough. We cannot sit idle for our roads to keep killing us, destroying our businesses, reducing the life span of our vehicles, robbing us of income from tourism and inflicting many serious health conditions on us.

This is why this petition has been signed online (www.ipetitions/petition/petitiontofixvolaroads) by over **One thousand and Sixty Five (1065) people** calling for Volta roads to be fixed.

Specifically, we are demanding that the following major roads that are part of the most dangerous roads in Ghana as reported by Joy News' Kojo Yankson during the British High Commissioner's Ghana Grand tour few days ago, be fixed now!

1. Asikuma To Jasikan Road

2. Juapong to Ho Road

3. Ho to Aflao Road

WHO WE ARE

We are individual professionals who reside, work and or have a close connection with the Volta Region in and outside Ghana and have felt the negative impact of these bad roads for so long.

WHY DO THE ROADS NEED FIXING?

Your Excellency we have catalogued four (4) thematic areas, reasons why we want these roads to be fixed.

They are:

1. HEALTH

2. SOCIO-ECONOMIC

3. EDUCATION

4. TOURISM

1. HEALTH

The bad nature of the roads makes it difficult to ensure that patients who are referred to Ho Teaching Hospital are in safe condition before getting to the hospital. Some Health professionals are unwilling to accept postings to the locations with the bad roads in this region.

The Ho Teaching hospital and other health facilities will be without specialists because of the bad nature of the roads. The nature of the roads create more health problems for road users and complications for patients who ply the roads to seek health care. Mortalities and morbidities are on a serious increase because of accidents which are as a result of pot holes and in some cases, man holes.

2. SOCIO-ECONOMIC

The bad nature of the roads does not encourage people to move to sell their wares at commercial towns and markets such as Hohoe and Kpeve. The alternative routes are more expensive to ply.

There is increase cost of maintenance for vehicles and increased fuel cost when they have to ply alternative longer routes. It also takes a longer time to get to destinations in the middle and northern belts of the region.

There is also loss of potential revenue to the state because people are unwilling to do business in the region with such bad roads.

3. EDUCATION

Volta region and by extension Oti Region has high number of secondary and tertiary institutions in areas with these bad roads. We have Colleges of Education, nurses and midwifery training schools, university campuses among others. Staff and students will not be willing to go to these schools because of the bad nature of the roads.

4. TOURISM

Volta Region has a lot of tourist sites that the country can harness to raise revenue. The roads leading to majority of these tourist sites are in very deplorable states. Afadzato, Wli waterfall, Tafi Atome Monkey Sanctuary, Likpe Caves, are among the many tourism potentials we can market. The fixing of these roads will bring in more tourists, boost the local economy and encourage more investment. All these will boost the overall GDP of the country. It will also reduce unemployment and rural urban migration.

NATIONAL POLICY ON ROAD NETWORK

We propose a national policy of linking each regional capital to the other with solid asphalted dual carriage roads. These regional capitals should have very good roads connecting them to the major commercial and border towns in their regions.

We believe Ghana Beyond Aid starts with these little things. We consider ourselves as responding to your call for us to be citizens and not spectators.

Why Now?

If not NOW, when? Our roads have become worst with time. Morbidities and mortalities have increased over time. The scary records are there to prove. Also, as we draw nearer to the 2020 elections, we know the usual promise upon promise by various governments will be revisited. We have suffered this for more than 20

years and we can no longer tolerate it under any government. We reject that in the most extreme terms. We need our roads fixed now! No more talking and promises.

OUR ULTIMATUM

We have therefore resolved that the construction of all the aforementioned roads must commence and continue not later than 15th September, 2019. We also demand that these projects are completed within reasonable timelines. If work does not begin and continue on or before 15th September, 2019, we will be compelled to head to the call of our colleague campaigners for series of major demonstrations across the country.

Your Excellency, please fix our roads now. This is our petition and demand from you.

Long *live* the Volta Region
Long *last* our roads
Long *live* Ghana

CONVENER



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Cc:

1. Minister of Roads and Highways
2. Volta Regional Minister
3. The Media