

THE GNPC -GENSER AGREEMENT - CLARIFYING THE POSITION OF THE MINORITY

I write on behalf of the NDC minority and to state emphatically that the GNPC-GENSER agreement requires an urgent review to ensure a level playing field for all industry players and transparency in gas pricing.

The call for a thorough review of the agreement is premised on the following grounds;

1. The NDC minority is concerned that the agreement combines the Gas Sales Agreement (GSA) and the Gas Transmission Agreement (GTA), which does not ensure transparency in the pricing of gas.
2. The shifting of the agreement from Ghana Gas company and the signing of the agreement by GNPC when Ghana Gas is supposed to be the gas transmission utility (NGTU)
3. The discount given to GENSER by GNPC for the gas transmission agreement and GNPC's inability to explain satisfactorily how this discount will be recovered.

We appreciate the timely intervention by the Rt Hon Speaker to rope in the finance committee to work jointly with the Mines and Energy Committee to deal with these outstanding issues to ensure that Ghana is not shortchanged.

The Minority believes that the issues are now appropriately presented before parliament and demand thorough appraisal.

It is, therefore, unfortunate that the Chairman of the Mines and Energy Committee rushed with the report to the public domain while pending a new referral.

Transparency and accountability should be the guiding principles in this process, and any premature public statements can potentially compromise the integrity of the new referral which is in the pipeline .

On behalf of the NDC minority colleagues on the joint committee of Finance and Mines and Energy, we pledge to unravel all the flaws in the agreement to guarantee value for money.

We take this position with a firm conviction that the heart and soul of Ghana's future lies in our energy security and all the critical issues related to it, including transparent gas pricing.

I have personally dedicated my political career towards building robust energy security for our country since I had the opportunity to serve on Ghana's first-ever Gas task force as deputy Energy minister under President Mills which led to the establishment of Ghana Gas and the development of the country's gas infrastructure and supervised the historic construction of ENI's OCTP gas- power project as Energy Minister under President John Mahama.

These projects have had a transformative impact on our country's energy sector and I take great pride in the instrumental role I played in their successful implementation.

It is certainly a record I intend to guard jealously.

The NDC minority is committed to upholding the interests of the people of Ghana and believes that we must strike the right balance between private enterprise and social benefit.

The Minority further request that the chairman of the finance and Energy committees convey a meeting forthwith to consider the speaker's referral.

The minority would want to assure Ghanaians that we will not compromise the trust reposed in us by the people.

The GNPC-GENSER agreement, as it stands, raises significant concerns that cannot be overlooked.

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