



# PEOPLE'S NATIONAL CONVENTION

## HEADQUARTERS

LOCATION: Abavana Junction  
Kotobabi - Accra, Ghana West Africa.

P. O. Box AC 120

Arts Center Accra, Ghana

Tel: 0302 230351 / 0302 938048

## MOTTO: SERVICE WITH HONESTY

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### **THE NEW PATRIOTIC PARTY INTERNAL ELECTIONS AND THE NEED FOR AN AFFIRMATIVE ACTION LAW IN GHANA.**

We congratulate the New Patriotic Party on conducting their internal parliamentary elections on Saturday in a peaceful atmosphere. However, we are concerned about the significant number of female incumbent Members of Parliament who have lost their parliamentary seats to men in the NPP's safe seat zones. This trend could potentially result in decreased representation of women in the 2024 elections.

It is disappointing that the NPP did not implement measures to protect female parliamentarians in this election. The creation of both Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden shows that God intended for both men and women to contribute to progress and protect His creation. Therefore, it is disheartening to see women being marginalized in politics.

According to article 17 (2) of the constitution, discrimination based on gender is prohibited, and article 17(4) mandates parliament to enact laws to address challenges of inequalities. It is concerning that there are still issues of low representation of women in politics, and parliament appears to be ignoring the concerns of women in Ghana by not passing the affirmative action bill.

During the international Women's Day celebration in New York in 2018, the UN Secretary- General emphasized that power is not given, but often taken. He encouraged women to use legal means to fight for their rights in their respective countries

We urge all women in Ghana to utilize demonstrations and boycotts, including potentially boycotting the 2024 elections, if the Affirmative Action Bill is not passed into law prior to the elections. Both the NPP and the NDC, as political parties represented in parliament, have taken the women of Ghana for granted. We appeal to all women in Ghana, including female politicians, food sellers, market women, women in farming, and those in the private and public sectors, to stand up and demonstrate for their rights.

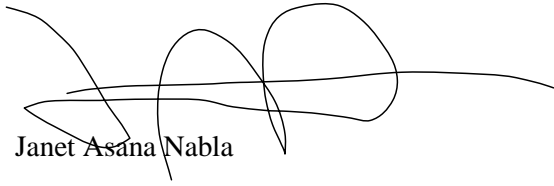
It is shameful that Ghana, once a pioneer in independence, now lags behind in protecting women's rights and promoting their participation. Countries like South Africa, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, and many others have already passed similar bills, so it is puzzling why Ghana has not yet done so.

We call on Civil Society Organizations, the Media, Academia, Religious leaders and Experts to shift their focus from NPP and NDC politics and instead exert pressure on these two political parties to pass the Affirmative Action Bill into law, in order to ensure female participation in Ghana's politics. Civil society has been inactive on this issue.

Ghana cannot achieve its full potential for development until the 50.7 percent of females are fully integrated into our political mainstream.

A future PNC government, upon assuming office, will pass the Affirmative Action Bill into law within six months and transform the Ministry of Gender into a non-political ministry by granting gender-based institutions the power to appoint the head of the ministry. This legislation aims to enhance gender equality, tackle longstanding challenges, promote the progress and inclusion of women in all public institutions, and collaborate with the private sector to integrate them into the system.

PNC: Service with Honesty

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Janet Asana Nabla

General Secretary

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